

You Were Told to Lose Money By Making Games, and You Actually Did It?

Chapter 54: System, Can You Do *That* Again?

3:30 PM, that afternoon.

Gong Qi, Ying Gao, and the others received a notice and gathered in the meeting room.

"What did President Chen call us here for? To start developing Sekiro 2?" Gong Qi asked curiously.

If this had happened earlier, everyone would have understood.

Back then, Sekiro's reputation had been riding a roller coaster.

One day it was flooded with negative reviews, the next day things improved a little, and by the third day it was back to square one.

Anyone with a weak heart couldn't have endured that kind of emotional whiplash.

But now, after word of mouth had spread, Sekiro had clearly become a hit.

Even the Deluxe Edition was nearly sold out.

At a time like this, it was only natural for everyone to assume they were about to begin work on a sequel.

"...You'll find out soon enough."

Xiao Dao and Xiu Fu exchanged somewhat strange expressions.

As everyone quietly discussed among themselves, Chen Xu entered the meeting room and took his seat.

"You've all been working too much—frequent overtime, irregular schedules, skipping proper meals. Just look at the state you've gotten yourselves into!"

"Gong Qi! Ying Gao! Especially you two. Compared to when I first met you, you've each gained at least fifteen jin (about 7.5 kilograms / 16.5 pounds), haven't you?"

"Work and striving are meant to give everyone a better life—not to destroy your health!"

Chen Xu knocked on the table, his expression extremely serious.

The entire meeting room fell silent.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Seeing how serious Chen Xu looked, they'd thought some major crisis had happened.

This was it?

Besides, while everyone did work overtime occasionally, they had never stayed later than 8:00 PM.

And on weekends, most people only came in for half a day.

For a game company, wasn't this perfectly normal?

In fact, it was a remarkably relaxed working environment.

Especially Gong Qi and Ying Gao, who had just been singled out—they felt utterly wronged.

What irregular schedules?

What skipping meals?

The real reason they had gained weight was because President Chen's employee meal benefits were simply too good!

"Next Wednesday, the whole company will undergo a comprehensive physical examination."

"From now on, we'll do a full checkup every six months."

"We shouldn't wait until our health has already deteriorated before going to the hospital."

Chen Xu looked around the room.

Company physical exams were a perfectly standard employee benefit.

It was just that, since this was his first time running a company, he had completely forgotten about it.

"Additionally, the company will purchase an annual gym membership for every employee at the gym next door."

"Each employee will also receive ten personal training sessions every month."

"On top of our current attendance policy, we'll introduce a new Health & Fitness Attendance Program."

"As long as an employee goes to the gym twice a week, they'll qualify for an additional 500-yuan attendance bonus each month."

Although Chen Xu believed he was acting out of good intentions, he also knew that not everyone liked exercising.

He could force employees to go.

But there was no need.

After all, he was their boss—not their father.

As long as the company paid for the gym membership, the personal training sessions, and even added another 500 yuan on top of the existing attendance bonus, Chen Xu believed plenty of employees would willingly participate.

Of course, helping everyone stay healthy wasn't his only reason.

He also needed someone to keep him company.

Chen Xu knew his own self-discipline all too well.

If a beautiful woman stood naked in front of him trying to seduce him, there was no way he'd resist.

Exercise was much the same.

He might stay disciplined for the first two weeks.

But starting from the third week... That was another story.

However, if people exercised alongside him—especially his own employees—then, out of concern for maintaining his dignity and authority as the boss, Chen Xu felt he would definitely stick with it.

For the sake of his health, he had to be ruthless with himself.

"Going forward, the company may also establish an in-house cafeteria."

"We'll hire a nutritionist so everyone can enjoy meals that are delicious, healthy, and safe, instead of constantly ordering greasy takeout like we do now."

Chen Xu continued laying out his plans.

The weight gain wasn't just because of the generous company meals.

Regularly eating takeout was also a major factor.

Now that he had money, he could certainly afford meals that were both tasty and nutritious.

But then another question arose.

Why spend his own freely usable money when he could fleece the system instead?

Previously, the system's restrictions had forced him to disguise it as meal subsidies.

But after Sekiro's release, not only had he successfully milked a huge payout from the system, he had also upgraded the company's level.

From the system's perspective, he had successfully incurred losses during the settlement cycle.

Yet from the perspective of the gaming industry, Sekiro had been an overwhelming success.

As a result, Morning Star Games had also become one of the industry's most closely watched rising stars.

Under these circumstances, improving employee benefits was naturally no problem.

Of course, hiring a chef and setting up a small in-house cafeteria was about the limit.

Forget about creating some kind of "global gourmet paradise"—he wasn't even close to offering the full range of any one of China's Eight Great Cuisines.

"Everyone, take this seriously. This concerns the company's future."

"Now that you're employees of Morning Star Games, you have to contribute to the company and help generate profits."

"That's exactly why we need to take preventive measures before problems arise."

"Every employee is part of the company. Every employee is one of the company's most valuable assets."

"We absolutely cannot allow health issues to affect project development or reduce development efficiency."

Chen Xu tapped the table, his expression extremely serious.

The atmosphere in the room immediately became much more solemn.

Still, everyone wore rather strange expressions.

The logic itself was flawless.

In fact, everything he had just said sounded exactly like something a qualified money hungry businessman—one worthy of being stabbed in the back in a dark alleyway—would say.

The problem was...

His actions were the complete opposite of a greedy money grubber.

As expected.

President Chen was exactly that kind of boss—his words were merciless, but his heart was as soft as tofu, full of genuine concern for his employees.

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Back in his office, Chen Xu leaned back in his chair and looked over the list of tasks he'd written in his notebook.

The corners of his mouth slowly curled upward.

There was no helping it.

There were simply too many things that needed to be handled.

Gym memberships had to be arranged.

Employee information had to be collected.

Negotiations with the gym had to be conducted.

Then there was hiring a chef and a nutritionist, as well as setting up the company cafeteria.

The cafeteria itself would also require fire safety inspections and other official approvals.

The company-wide physical examinations had to be negotiated with a hospital.

And for future game development, they'd inevitably need to contact outsourcing studios and negotiate business partnerships.

Previously, Gong Qi and Ying Gao had been helping out.

Most of the companies they worked with were firms that had already enjoyed successful collaborations with the former Target Games.

In other words, they were part of Gong Qi and Ying Gao's professional network.

But finding entirely new partners wouldn't be nearly as easy.

"So many things... how can the boss handle all of them alone?"

"But if I ask Gong Qi and the others to do it, not only would it be outside their responsibilities, it would also slow down game development."

"So at a time like this..."

"What I need is a capable secretary."

"Don't you agree, system?"

Chen Xu could barely suppress the excitement bubbling inside him.

At last, he revealed his true objective.

At that moment, he remembered the system's haughty attitude back when he had acquired Target Games.

Back then, he'd dreamed of hiring a beautiful female secretary.

Instead, the system had mercilessly shut that idea down.

Now...

As the company continued to grow, it had finally reached the point where hiring a secretary had become a genuine business necessity.

Reject it if you can.

You can't bring yourself to reject this one, can you?

With a determined expression, Chen Xu found the contact information for the headhunter who had originally introduced Target Games to him and decisively made the call.

This matter couldn't wait another moment.