

Young Master 51

Chapter 51: [Bid Opening Day]

Busy days always fly by, while waiting days make you feel as if a day lasts a year.

This was a true reflection of Su Yuxin's feelings.

Before Ye Fan made his move in secret, she worked tirelessly, under immense pressure, to ensure that she could win the bid for Binhe New District Phase One project. She had a strong sense of urgency and was up all night, but after Ye Fan's intervention, especially after betting with He Fenghua, she couldn't wait for the day of the bid opening, only to find that time seemed to crawl by.

Seven days later, after Su Yuxin's agonizing wait, the Binhe New District Phase One project was publicly opened for bidding at the Hanghu Bidding Center.

That day, Ye Fan got up early as usual, changed into his sportswear to exercise, only to find Su Yuxin pacing back and forth in the living room when he reached the first floor.

"Doctor Ye," Su Yuxin halted her steps, and greeted him as he descended the stairs.

"Can't sleep from the nerves?"

Ye Fan noticed that Su Yuxin looked slightly weary, not to mention the faint dark circles under her eyes, understanding that she must not have slept well the night before.

Su Yuxin nodded and then shook her head, giving a bitter smile. "I didn't sleep well, but it wasn't due to nerves; it was excitement."

"What's meant to come will come, no need to get excited."

Ye Fan smiled, recalling the bet between Su Yuxin and He Fenghua, and said regretfully, "However... having said that, you missed a chance to fleece a fat sheep."

"It's not really a waste, it was just a bet after all, unlike a contract, it's not protected by law. If He Fenghua wanted to deny the debt, there was nothing I could do," Su Yuxin clarified Ye Fan's reference to betting on real estate that day.

"Hmm, I see, I don't understand much about this," Ye Fan commented, then abruptly changed the subject, "But even if you can't bankrupt him, you shouldn't have traded your most precious night for an apology, the stakes weren't equal; it was too unfair."

"When I saw He Fenghua threatening you, I was angry and just wanted him to apologize to you, I couldn't think of much else," Su Yuxin confessed, then quickly added after realizing she had spoken her heart, "Anyway, we are bound to win, so what's there to worry about?"

As those words fell, Su Yuxin felt her cheeks warm up and dared not meet Ye Fan's eyes, only observing his expression from the corner of her eye.

"Er..."

Startled by hearing Su Yuxin's heartfelt words, Ye Fan found himself at a loss for words momentarily, feeling a warm glow in his heart and also felt that helping Su Yuxin was worth it.

Whether Su Yuxin cared more about winning the bid for the Binhe New District Phase One project or getting an apology from He Fenghua for Ye Fan, she might have been physically present in the Rose Garden Villa, but her heart had flown to the bidding center—by the time Ye Fan returned from his morning exercise, Su Yuxin had already changed clothes, put on her makeup, and was waiting to leave.

Seeing this, Ye Fan knew that Su Yuxin was anxious and didn't say anything, but quickly took a cold shower, changed into a shirt, dress pants, and leather shoes, and came to the hall, saying, "Let's go."

"You haven't had breakfast yet."

Although she was eager to rush immediately to the bidding center, Su Yuxin knew that Ye Fan usually had breakfast after his morning exercise, and seeing that Ye Fan hadn't eaten yet, she seemed less hurried.

"Doctor Ye, I've prepared your breakfast. You should eat before we leave; a man is iron, and food is steel. No matter how urgent things are, you can't skip meals," Mrs. Su walked out of the kitchen and said with a smile to Ye Fan.

Although, in the past few days, Mrs. Su had been very caring towards Ye Fan due to her gratitude, for some reason, seeing the mother and daughter insisting that he eat first stirred a peculiar feeling within him.

This feeling was something that only Chu Xuanji and Chu Ji had previously made him feel.

After breakfast, Ye Fan and Su Yuxin headed together to the Hanghu Bidding Center.

Different from the day before when they went to the Hanghu Convention and Exhibition Center, because they needed to meet with company staff, Ye Fan and Su Yuxin drove separate cars today—as they had done when going to the office on previous days.

This was Su Yuxin's decision.

She wasn't afraid of the gossip in the company but was concerned that those rumors might embarrass Ye Fan!

...

In the parking lot of the Hanghu Bidding Center, Xu Weize and the Vice President of Operations had arrived early with the team, totaling ten people, including Su Yuxin's assistant Yang Miaomiao.

Today, Xu Weize was still dressed in Armani, though in a different style than before, and even his leather bag had been swapped out, but the only thing that hadn't changed was the glasses on his nose.

The price of those glasses was enough to buy a mid-range sedan, which he had bought with his first year's earnings and cherished deeply.

Among the crowd, Xu Weize was chatting amiably with the bidding participants, his witty banter making several female staff members from the operations department laugh flirtatiously. One of the public relations officers in the operations department, in the midst of her laughter, was subtly leaning against Xu Weize, almost as if she was ready to spread her legs for him right then and there.

The Vice President of Operations, Zhang Tiejun, stood amongst the crowd. Although he didn't join the conversation, he didn't stop it either, seeming not to care at all that Xu Weize was stealing his thunder.

The reality was precisely that Xu Weize's status in the company was equal to his, besides Xu Weize being greatly favored by the leaders of the group, including Su Hongyuan. More importantly, he was already past fifty, feeling no need to compete with Xu Weize over such trivial matters of face.

The only person not standing with the team was Yang Miaomiao.

Even though the bid had been sealed three days before, Yang Miaomiao still looked extremely exhausted, her complexion pale and bearing dark circles under her eyes.

She sat alone in the car, occasionally casting a glance filled with intense anger at Xu Weize, the center of everyone's adulation.

However, she seemed terrified of being noticed by Xu Weize, often shifting her gaze away after just a glance.

Half an hour later, Ye Fan and Su Yuxin each drove to the Hanghu Bidding Center; Ye Fan in an unassuming Audi A6L and Su Yuxin in a stretch Mercedes.

"Mr. Su!"

As soon as Su Yuxin stepped out of the car, people hurriedly approached to greet her, yet their eyes turned toward the latest model Audi A6L behind her, spotting Ye Fan descending from the car leisurely as if on a vacation.

Upon seeing this, aside from Xu Weize and Yang Miaomiao, who knew Ye Fan's "real" identity, the expressions of the others, including Zhang Tiejun, soured.

After Lin Zhiping spread the rumor about Ye Fan playing games during work hours, though there were whispers in the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company about Su Yuxin supporting Ye Fan as a kept man, they were barely taken seriously. No one believed that Su Yuxin, revered like a goddess, would indulge in such scandalous affairs.

Most people thought Ye Fan had connections that got him the job, and considering these connections must be strong, he dared to play games under Su Yuxin's watchful eyes.

In this environment, the company's employees generally despised Ye Fan, seeing him as a parasite—drawing a higher salary than others yet contributing nothing.

By comparison, all of them had worked hard, especially in recent times, to win the contract for this project, with most putting in extra hours, exhausted to the bone.

Now, just when their hard work was about to pay off, Ye Fan appeared...

This made them feel as if Ye Fan was there to snatch the fruits of their victory!

Facing the disdainful and angry glances of everyone, Ye Fan acted as if he saw nothing, walking naturally to stand beside Su Yuxin.

Seeing this, everyone moved to stand on the far side as if avoiding an annoying fly, wishing to be as far from Ye Fan as possible.

"Assistant Yang, take Xiao Liu and Xiao Li to double-check the tenders and qualifications, make sure everything is correct, and bring them up later." Noticing the general dislike and disdain for Ye Fan, Su Yuxin felt slightly uncomfortable but knew it wasn't time to reveal the truth yet.

"Yes, Mr. Su!"

Yang Miaomiao quickly took the order, feeling secretly indignant for Ye Fan—knowing the full situation, she was well aware that without Ye Fan, everyone's efforts would be in vain.

As if understanding the message in Yang Miaomiao's eyes, Ye Fan smiled casually, looking nonchalant.

For him, he never bothered to care about the opinions of Zhang Tiejun and others!

Later, Su Yuxin wasted no more words and led everyone towards the Bidding Center building, with Xu Weize lingering at the back, glancing at Yang Miaomiao and the others, and after seeing the bids sealed for a few days, his heart settled.

Five minutes later, Ye Fan and Su Yuxin took the elevator to the 13th floor and headed for Hall 1 under the guidance of the staff.

"Mr. Su, you go ahead to the hall, I'll go to the restroom."

As they were about to reach Hall 1, Xu Weize awkwardly greeted Su Yuxin.

"Uhm..."

Hearing Xu Weize's words and seeing his awkward demeanor, Zhang Tiejun and others had weird expressions, while Su Yuxin, guessing what Xu Weize was intending to do, did not show it and merely nodded slightly.

Xu Weize chuckled awkwardly, then quickly turned and walked toward the restroom at the end of the corridor.

"Young Master He, the bid price hasn't changed."

Entering the restroom, Xu Weize entered a stall, locked the door, swiftly swapped out a SIM card, and sent a text message to He Fenghua.

Seeing the message sent successfully, he expertly dismantled the SIM card, threw it into the toilet, and flushed it away as if nothing had happened.

Meanwhile, He Fenghua, riding in a stretch Bentley towards the Bidding Center, took out his phone, saw the text message, and revealed a triumphant smile.

Smiling, he turned to Lu Jian, who came with him, and joked, "Lu Jian, they say Su Yuxin is still a virgin, so take some pills tonight if you need to."

"Young Master He, being with a woman like Su Yuxin could cure impotence in a flash!" Lu Jian said with a lewd smile, "The worry is if she plays tricks later on."

"Plays tricks?"

He Fenghua sneered coldly, "Even if she plays tricks, she can only avoid it for a while, not forever—once I have the entire Su Family under my foot, not to mention you playing with her, selling her to a nightclub isn't a difficult task, right?"

"Of course!"

Feeling the chill in He Fenghua's words, Lu Jian knew well that both Ye Fan's arrogant attitude at the convention center and Su Yuxin's actions to protect Ye Fan had deeply angered He Fenghua!

"What does that Ye guy amount to? Asking for my apology, does he deserve it??" He Fenghua said.

Chapter 52: [Whose Hand Will the Deer Die By?]

The No. 1 hall at Hanghu Bidding Center is the largest one, capable of accommodating nearly a thousand people. Normally, only large-scale construction projects are put out to tender in this hall.

By the time Ye Fan and Su Yuxin, along with their entourage, arrived at Hall No. 1, many people had already reached the hall, sitting on either side, divided into two distinct camps as if they were the divided realms of Chu and Han.

And indeed it was so—because the Su Family and the He Family were vying with all their might for the Binhe New District Phase One project, other companies had backed out, so those who came to bid today were merely there to make up the numbers, with only a few real estate company directors coming in person, while the rest had merely sent someone over arbitrarily.

The few real estate company directors who did come in person were mostly there because they were free, and wished to witness the dragon-tiger fight of the Jiangnan real estate industry with their own eyes during their leisure time.

After Su Yuxin entered the hall, two real estate company directors from the Su camp, who had come in person, came over one after another to talk, stopping only when He Fenghua and his group entered the hall.

Unlike Su Yuxin, He Fenghua brought more people with him, including not only staff from the He Family's real estate companies but also some young masters from the real estate industry and other domains.

These young masters had mostly accompanied He Fenghua to the motorhome festival and were aware of what had happened that day, so upon entering the hall, they all looked at Su Yuxin with schadenfreude in their eyes—they were very curious to see whether Su Yuxin would fulfill the gambling promise after the results came out!

As for Ye Fan, they completely ignored him.

Obviously... in their eyes, Ye Fan was just a clueless clown, not worth their attention.

At nine o'clock, the bidding center staff, experts, and officials responsible for the project successively arrived.

The bidding center staff member hosting the bid opening first introduced the experts and officials, and then outlined the project overview, bidding requirements, and bid-winning rules.

Having completed all this, the host sought approval from the officials seated centrally with a glance and said, "Now, we invite the enterprises participating in the bidding to submit their bid documents and qualifications to the expert panel for review."

Upon hearing the host's words, representatives from the twenty real estate companies stood up one after another, took their bid documents and qualifications up to the front, where the staff checked the sealing of the bid documents, and after confirming there were no mistakes, handed them over to the members of the expert panel.

"Alright, please wait patiently in the hall for further notice."

Seeing this, the host spoke again. According to the bidding rules, the expert panel must be under full surveillance while reviewing the bid documents, and representatives from the bidding enterprises were not allowed to be present.

Everyone except Ye Fan was aware of this rule. Thus, upon hearing the host's words, people left Hall No. 1 one after another.

"Mr. Su, please don't forget the gambling promise you made at the motorhome festival," said Lu Jian, following Ye Fan and Su Yuxin out to the lobby just after they left, grinning cheaply.

Whoosh!

Lu Jian's words seemed to carry some kind of magic, instantly quieting the large hall, with almost everyone turning their gaze toward Su Yuxin.

The young masters, led by He Fenghua, looked on with schadenfreude, while others were shocked!

Although they had heard through the grapevine that Su Yuxin had gambled with He Fenghua at the motorhome festival, pledging to spend a night with Lu Jian if they failed to win the Binhe Project Phase One, they didn't take it seriously.

Firstly, they couldn't believe that Su Yuxin, known as the Iron Lady, would make such an impulsive and absurd decision; secondly, the rumor only mentioned what Su Yuxin would do if she lost, but said nothing about what He Fenghua would do if Su Yuxin won.

But now, they began to waver—their logic told them that if the wager didn't exist, Lu Jian definitely wouldn't be mentioning it publicly!

"You should use that reminder for Mr. He," said Su Yuxin after a moment, when those out-of-the-loop were silently making their judgment, confirming their speculations.

"Uh..."

Seeing Su Yuxin openly acknowledging the existence of the gambling promise, those unaware people widened their eyes in shock, looking at Su Yuxin as if she had become a stranger to them.

How could Su Yuxin make such an absurd decision?

Amid their shock, these uninformed individuals silently questioned themselves.

"Mr. Su, do you mean that you will definitely keep your promise, right?" Lu Jian's smile grew more contemptible. He was well aware that broadcasting the matter publicly could somewhat increase the likelihood of Su Yuxin fulfilling the gambling promise.

"Isn't it too early to talk about keeping promises now?" Facing Lu Jian's tricky question, Ye Fan frowned and interjected before Su Yuxin could speak, "Let's talk about it after the results come out."

"What are you? Can you make decisions for Mr. Su?" Lu Jian glared at Ye Fan irritably for butting in.

Ye Fan's eyes narrowed slightly, ready to teach Lu Jian a lesson, but he saw Su Yuxin step in front of him, her expression icy as she said, "Mr. Ye is my assistant, and his words represent my intentions. But what about you, what right do you have to speak for He Fenghua?"

"Lu Jian is the main character of the gambling promise; he naturally represents my intention," said He Fenghua as he stepped forward, smiling, "It seems Lady Su is determined to win. Well then, let's wait and see."

The words had barely left his mouth when He Fenghua smiled confidently and walked aside with the young masters following him.

Seeing this, Ye Fan hesitated for a moment, temporarily abandoning the idea of teaching Lu Jian a lesson, and decided to wait for the results instead.

"Yuxin, how could you make such a bet with them?" After He Fenghua and the others had left, the previous real estate CEO who had been talking to Su Yuxin came over, asking with concern.

Without explaining, Su Yuxin just smiled confidently and said, "Uncle Huang, please don't worry, I'll be fine."

"Ah..."

The middle-aged man surnamed Huang wanted to say something, but then he thought that the rice was already cooked—the bet was made and nothing could be done now. He could only hope that the Su Family would win the bid.

Compared to the middle-aged man surnamed Huang, the employees of the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company, except for Xu Weize and Yang Miaomiao, were even more worried.

It was just—

Because Su Yuxin's prestige in the company was so high, they did not dare to voice their inner worries.

About an hour later, an announcement echoed in the hall, requesting representatives of the companies bidding for the Binhe Project Phase One to proceed to Hall One.

"After an hour of scrutiny by the expert panel, it was found that out of the twenty bidding companies, only four met the requirements specified in the bidding documents for qualifications, financial conditions, and so on. These four companies are Bailiang Group, Mingsheng Real Estate Company, Yunda Group, and Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company."

After everyone returned to Hall One, the presenter announced the results of the review and continued, "Next, we will open the bids of the four companies one by one and announce the bid prices."

As his words ended, the staff members, who were already prepared, picked up Bailiang Group's bid, showing it unopened to everyone first before swiftly breaking the seal and handing it to the official responsible for the project. The official took the bid, cleared his throat, and announced solemnly, "Bailiang Group's bid is sixteen billion, five hundred and seventy-eight million, three thousand, two hundred yuan, above the cost price and meeting the bidding requirements."

"Mingsheng Real Estate Company's bid is fifteen billion, eight hundred and thirty-six million, two thousand, seven hundred yuan, above the cost price and meeting the bidding requirements."

As the official finished the second announcement, Hall One again fell silent, so quiet that one could only hear the sound of the staff member breaking the seal of Yunda Group's bid.

Looking around the hall, besides Ye Fan's calm demeanor, everyone else seemed more or less tense.

For a moment, the atmosphere in the hall was so heavy that it was suffocating!

"Yunda Group's bid is fourteen billion, nine hundred and twenty million, five thousand, four hundred yuan." The official soon spoke up again, breaking the silence in the hall with Yunda Group's bid price.

Woosh!

As his words finished, gazes instantly turned towards the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company delegation led by Su Yuxin!

It seemed that the owners of those gazes wanted to predict the outcome of this fierce competition based on the reactions of Su Yuxin and her team!

"Uh..."

Hearing Yunda Group's bid price echoing in their ears, Zhang Tie and the others felt as if a muffled thunder had exploded beside them, leaving them all shocked and dumbfounded—the He Family's bid was only ten million lower than that of the Su Family!

The Su Family had lost!

Seeing this scene, almost everyone had the same thought simultaneously cross their minds.

Lost, have they?

In shock, Zhang Tie and the others turned their heads slowly, looking at Su Yuxin with guilt and worry as if afraid she couldn't bear such a blow!

Lost, have they?

The people aligned with the Su Family let out sighs in their hearts, and on top of their disappointment, they couldn't help but recall Lu Jian's previous bet, looking at Su Yuxin with concern and sympathy!

Lost, have they?

Including He Fenghua, all those in the He Family camp were smiling like victors, and even Lu Jian and his companions were undressing Su Yuxin with lewd stares, as if fantasizing what she would look like nude.

Lost, have they?

Yang Miaomiao suddenly stood up from her seat, excitedly grasping Su Yuxin's arm, her mouth wide open as if she wanted to say something, but due to her excitement, she couldn't utter a single word.

Lost, have they?

Su Yuxin turned to look at Ye Fan excitedly but saw that his expression was as calm as a rippleless lake.

Seeing this, the excitement on Su Yuxin's face disappeared without a trace, replaced by a composed and calm gaze directed at the official announcing the results.

Because.

She remembered something Ye Fan had said, "What's meant to happen will always find its way, so why get excited?"

Chapter 53: "No Tears Without Seeing the Coffin

Hmm?

Upon seeing the reactions of Yang Miaomiao, Su Yuxin, and Ye Fan, everyone felt that something was amiss.

Especially He Fenghua!

In his mind, this blow might not be enough to be fatal to Su Yuxin, but it would definitely have caused her to collapse instantly!

Yet now, Su Yuxin was not only unaffected by the blow but was also waiting with a calm and composed face for the official to announce Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company's bid...

That calm and composure even surpassed the astonished expressions of Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company's delegation members he had seen earlier!

This stark contrast sparked a strong unease in He Fenghua's heart.

And when Zhang Tiejun and the other nine people saw Su Yuxin's calm and composed demeanor, for some reason, a bizarre thought suddenly emerged: not defeated!

Even though the thought was so absurd and unrealistic, but... in their eyes, how could Su Yuxin appear so calm if the Su Family had really lost?

Could it be... could there still be suspense?

At the same time, those who initially thought that the Su Family had lost were now all asking themselves this question internally.

No answer.

They looked again at the official, waiting for the suspense to be revealed.

At that moment, the atmosphere in the hall was even more tense than before, even the official felt a bit excited—the words he was about to say would determine the outcome of the first full-scale confrontation between the two giants of the Jiangnan real estate industry!

Whoosh!

Later, under everyone's gaze, the official saw the bid by Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company, and his pupils dilated instantly, as if shocked.

"Hoo~"

After the shock, he slowly exhaled a breath, then looked at Su Yuxin with an extremely appreciative and admiring gaze, saying word by word, "Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company's bid is 14.851238 billion yuan even!"

"Uh..."

As the official's voice faded, the vast hall fell silent, and everyone but Ye Fan, Su Yuxin, and Yang Miaomiao widened their eyes, stared at the official motionlessly, mouths slightly agape, faces full of astonishment, like vivid statues.

One second, two seconds, three seconds...

It took a full three seconds before the people in the hall gradually came back to their senses from the shock. One by one, as if controlled, they simultaneously turned their gazes towards Su Yuxin.

Unlike their reactions to the He Family's bid, this time, Su Yuxin's expression was quite calm.

"Mr. Su... Mr. Su!"

One of the employees from Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company jumped up from his seat as if injected with adrenaline, looking at Su Yuxin with excitement, as if he wanted to worship her on the spot.

"Mr. Su, we've won!"

Zhang Tiejun, the deputy director, also stood up with an excited face. Although he did not know why the bid was different from what they had decided during their meeting, at this moment... he had no interest in thinking about these things. All he knew was that the winner was Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company!

"Swish, swish, swish, swish..."

Following Zhang Tiejun's lead, the other employees of Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company also stood up, looking at Su Yuxin with excitement and admiration.

They said nothing.

Seemingly, at this moment, any words of praise would seem superfluous to them!

"I'd always heard people say that Lady Su had the reputation of being a cold-faced president and a heroine among women, and that she had never been defeated in the business world ever since her debut two years ago. Seeing her today, it really lives up to her name."

"After today's matter, I'm afraid no one will say He Fenghua is the wonder of the Jiangnan business world anymore, right?"

"Of course, compared to Lady Su, he's far inferior."

"Facing competition with ease and facing victory without arrogance or rashness, always sitting steadily fishing... Such demeanor, not to mention He Fenghua, even those magnates in the business world are nothing more than that, right?"

...

For a time, the people in the Su Family's camp generously lavished their praise on Su Yuxin.

In contrast, the supporters in the He Family's camp were silent... just silent!

Not only them, but even the wealthy young masters who had followed He Fenghua had fallen silent.

Although they were unaware of the insider that He Fenghua had planted in the Su Family, they knew He Fenghua's character well and understood that He Fenghua never waged battles he was unsure of winning. Since He Fenghua said he could secure the Binhe New District Phase I project, he definitely could.

Even they placed such trust in He Fenghua, how much more so He Fenghua himself?

Keep in mind that he had known the Su Family's bid in advance...

Moreover, right up until the bid opening, he had specifically asked Xu Weize to keep an eye on the bid documents to see if Su Yuxin would switch them out.

It can be said that he had made everything foolproof!

But—

The cruel reality struck his face like a resounding slap and hammered his proud heart mercilessly, shattering that pride in his heart!

His eyes reddened, his face contorted, he stared deathly at Su Yuxin as if trying to see through her heart to know what she had done, how she managed to turn the tables at the last moment!

Unfortunately for him, he had no mind-reading ability, he couldn't decipher any tricks from Su Yuxin's calm expression.

So, he turned his gaze toward Xu Weize standing next to Su Yuxin, that cold look seeming to question whether Xu Weize had betrayed him, and more so, to demand: "What's going on?"

Bewildered.

Xu Weize had a look of utter bewilderment.

Because... he wanted to know what was going on even more than He Fenghua did!

At the time the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company's bid was sealed, he was there, and it was he who had watched over the bid being taken to the car today, and even... when Yang Miaomiao and the other two went to check the bid and the qualifications, he had made sure to take a look, confirming there was no mistake with the bid...

Yet now, the bid price of the Lv Hu Group had changed?!

In his eyes was the bewildered expression of He Fenghua, and reason told He Fenghua that Xu Weize probably hadn't betrayed him; otherwise, he wouldn't have had such an expression.

On one hand, Xu Weize knew the consequences of betraying him, and moreover, in He Fenghua's view, if Su Yuxin were employing the Counteract the Deception Strategy, then the role of Xu Weize as a spy would be over by now. There was no need to continue to act like an idiot.

"Huh~"

Having confirmed that Xu Weize wasn't his betrayer, He Fenghua let out a deep sigh, and then looked at the official announcing the results, saying, "Mayor Wei, I have a small request."

"Please speak."

Startled to hear He Fenghua's words, Wei Feng, who was in charge of this project, seemed to guess He Fenghua's intentions, and his expression turned slightly displeased.

"I would like to see the bid of the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company."

Although He Fenghua knew that speaking out would offend Wei Feng, by this point... he had no choice—in a way, he could accept this defeat, but he couldn't accept being played like a fool by Su Yuxin!

In his view, if Xu Weize hadn't betrayed him, then there was only one way Su Yuxin could have turned the tables— under the table dealings!

"What? Do you suspect me of fraud?"

Indeed, upon hearing He Fenghua's request, Wei Feng's face instantly turned extremely ugly.

As Hanghu's Standing Deputy Mayor, he held a significant position in Hanghu's officialdom. Although the He Family was wealthy and possibly could align with the Han Family through marriage, He Fenghua was far from being in a position to question him!

"Sorry, Mayor Wei, I just want to understand my loss better, so I can remember this lesson," He Fenghua gritted his teeth and insisted, as if he wouldn't cry until he saw his own coffin.

Wei Feng didn't make a sound but just stared coldly at He Fenghua, his authority and anger unmasked in his gaze.

Seeing that Wei Feng was thoroughly enraged, everyone in the Su Family camp wore an expression of schadenfreude, while those in the He Family camp thought that what He Fenghua was doing was not worth the cost.

But... they also understood that as the successor of the He Family, He Fenghua had always lived among applause and flowers, and now, having aligned with the powerful Han Family, all this had filled He Fenghua with enough pride and arrogance to make such a move!

"Fine, that will save me the trouble of people saying that I, Wei Feng, interfered with this project."

Seeing that He Fenghua wouldn't let up until he was convinced, Wei Feng suddenly smiled, but everyone could hear the anger in his voice. It was predictable that from today on, the He Family had thoroughly offended Wei Feng.

As he finished speaking, Wei Feng gave a glance to his secretary, who immediately rose, picked up the bid of the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company, and briskly walked over to He Fenghua, handing it to him with a blank expression.

Taking the bid, He Fenghua didn't linger, immediately flipping through it, then his gaze locked onto the bid price like a wild beast zeroing in on its prey.

But—

The next moment.

When he saw that the bid price matched exactly what Wei Feng had announced, all his persistence and unwillingness vanished, and he slumped listlessly back in his chair.

"He Fenghua, tell everyone, what is the bid price of the Lv Hu Group?"

Seeing this, Wei Feng spoke coldly. The official world is known for abandoning lost causes and kicking someone when they're down, and he didn't mind giving He Fenghua's bruised heart another cut.

"I'm sorry, Mayor Wei."

Despite He Fenghua's resentment and anger for being toyed with unreasonably by Su Yuxin, when he realized that he could do nothing to change the situation, he regained his composure, immediately stood up and bowed in apology to Wei Feng.

"Hmph!"

Wei Feng snorted and stood up to leave, not giving He Fenghua any chance to mend the situation, and all the officials and experts who had come with him also rose and followed his lead.

"He Fenghua has really lost big time this round."

Watching this scene, this was the thought that surged in almost everyone's mind.

He Fenghua himself was painfully aware of this, his expression becoming terribly grim as his facial muscles even started twitching slightly.

Victors be kings, losers be beggars.

Being the loser, he didn't humiliate himself by arguing with Su Yuxin, he didn't even dare to look at her, but instead left with a steel-blue face.

"He Fenghua, it seems you have forgotten something."

Just as He Fenghua was about to leave, Su Yuxin spoke up, her voice not loud, but loud enough for everyone to hear.

He Fenghua's footsteps faltered, then he continued walking forward, while Lu Jian, who was following him, stared coldly at Ye Fan, threatening, "Kid, you better not look for trouble when there is none."

"To me, his apology was worth less than a whore's virtue, but I don't like being threatened!"

Ye Fan stood up and strode toward He Fenghua.

Chapter 54: [Looking for Trouble!] Vote Please!!

Just like Gou Wei was Su Feiyu's lackey, Lu Jian was He Fenghua's.

Otherwise, He Fenghua wouldn't have asked Su Yuxin to sleep with Lu Jian after she lost.

The greatest duty of a lackey is to support their own master.

Lu Jian was well aware of this, so when he heard Su Yuxin say, "He Fenghua, you seem to have forgotten something," he immediately stepped in front of He Fenghua.

He lacked the courage and confidence to challenge the victorious Su Yuxin, but that didn't mean he couldn't scare off Ye Fan.

Only—

What he and everyone else hadn't anticipated was that Ye Fan, who had been silent and overlooked from beginning to end, not only didn't choose to avoid confrontation with Lu Jian tactfully but became even more defiant, completely disregarding Lu Jian and targeting the already upset He Fenghua!

Was he seeking death?

The words of Ye Fan echoed in their ears, and as they watched him stride towards He Fenghua and his entourage, everyone in the hall, apart from Su Yuxin, was struck by the same thought.

"You little bastard, are you tired of living?"

In the midst of everyone's astonished expressions, the group led by He Fenghua stopped in their tracks, and Lu Jian, fuming with rage, charged toward Ye Fan.

Seeing this scene, it was clear to everyone that Ye Fan's actions amounted to a challenge against Lu Jian, who naturally needed to teach Ye Fan a lesson.

This guy really doesn't know the immensity of heaven and earth, huh? When immortals fight, why would a mere mortal like you get involved?

Understanding this, the bystanders from the Su Family and He Family camps all thought Ye Fan had his head squeezed by a door and felt no sympathy for him whatsoever.

Not just them, even the people from Lv Hu Jiangnan Company, who were displeased with Ye Fan, showed no sympathy and even gloated over him facing the barrel of Lu Jian and He Fenghua's gun.

And He Fenghua, who already had a bellyful of anger with nowhere to vent, naturally didn't mind letting Lu Jian vent his anger for him when he saw Ye Fan provoking him senselessly.

"Mr. Su, you..."

Shortly afterward, just as Ye Fan was about to collide with Lu Jian, Yang Miaomiao regained her senses from the shock and rushed to Su Yuxin with a look full of concern, reminding her.

Clearly, in her view, at this point, only Su Yuxin stepping in could save Ye Fan from a beating.

"He won't have a problem."

Just as assured as when the Su Family had announced their bid earlier, Su Yuxin remained calm and composed, her words exuding absolute trust.

"You little scum, I think hitting you is dirtying my hands. I'll give you a chance; slap yourself ten times, and we'll consider this matter over!"

As Su Yuxin's words ended, Lu Jian approached Ye Fan, looking down at him as if a divine being inspecting an ant, his tone leaving no room for doubt!

At this moment, he displayed the arrogance and tyranny of the privileged against those below them to the fullest—he was confident he had a thousand ways to play Ye Fan to death!

Would he really slap himself?

Ye Fan raised his right hand slowly.

Why bother?

Seeing Ye Fan's action, apart from Su Yuxin, almost everyone was convinced that Ye Fan was about to slap himself, thinking he was asking for trouble.

Including Lu Jian!

A smug and wild grin indicative of the privileged spread across his face!

Just then, Ye Fan swung his right hand, with incredible speed!

"Slap—"

A crisp slap sound suddenly rang out, but it wasn't Ye Fan slapping himself, it was his slap landing on Lu Jian's face.

Under the lighting, Lu Jian's face, still retaining its wild grin, developed five distinct fingerprints, and his bulky body thundered to the ground.

"Uh..."

This unexpected turn of events caused everyone but Su Yuxin to widen their eyes in shock, their minds instantly filled with one question: What is he trying to do?

"Slap—"

Before they could make any sense of it, before Lu Jian's body hit the ground, Ye Fan struck him with another slap, flipping him onto the other side!

"Stop!"

Ye Fan's subsequent actions snapped He Fenghua out of his astonishment, and he immediately raised his voice to intervene.

After all, there's a saying about beating a dog: you have to look at the owner, and Lu Jian was not only his lackey but was disciplined by him to defend his honor.

Now, Ye Fan slapping Lu Jian was as if he was slapping He Fenghua's own face!

Without paying any heed.

With the palm.

Backhand!

Ye Fan, controlling the force of his hits, continued to slap like a father disciplining his son, the sound of "slap-slap" incessant, making Lu Jian's bulky body sway from side to side like a wobbly toy, never quite falling down.

"I said stop!"

Finally, when Ye Fan delivered the tenth slap, He Fenghua rushed to Ye Fan's side with his people, glaring at Ye Fan with a chilling gaze, and roared furiously.

"Boom—"

The response to He Fenghua was a dull thud, and He Fenghua, already seeing stars, thundered to the ground, his face swollen like a pig's head, completely unconscious.

"Do you know what you're doing?"

He Fenghua didn't attend to the knocked-out Lu Jian but instead stared fixedly at Ye Fan, his expression being ferocious, like a wild beast about to rage.

"According to your bet with Lady Su, if you lose, you must apologize to me in public."

Ye Fan faced He Fenghua's venomous gaze with a calm demeanor, stating nonchalantly, "Now, you can honor the bet—just like your man said earlier, slap yourself ten times, or else I'll have you leave lying down."

Mad!

This guy is mad!

As Ye Fan's voice fell, the whole scene erupted into uproar.

Apart from Su Yuxin, everyone thought Ye Fan had gone crazy.

Apparently, in their minds, only this explanation could justify Ye Fan's behavior.

After all, no one throughout Jiangnan had ever dared to be so brazen in front of He Fenghua!

Never before!!

"What did you say?"

He Fenghua was provoked into laughter, as if he had heard the coldest joke in the world, and looked at Ye Fan with mockery brimming in his eyes.

"I only say things once," Ye Fan stated expressionlessly as he looked at He Fenghua, "and don't ever doubt my words."

"Young Master He, why even waste words on him?"

"Indeed, this little bastard is too arrogant; we must teach him a lesson!"

"Young Master He, should we take action, or should we have someone else do it?"

...

Once again hearing Ye Fan's imperious words, the crowd grew restive. Those young masters behind He Fenghua surged forward in anger, cracking their knuckles, as if at He Fenghua's command they would tear Ye Fan to pieces.

Ye Fan moved again!

Under everyone's gaze, he suddenly swung his leg, and then... stomped fiercely on the ground!

"Crack—"

"Crunch—"

Two sharp sounds almost coincided, and the floor tiles under Ye Fan's feet instantly shattered.

Instantly, the furious shouting of those young masters came to an abrupt halt.

The hall fell into a deathly silence once again.

"Gou Wei's leg was broken just like this by me, and if anyone wants to try this feeling, I don't mind satisfying them," Ye Fan's voice echoed in the silent hall. His previously light and dismissive tone, when heard by those young masters, was like the wailing of demons, causing an emotion called fear to instantly appear on their faces, and they didn't dare to move a muscle.

Even the onlookers from both the Su Family and the He Family couldn't help but draw a sharp breath!

And... He Fenghua was staring fixedly at Ye Fan!

At this moment, he really wanted to know what Ye Fan was relying on to be so arrogant in front of him and these scions of Jiangnan!

Was it the combat power Ye Fan had just displayed?

Instinct and reason told He Fenghua that wasn't it.

But then—

He really couldn't remember any influential person from the Ye surname in Jiangnan's political, military, commercial, or underworld domains.

Could it be... Ye Fan was from the Beijing Ye Family?

He Fenghua suddenly thought of that family that stood at the pinnacle of Huaxia within the Forbidden City, but... he quickly dismissed the idea.

Because... he was certain that if Ye Fan were born in that family, he wouldn't be Su Yuxin's doctor, let alone work as a mere assistant general manager in her company.

"Mr. Ye, that day Lady Su and I were just joking; there's no need to take it so seriously, right?"

After a moment of silence, He Fenghua tried to give each side a way out, planning to temporarily avoid Ye Fan's sharp edge, and after investigating Ye Fan's identity, he would make Ye Fan pay tenfold, a hundredfold!

Facing He Fenghua's veiled admission of inferiority, Ye Fan laughed, "If it's a joke, why didn't you use your wife as the bet? Since it's just a joke..."

"You..."

Originally, He Fenghua thought that if he took a step back, giving both sides a way out, Ye Fan would wisely back down. Now seeing Ye Fan's relentlessness and his involvement of his fiancée Han Jing, He Fenghua's anger erupted as he extended his hand, pointing at Ye Fan, and said word by word, "I hope you understand, it's not the strongest who can fight, there are many... many... stronger than you."

"It looks like you're going to be carried out," Ye Fan asked with a smile.

"Kid, I admit you can fight, and we can't beat you. But I warn you, today if you lay a finger on me, I guarantee, your death will be miserable!"

He Fenghua was all in now. Not only had Ye Fan beat up his lackey Lu Jian, but he had also insulted him and his fiancée Han Jing. If he opted now to slap his own face, he wouldn't be able to stand tall in Jiangnan ever again!

Besides, he knew very well that if Ye Fan dared to lay hands on him, let alone Ye Fan himself, the entire Su Family would have to pay the price!

After all, he was defending the honor of Han Jing and the Han Family, and Han Guodong wouldn't just sit by and watch!

In such a situation, he believed that even if Ye Fan was simple-minded and brawn over brains, Su Yuxin should understand the implications and intervene in time to stop him.

It must be said that He Fenghua's calculations were meticulous.

But—

What he had never dreamed of was that faced with all of this, Su Yuxin was indifferent. She just stood there motionless, watching Ye Fan in the crowd, her eyes revealing a strange emotion.

Noticing this, He Fenghua grew anxious and sharply called out to Su Yuxin, "Su Yuxin, if he dares to lay a finger on me today, it will be a never-ending feud between the Su and He families..."

"You talk too much."

Ye Fan cut off He Fenghua's words expressionlessly, and his right hand abruptly swung out, seizing He Fenghua's collar as easily as picking something out of his pocket.

"You..."

Seeing Ye Fan's move, He Fenghua's face finally showed a hint of panic.

Wasting no further words, Ye Fan jerked his arm, hoisting He Fenghua off the ground like picking up a chicken, and then... flung him like throwing away trash!

Whoosh!

He Fenghua was sent soaring into the air, flying rapidly towards the entrance.

"Ahh—"

The cold wind howled past his ears, the lights before his eyes became hazy, and He Fenghua's heartbeat accelerated as he screamed uncontrollably.

"Bang—"

Quickly, the scream came to an abrupt end, replaced by a dull thud as He Fenghua hit the door hard, collapsing to the ground with a thunderous crash.

At the same time, as if attracted by a force, everyone's gaze turned unanimously towards the doorway.

The next moment.

They clearly saw the heir of the He Family, who usually enjoyed success in Jiangnan's business world and high society, curled up on the ground like a shrimp, his body twitching incessantly.

The hall was ensnared in deathly silence once again.

...

Chapter 55: [The Unsung Hero]

What... what happened?

Just as everyone was stunned by Ye Fan's behavior, Lu Jian slowly regained consciousness, realized the surrounding silence, and was filled with confusion.

Confusion surged, and Lu Jian became much more alert, vividly feeling the burning pain on his face and also recalling the incident when Ye Fan had slapped him.

Subconsciously, he lifted his head, seemingly to see if He Fenghua had stood up for him.

But as soon as he lifted his head, Lu Jian saw Ye Fan standing less than two meters away from him, surrounded by those young masters.

"Dammit, what are you dummies staring at?"

Seeing Ye Fan unharmed, Lu Jian no longer bothered looking for He Fenghua in the crowd. While struggling to rise from the ground, he shouted angrily at those young masters.

The shouting was because he felt he had been hit, and his fair-weather friends should have crippled Ye Fan in retaliation, not stood there foolishly.

"Young Master He... Young Master He!"

Perhaps Lu Jian's shout was too loud, causing those young masters to snap out of their shock. They regained their senses one after another but ignored Lu Jian, quickly running toward the doorway instead.

Obviously, to them, He Fenghua's safety was much more important than Lu Jian. Moreover, they had already grown fearful of Ye Fan and wanted to use this chance to get away from him, right?

Huh?

The young masters' actions made Lu Jian pause; then he instinctively looked towards the doorway, only to see He Fenghua lying on the ground like a dead dog.

This sudden scene frightened Lu Jian so much that he collapsed back to the ground!

What happened to Young Master He?

He looked towards the doorway at He Fenghua, his eyes full of shock and questions.

"Young Master He, are you alright?"

As if to answer Lu Jian, the first young master to recover hurried to He Fenghua's side, clumsily helping him to his feet.

The severe impact had caused He Fenghua to pass out briefly. Now being helped up by his companion, he gradually came to, feeling as if all the bones in his body were broken, with piercing pain flooding through him.

Just who is this guy?

How dare he hit Young Master He??

Seeing He Fenghua's face turn pale and a large bump forming on his forehead, Lu Jian guessed that He Fenghua had been hit and was almost scared out of his wits!

At the entrance of the hall, after those young masters helped He Fenghua to stand, he gestured that he was fine, signaling for them to let go.

Seeing this, the young masters all released their hold and without saying a word, stood behind He Fenghua.

Clearly... they all thought He Fenghua was going to say something.

"Lu Jian, get up and leave."

He Fenghua finally spoke, not challenging Ye Fan and Su Yuxin as the young masters had anticipated, but signaling Lu Jian to leave.

"Yes... Young Master He!"

Although unable to accept the fact that He Fenghua had been hit, Lu Jian had no time to think further; he scrambled up from the ground and ran quickly to He Fenghua, as if an assassin were chasing him from behind.

It was only after Lu Jian returned to He Fenghua's side that He Fenghua took a cold look at Ye Fan, his eyes brimming with icy chill!

Sensing the coldness in He Fenghua's gaze, Ye Fan showed no sign of fear on his face. If a mere look could scare him, enemies over the past two years would have already scared him witless!

Watching He Fenghua leave without a word with his people, those from the He Family's camp had lost any intention to be surprised. They got to their feet and fled from the hall like they were escaping.

Those from the Su Family's camp, on the other hand, stood up with complex expressions. After looking at Ye Fan, they bid farewell to Su Yuxin one after another.

With their departure, only the staff of Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company remained in the hall.

Among them was Xu Weize, who seemed to be seeing Ye Fan for the first time, his gaze filled with bewilderment—Ye Fan's actions in teaching He Fenghua and Lu Jian a lesson had shocked him even more than Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company's miraculous last-minute turnaround.

He simply could not imagine what had given Ye Fan the confidence to do all this!

The Su Family?

Xu Weize did not believe the Su Family could protect Ye Fan!

Based on his understanding of He Fenghua, starting from today, He Fenghua and the He Family would stop at nothing to wage war against the Su Family!

And with today's event, He Fenghua could also enlist the help of Han Guodong. In such a situation, it was hard to say whether the Su Family could even protect themselves, let alone Ye Fan?

Yang Miaomiao understood this as well, and her look towards Ye Fan was complex, filled with respect and admiration, but more so with concern!

By contrast, led by Zhang Tiejun, the nine men, while also aware that He Fenghua would not let things rest, did not have respect and admiration for Ye Fan in their eyes, only disgust!

That's right...

Disgust!

Because, they felt that Ye Fan, in trying to be momentarily assertive, had brought trouble to both Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company and the entire Su Family, which was utterly thoughtless and impulsive!

"By the way, Mr. Su, how did our bid price end up changing at the last moment?"

More than being dissatisfied with Ye Fan, Zhang Tiejun was more concerned with the recent successful bid. As the vice president in charge of business operations, he thought the turnaround was simply magical.

The moment Zhang Tiejun spoke, including Xu Weize, everyone's attention was diverted, and they all turned their gaze to Su Yuxin.

"Winning the bid for the Binhe New District's first phase project was entirely Assistant Ye's merit!"

Because Ye Fan had always been mistaken for an unnamed hero by the company staff, and now, with Zhang Tiejun and the others feeling even greater misunderstandings and dissatisfaction towards Ye Fan, Yang Miaomiao felt so aggrieved for Ye Fan that, without waiting for Su Yuxin to respond, she shockingly revealed the truth.

"What... What?"

Even after all the shock they had received today, when Zhang Tiejun, Xu Weize, and the others heard Yang Miaomiao saying that Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company won the bid thanks to Ye Fan, they reacted as if they had heard the coldest joke in the world.

Because... in their minds, Ye Fan was the company's biggest parasite, who did nothing but play games during work hours and had never done anything worthwhile!

And now, Yang Miaomiao claimed that Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company was able to win the Binhe New District Phase I project entirely because of Ye Fan...

This meant that without Ye Fan, all their efforts would have been in vain!!

The stark contrast brought an indescribable shock to their hearts!

Swish!

In an instant, their gazes fell on Ye Fan once again, eyes filled with astonishment and doubt, as if they were meeting him for the very first time.

Not just Yang Miaomiao, Su Yuxin also didn't want Ye Fan to be misunderstood or looked down upon by everyone. Seeing the crowd's dumbstruck expressions, she spoke to confirm, saying, "Assistant Yang is right. Without Assistant Ye, there is no way we could have secured the Binhe New District Phase I project."

"Uh..."

If Yang Miaomiao's words were already shocking enough, Su Yuxin's confirmation left Zhang Tiejun, Xu Weize, and others with their jaws dropping even wider.

However...Su Yuxin's confirmation dispelled their doubts about Yang Miaomiao's remarks, leaving them with nothing but shock!

How could this guy possibly be the biggest contributor?

Everyone internally questioned themselves, trying to figure out the catch, but no matter how hard they racked their brains, they couldn't make sense of it.

"Mr. Su, why do you say that?" Eventually, Zhang Tiejun couldn't help but speak up again, voicing everyone's doubts.

"This question, I think it would be better for President Xu to answer."

Su Yuxin's gaze turned coldly towards Xu Weize. The USB drive Ye Fan had given her contained a recent recording of a conversation between Xu Weize and He Fenghua, confirming that Xu Weize was a mole

sent by the He Group, and following Ye Fan's suggestion, she had gone ahead with the counter-scheme strategy.

Thunk!

Perhaps due to a guilty conscience, Xu Weize had already had a vague feeling that Ye Fan might have exploited his role as a mole, and now hearing Su Yuxin mention it, it felt like someone had peeked into a secret in his heart, causing his heart to skip a beat for no apparent reason!

"Mr. Su, I knew nothing about this matter."

Despite being completely fraught with tension, Xu Weize forced himself to control his emotions in the face of the cold and angry gaze from Su Yuxin and Yang Miaomiao, and the curious looks from Zhang Tiejun and others.

"Xu Weize, are you really unaware?"

In order to carry out Su Yuxin's counter-scheme plan, Yang Miaomiao had feigned ignorance to tolerate Xu Weize for a long time. Now, seeing Xu Weize still trying to play dumb, her anger flared up.

Uh?

Yang Miaomiao's outburst once again caught Zhang Tiejun and the others by surprise, and on top of their astonishment, they were all trying to puzzle out the connection between Ye Fan and Xu Weize in this matter.

"Xu Weize leaked the company's bid pricing for the Binhe New District Phase I project and acquired benefits from the He Group. Moreover, he is a spy that the He Group planted within the Lv Hu Group."

Before the crowd could come up with any answers, Su Yuxin explained the reasons behind it all, "Assistant Ye discovered all of this and thus hatched a counter-scheme that allowed us to successfully win this project!"

Xu Weize is a spy?!

Hearing Su Yuxin unravel the mystery, Zhang Tiejun and the others were completely stunned.

In their view, Xu Weize was not only a talented student from Harvard but also highly capable, making significant contributions to the company and even earning appreciation from group leaders, including Su Hongyuan, with a limitless future ahead of him. How could he be connected with being a spy...

Beyond their astonishment, Zhang Tiejun and the others instinctively turned their gaze to Xu Weize.

Under the lighting, they clearly saw the face that was always confident and composed, now completely overtaken by panic.

Xu Weize was in a panic.

Yes!

Even though he had mentally prepared himself, when the outcome was revealed, he was still thrown into panic.

Initially, Zhang Tiejun and the rest had some doubts about Su Yuxin's words, but sensing Xu Weize's abnormal behavior, they knew for certain what Su Yuxin said was true—if Xu Weize were not a spy, he would have rebutted immediately, instead of panicking like a lost child!

"Xu Weize, why did you do this?"

"Xu Weize, you are despicable!"

"Exactly, Mr. Su and the group leaders were so good to you, yet you committed such an inhuman act!"

"Xu Weize, as your subordinate, I am ashamed to have a boss like you, you are the disgrace of our entire Lv Hu Jiangnan Company!"

"Mr. Su, I suggest we call the police right away and let them handle this—Xu Weize must pay a painful price for his actions!"

...

Convinced that Xu Weize was a mole, Zhang Tiejun and his colleagues were filled with an indescribable rage, feeling that at this moment, Xu Weize was a thousand times, a million times more despicable than Ye Fan had ever been!

Xu Weize's brows were tightly knit, silent as if considering his next move.

"Sorry, Assistant Ye, we all misunderstood you before, please forgive us." After scolding Xu Weize, Zhang Tiejun remembered something and turned his head to apologize to Ye Fan.

As he finished speaking, Zhang Tiejun felt that his sincerity was insufficient, so he also made a bowing gesture!

Seeing this, the other eight employees of Lv Hu Group followed Zhang Tiejun's lead, bending forward slightly, bowing their heads to express their apologies to Ye Fan with their actions!

Witnessing this scene, Yang Miaomiao felt a sense of exhilaration, as if she were the hero behind the scenes rather than Ye Fan.

Even Su Yuxin felt a faint excitement, proud of Ye Fan's actions!

"It doesn't matter."

Ye Fan's expression was calm, he had never cared about the opinions of Zhang Tiejun and the others.

Chapter 56: [Adding Feet to a Snake]

For some reason, as he watched his subordinates and colleagues who once admired, envied, and even resented him now attack him with venomous words and apologize to Ye Fan one by one, Xu Weize felt as if he had been provoked. Instead of panicking, he found it somewhat amusing, even allowing a hint of disdain to flicker in his eyes!

"Xu Weize, you still have the face to laugh?" Zhang Tiejun, seeing this, was immediately unable to contain his anger, and the others glared at Xu Weize with furious expressions.

"Don't you think what you're doing is ridiculous?"

There was no longer a trace of panic on Xu Weize's face because... Zhang Tiejun and the others' opportunistic behavior reminded him—he had never betrayed He Fenghua, although through his identity as an undercover agent, the Su Family had cunningly clinched the project!

Moreover, even if his undercover identity had been exposed, with his skills, he was still valuable to He Fenghua and even the He Family!

In such a situation, it was not likely that He Fenghua would be angry with him!

Moreover, due to Ye Fan's recent assault on He Fenghua, He Fenghua would inevitably seek retribution and naturally not let the Su Family target him!

And through his many years as an undercover agent at the Lv Hu Group, he knew very well that the official tree the Su Family relied on was about to retire, while the tree the He Family relied on was likely to grow even further, especially with He Fenghua's newest ally Han Guodong, who was rumored to be affiliated with the powerful Beijing Bai Family.

"Xu Weize, I've called the police already. I believe the law will give you a just outcome."

Xu Weize's apparent indifference completely infuriated Su Yuxin, her tone turning utterly cold, "Moreover, don't expect He Fenghua to save you. He will face the law's sanctions just like you."

Xu Weize curled his lip, thinking Su Yuxin's threat of using the law against him and He Fenghua was simply foolish.

"Xu Weize, won't you see reason until you are dead? Open your damn eyes and look carefully!" Next to the window, Yang Miaomiao, seeing Xu Weize's arrogance, was furious. As she spoke, she pointed her finger down toward the street.

Hmm?

Xu Weize raised his eyebrows, took a couple of steps forward, and was shocked to notice three police cars parked at the entrance of the bidding building.

At the same time.

He Fenghua, accompanied by Lu Jian and other young masters along with employees from the He Group, took the elevator to the ground floor.

During the descent, He Fenghua didn't mention anything about the earlier incident, just scowled, and no one knew what was on his mind.

"Young Master He, leave this to me. I'm calling right now to find someone to cripple that bastard!" Walking through the first-floor lobby, Lu Jian hesitated for a moment, then spoke resolutely. The beating He Fenghua had endured was because of him, so he felt obliged to help He Fenghua reclaim face. Besides, Ye Fan had slapped him ten times—a grudge he could not overlook.

"You all go back first."

He Fenghua did not respond to Lu Jian's words but gestured for the He Group employees to leave, while not naively telling them to keep today's events a secret.

He knew today's incident could not be concealed.

"Young Master He, just tell us how you want to handle that little bastard, and we'll do it!" After the He Group employees left, another young master spoke up.

"Yes, Young Master He."

The other young masters were also eagerly readying themselves to act on He Fenghua's command, seeming ready to ensure Ye Fan would meet a grim end.

He Fenghua was about to say something when suddenly eight policemen entered the lobby, heading straight for them.

Could Young Master He be using the police to deal with that little bastard?

Seeing the police, Lu Jian and the others suddenly had this thought. In their memory, He Fenghua had once crippled an upstart from out of town using this tactic.

"He Fenghua, I am Deputy Captain Shi Qing from the Economic Crimes Division of the city police, here is my badge." Shi Qing and his team approached He Fenghua, produced his badge, and said seriously, "According to relevant evidence, you are suspected of economic crimes. Please come with us to the police station for an investigation."

The police were here to arrest Young Master He?!

Lu Jian and the others had initially thought the police were called by He Fenghua to deal with Ye Fan, but they were stunned upon hearing Shi Qing's words.

Meanwhile, He Fenghua furrowed his brows, his eyes flickering as if trying to understand the trick behind this.

"Captain Shi, are you sure you're not mistaken?"

"Captain Shi, police work relies on evidence. It's illegal to arrest someone without evidence."

"That's right, if you arrest Young Master He without evidence, not just you but perhaps even your superiors wouldn't be able to bear the responsibility!"

Somewhat later, before He Fenghua could react, Lu Jian and the other two young masters spoke up, intentionally or unintentionally reminding Shi Qing and his team of He Fenghua's status, urging them to think before they acted.

Other young masters had not yet become close enough to He Fenghua to speak up for him and boost his morale, but they all looked at Captain Shi and his group with a mocking gaze, finding their actions ridiculous.

Because... in their view, given the He Family's power in Jiangnan, He Fenghua was not someone that a mere deputy captain of the Economic Investigation Team could touch, especially since He Fenghua's future father-in-law was the second in command of the Jiangnan officialdom.

"Captain Shi, I would like to know how I am suspected of economic crime?"

After a brief moment of thought, He Fenghua seemed to have figured it out and couldn't help but laugh, his mocking smile far surpassing those of the young masters.

"You promised many benefits to buy over Xu Weize, the deputy general manager of the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company. Xu Weize leaked various secrets of the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company to you, allowing the He Group to profit from it," Captain Shi said gravely.

Upon hearing Captain Shi's words, Lu Jian and the other young masters suddenly understood - they not only grasped why He Fenghua had been so confident before but also recognized the reason behind his failure.

He Fenghua had apparently guessed this point already, the smile on his face unwavering: "I'm very curious, what is your evidence?"

"He Fenghua, once you are in the police station, we will present sufficient evidence. Now is not the time to produce evidence."

Perhaps it was He Fenghua's attitude that irritated Captain Shi greatly, his tone somewhat somber, "Not only you, but the involved Xu Weize will also be taken back to the police station. You can confront him face-to-face there."

"I am very willing to cooperate with the police."

Although he said that, the scornful smile on He Fenghua's face grew thicker, apparently regarding Su Yuxin's tactic as too amateurish.

Lu Jian and the other young masters adopted an attitude of watching a show. After all, back in the day, a third-tier young master from Hanghu, who was even lower in status and identity than them, caused the once sensational 'Seventy Code' incident and yet ended up with little consequence. How could such an economic case be a problem for someone with He Fenghua's status?

Ten minutes later, while He Fenghua and his group and the eight Economic Investigation police officers led by Captain Shi were waiting, Ye Fan and Su Yuxin's group emerged from the elevator.

Xu Weize walked at the front of the crowd. Seeing He Fenghua's group standing fearlessly in front of Captain Shi and his group, he grew even more confident that nothing would happen to him, but he didn't show it. Instead, he looked at He Fenghua apologetically, then shifted his gaze away, pretending not to know He Fenghua.

"Xu Weize, based on the evidence, you are suspected of leaking trade secrets. Please come with us to the police station for investigation!" At the same time, Captain Shi approached him directly and blocked his way with a cold voice.

"Officer, although I don't know where your evidence comes from, I am certain I haven't broken the law. Of course, I will cooperate with you," Xu Weize responded, displaying the same clever composure as his boss, He Fenghua, in the face of intimidating police.

"Whether you have broken the law is not for you to decide!"

Originally, Captain Shi had already been quite irritated by He Fenghua, and now seeing Xu Weize and He Fenghua having the same demeanor, he was even more infuriated and coldly ordered, "Take him away!"

Xu Weize remained composed and let two police officers escort him away.

"Wait."

Meanwhile, as two police officers approached him, He Fenghua used an unequivocal tone to stop them. Without waiting for Captain Shi to issue further orders, he led his group swiftly toward Ye Fan and Su Yuxin.

"Su Yuxin, I must admit, you played this turnaround beautifully."

He Fenghua stopped a meter away from Su Yuxin and spoke as though analyzing the situation, but his eyes gleamed coldly, "But... your final move was just gilding the lily, utterly ridiculous."

Su Yuxin's face was expressionless, ignoring He Fenghua's provocation entirely.

He Fenghua didn't mind, shifted his gaze from Su Yuxin's face, and looking towards Ye Fan with a taunting smile: "Mr. Ye, do you think I could also use the excuse that you assaulted someone to send you to the police station?"

"He Fenghua, you can try!"

Before Ye Fan could speak, Su Yuxin coldly delivered her reply, as if indicating that if He Fenghua dared to do so, she would fight him tooth and nail.

"Such foolish tactics, I neither use nor care for,"

He Fenghua mocked with a glance at Su Yuxin and then stared intensely at Ye Fan, "I just want to remind Mr. Ye, no one has ever dared to touch me."

"Care to try it again?" Ye Fan asked with narrowed eyes.

He Fenghua pursed his lips, ultimately not daring to utter a word.

Because.

Instinct and reason told him that if he dared to utter another word, Ye Fan would definitely strike him, police presence or not!

Chapter 57: [Hatred Escalates]

"Assistant Ye was quite impressive just now,"

"Yeah, she scared He Fenghua so much that she didn't dare let out a single fart."

"If only my future husband could be as domineering and impressive."

...

A Coaster van slowly departed from the Hanghu Bidding Center, and inside the vehicle, the employees of the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company excitedly discussed everything that had happened today. When they talked about Ye Fan's actions, many of the female employees' eyes sparkled with admiration, almost as if they wanted to confess their feelings to Ye Fan right away.

Listening to her colleagues' excited discussions, the business department's female public relations staff who had earlier nearly clung to Xu Weize hesitated and asked Assistant Yang, "Assistant Yang, who is Assistant Ye, really? Is he not afraid of He Fenghua's retaliation at all?"

"Aren't Mr. Su and Chairman Su not to be trifled with either?"

The female employee who had a huge crush on Ye Fan sarcastically countered, clearly dissatisfied with the female public relations staff's comments.

It wasn't just her; the others also glared at the female public relations staff with displeasure.

Seeing their reaction, the female public relations staff didn't dare say more and only stole a glance at Yang Miaomiao, realizing that Yang Miaomiao did not seem to be worried at all.

And indeed, that was the case.

In Yang Miaomiao's view, Ye Fan was Su Yuxin's lifesaver and was currently in charge of treating her condition. The Su Family would not just stand by and watch the He Family lay a finger on Ye Fan.

After leaving the bidding center, Su Yuxin did not request Zhang Tiejun and the others to return to the company. Instead, she decided to personally treat everyone to a meal at the quasi-five-star Jiuzhou International Hotel. It was partly to celebrate the company's acquisition of the Binhe New District Phase One project and partly to reward Zhang Tiejun and others for their efforts in the previous period.

Because of the successful bid, not only were Zhang Tiejun and his colleagues in high spirits during the meal, but Su Yuxin herself also exhibited a rare full-faced smile. Even Ye Fan was somewhat influenced by everyone's mood and for the first time vaguely experienced the joy of teamwork.

After the meal, Su Yuxin gave Zhang Tiejun and the others half a day off and decided to hold a celebration at the end of the month. The entire bidding work team as well as middle and upper-level managers from the company would attend. At the celebration, employees who contributed to the bidding process would be rewarded.

Except for Ye Fan, everyone else was overjoyed at Su Yuxin's decision. Even Ye Fan couldn't help but inwardly admire Su Yuxin's distinctive way of managing the company.

By comparison, Ye Fan felt that Su Yuxin's decision to use legal means against He Fenghua and Xu Weize at the end was a bit too optimistic.

As if to confirm Ye Fan's judgment, after lunch, Su Yuxin received a call from Su Hongyuan. The joy on her face vanished, replaced by anger and helplessness.

"Did the police not do anything to He Fenghua and Xu Weize?" Ye Fan asked with a wry smile, noticing the change in Su Yuxin's expression.

Su Yuxin nodded and said, "Yeah. My grandfather just called me about the police taking He Fenghua away, and I told him the truth. He said the police claimed that since there's only audio and no video, there's a possibility that someone fabricated or impersonated He Fenghua and Xu Weize; it's not enough to serve as evidence."

Su Yuxin's words confirmed Ye Fan's earliest judgment. He pondered for a moment and was about to speak when he saw Su Yuxin's face showing a bit of frustration as she said, "The police suddenly changed their attitude because the He Family pulled some strings. I wanted to have my grandfather use his connections to put He Fenghua and Xu Weize in jail, but he said that doing so would cause an earthquake in both Jiangnan's officialdom and business circles; the cost would be too great, and it wouldn't be worth it. Furthermore, the Su Family's backer in the government wouldn't agree to it."

"Taking on He Fenghua wouldn't even be enough to cause a scratch to the entire He Family; your grandfather's decision isn't wrong,"

Over the past month, although Ye Fan still hadn't fully integrated into secular life, he had come to understand some of the rules of society and knew that taking down a power like the He Family required a fatal blow.

"I know, but whenever I think of how arrogant and overbearing He Fenghua was in front of you, I just feel uncomfortable."

Su Yuxin sighed softly. Two years of hard work had led her to achieve impressive results in corporate management and business competition. However, whenever it involved the murky interactions of government and business, it was always Su Hongyuan who was steering the ship behind the scenes.

Seeing Su Yuxin unwittingly reveal her thoughts, Ye Fan felt a strange sentiment stir within him, but Su Yuxin, noticing Ye Fan's silence, suddenly realized something and, eager to cover up her embarrassment, quickly walked ahead.

...

Just as Su Hongyuan had said, the police changed their attitude, and the city bureau's criminal investigation brigade released the detainees without delay.

"Captain Shi, you should be more careful when you arrest people next time. Don't make arrests without evidence; otherwise, the consequences could be severe."

Waiting downstairs at the city bureau building, Lu Jian, who had been waiting early, saw Shi Qing release He Fenghua and Xu Weize downstairs under the directive of the leadership and he stated a vindictive remark, "Not everyone has such a good temperament as Young Master He."

"I'm sorry,"

Hearing Lu Jian's sarcastic and contemptuous words, Shi Qing was very annoyed but also knew that he, a mere deputy captain of the municipal criminal investigation brigade, should not get involved in the struggle between the colossal Su and He families. Therefore, he could only forcibly suppress his anger and apologize with a feigned smile.

Seeing this, Lu Jian wanted to vent his frustrations further but was stopped by a look from He Fenghua.

"Young Master He, why stop me? Dogs like him should be taught a lesson, lest they forget their place," Lu Jian said somewhat disgruntledly as they arrived at the police station's parking lot.

He Fenghua responded indifferently, "If he's just a dog, why bother stooping to his level?"

"You're right, Young Master He," Lu Jian quickly agreed, eager to flatter.

He Fenghua ignored Lu Jian's sycophancy and turned his attention to Xu Weize.

"I'm sorry, Young Master He. This was all my fault!"

Sensing He Fenghua's gaze, Xu Weize hastily bowed and apologized, his demeanor resembling that of an ancient servant admitting fault to his master, wishing he could kneel and kowtow.

"The mistake is not yours," He Fenghua said after a slight pause. "Go home and rest for a few days, and report to the He Group at the beginning of the month."

"Thank... thank you, Young Master He!"

Although Xu Weize had thought He Fenghua would not blame him, it was only when the moment actually arrived that his worried heart truly relaxed. He felt that his loyalty to He Fenghua was the most correct decision of his life, and was moved almost to tears.

"Young Master He, you still plan to employ this kind of person?" After Xu Weize left, Lu Jian asked somewhat puzzled.

"Xu Weize's identity was discovered because that Ye person installed a miniature listening device in his glasses, not because he betrayed me. I was also careless, only considering if he was being followed and neglecting the possibility of someone installing a listening device on him."

As He Fenghua watched Xu Weize's departing figure, a sharp glint flashed in his eyes, "Besides, punishing him would be meaningless. Better to grant him a great favor and make him even more devoted to working for me in the future!"

"No wonder my father told me to learn more about the ways of the world from you, Young Master He. Comparing myself with you, I'm truly out of my depth."

Lu Jian discreetly offered another compliment, and then remembering Ye Fan's actions, his swollen face twisted with rage, "Young Master He, we can overlook Xu Weize's matter, but that bastard Ye must not be let off. Would you like to cripple him or should he just 'evaporate' from the face of the earth?"

"I will deal with this matter personally. I want to see for myself just how tough he is!"

Speaking of Ye Fan, He Fenghua's expression became terrifyingly cold. Ye Fan had not only ruined the He Group's plans to win the contract for the Binhe New District Phase One project, exposed Xu Weize as an undercover agent, but also threw him out of the bidding hall like trash in front of everyone. He Fenghua would not let Ye Fan off for any of these offenses.

Feeling the chilly menace in He Fenghua's words, Lu Jian discreetly remained silent, opened the car door for He Fenghua, and waited until he got into the car, before walking towards his own vehicle.

Once in the car, He Fenghua lit a cigarette, took a light puff, and then pulled out his cellphone to dial the phone number of Qiao Bazhi, the godfather of both Hanghu and the larger Jiangnan underworld.

"It's a rarity for Young Master He to make a call," Qiao Bazhi said as soon as the call connected, his seemingly complimentary tone grating to He Fenghua's ears—he knew the day's events had already reached Qiao Bazhi.

"Master Eight, you had Liu Qin call me last time, offering to break the legs of that Ye person close to Su Yuxin. I didn't agree," He Fenghua said, ignoring Qiao Bazhi's tone and speaking deliberately. "You know I'm somewhat proud, so I hope you can understand."

"Understandable, understandable. How could such a minor figure catch the eye of someone like Young Master He?" Qiao Bazhi continued to flatter with a laugh, while inwardly sneering.

Just as He Fenghua could guess he had heard about today's events, Qiao Bazhi could guess the reason for He Fenghua's call. In his view, He Fenghua was the classic hypocrite, playing both the whore and the moralist.

"Master Eight, let's be clear with each other. Someone like Su Yuxin, I don't take her seriously, but I cannot tolerate a nobody, a bastard, daring to lay hands on me."

Perhaps finding Qiao Bazhi's words irritating, He Fenghua got straight to the point, "You decapitate that bastard Ye for me, and I will introduce you to Han Guodong."

"No problem. When do you want it done?" Qiao Bazhi, having dropped the pleasantries, indirectly confirmed his acceptance of the deal.

"The sooner, the better," He Fenghua said, adding a reminder, "Also, I hope you can do it without anyone noticing, leaving no trace."

"Please trust the professional, Young Master He."

Qiao Bazhi stroked his bald head and let out a sinister laugh, "As you said yourself, dirty work is the business of people like us."

Chapter 58: Self-important Yelang

At dusk, as the sun gradually set behind the hills, a stretch Hummer, flanked by two Jeep Wranglers, arrived at the entrance of the Purple Gold Garden Noble District.

Looking at the domineering stretched Hummer, the security guards at the entrance of the Noble District didn't say a word, saluted immediately, and let them pass, their eyes filled with admiration.

The admiration was because they knew the owner of the stretched Hummer was Qiao Bazhi.

Like all the hoodlums on the streets, he believed that living in a mansion, driving luxury cars, sleeping with beautiful women, and having everyone at his beck and call on the streets—even if it meant dying twenty years earlier—was absolutely worth it!

Of course, it was just a thought.

He knew he wasn't even qualified to carry Qiao Bazhi's bags!

"Master Eight, do you think that Ye kid has eaten the gall of a leopard? It was bad enough that he crippled that scion from the Gou Family, but to lay hands on He Fenghua too?"

Inside the stretched Hummer, the glamorous Liu Qin, clinging to Qiao Bazhi's arm and leaning against him, fluttered her seductive phoenix eyes, "Does he think the Su Family can cover the sky with one hand in Hanghu?"

"You're wrong, his reliance isn't the Su Family, but himself."

Upon hearing this, Qiao Bazhi slowly snuffed out his cigar, chuckling as he spoke, "As the saying goes, 'With great skill comes great courage.' There are too many people in this world who believe they're the best after learning a little Kung Fu, disrespecting everyone."

"That's also true."

Liu Qin, being Qiao Bazhi's woman, also knew that before the establishment of the 'Yanhuang Organization,' many half-baked martial artists who hadn't even reached the threshold of martial arts disregarded the law and committed crimes, all eventually meeting King Yan.

In her view, Ye Fan belonged to this category.

"Although that kid can fight, I don't think we need to have Wu He make a move, right?"

Seeing that Qiao Bazhi didn't speak, Liu Qin thought of Qiao Bazhi planning to send Wu He to deal with Ye Fan, and felt it was overkill—using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

Although she hadn't interacted much with the man called Wu He, she knew that Wu He had once made a name for himself in the black fist realm, was later spotted by a Jianghu person, joined the sect of that Jianghu person, and after some training, his strength soared. Now, he was the sharpest knife in Qiao Bazhi's hand!

"To completely drive the Dong Hai Gang out of Hanghu and even Jiangnan, relying solely on beating and killing isn't enough, we must find a big tree to cool off under. Han Guodong is not only powerful in Jiangnan but is also associated with the Beijing Bai Family, and Mr. Lin has an extraordinary relationship with the Bai Family. Therefore, no matter the cost, we must forge a connection with Han Guodong!"

When mentioning Mr. Lin, Qiao Bazhi spoke very respectfully, "So, this matter is crucial. To be safe, let Wu He do it, lest He Fenghua complains that our actions weren't clean enough."

"Master Eight is indeed far-sighted."

Realizing this, Liu Qin quickly flattered, her whole being almost pressing against Qiao Bazhi, her expression as seductive as it could be.

Seeing this, Qiao Bazhi chuckled and gave Liu Qin's buttock a pinch, causing her to pant with desire, almost wishing she could spread her legs right then for Qiao Bazhi.

Facing Liu Qin's temptation, Qiao Bazhi remained indifferent. If he lacked even this bit of control, he wouldn't have become the leader of the underworld in Hanghu, let alone the entire Jiangnan.

A few minutes later, the stretched Hummer stopped at the front of a villa in the mountainous area of Purple Gold Garden. The driver immediately got out of the vehicle and opened the door for Qiao Bazhi. Qiao Bazhi and Liu Qin stepped out one after another and entered the villa under the escort of a group of black-clothed men.

Once inside the courtyard, the black-clothed men tactfully didn't follow any further, except Liu Qin who continued to follow Qiao Bazhi to the villa's main hall.

Unlike ordinary villas, this villa's main hall wasn't decorated luxuriously, and didn't even have the usual furniture like sofas or a TV. Instead, it had been converted into a small martial arts training ground, with a wooden dummy placed in the middle.

When Qiao Bazhi and Liu Qin entered the villa, a young man dressed only in shorts was standing in front of the wooden dummy, squatting in a horse stance, his muscles taut, continuously striking the wooden dummy with his fists, elbows, and other parts of his body, the "thumping" sound incessant.

"Master Eight."

Seeing Qiao Bazhi and Liu Qin enter, the young man halted his actions and turned around, completely ignoring Liu Qin and only greeting Qiao Bazhi.

In response to this scene, Liu Qin showed no dissatisfaction.

On one hand, she clearly understood that this young man named Wu He, apart from being polite to Qiao Bazhi, paid no mind to anyone else, and on the other hand, Qiao Bazhi's emphasis on Wu He was no less than on her.

In other words, if Qiao Bazhi wanted to take over Hanghu and Jiangnan, he could do without her, but definitely not without Wu He!

"Xiao Wu, it looks like your Kung Fu has progressed again."

Not only Liu Qin, but even Qiao Bazhi didn't show any displeasure, seemingly accustomed to Wu He's attitude.

"There are too many worldly distractions, progress is very slow, and I have yet to break through," Wu He frowned, then said, "Master Eight, did you come to see me today because we're making a move against the Dong Hai Gang?"

"Not yet." Qiao Bazhi shook his head, "But there is someone you need to kill."

"Who?"

At these words, Wu He's gaze sharpened instantly. Since following Qiao Bazhi to Hanghu, he had not yet had a chance to freely fight someone, and he somewhat missed the taste of fresh blood.

"Xiao Qin, show Xiao Wu the video," Qiao Bazhi smiled and gestured for Liu Qin to take out the surveillance footage of the day Ye Fan acted at the entrance of CC Bar.

Without a word, Liu Qin quickly took out a tablet from her handbag, opened the surveillance footage of that day, and let Wu He watch.

"Reaction speed is too slow."

As the scene flashed, Wu He watched Gou Wei drive his car towards Ye Fan. Ye Fan only dodged at the last moment, prompting Wu He to immediately give his evaluation.

Hearing this, Qiao Bazhi remained silent, planning to wait until Wu He had watched everything before speaking.

"The speed is not bad though."

Seeing that Ye Fan had appeared in front of Gou Wei in a flash and sent him flying with a slap, Wu He said disdainfully, "However, his strength is too weak. He hasn't reached Postnatal Great Success yet — he's only slightly stronger than the typical Early Postnatal realm Martial Artist, having perfected his outer strength to the extreme."

"Why?"

Qiao Bazhi had learned some martial arts too, but he couldn't learn meditation and had not stepped into the realm of Martial Arts, so he couldn't gauge Ye Fan's strength.

"If he had reached Postnatal Great Success and used his power, that slap would have been enough to kill the man," explained Wu He, his enthusiasm fading quickly, as he seemed to lose interest in a confrontation with Ye Fan.

Qiao Bazhi saw through Wu He's thoughts immediately and chuckled, "What's wrong? You think his strength is too weak?"

"It's not that he's too weak; it's that he's simply not worth my effort — I could kill such a guy with one slap," Wu He said blandly, "Master Eight, I think you should let somebody else take care of this rookie."

"Haha!"

Upon hearing Wu He's arrogant words, Qiao Bazhi couldn't help but laugh, "Xiao Wu, although this person is somewhat weak, killing him is crucial for our next step against the Dong Hai Gang. To be safe, you should handle it yourself."

"Fine then."

Although he felt it was beneath him to kill Ye Fan, Wu He knew he had to follow Qiao Bazhi's orders and agreed reluctantly.

"Make it clean, leave no trace," Qiao Bazhi thought for a moment, then added, "Also, behead this young fellow and bring his head to me."

"Master Eight, you know I don't have the habit of using weapons," Wu He chuckled, his smile filled with a bloodthirsty air, "I prefer to twist off my enemies' heads."

"Hiss~"

As Liu Qin heard Wu He's words and remembered the scene of Wu He tearing apart an opponent, she felt a chill run down her spine and instinctively shrank her neck.

Qiao Bazhi, on the other hand, wore a relaxed smile.

He had long gotten used to Wu He's bloodlust, and in his memory, ever since Wu He had been with him, he had never failed!

...

When darkness enveloped the earth, Ye Fan and Su Yuxin walked out of a private restaurant, nearly shoulder to shoulder, looking every bit the enamored couple to outsiders.

However—

To the surprise of the passersby, after stepping out, they didn't get into the same car. Ye Fan entered his unremarkable Audi, while Su Yuxin got into a stretched Mercedes.

Hmm?

As the cars started, Ye Fan was about to steer his wheel when he suddenly became aware that someone was watching him. Glancing through the rearview mirror, he was shocked to see a Buick Lacrosse parked behind him, its headlights on, seemingly ready to depart at any moment.

This discovery made Ye Fan feel uneasy. He thought for a moment, opened his window, and told Su Yuxin to go ahead.

Su Yuxin nodded and drove out of the parking lot first.

Until Su Yuxin's car entered the street, Ye Fan did not leave. Instead, he keenly observed his surroundings to see if anyone else was following Su Yuxin.

"Has he noticed us?"

In the Buick Lacrosse behind, Wu He furrowed his brow slightly, almost unable to believe that Ye Fan had spotted him so quickly.

After all, he hadn't even started trailing yet!

"Buzz!"

Just as Wu He was puzzled, Ye Fan's car suddenly started.

"I knew it; how could he possibly notice?"

Watching Ye Fan's car drive off, Wu He laughed sardonically. After Ye Fan entered the street, he followed.

Seeing this in his rearview mirror, Ye Fan squinted slightly. After thinking it over, he first called Su Yuxin to say he'd be back late, then deliberately slowed his speed and headed for the Jiuxi Rose Garden Noble District.

"Little rookie, to die at the hands of Master Wu, you should consider your life well-lived!"

Watching Ye Fan, who hadn't noticed him at all, Wu He bore a ferocious grin, resembling a bloodthirsty beast.

Chapter 59: [Seeking Death!]

Like many wealthy neighborhoods, Jiuxi Rose Garden Noble District is built in the suburbs but has several roads leading to the city, which is very convenient.

Because the occupancy rate of the noble district is not high, and many are purchased by influential people who keep canaries, the noble district becomes exceptionally quiet at night, and the same goes for the roads leading to it, where you can hardly see a car.

Ye Fan had been living in the Jiuxi Rose Garden for nearly a month and was very familiar with the surrounding roads, knowing one in particular that was almost always deserted.

This road was used for construction during the building phase of Jiuxi Rose Garden Noble District. After the project was completed, the road remained, but because it was constantly rolled over by heavy trucks over the years, it was somewhat bumpy and therefore rarely used.

Turning into that bumpy road in his car, Ye Fan saw clearly in the rearview mirror the dazzling headlights of the pursuing Buick Regal that was following him like a persistent ghost.

"Buzz!"

A moment later, just as Ye Fan was observing his surroundings and considering whether to stop, the Buick Regal behind him charged up like a steel monster gone berserk.

Soon, Wu He, driving the Buick Regal, easily overtook Ye Fan's Audi and then slammed on the brakes.

"Screech~"

The sound of car tires rubbing against the pavement suddenly rose, tearing through the quiet of the night.

Seconds later, the Buick Regal left a clear trail of tire marks on the bumpy road and parked across the road, directly blocking the way to prevent Ye Fan from escaping.

However—

What Wu He didn't expect was that even before he could get out of the car, Ye Fan had already stopped his vehicle and took the initiative to step out.

"Hey, little rookie, I didn't think you'd be so aware of your predicament," Wu He said, first pausing in surprise and then stepping out of the car, striding arrogantly towards Ye Fan. "Someone has placed a bounty on your head, and I'm here to collect it!"

As his words fell, Wu He revealed a ferocious smile, as if he was certain of Ye Fan's defeat.

In fact, Wu He indeed thought so.

Firstly, viewing the surveillance video provided by Liu Qin, he had subjectively determined that although Ye Fan had perfected his outer strength to its limit, he was still only at the entry level of the Postnatal realm and had no idea what Power was. Furthermore, when Ye Fan and Su Yuxin had left Tan's Private Kitchen, he had paid close attention and noticed that Ye Fan wasn't carrying any weapons.

With all these points, how could Ye Fan possibly be a threat to him?

As Wu He's arrogant words echoed in his ears, Ye Fan remained unmoved, simply standing in place, waiting for Wu He to approach.

"Little rookie, don't say that Master Wu didn't give you a chance to struggle. Make your move and let Master Wu see your pathetic Kung Fu!" Stopping ten meters away from Ye Fan, Wu He paused, seemingly finding it too boring to take down Ye Fan in one go.

Seeing Wu He jumping around like a monkey, Ye Fan beckoned to him with a casual hook of his finger.

"Since you're so eager to be reborn, I shall grant your wish!"

Seeing Ye Fan's provocative gesture, Wu He's expression changed and he let out a raging shout. He sprang from the ground like a fierce beast, hurtling towards Ye Fan at high speed.

Perhaps it was Ye Fan's actions that enraged Wu He, or maybe Wu He had lost the desire to play with Ye Fan to death. The moment he made his move, he utilized the Power in his body, moving faster than the day when Ye Fan beat up Gou Wei, and his move was quite impressive.

Facing all this, Ye Fan still didn't react, seemingly petrified by Wu He's menacing presence.

"Swoosh!"

With a swooshing sound, Wu He reached Ye Fan and threw a right punch, which, like a heavy hammer, thundered towards Ye Fan.

Wu He had once been part of the underground fighting circuit, where his fists could easily smash through bricks. Later, he was noticed by a Jianghu Person, trained in Martial Arts for three years, learned meditation, broke through to the Postnatal Great Success Realm, acquired Power, and even learned the well-known "Hong Fist" from the Martial Arts World.

This punch, he used the famous "Gongzi Fuhu Fist" from the Hong Fist, and before throwing the punch, he used his voice to boost his morale and power, resulting in a mighty, fierce, and most powerful punch he could deliver!

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

As the punch was thrown, the terrifying force and speed caused the air to whistle, and the punch wind howled as it swept towards Ye Fan.

Ye Fan still did not move.

"Die!"

Seeing Ye Fan still foolishly standing in place, Wu He's face broke into a bloodthirsty smile, as if... he could already see Ye Fan's heart shattered by his punch, flying backward spitting blood!

Just then, Ye Fan made his move. He casually extended his right hand, palm open like a gate, shielding himself.

"Smack—"

When palm met fist, there was a sound like firecrackers, crisp and loud. Wu He's fist seemed to be frozen in the air, unable to advance an inch, the Power within the fist disappearing without a trace!

How... how is this possible?

Shocked, Wu He attempted to retract his fist and retreat quickly!

—Too late!

Effortlessly neutralizing the Power in Wu He's attack, Ye Fan's palm, filled with Power, surged back like a suddenly rising tidal wave, sending a shock through Wu He's fist!

"Crack—"

Following the shock, the sound of breaking bones suddenly rang out. Wu He's hand bones shattered, his arm immediately bending down, with the fragments of broken bone exposed in the air, stained with blood—a grisly sight!

The sudden turn of events was like seeing a ghost in broad daylight to Wu He, who uncontrollably stumbled backward while staring fixedly at his ruined arm, seemingly unable to believe that everything happening before his eyes was real!

As if to answer Wu He's doubts, after he had retreated five steps, a searing pain exploded within him, contorting his facial muscles into a grotesque twist.

The truth told him that Ye Fan, by defending, had disabled his arm in a manner akin to a juggling trick!

Having understood this, he endured the pain and raised his head to look at Ye Fan.

This time.

His gaze at Ye Fan held no arrogance or bloodthirst, only astonishment—how could he possibly be so strong?

As the saying goes, a true expert reveals himself with a single move.

Although Wu He could not be considered an expert in the Martial Arts World, he had at least spent time in Wu Xue Sects and witnessed strong people.

In his opinion, if Ye Fan had wanted to kill him just now, a simple slap would have sufficed to end his life!

"Many have tried to kill me with their hands, but you are the weakest one among them," Ye Fan said, his tone seemingly casual, but when it reached Wu He's ears, it was like a clap of thunder on a clear day, jolting him awake from his shock!

There was no response.

Nor was there any bravado.

Without waiting for Ye Fan to make another move, Wu He ran like a rat that had seen a cat.

This moment.

He forgot the words he once said about Ye Fan being an easy target,

And he also forgot his swaggering claim that he could kill Ye Fan with a slap,

All he knew was that continuing to fight Ye Fan would be like a mouse licking a cat's b— — it was a death wish!

"Swoosh!"

Seeing this, Ye Fan suddenly powered up from the Yongquan point on the sole of his foot and sprung forward like an arrow shot from a bow, rapidly closing the distance to Wu He.

Whoosh!

In the blink of an eye, Ye Fan appeared behind Wu He like a specter, swinging his right hand out in a claw shape, reaching for Wu He's neck as easily as one might pluck something from a pouch.

Feeling the cold breeze on his back, Wu He recoiled in fear and reflexively struck back with a hand blade!

Sensing Wu He's attack through his qi and blood, Ye Fan completely disregarded it, letting Wu He's hand blade strike his arm.

"Ow!"

Upon contact with the hand blade, Wu He felt as though he had struck a scorching piece of steel, experiencing an intense, burning pain.

Just how strong was he...?

As Ye Fan took Wu He's attack with just his arm, Wu He's face paled dramatically with fear!

In his view, even the Jianghu People who had taken an interest in him before were not as formidable as Ye Fan!

Beyond frightened, Wu He slowed down, and Ye Fan's right hand caught Wu He's neck like a tiger's vice, then... with a sudden yank, he hoisted Wu He into the air as if he were a small chicken.

In midair, Wu He's body tensed up, and he instinctively tried to struggle and counterattack, but then thought otherwise and gave up—the rational part of his mind told him that with just a light squeeze, Ye Fan could send him to discuss life with the King of Hell!

Seeing that Wu He had stopped resisting, Ye Fan slowly turned Wu He's head around to face himself.

"Huff... Huff..."

Wu He breathed rapidly; his face, once full of arrogance and viciousness, was now completely overtaken by fear as he looked at Ye Fan, previously considered just a 'little bird,' up close, not daring to move an inch.

"Who... who exactly are you?" he asked, looking at Ye Fan's face so close by, and thinking of the information that said Ye Fan was merely Su Yuxin's doctor and assistant, Wu He cursed Qiao Bazhi's female ancestors for eighteen generations!

In his eyes, with Ye Fan's strength, he would be considered a master in the Martial Arts World!

If such a master was merely Su Yuxin's assistant, then he wasn't even qualified to shine Su Yuxin's shoes!

"I should be the one asking you that, but... no need to ask, I already know you're one of the He Family's," Ye Fan replied.

"Uh..."

Wu He opened his mouth wide, speechless. Although he was Qiao Bazhi's subordinate, the sole reason for coming after Ye Fan was He Fenghua, so Ye Fan wasn't wrong in saying he was one of the He Family.

Seeing Wu He's reaction, Ye Fan almost confirmed his own guess and chose not to waste any more words, his right hand suddenly tightened its grip, and he squeezed hard!

"Crack—"

Under the power of that squeeze, Wu He's throat box instantly shattered, and he died on the spot.

Chapter 60: [Cutting Off the Source]

The night was deepening, as a new model Audi A6L that wouldn't attract much attention in Hangzhou drove along the main road. Inside the car, Ye Fan's expression was very calm, as if he had just killed a chicken, not a human being.

However... behind the calmness hid a chilling killing intent!

Having deduced that He Fenghua would not let matters rest, Ye Fan returned to the company at noon and took the time to understand the He Family's situation and conceived a plan to take them down. He hadn't had the chance to put it into action before encountering He Fenghua's revenge!

In such circumstances, he felt that if he didn't quickly deliver a big "gift" back to the He Family, it would be too sorry for He Fenghua!

Half an hour later, Ye Fan parked the car three kilometers away from Purple Gold Garden and walked towards it.

Purple Gold Garden.

This was the stronghold of the He Family. Apart from He Li, who lived in the City Committee Mansion due to his position in the government, most of the He Family members resided in the affluent area of Purple Gold Garden, among whom He Fenghua, as the heir, owned a villa of his own.

About twenty minutes later, Ye Fan secretly infiltrated Purple Gold Garden, wandering around like a ghost. He discovered that among the several villas belonging to the He Family, all except for He Fenghua's were lit up.

After scouting out the situation, Ye Fan approached He Fenghua's villa. Taking advantage of the moment when two He Family bodyguards were lighting cigarettes, he slipped into the villa unnoticed and immediately found the safe embedded in the wall.

Generally speaking, owning a safe at home meant little worry even if thieves strike.

The premise is that the thieves are just ordinary petty thieves, not members of the Dao Sect—for those from the Dao Sect, let alone ordinary safes, they could even sneak into some secret bases.

Although Ye Fan wasn't a member of the Dao Sect, he had learned some of the Dao Sect's skills from Chu Xuanji, so opening a safe was as simple as drinking water.

"Click—"

One minute later, with a crisp sound, the safe was opened by Ye Fan.

In the light, Ye Fan could clearly see that the safe was divided into three layers. The first layer contained cash, foreign currency, and bank cards. The second layer held some small jade stone antiques, while the third layer contained only a black notebook.

Without any hesitation, Ye Fan immediately grabbed the black notebook.

Having experienced a month of secular life, Ye Fan had basically figured out the various rules of the secular world. He knew that businessmen who grew wealthy by exploiting the unspoken rules would record gifts and bribery transactions.

By doing this, on one hand, they could keep a clear account; on the other hand, it served as a deterrent against those who took the goods but didn't do the work. Most importantly, it served as a lifeline—in times of crisis, these businessmen could use this evidence to force their patrons to rescue them with unwavering effort, otherwise they all would fall together.

This is what is meant by a community of shared interests, crickets on the same rope.

And Ye Fan's visit to Purple Gold Garden tonight was specifically to get his hands on this evidence, using the rules of the game in the official and commercial realms to bring down the He Family's commercial empire!

Hm?

As he flipped through the notebook and saw the records inside, Ye Fan's pupils dilated instantly—the notebook wasn't just a personal record of He Fenghua but a compilation of the He Family's records over the years!

The earlier records were all penned by the He Family Patriarch, that is He Fenghua's father He Rui, while the records from the last year were all completed by He Fenghua.

A year ago, after He Fenghua captivated Han Jing's heart, he spared no effort in spending two hundred million to purchase a rare pair of porcelain vases, which he gave to Jiangnan's second-in-command Han Guodong, earning his approval and being designated the undisputed heir of the He Family!

After that, letting He Fenghua handle these gift-giving and bribery tasks was the best choice—for those being bribed, even if they didn't want to give face to the He Family, they had to give face to Han Guodong!

"This 'big gift' should satisfy the He Family, shouldn't it?"

As Ye Fan slowly closed the notebook, he thought this way but didn't touch anything else in the safe. Instead, he closed the safe and left the villa like a ghost.

...

Jiuxi Rose Garden, Su Family's No.2 Villa.

Su Yuxin had not yet gone to bed and, unlike usual, she wasn't working in the study but was sitting on the sofa in the living room, a rare occurrence.

On the TV screen, the latest soap opera was playing, but Su Yuxin had no interest in watching it. Instead, she kept glancing toward the villa's entrance and occasionally at the Vacheron Constantin on her wrist.

"Yuxin, it's late, go to bed," Mrs. Su turned off the TV and said.

"Mom, you can go to sleep first. I'll go to bed soon," Su Yuxin replied absently.

Mrs. Su sighed: "You're waiting for Doctor Ye, aren't you?"

"Yes."

Su Yuxin subconsciously nodded, then felt a bit improper and quickly explained nervously, "Doctor Ye is supposed to treat me today..."

"Yuxin, if you're worried about him, you can give him a call," Mrs. Su hesitated for a moment before interrupting Su Yuxin with a bitter smile.

"Uh..."

Hearing her mother's words, Su Yuxin felt as if someone had peeked into the secrets of her heart. With her mouth slightly agape, she was at a loss for words.

Originally, she had heard from Su Jindi and Uncle Fu that Ye Fan was a martial arts master, but she didn't know how strong Ye Fan actually was.

And as much as she knew He Fenghua, she was certain that He Fenghua would seek revenge against Ye Fan!

After all, He Fenghua was different from her; he didn't know that Ye Fan had Chu Ji as a backer!

Under such circumstances, how could Su Yuxin be at ease with Ye Fan not returning for so long?

It was worry that made her look repeatedly at the door and her watch, it was worry that drove her to try to call Ye Fan more than once. However, due to her nature, she could never muster the courage to do so.

"Yuxin, sometimes it's normal for a girl to take the initiative," Mrs. Su said.

As the saying goes, fathers know their sons best, and mothers know their daughters. As Su Yuxin's mother, Mrs. Su knew her daughter's thoughts all too well.

"Mom..."

Perhaps not expecting her mother to say that, Su Yuxin was initially startled, then her cheeks flushed with embarrassment. She was about to say something when she heard the sound of a car outside.

At this discovery, Su Yuxin's face lit up with joy, and she couldn't help but stand up. However, she soon sat down again.

Seeing the look of hesitation in Su Yuxin's eyes, Mrs. Su couldn't help but smile wryly. She didn't say much but decided to leave Ye Fan and Su Yuxin alone.

"You're back, Divine Doctor Ye."

Mrs. Su had just gone upstairs when Ye Fan entered the villa's hall. Su Yuxin immediately rose from the sofa, like a wife waiting for her husband, welcoming him with a smile.

"Mhm," Ye Fan nodded, "Why haven't you gone to sleep so late?"

"I couldn't sleep..."

That's how Su Yuxin responded. Then, seeing bloodstains on Ye Fan's sleeve, her face changed instantly. She rushed over, grabbed Ye Fan's sleeve, and said with concern, "Ye... Divine Doctor Ye, what happened? Why is there blood on your sleeve? Did that bastard He Fenghua send someone to retaliate against you?"

"No."

Hearing the concern in Su Yuxin's words and seeing her frantic worry, Ye Fan felt warmth in his heart and instinctively didn't want Su Yuxin to worry.

"Then why is there blood on your sleeve?" Su Yuxin still clutched Ye Fan's clothes, her worry not diminishing, "You can't lie to me!"

"The weather is too hot, got a nosebleed on the way back," Ye Fan fabricated a lie, his gaze remaining on Su Yuxin's beautiful face filled with concern, seemingly enjoying the feeling of being cared for.

"Whew..."

Trusting Ye Fan, Su Yuxin didn't question his words and let out a long sigh of relief. Then she suddenly realized she was still holding on to Ye Fan's sleeve. Seeing Ye Fan looking at her with an amused smile, she panic-released her grip and stepped back, too scared to meet his gaze.

"Your body hasn't fully recovered yet, you shouldn't stay up late. You need to rest early," Ye Fan said, seeing that Su Yuxin felt awkward, and deliberately changed the subject.

"I know."

Su Yuxin nodded, spilling her worries despite herself, "I was going to sleep, but since you hadn't come back for so long, I thought He Fenghua might have sent someone after you. I was a bit worried..."

"Don't worry, it won't be many days before He Fenghua ends up behind bars," Ye Fan assured with confidence.

End up in jail?!

Upon hearing this, Su Yuxin froze.

At noon, she tried to use legal means to punish He Fenghua, but he was unafraid, even thinking that she was foolish to the extreme!

And now, Ye Fan was confidently stating that He Fenghua would end up in jail...

Could it be... Divine Doctor Ye was using his powerful connections to take action against He Fenghua?

After a brief daze, Su Yuxin inwardly questioned herself.

"I've got my hands on the evidence of the He Family bribing government officials over the years."

Seeing the puzzled look on Su Yuxin's face, Ye Fan explained, "If we give this evidence to your grandfather, with his skills, he should be able to bring down the He Family, right?"

"What... what?!"

Stunned by Ye Fan's shocking revelation, Su Yuxin was left dumbfounded!

Although all of the Su Family's dealings with officials were managed by Su Hongyuan, Su Yuxin was relatively inexperienced with the shady struggles of the business and government sector. But... she knew that whether it was the He Family, the Su Family, or other commercial clans, everyone paid their respects to the officials!

It can be said that even though such matters are well understood by all, the evidence involved is the most precious secret of the major families. Leaking it would have unimaginable consequences!

And now, Ye Fan had obtained evidence against the He Family for bribing the officials...

This was equivalent to cutting off the source and controlling the lifeblood of the He Family!