

## Chapter 1051 – Kiss

Hui Lin's movie site wasn't far from the city but they had to choose a valley for scenes that required a natural landscape.

Renting that place took up millions of dollars and it took Yang Chen by surprise. No wonder the films were always from famous directors. How would a normal person be able to afford the costs?

At the same time, Yang Chen couldn't help but be impressed by the Japanese. They had an efficient way of obtaining high viewership while balancing out their costs!

As he mindlessly drove, he soon arrived at the base and there was a paper stuck to the entrance which said 'The set of Spirit of the Sword'.

Yang Chen stopped his car in the parking lot before walking inside holding a bag of fresh apples.

He bought the apples from a farmer who was selling it by the road. After all, he was here on a visit. It wouldn't be good to come empty-handed, right?

Surrounded by the mountains was a huge vacant land. Multiple houses were built on it as a backdrop.

The entrance was a greyish white building and Yang Chen could see a lot of reporters by the door.

The production team forbade any form of recordings, in fear of revealing any important information so they could only wait outside.

Yang Chen was a changed man. He was no longer the rash person which he once was. He had his employee, Zhao Teng, prepare a staff's pass for him beforehand.

Yang Chen walked to the guard and waved his pass at him. The reporters looked at him with eyes filled with envy as he strolled inside.

Having entered the set, Yang Chen asked for Hui Lin's whereabouts before running over excitedly.

He hadn't seen her for a long time and he wondered how she was doing since she hadn't been home ever since the shooting started.

It took him some time to find Hui Lin's temporary dressing room where she was resting on her own.

Yang Chen froze once he saw her.

Hui Lin was sitting on a chair with part of her hair rolled up in a bun and the rest of it flowing down her back.

From the side, her face seemed especially elegant and refined. Yang Chen looked down her slender neck and saw that she was wearing a traditional dress with white and silver linings.

Her waist was tied with a jade belt which had a delicate and traditional design on it.

It looked as if she was born on Mount Emei, like an immortal fairy!

Yang Chen had read the script since he was in charge of this project.

Hui Lin was the female protagonist, a talented swordsman who disobeyed her master's orders and decided to fight against the demons with the male protagonist from the devil realm.

No wonder Director Yu Shuo insisted on casting Hui Lin. Judging by her aura, she was the perfect candidate for this character.

However, when he took a few steps closer to her, Yang Chen realized Hui Lin didn't seem to be in a good mood.

She looked as if she was in deep thought. It was a rare sight, seeing that she didn't even sense his arrival!

"What are you thinking of?" Yang Chen said softly before standing beside her.

Hui Lin looked up abruptly and relaxed her brows before standing up with a smile. "Brother Yang, why are you here?"

"Here, I got you some fruits." Yang Chen placed the apples onto the table.

Hui Lin chuckled when she saw the bag of apples. "That is so you, I've never received such an old-fashioned gift before."

Yang Chen scratched his head. "It's nothing, your sister asked me to visit you. I couldn't possibly come empty-handed. Oh yeah, what were you thinking about earlier?"

Hui Lin's shoulders drooped. "No...nothing much. it's about the film."

Yang Chen sensed that she didn't really want to talk about it so he asked, "Did you receive any mistreatment?"

"It's not that. It's just something to do with my acting," Hui Lin forced a smile, "Brother Yang, did you say my sister sent you over? You weren't thinking of paying me a visit?"

Yang Chen still found it weird and he couldn't stop himself from having a weird feeling.

Back at the Yuan clan, he had already expressed his standing, hoping that Hui Lin wouldn't fall too deep for him. It might be cruel but it was the best option.

But it didn't seem like she had given up on him.

It wasn't a bad feeling to be liked by a beauty like her. But whenever he was reminded of her identity as Lin Ruoxi's sister and his lovers, he couldn't bring himself to accept her.

"We're a couple so if your sister wants me to visit you, it's the same for me," Yang Chen answered.

Disappointment flashed across her eyes but she still nodded with a smile.

"Oh yeah, is this your look in the movie? It's quite pretty. I doubt we will suffer any losses since you're starring in the movie." Yang Chen chuckled.

Hui Lin's eyes brightened up at his compliment. "I like it too, but it's so troublesome to put on and remove it after. I didn't know filming a movie would be so tiring. If it wasn't for my internal energy, I wouldn't have been able to get used to a high-intensity work like this."

While they were chatting away, a middle-aged woman ran into the room with her phone by her ear.

She was surprised to see Yang Chen, ending the call quickly to greet him. "Director Yang, you're here."

Yang Chen remembered this woman. The company appointed her as Hui Lin's new manager after Hui Lim sent her team back to Europe. If his memory didn't fail him, her name should be Yu Min.

"I'm here to check on the progress and President Lin cares about Lin Hui a lot. She's afraid that Lin Hui would be mistreated so I came on her behalf." Yang Chen tried to sound more serious in front of his employee.

Yu Min knew he was Lin Ruoxi's husband. She didn't dare to brush him off, aware of his mysterious background.

"Director Yang, it's so great to have you here. I have something..."

Yu Min was about to say something but she caught Hui Lin's gaze behind Yang Chen, causing her to end the sentence abruptly

Yang Chen sensed it and he glanced at Hui Lin. "Why? What is it that you can't tell me?"

Hui Lin bit her lip in defeat. She knew it was impossible to hide it from him.

"Director Yang, here's the thing." Yu Min took the initiative and spoke up. "We had a minor dispute with the directors on the script. They hoped that Miss Lin would act according to the script where she will be doing a kiss scene with the male protagonist."

"Kiss scene?" Yang Chen furrowed his brows. "Why didn't I hear about this before?"

Yu Min smiled bitterly. "It has been on the script the whole time, but they agreed that we would use a body double. After all, there are only two intimate scenes, one in the middle and another one in the end. But the other directors advised Director Yu Shuo to not use a substitute to be respectful towards the other actor. The male lead refuses to act with a substitute. He thinks it's disrespectful. His manager quarreled with me over this."

Yang Chen understood it immediately and he sneered. "Hmph, he refused? If he refused to do so, why did he accept the offer? Did they not read the script before this? Did they not read our conditions?"

"Yeah!" Yu Min felt indignant. "I was thinking about that too, but he's one of the top actors in China and he has so many supporters so I couldn't bring myself to say it. I discussed it with Miss Lin earlier. But Miss Lin was worried about troubling you and President Lin. She didn't let me consult you."

Yang Chen looked at Hui Lin in disappointment. "You didn't notify me because you were thinking about that? Your sister and I have told you many times to not keep it to yourself. If Ruoxi knew you were being forced by the team to do a kiss scene, what do you think will run in her mind?! Did you know that she funded ninety percent of the film? She didn't spend billions of dollars for you to get bullied!"

## **Chapter 1052: Get Naked**

Seeing how unforgiving Yang Chen was to himself, Hui Lin immediately felt wronged and hurt. Oddly though, there was a hint of warmth blooming in her heart. Her tears started to gather in her eyes unknowingly.

Though his words were harsh, it showed that he really cared for her.

Yu Min couldn't take this any longer. She tried to alleviate the situation. "Director Yang, please don't stay angry at Miss Hui Lin. She was just doing what she thought was best for everyone. We have too many people in our crew and it's difficult to please everyone. If we happen to offend most of them, not only will it affect our filming progress, it'll put Miss Hui Lin's reputation and our company at great risk in the future. She tried so hard to..."

Yang Chen scoffed. "That's because you're all too overcautious and indecisive. You allow them to walk all over you!"

Yu Min gulped, not daring to say another word to Yang Chen.

Yang Chen pondered for a bit, then asked, "Who's playing the male lead? Where is he from?"

Yang Chen couldn't care less about the other actors aside from Hui Lin, he didn't even make an effort to know who they were.

Yu Min quickly responded, "His name is Zhang Kaiwei. He recently rose to fame two years after landing roles in period dramas and palace dramas. His initial fame was from his relationship with the second daughter of a famous Hong Kong real estate agent. Their relationship was short-lived but their split gave him greater popularity."

His acting skills were evidently refined from his two-year experience. Kaiwei's features and acting style were a good fit for the male lead of this film. However, the main reason they hired him was for his overwhelming fanbase in China. His bold relationship earlier had the general public hailing him as a daring and courageous man. He seemed extremely hardworking too. A lot of younger females are madly in love with him.

Director Yu Shuo was aiming to use his popularity, paired with Miss Hui Lin to form an eye-candy duo. This was the typical business tactic used in the filming industry to attract its targeted audience.

"What's Director Yu Shuo's take on the kiss scene?" Yang Chen questioned again.

Yu Min sighed again. "Director Yu Shuo had already discussed this with the producer team and everyone else on the direction team. Everyone wants Miss Hui Lin to do it personally, to maintain realism and professionalism. They find it difficult to explain to their audience if she was to be replaced by a substitute. Though Director Yu Shuo had initially agreed to use a substitute, the new decision now had him troubled."

Yang Chen understood the situation. "I got it. Both of you, come with me. I'd like to see who this person so stuck up about professionalism is."

His words seemed to hold an underlying meaning, sending chills down Yu Min's spine.

Hui Lin looked a little concerned, but after getting reprimanded by Yang Chen, she could only silently follow suit.

The film set was located at the bottom of a cliff. Filming equipment was rather complete since Director Yang Shuo was internationally recognized. It would only make sense for his team to be top-notch too.

Currently, a flock of people gathered around Yang Shuo. There were people chattering all over the place.

He caught sight of Hui Lin and Yu Min who were approaching them with an unknown young male in tow. The chatter started to die down, rendering the set in silence.

It took a while for Yu Shuo to recognize Yang Chen. Seemingly embarrassed by his last recognition, Yang Shuo left his seat to offer Yang Chen a handshake with a sheepish smile. "Ah, Mister Yang, I didn't know you'd be here. What's the matter?"

Yang Chen accepted the gesture and they shook hands. He flashed him a faint smile. "How could I not come when Hui Lin is in trouble?"

Yu Shuo heaved a long sigh. "I understand that you may be furious but please, I urge you to stay calm. Please believe that all our decisions were made for the best of the film's interest. The matter about her substitute is admittedly affected but all the details are still under discussion."

"Director, who..." asked one of the crew leaders curiously.

Yu Shuo hurriedly introduced Yang Chen. "Everyone, this is Director Yang from Yu Lei Entertainment."

Acknowledgment could be seen from their faces but it wasn't something out of the blue to them.

Those who were engaged in heated discussions around Yu Shuo were just the middle tiers of the film industry. They were all hired by the investors and had no part in decision-making. It was natural for them to not take Yang Chen seriously.

It didn't help that CEO Lin Ruoxi was the one paying them instead. Yang Chen was just nothing but a 'part-timer'.

One of the directors immediately called out to him. "Director Yang, you're here just in time. I really hope that you can provide some advice for Miss Hui Lin. Although she's great at singing and a little diva, her acting skills are just subpar for the industry. There's a rule for every industry and one must follow it. Since she's just a junior, she shouldn't be so unwilling. In the name of art, kissing scenes are considered minor!"

"Yeah, this isn't some shady business. If a substitute is needed just for a kissing scene, it will greatly impact the aesthetic of this film."

Another director with an impressive beard mentioned. "It's an honor to land a role in this film, it'll surely bring you great things in life. I hope you'll stop making this difficult for everyone else. Everyone can't start working because of you."

A sentence here, a sentence there, the camera crew surrounding them started to reveal their frustration and annoyance. Of course, all of them directed to Hui Lin.

Hui Lin averted her gaze to the ground, biting her lip hard. Not a word was heard from her.

Something cold gleamed in Yang Chen's eye, he scoffed. "I don't know what the hell is wrong with everyone here. Are your brains filled with nothing but shit and piss? If we've agreed on using a substitute, we should all stick to it. Pardon me but I've never heard of how there are rules for getting naked to get yourselves crowned the best actress of the century. Do you really think you're teaching the newbie's in prison a lesson? I think you've all watched too many Cantonese crime films growing up."

"What the hell are you saying?! How extremely rude of you! How can you say that?" reprimanded the bearded director.

"Then why were you all spewing shit in the first place?" Yang Chen smirked.

Yu Shuo immediately panicked, desperate to end the dispute. "Director Yang, calm down. Hey, big man, why the hell are you getting so worked up for? We should all talk this out like proper adults!"

Undeniably, he was best known for his cinematography but conflict resolution was undoubtedly bad.

"Director, you've said enough! It's obvious that he's here to sabotage us! We must bring this to court and sue Yu Lei!"

"Yeah! We quit! Who the fuck is this foul-mouthed bastard to tell us what to do?!"

Chaos erupted. There were screaming and shouting, they all wanted to bring Yang Chen and Yu Lei International to court!

Yu Shuo's face paled. How the hell were they going to finish filming at this rate?

At this very moment, from the dressing room on the other end of the set, out came a firm-bodied man clad in green robes. His features were prominent and his eyes glistened with the light. He was a very handsome man.

Beside the man was a few of his assistants. They all seemed muscular, perhaps they were his bodyguards.

"Everyone, quiet down. I'd like to say something." His voice was magnetic, effectively attracting the attention of himself.

"Director Yang, he's Zhang Kaiwei," whispered Yu Min.

Yang Chen returned her a light nod. Indeed, the man looked very familiar. Yang Chen had probably seen him on air before. He was indeed very pleasing to look at.

Zhang Kaiwei politely nodded to Yang Chen and flashed him a smile. He then let his apologetic gaze fall on Hui Lin. "Miss Hui Lin, I'm sorry for all the trouble you were put through. However, I'm a perfectionist for my job and I really think that as an actor, you should be prepared to sacrifice in order to get a great performance.

Since my debut, as long as it'll help the outcome, I'd put in my heart and soul to do everything.

I understand that as a female, your first kiss scene is always the toughest. But believe me, I'm a professional actor. All we need to do is to deliver a convincing scene with no ulterior motives.

Therefore, I beg you. For the sake of everyone here, please understand the situation and go with their decision. That way, we can resume work and ensure smooth progress, alright?”

Zhang Kaiwei’s speech was very genuine, garnering applause from the people around them, especially from the young female employees. They looked positively star-dazed.

“As expected from Zhang Kaiwei. This is what you call professionalism! This is how artists gain their respect!” Someone in the crowd commented.

“Oh my god! He is so handsome! That Hui Lin is nothing and she’s too busy thinking she’s all so important. Which actress hadn’t had a kissing scene before? She must think she’s some kind of pure virgin.”

“I used to like her singing before. I wasn’t expecting her to be so fake. It’s just a film and she’s already refusing to cooperate with us. Who the hell does she think she is?”

Some of the female employees started to run their tongue.

Hui Lin could feel her cheeks heat up. Everyone had glared daggers and now she was subjected to humiliation. There was nothing she could do to stand up for herself.

Zhang Kaiwei’s eyes gleamed with hidden delight. Staring at Hui Lin’s embarrassed face, a sense of greed surfaced in him, but it was quickly extinguished.

### **Chapter 1053: You Look Rather Proper**

With Hui Lin’s personality, it was only natural for her to burst out having undergone countless criticisms despite being in her twenties. After all, she was just a little Taoist nun who spent most of her life training in the mountains.

Thankfully, with Yang Chen’s presence, Hui Lin acted smartly. Her stare on Yang Chen was unwavering, her eyes blinked but she remained silent.

Yang Chen spared Zhang Kaiwei a glimpse before turning to face Yang Shuo. “Director Yu Shuo, my wife funded a good ninety percent for this film. I believe that you’ve informed everybody present, right?”

“Yes, Mister Yang. Our producers and relevant treasury members are all here.” Yu Shuo introduced the surrounding crew leaders in the process.

One of the person-in-charge frowned. “Sir, who exactly is his wife?”

Yu Shuo whispered back. “Director Yang’s wife is Yu Lei International’s CEO Lin, our main investor of this film.”

Shocked overcame the crowd, prompting them to cast odd glances to Yang Chen. They just couldn’t wrap their heads around this situation. How could an average-looking man be Lin Ruoxi’s husband?

It was even weirder that he was working for his wife as a director in one of Yu Lei’s sub-companies.

Yang Chen ignored them. “We’re the ones funding this film and the actor works under our company. You are free to do as you wish with the film but whatever Hui Lin isn’t comfortable doing, we will not do.

If you're adamant about breaching our prior agreement, you may quit. Someone else will fill your position."

Hearing his words, someone mocked among the crowd. "Haha, so what if you're filthy rich? With Director Yu Shuo's fame, he could get any actor he wished for. If you're going to retract our funds, another company will fund for us instead. Kaiwei's schedule is full to the brim and if it wasn't for his gratitude towards Director Yu Shuo, there was no way they could've gotten Kaiwei to act for a non-lead role."

"Don't make it sound like we belong to you. Stop trying to suppress us using your wealth, you know nothing about our work!"

At this moment, Zhang Kaiwei attempted to calm the crowd. With an honest expression, he said, "Everyone, please quiet down. Please do not make the situation worse. I'm sure this is the first time Mister Yang has ever gotten involved with a film crew. This is just a small matter, let's not make it any more difficult for Director Yu Shuo."

"Oh, Kaiwei, you're too kind. However, today we must support you. It's evident that Hui Lin is the one at fault this time. She's here to ruin the film! She's against going in herself and that indicates how much disrespect she has for cinematographic art! She has no respect for us whatsoever," replied an assistant director.

Hui Lin started to get teary-eyed. She shook her head, "No... That's not it..."

"Please don't say that." Zhang Kaiwei expressed his concern. "This is still Miss Hui Lin's first time."

Yu Shuo cast a thankful glance at Zhang Kaiwei. He gritted his teeth before facing Yang Chen. "Mister Yang, you're probably unaware of a few things. Although I'm very grateful for the fundings your company has provided us with, the problem this movie faces is not the funds. For a good fantasy martial arts movie to be made, special effects and certain backdrops and action sequences are needed. We'll require the best in this industry.

Especially for special effects during post-processing. Right now, we're using Kaiwei's contact with the investors of Industrial Light & Magic to land an agreement. It wasn't for Kaiwei, it would've been impossible for our special effects processing to be done within the expected time frame. Brushing aside our subpar standards, even if it were to be handled by some other American company, our movie wouldn't turn out as great."

Zhang Kaiwei humbly waved his hand. "That's too much flattery, sir. I was just doing what I should do. I'm willing to beg if it helps you and our Chinese film industry soar to greater heights."

"Kaiwei is such a generous man..."

"Yeah, no matter how rich Yu Lei is, would ILM care about your wealth? They're the best in the world! There was no way they'd accept this project if it wasn't for contact. Not to mention, Director Yu Shuo is a cinematographer with boundless potential." Someone chimed.

Yang Chen squinted, he turned to face Yu Min. "What does the ILM do?"



Yu Min awkwardly explained the company to him. "Industrial Light & Magic is the world's top special effects post-processing company. They've worked on famous movies like the Pirates of the Caribbean and Star Wars. All their most significant works were part of the best-selling special effects movies in history."

"Oh... I see." Yang Chen nodded. He had watched those two movies before.

"Tsk, it's clear he knows absolutely nothing about this industry. How could he now know what ILM is and dared to point fingers at us?" complained a producer.

Yang Chen's eyes formed crescents as he smirked maliciously. "So based on what you've said, as long as we get ILM to stay on the project, it wouldn't matter if Zhang Kaiwei was involved, right?"

The crowd was perplexed. What was Yang Chen trying to say?

"Huh? Don't tell me Director Yang has contact with the ILM authorities too." Someone laughed.

Naturally, no one would've thought so. The man didn't even know what the ILM was. The crowd started to laugh mockingly.

Everyone present on set was the backbone of the crew. They were all well-known in the Chinese film industry and with Yu Shuo's soaring fame, switching to another investor shouldn't be an issue.

With that being said, the request for Hui Lin to act out the kiss scene personally was not the intention of Zhang Kaiwei alone.

She was one of the current most popular Chinese goddess-like singers. If she had given her first on-screen kiss to Zhang Kaiwei, it would help boost his popularity.

With that, the film crew could milk their fame for more profit. After all, Hui Lin was a singer. Her chances of landing another acting role would be rare. It would be best to extract maximum value from this experience.

Those intentions were clear to the veterans despite not being voiced out. Yu Min, who had considerable experience in the industry understood what they were after while Yang Chen, could guess most of it.

Deciding she could no longer take how the crowd insulted Yang Chen, some red appeared on Hui Lin's cheek. She lifted her head to face Yang Chen. "Brother Yang, how about we pull ourselves out of this film and have the sister retract the funds?"

Yang Chen was a little taken aback, he stared at Hui Lin. "Really? Are you sure?"

Zhang Kaiwei, who was standing aside quickly spoke up. "Miss Hui Lin, it's best to not act so brash. Everyone has signed a contract, a breach of agreement will result in a large sum of penalties and reputation damage."

"I..." Hui Lin bit her lip. She returned her gaze onto Yang Chen. "Brother Yang, would we need to pay them a lot?"

Yang Chen nodded. "Yeah, it'll be quite a large sum. The money channeled into this film is no small amount. It'll probably require at least a few billion to solve this out."

“Then... we should go talk to my sister about this. It’s obvious they’re trying to humiliate you.” Hui Lin sounded pressed.

Yang Chen was stunned. The girl wasn’t feeling wronged about the situation but instead, she was worried that he was getting bullied by them all.

Was she just trying to protect him all along?

Yang Chen didn’t know if he wanted to cry or laugh at her innocence. Why had he not experienced this childish and genuine intention before? How could this girl be so stupid when faced with such a situation? He could’ve easily hired a ten-person expert team to service her alone, let alone a mere Industrial Light & Magic company.

But still, he had to appreciate the fact that Hui Lin was adamant about saving him some face.

Her feelings were genuine and deep. There was no way he could refuse such a noble act.

Yang Chen thought to himself for a bit, before he took out his phone to dial for someone.

The call was finally accepted after a while.

“Fucking Hades, don’t you know that its already ungodly hours over here in America? Women need their beauty sleep for good skin! Don’t you know I hate getting woken up by phone calls?”

Christen’s shrill screams could be heard from the device. It wasn’t difficult to picture an enraged blonde beauty hitting the life out of her bed.

If she wasn’t so overwhelmed with anger, she would’ve referred to him as Yang Chen as per usual.

Yang Chen grinned. “That’s alright, you still look great without much sleep.”

“That’s more like it.” Christen yawned loudly. “Spill the beans, what do you need from me? Make it fast because I need my sleep or I’ll age faster.”

Though Gods were powerful beings, their mortal reincarnations were given life through the normal human process. That was also why the gods had descendants after thousands and millions of reincarnations, despite their offspring being mere mortals.

Therefore, without special training, it was close to impossible for them to appear powerful. For the appearance-obsessed Christen, skincare was still very important to her.

Of course, it was a totally different case for those who chose to reincarnate as the blood race like Hermes.

There was no need for Yang Chen to be so formal with someone who had lived many lives. It was essentially pointless.

“Do you know anyone from Industrial Light & Magic?” asked Yang Chen.

The crowd’s attention was immediately on Yang Chen. They looked at one another, curious to who was on the other side of Yang Chen’s call. Thankfully, everyone could understand English to a certain extent, no one was completely lost.

Yu Shuo had some general understanding of who Yang Chen was. He still remembered that Yu Lei had the ability to invite Christen, an internationally famed diva. He couldn't help but let his mind make some guesses. Hope glimmered in his eyes.

Christen mumbled incoherently. "Of course I do. George Lucas owns that company. I've got two movies that were sent to post-production at his place. The man looks proper but he's a true pervert in private. He's still a pretty nice person. What's the matter with that company? Did they offend you?"

#### **Chapter 1054: I Can't Take It Anymore!**

"Oh, no. I don't have any affiliations with them. It's just that my wife has recently invested in a film. I've received feedback that it's best to get our special effects post-production done by that company but they seem a little hard to reach.

You know I'm quite impatient, especially towards things that I have zero interest in.

Since you know them, could you help tell them that Yu Lei Entertainment from Zhonghai, China is producing a film and would like ILM to work on its post-production? I am willing to pay above their usual rates as long as it's not too ridiculous."

Nothing Yang Chen said made sense to the rest of the cast and crew.

What was with his tone? Why did he sound like he owned Industrial Light & Magic?

His following statement sent chills down their spine.

"Just let them know. No need to beat around the bushes. Get them to send someone over to sign the contract. We'll give them every penny they ask for. Don't they dare delay my progress or I'll...I'm sure you're aware that I've demolished some other headquarters earlier. ILM would be significantly easier than that."

Christen giggled on the other end. "Nothing has changed about you, always opting to scare the shit of others but I guess that's what makes you Yang Chen. All I need to do is mention your name and have Lucas find out more about you from the American government. By then, not even the White House and Pentagon could stop you."

Yang Chen grinned. "Well, it better be that way. Call me when you're done, good night."

"Good night." Christen blew a kiss through the receptor, ending the call.

Yang Chen returned the phone back to his pocket and flashed a smile at Hui Lin along with a wink. "I got it under control."

Hui Lin gaped a little before letting joy bloom over her face. "I almost forgot how capable you are, Brother Yang."

Sheepishly, she started to pinch stray strands of her hair.

Yu Shuo attempted to pry with a beam. "Director Yang was that Miss Christen on the phone?"

Yang Chen nodded nonchalantly. "Yeah, that's right."

The answer triggered Yu Shuo's guilt. How foolish was he to underestimate this man? How could he have forgotten that Yang Chen was able to invite Christen to attend their premiere in China?

Such a man certainly wasn't any mere director of a sub-company.

The people around them started another round of heated questioning. "Director, Miss Christen? That Christen?"

"Yes, who else? Which other Christen do you know who could call ILM on a whim." Yu Shuo smiled.

The crowd was shocked. They were in utter disbelief with the seemingly unfazed Yang Chen.

Zhang Kaiwei had extreme terror plastered all over his face too. His contact with one of ILM's investors had stemmed from his first Hollywood cameo. He had to go through great lengths to please the person in accordance with the American preferences for the relationship.

But an International Diva like Christen was certainly out of reach for him. Chances of coming across each other were close to zero, let alone establishing a relation.

The man standing in front of him was average-looking at best. If he had stripped away his attire, there wouldn't be any difference between him and a lowly roadside vendor. Weirdly, he was able to give Christen a random call and have her help him.

"Ah, I remember that Yu Lei International was the first company in China to invite Christen to join Stars of Yu Lei as a judge."

"I thought that was just more of an official affair. I wasn't expecting them to establish private contact."

The crowd landed their gaze on Yang Chen once again, their expressions filled with wonder.

Yang Chen kept his calm, unassuming demeanor. Unknowingly, the crew acknowledged his superiority. A humble man like this was a worthy character of the upper class.

Such mannerism, such confidence and that hint of ego.

Had made his initial unbearable appearance look extremely applaudable now.

Yang Chen couldn't help but feel a little disgusted by their stares. "Your trust doesn't matter much to me. In the next few days, an ILM representative will be here to sign the papers. In other words, I've helped you solve your post-production woes. Those who still intend to force Hui Lin with the kiss scene can fuck off. If I could get the world's best special effects company involved in this project, I can get an internationally renowned film crew to work instead."

If he had spewed such words earlier, no one would've taken him seriously. Things were different now. No one dared to question the authenticity of it.

Undeniably, it was a sharp turn of events. Who would still wish to go against Yang Chen now?

The man could simply instruct Christen, an internationally famous diva, to work. Everyone else was literally no match for him.

Brushing that aside, if they continued to stay with the crew and did their best to appease Yang Chen, maybe they could leech off the benefits.

The crowd faked a smile. No one mentioned another word about the kiss scene.

Yu Shuo's heart let out a sorrowful sigh. There really wasn't much he could do about them.

Zhang Kaiwei averted his gaze to the ground, emotions stirring into a flurry within him. A flash of greed and jealousy glimmered in his eyes. He swallowed it back and then lifted his head. This time, his face was filled with what seemed like gratitude and joy.

"That's great! With Director Yang's networking, I'm sure this production will enjoy smooth progress. If Miss Hui Lin remains uncomfortable about the scene, we could all just stick to the plan and use a substitute for it. I'm sure everything will be fine as long as we capture from the right angle."

The crowd agreed. "Kaiwei's right. It shouldn't be too big of an issue with Director Yu Shuo's experience, we can pull this off!"

Suddenly, there was no objection to the initially controversial idea. Everyone had found Hui Lin's decision to reject the kiss scene noble.

Yang Chen scoffed. The rising tension hardened everyone's expression.

The man grinned maliciously. His gaze was burning as he stared at Zhang Kaiwei. "Damn. You switch sides fast. It's quite the talent. No wonder you're such a great actor."

The atmosphere on set suddenly turned chilly.

Hui Lin stared at Yang Chen with confusion written all over her face. But she knew Yang Chen had his own rationale behind his actions so she didn't say a word.

"Mister Yang... It seems that you've greatly misunderstood me." Zhang Kaiwei's heart palpitated wildly, but he retained his gentle smile.

"Scram."

Yang Chen only uttered a word crisply.

Zhang Kaiwei paled. "Mister Yang... What do you mean...?"

"Do you not understand me? I said scram... There's no need to play your role in this production. If you don't want to lose potential future jobs, you better leave this place now," threatened Yang Chen emotionlessly.

The crew surrounding them didn't dare to challenge his words. It was Director Yu Shuo who stepped up with a hardened scalp. "Director Yang, let's not be too brash. Kaiwei's our male lead and he hasn't really done anything wrong."

"Are you people stupid or am I the stupid one?" Yang Chen huffed. "I have already seen through your intentions. You and your team are trying to milk Hui Lin's first on-screen kiss for extra profit and to boost your popularity. You're just in for the clout. You must think that you're very smart, eh?"

“That’s... not it. Director Yang, please don’t accuse us wrongly.” A bunch of crew quickly defended themselves.

Zhang Kaiwei stepped up to the plate. “Mister Yang, you can criticize me for my acting but it’s uncalled for to insult my virtue. I, Zhang Kaiwei, am a morally upright person and I have my own principles. I will not accept your accusations. This is defamation! If you continue to utter words like this, I’ll have no choice but to bring you and Yu Lei to court where I’ll defend my reputation with the justice of the law.”

Yang Chen turned around to face Hui Lin. “Gosh, what do I do. Hui Lin, his words make me sick. I feel like killing him right now. What do you think?”

That may sound like a joke to the others but it had meant grave danger to Hui Lin.

“Please don’t do it, Brother Yang. You can’t just murder someone here, there are people watching. It won’t do good to the film crew, there’ll be consequences.” Hui Lin frantically pleaded. “He didn’t do anything, just let him go.”

Everyone else was perplexed to see Hui Lin genuinely pleading for Kaiwei’s life. Even if Yang Chen was a man with a great network, there was no way he would kill as he pleased.

Enraged, Zhang Kaiwei exclaimed, “Mister Yang, if you continue to threaten me, my bodyguards will not hesitate to restrain you. I’m not afraid to tell you that I’ve got plenty of influential friends. If they find out that I was subjected to such humiliation, I assure you that you’ll receive the aftermath.”

Yang Chen gagged. “Jeez, what an embarrassing shitshow. You really think you’re some hotshot. Here, listen up, you enjoy privileges because your company is willing to spend on you. To me, you’re nothing more than a gigolo.

This is our Hui Lin’s first acting gig. Though she’s admittedly unskilled and is only decent-looking at best, she could rely on her singing abilities to boost her popularity through her die-hard fanbase. You’re just a man who rose to fame after hugging a rich daughter’s thigh through the streets and slaving your life away by appeasing others.

Fucking hell. Yet, you’re here talking about being morally upright? I can’t take it anymore, just fuck off already.”

Before anyone could wrap their head around the situation and respond accordingly, Yang Chen disappeared from where he was. In a flash, he materialized behind Zhang Kaiwei.

A palm collided with Zhang Kaiwei’s proud handsome face mercilessly.

Smack!

The slap rang crisp. It was a little light-handed for Yang Chen’s liking but to Zhang Kaiwei, it felt as if he was kicked by a horse.

“Ahhh!”

With a pained scream, Zhang Kaiwei was sent tumbling on the ground. He rolled over twice before he stopped.

A red palm mark manifested on his cheek, which had swelled up and deformed his face. Worse, blood had begun to trickle down from his nostrils and the corners of his lips.

Everyone was terrified.

Abruptly, a female employee screamed. "Ah! There's a fight!"

A few of Zhang Kaiwei's bodyguards quickly sprang into action. Four of them quickly rushed over as they danced their gigantic fists towards Yang Chen.

They had only trained in taekwondo as part of their curriculum. They were nothing to Yang Chen. He extended his arm to welcome their fists. Speedily, he twisted each of the four clenched fists violently.

Crackle! Crack! Pop!

The crisp sound of bone fractures rang out. Yang Chen then turned in the opposite direction and pressed them against the ground. Soon, they were all a groaning mess.

The atmosphere took a drastic change. The chaos died down to become a scene of deadly silence.

The situation had come as a shock to everyone else. Opting to stare at Yang Chen cautiously as they began to back off on reflex.

Was he even human? This was more nerve-wracking than an action movie.

### **Chapter 1055 If a Man Wishes to Kiss Me**

Unaffected, Yang Chen scanned his surroundings. Seeing that no one else had dared to look for trouble, a friendly smile appeared on his face. "That's more like it. Everyone is just here to work. All we need to do is to give each other some respect. About time we stop trying to extort someone to benefit ourselves, okay?"

The crowd hurriedly nodded along, letting a wry smile peek through.

But that didn't sit well with Zhang Kaiwei, who was on the ground and had half of his face swollen. He was badly bruised and bleeding.

He struggled to remove himself from the ground, hastily wiping off the fluids that had gathered at the corner of his mouth. Zhang Kaiwei was so angry that he started to shake.

Pointing his finger at Yang Chen, Zhang Kaiwei yelled. "How dare you hit me! Do you even know who backs me up? Just you wait, you'll be sorry when you get charged at court and sentenced to imprisonment! My millions of fans in the country can drown you with spit!"

How absurd. A majority of the crowd looked at him as if he was an idiot.

The man he was threatening had the power to ask the American diva for help. Kaiwei's background support meant nothing in this context!

Yang Chen's smiley expression disappeared. He glared at Zhang Kaiwei's bodyguards who were already on the floor. Then, he motioned one of the crew members over with a hook of his finger.

Said crew had already broken out into panicked cold sweat. He lowered his body and asked with a wobbly smile, "Director Yang... What can I help you with?"

Yang Chen flashed him a smile, giving a few pats to his shoulder. "Calm down, I just want to borrow a camera."

"A camera?"

Yang Chen nodded with an eerie smile.

Half an hour later, a few media reporters and their photographers were engaged in their conversation as they enjoyed their lunchbox outside the set.

It was the norm to wait in this field of work for that scoop of surprise.

As they continued to entertain themselves, a few of the employees working in the film's camera department had appeared with a projector screen.

The reporters were perplexed as they watched them set things up.

It didn't take long for the reporters to finally understand what was going on!

Director Yu Shuo and his film producers had made their appearance.

Yu Shuo's expression was complex as he gestured for everyone to quiet down. He spoke, "Everyone, I'm sure you're confused about what we're trying to do here. To be honest, we have some bad news to announce."

The reporters quickly scrambled to their positions, lifting their heads eagerly for more.

There was a slight pause before Yu Shuo announced, "We have decided to switch our male lead!"

"Huh?!"

A discussion erupted among the reporters. This was huge for them! A highly anticipated film had decided to switch actors at such short notice?! This was something worthy of the entertainment issue headline!

"Director Yu Shuo, what happened? Was there some conflict within the crew or was there some other factor behind this? What happened with Zhang Kaiwei?"

Yu Shuo clapped his hands to calm the curious hoard. After that, he motioned his employees to play some recorded footage.

"The following footage will answer your questions..."

The reporters glued their eyes to the screen, effectively falling silent.

Soon, the screen showed an unrecognizable, swelled and tattered face.

Through their careful deduction, the reporters were surprised to find it to be the well known pretty boy, Zhang Kaiwei.

The reporters inhaled deeply, the actor was so badly beaten that his eyelids were sagging!



The content that followed next could make a hot topic. Zhang Kaiwei began to sob pitifully as he admitted his scandals.

“When I was in a relationship with the second daughter of the Wang family, I had intended to take advantage of her wealth to boost my popularity. The pictures that sparked the scandal between me and Mi Yang were actually deliberately planned. I had asked the paparazzi to take pictures of us together. I’ve used drugs and was nearly caught. I had to bribe people around me to help keep the secret. I’ve also slept with a homosexual tycoon.”

The list went on. The things that he had reported were merely his own matters, no other celebrities were dragged into this mess.

“I wasn’t forced to admit this. Today, I’ve deliberately taken advantage of my network with the crew to force Miss Hui Lin into a kiss scene. Miss Hui Lin was vehemently against it but I continued to pressure her into it so I got beaten badly by Miss Hui Lin who was well-trained in Wushu.

I’m terribly sorry for all my mistakes. I hope everyone could forgive my foolishness. I’m willing to receive lawful judgment and punishment for my actions.”

The last of his words were the best indication behind the footage’s authenticity!

The reporters took in his statements in a daze. The shock was too much, rendering them incapable of muttering a word.

This was the scoop they had waited for and it was out of this world!

Yu Shuo cleared his throat to bring everyone’s attention back. He continued, “We’re very heartbroken over Zhang Kaiwei’s actions. He had fainted from the shock and we’ve already rushed him off to the hospital.

Miss Hui Lin had protected her rights as an actor. We understand her decision and support it wholeheartedly. We hope that you’d continue to support her and her leading role in this film. The new male lead will be selected by our main investor, Yu Lei Entertainment. More details will be announced in due course. Thank you so much!”

It was only then that great chaos ensued. The reporters fired rapid questions but Yu Shuo had gestured for his employees to stop their pursuit for details. The director quickly left.

Now that was done, the rest of the process was relatively simple. All they had to do was to ease off some time to organize a press release for Hui Lin, have her showcase some of her Wushu skills to have people believe that Hui Lin was behind Zhang Kaiwei’s swollen face.

This was the end of Zhang Kaiwei’s career. Of course, it would be better to run off quietly with some money rather than struggle to your doom.

There were reasons why Yang Chen chose not to kill him. Firstly, it would be a hassle to keep the situation under control given the people present. Secondly, such punishment proved to be more of a torment for someone like Zhang Kaiwei than to kill him.

Most importantly, this would help Hui Lin garner some attention and increase her popularity. The publicity would help improve her image as a celebrity.

Those who knew the truth would prefer to stay silent. Yang Chen was a threat. It would be no different than asking for death if they decided to expose him.

Now that things were settled, Yang Chen had even stayed to have lunch with the crew. He played his part, took a few customary glimpses of the production's progress and discussed the details to select a new male lead.

Fortunately, Zhang Kaiwei's role wasn't assigned with much screen time. Looking for another replacement wouldn't be an issue.

What interested Yang Chen was the position of the film's 'Wushu Instructor'.

Those who had witnessed Yang Chen's performance would know that he had years of training. Plus, the man had even pointed out Hui Lin's knowledge in Wushu.

The current Wushu instructor hired was considerably famous in the industry, but his set of movements were just pointless gimmicks to both Yang Chen and Hui Lin.

Therefore, under Yang Chen's request, Hui Lin was given the position instead.

The female lead also happened to be the Wushu instructor! That would undoubtedly contribute to the film's selling point.

Director Yu Shuo seemed incredibly excited. With Hui Lin's impeccable skills, she would be able to execute difficult moves. That would mean that his limits with the actor's capability had diminished. He was finally free to utilize his resources!

They continued to talk for two hours. Soon, it was already getting dark. Yang Chen recalled that Lin Ruoxi had made rib stew with corn and had requested him to be home for dinner. The man announced his departure and left his seat.

"Brother Yang, let me send you off." Hui Lin gently halted him.

Yang Chen stared at her expression. The girl seemed to have something to say so he nodded.

The two made their way to the main entrance, which was absent of its usual bustle. Hui Lin was still in her costume, looking like an ethereal female warrior on an Autumn stroll.

"Thank you so much, Brother Yang. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have known what to do," uttered Hui Lin softly.

Yang Chen smiled. "You offered to send me off just to say this? There's no need for thank yous between us."

The corner of Hui Lin's lips curled up. "Of course I needed to thank you even though there's nothing between us."

Yang Chen could tell something was amiss, he awkwardly shrugged in response.

Hui Lin finally gathered enough courage to ask, "Brother Yang... If a man wishes to kiss me in the future, would you rush to help me like you did today?"

Without giving her words much thought, Yang Chen replied, "Of course. I'd be there to give you a push as you lunge forward to kick him in the ass."

"But I can't keep on living like this..."

"Huh? What do you mean?" Yang Chen was puzzled.

Hui Lin's glimmering eyes glazed over. "I'm already in my twenties. It's only a matter of time before I... I..."

Yang Chen finally understood what she meant.

It made sense. What the hell was he thinking? There was no way he could restrict her from coming into contact with the opposite sex for the rest of her life!

### **Chapter 1056 One Thousand**

Who did he think he was to her? What right did he have to decide that no man should kiss her?

Though he hadn't said it in exact words nor did he have such intention, it was undeniable that he harbored those thoughts.

Yang Chen never imagined that Hui Lin would eventually find herself a boyfriend and have a family of her own.

He really hadn't pictured it!

The realization had him stunned, not knowing how he should respond to it.

Without knowing it, Yang Chen had started to see Hui Lin as one of his women.

Staring at Hui Lin, who had tears gathering in her eyes, Yang Chen felt guilty. But he did not know what to say.

All he could see was Lin Ruoxi's heart-wrenching expression, who resumed to laugh and gossip with the other women while she just couldn't do anything that would harm them.

But this was Hui Lin, someone who Lin Ruoxi sees as a younger sister. Yang Chen had even rejected Abbess Yun Miao's requests. How could he do such a thing?

He pondered in silence. Through gritted teeth, he forced out a smile and replied, "What the hell are you saying? If you really found someone you love, I would give you both my blessing as long as he is a great guy. Zhang Kaiwei was a scumbag, that's why I didn't want him anywhere close to you. If you've gotten bullied, how would I explain the situation to your sister?"

Hui Lin's petite body shivered. She clenched her fists hard. The girl had understood what Yang Chen was trying to say, but the reality was way too painful to accept.

"I understand. Goodbye, Brother Yang."

As soon as she left those words, she turned around to leave without waiting for a reply. Her long skirt rustled with the autumn wind.

Exiting the film set, he got into his car, started the engine, stepped on the oil pedal and proceeded to drive away.

He began driving aimlessly and without noticing it, he was already out of the mountainous area. He entered the town and drove up the highway.

There was some weight in Yang Chen's heart. It felt as if it was corroding from the inside out. The pain was more excruciating than setting his heart ablaze.

Once his vehicle had made it off the highway and past a downtown area that surrounded a lake, Yang Chen's sight was awakened by the radiant neon signs around him.

Yang Chen tried his best to not think of Hui Lin's face before she bid farewell. Her sad eyes. The man inhaled sharply. Yang Chen decided to play some upbeat music to help recover his composure.

However, things took a drastic change!

As Yang Chen extended a hand towards his radio knob, a pink mass suddenly appeared in front of him when the traffic light was still green!

"Hey!"

Yang Chen couldn't help but scream, slamming down on his brakes. No matter how well his driving was, the pink mass was going to collide with his vehicle. There was essentially no way for him to avoid it.

Yang Chen had finally understood what it meant to knock on death's door. What the hell was that person thinking?! Why couldn't heavens spare him a break from the incident earlier?

The pedestrians and cars around them stopped. A curious crowd was soon formed, some of them were even ready to phone the police and the emergency services.

Yang Chen quickly turned on his hazard lights and left his car by the road, he rushed over to check on the person.

As soon as he got out of the car and approached the rolling person, she sprung up from the asphalt immediately!

How was she unscathed after such a collision?!

The female was dressed in a pink chiffon top and low-waisted jeans, who so happened to be Luo Xiaoxiao. Her forehead was shielded behind a row of neatly trimmed bangs. Luo Xiaoxiao's face was blessed with an exceptional faerie-like cuteness. Paired with a rather curvy and pudgy body, the combination was certainly a formula for the male attention.

Typically, one would be half-dead or bleeding with such a collision but Luo Xiaoxiao seemed to only sustain some mess in her outfit and her hair along with her handbag on the gravel.

Standing up, Luo Xiaoxiao hastily tidied her locks. Her lips were down-turned. If someone had taken a closer look, they would see that tears had started to roll off the girl's cheek.

She lifted her head and stared at the stunned Yang Chen. Luo Xiaoxiao blinked her eyes furiously, then proceeded to point at him. "You?!"

Something crackled in Yang Chen's heart. How much more unlucky could he get? "Are... you alright?"

Luo Xiaoxiao pouted at the concern. She looked at Yang Chen then averted her gaze to the lake on the left. Out of nowhere, she started to sob.

Taken by surprise, Yang Chen could only gape at the sobbing girl. The crowd was starting to make assumptions. He couldn't just ignore her at this point!

He wrapped an arm around her head and pulled her close. He then proceeded to stroke her back. "Hey, why are you crying if you're alright? You were the one who came towards my car just now. I didn't want to hit you and the traffic light was green!"

Luo Xiaoxiao immediately enveloped her arms around his waist. She smashed her face tightly against this chest. She continued to sob, not forgetting to wipe her tears from time to time. Soon enough, a wet patch was formed in front of Yang Chen's top.

"Why didn't you answer my calls?! The address you gave me was fake too! How could you be so irresponsible!"

Her exclaims didn't go unnoticed by the crowd. The gazes the crowd had towards Yang Chen became glares. He had the impression of a loser.

How could he be so cruel to leave behind such a cute and delicate young girl?!

They took a good look at Yang Chen's car, which happened to be a BMW x6. Jeez, this guy was the typical good-for-nothing second-gen!

There was nothing Yang Chen could do about the uncalled for accusations. He didn't know if tears or laughter were appropriate for such a sticky situation. The crowd continued to point fingers at him.

"Hey, how long are you planning to cry? Say something."

Luo Xiaoxiao gulped loudly, she lifted her head. "You're Yang Chen, right...?"

Yang Chen nodded. "You still remember my name?"

"Yeah, I said I wanted to be your girlfriend. Of course, I remember you. Why didn't you pick up my calls?" Luo Xiaoxiao whined pitifully.

Yang Chen gave her a wry smile. "I already made it clear that I was married but you didn't want to believe that. You're still so young. You shouldn't aim to be someone else's mistress. Can't you just live your life properly?"

Luo Xiaoxiao pushed Yang Chen away, wiping her tears with the back of her hand. She pouted, "Are all men this fake?"

"Fake? What do you mean?" Yang Chen was confused.

Once again, Luo Xiaoxiao looked to the lake. "I just saw a boy from our campus going on a date with one of my female classmates. They kissed each other..."

Yang Chen was even more puzzled. "What does that got to do with you?"

“You don’t understand!” Luo Xiaoxiao fumed. “That boy had made it clear that he had a crush on me since last semester! He even wrote me a hundred love letters!”

As this girl continued to rant, Yang Chen started to feel awkward under the gazes of the general public. He finally pulled the girl towards the side of the lake.

Thankfully, this road was rather peaceful. No traffic police would appear to give him a ticket for illegal parking. He could now settle the matter peacefully.

On the other hand, Luo Xiaoxiao stared at her palm that was enveloped within Yang Chen’s grasp. The girl couldn’t help but blush at the sight of it, seemingly embarrassed.

Slanting against the fence around the lake, Yang Chen exhaled. “So you ran towards my car just because you saw some boy kissing another girl?”

Luo Xiaoxiao nodded violently. “Yeah! It sucks! What’s the point of him expressing his love for me then continue to make advances but choosing to date another girl instead?!”

“Do you like him?”

Luo Xiaoxiao shook her head. “No, I don’t. That’s why I never asked him to be my boyfriend.”

“Then why are you crying?”

“I’m crying because he’s so ingenuine! If you really liked me, you should offer me your honesty and genuine feelings! It hurts my ego to see him date another girl behind my back!

I even considered giving him a chance if he wrote one thousand love letters!” Luo Xiaoxiao exclaimed loudly.

A thousand love letters?! Yang Chen felt like he was getting too old for this.

“Look, Miss Luo. If you wish to cry your heart out, you may continue to do so. You may continue to wallow in your sorrows to your heart’s content. I need to go back for dinner. My wife is waiting for me. Goodbye, I hope to never meet again!”

With a dismissive wave, Yang Chen planned a quick escape.

Unfortunately, Luo Xiaoxiao still had a tight grip on his sleeve. “No! You’re not going anywhere! You’re going to leave me and I won’t be able to see you again!”

“I... I have nothing to do with you! Why are you so adamant about seeing me again?!”

“You’ve seen my butt before! I have rejected all my suitors because of you! You cannot abandon me!” Luo Xiaoxiao continued to scream.

Yang Chen quickly turned around to cover her mouth. “Shut it! Are you trying to let the whole world know that your ass was smashed against my face?!”

Luo Xiaoxiao continued to mumble nothings against this palm. After Yang Chen uncovered her mouth, she stuck out her tongue cheekily. “Well, it won’t be too much of a problem if you married me...”

**Chapter 1057 Why Did You Pinch Me?**

Yang Chen was slowly losing his mind. He did not fear fiery women but he was most definitely afraid of whiny girls!

What was even scarier about the girl in front of him was the fact that she wasn't acting. It was obvious that she was born this way!

Other men would definitely find her extremely attractive. The girl was pure and soft. Her face was that of an angel but her body was that of a devil. If he had met her before marriage, he would definitely have taken an interest in her. This wasn't someone he could handle at this age!

One Hui Lin was enough to tangle his guts into knots. With one Luo Xiaoxiao added into the mix, perhaps death was the easiest way out.

"Please stop. I really need to go now. If I don't get back soon, my wife is going to call me." Yang Chen pried away Luo Xiaoxiao's arms.

Though she had her arms around him like an octopus, Luo Xiaoxiao's strength was no match for Yang Chen's. She was unceremoniously removed.

Seeing that Yang Chen was really about to leave, Luo Xiaoxiao stomped her foot angrily. "Yang Chen! If you abandon me, I... I'll kill myself!"

Yang Chen chose to ignore her, retrieving his keys and jogged his way over to his car.

Before he could even take another step, a loud splash rang out behind him followed by the sounds of people screaming.

Yang Chen quickly looked back, only to find a large circle of ripples and bubbles forming on the surface of the water. Luo Xiaoxiao had actually jumped into the lake!

First, they cry. Then they scream. Now they take their own lives. That was how the ancient females were rumored to be in the face of conflict. But even in the present day, Luo Xiaoxiao had already decided to jump into the lake as her first solution?!

Amidst the panicked screamings that followed, Yang Chen noticed something was amiss.

It seems like this Luo Xiaoxiao didn't know how to swim!

There were some splatters in the beginning but soon, all he could catch was the rumbling sound of sinking. Luo Xiaoxiao's hand disappeared into the water.

"Kid! What the hell are you staring at?! That girl is your girlfriend, no?! Go save her! Quick!" An old man screamed.

There were a few passers-by who noticed her drowning, some were even taking off their outerwear in preparation to save her.

As soon as they caught word of what the old man said, they all turned to glare at Yang Chen.

A squabble between a couple that managed to drive the girl into jumping into the lake. Whose responsibility was it to save her other than the boyfriend himself?!

Yang Chen could only scream internally. How could someone so well-versed in internal energy not know how to swim? Though he found the whole thing suspicious, he couldn't just ignore it, especially under massive pressure from the general public.

Hence, he dashed forward and sprang off into the lake with a splash.

Luo Xiaoxiao had already sunken deeper. The man could no longer see the girl in shallow waters so he took a dive. He felt around in the dark lake waters, finally finding her raised wrist.

Thankfully, the lake wasn't very deep. Without taking too long, Yang Chen had surfaced along with a drenched Luo Xiaoxiao. He made his way towards the shore.

The crowd could finally sigh in relief. They continued to throw comments at Yang Chen, reprimanding his seemingly disgusting behavior.

Yang Chen paid no mind to their words. As soon as they left the waters, he noticed something was amiss.

Luo Xiaoxiao had stomached too much water and was unconscious. That wasn't the main issue though. The biggest problem here was how her wet chiffon top had stuck to her body, showing off every nook and cranny of her exquisite body. Under the lights of the street lamps, her clothes were close to transparent!

Yang Chen felt his member spotting an erection. In his defense, it was an involuntary biological response.

Though this girl had nothing to do with him, he couldn't just leave her vulnerable to the prying eyes of the public.

So Yang Chen picked her up and began to walk towards his car.

He placed her pliant body against his car for support. As he was about to channel energy to remove all water inside of her, he noticed that her moist full lips were slowly puckered.

Was she waiting for a kiss?

It didn't take long for Yang Chen to figure out that he had been fooled. Due to the chaos earlier, he hadn't had much time to assess the situation. Annoyed, he extended two fingers to pinch harshly on Luo Xiaoxiao's puckered lips!

"Mmph! Ow! That hurts!"

The pain prompted Luo Xiaoxiao to open her eyes. She landed a furious fist against his chest.

"What are you trying to do? Why did you pinch me?!"

Yang Chen scoffed. "I should be the one asking questions here. You were drowning and yet you had the energy to pucker your lips?"

Luo Xiaoxiao's cheeks turned red. "I learned this from a TV program. If someone had swallowed too much water, wouldn't you need to do CPR on them? I was waiting for you to do that to me..."



CPR?!

Yang Chen's expression hardened. "You're too honest for your own good."

"Of course! I've been a very honest kid since young! My dad told me that it was one of my perks. Though, I think this is only one of many other advantages of mine."

"Enough. You say you're honest yet you deceived me into thinking you were drowning."

Yang Chen decided he no longer wanted to deal with this girl. He pushed her away to walk over to the driver seat.

Something glimmered in Luo Xiaoxiao's eye. She giggled and opened the door to the passenger seat. She then made herself welcomed without his permission!

Yang Chen's BMW was designed to be unlocked via a sensor. As long as the car key was within proximity, all doors could be unlocked through touch.

That was why Yang Chen hadn't had time to lock the door!

Luo Xiaoxiao happily made herself comfortable and even buckled her seatbelt.

Yang Chen was so angry that he began to shake. He hadn't met a woman as stubborn as her!

If this had happened a few years back, he would've probably killed her with a slap and a twist to her neck.

But Yang Chen was no longer the cold-blooded murderer he was. He just couldn't kill someone under such circumstances. More importantly, he had no urge to do so.

If some random girl in your neighborhood had decided to mess with you, you wouldn't have thought about killing her even on the verge of absolute annoyance.

Yang Chen held the door open. He glared intently at her. "Are you coming out or not?"

Luo Xiaoxiao shook her head. "I want to come with you! I shall follow you wherever you go! Where do you live? I'd like to remember the route to your place!" Yang Chen pinched the bridge between his brow. He glanced at the sky, dinner was probably ready and Lin Ruoxi was most definitely waiting for his return.

Based on the current situation, the ordeal was probably not at its end yet.

Yang Chen wasn't keen on having his wife wait and trigger some misunderstanding. He slid out his phone with the intention of calling home.

But as soon as he tried to unlock his phone, he groaned in annoyance.

His phone had become a victim of water damage!

"Fuck! What the fuck is wrong with today?!"

Yang Chen felt as if he had run out of luck. Staring at his unresponsive phone, he had half the mind to smash onto the ground but decided against it as it was a gift from Lin Ruoxi.

Luo Xiaoxiao stuck out her pink tongue but pretended as if she hadn't seen anything.

Yang Chen shoved his damaged phone back into the pocket violently. He clenched his fist and glared daggers at her. "I'm going to count to three. If you don't remove yourself from the car, I'm going to throw you back into the lake!"

Their bodies were still soaking wet but Yang Chen paid no mind to it. The moisture and the cold wind had no effect against the two of them.

Luo Xiaoxiao observed his terrifying expression. She pouted and put on a pitiful face before she stuck her head out the window to shout whiningly.

"Everyone! Look over here! This man wants to abandon me and he's trying to hit me! He's going to toss me into the lake!"

The crowd that was around the lake earlier was still within earshot. As soon as they heard her screams, they started to gather around the car.

Yang Chen finally knew what the saying of how 'only women and simple-minded men were hard to deal with' meant. He knew he had the power but any thinkable solution to this was like punching a mass of cotton. There was nothing he could do.

He couldn't just drag her out of his car in the face of the public.

She was young and beautiful, it made no sense that she had no suitors and was desperate enough to grab onto a man to accuse him of abandoning her! It was obvious there was something going on between them!

Yang Chen couldn't think of the right way to deal with her. He thought for a bit and decided that it would be best for him to call home and explain the situation. He wouldn't want Lin Ruoxi to get angry at him.

Yang Chen scanned his surroundings before he decided to approach a young man nearby. He flashed the man a courteous smile. "Mister, could you kindly borrow me your phone?"

The man took a careful glance at Yang Chen. He responded sourly, "Look, bro, I can see that you drive a BMW. It's probably better to be more of a gentleman and treat the girl well. She's so pretty, how can you mistreat her like that? Why would you need a phone at a time like this?"

Yang Chen felt the urge to just take his life right there. What the fuck was with his logic?!

"No, that's not what I'm trying to do. I need to give my wife a call, she's..."

"What?! Do you have a wife?! You're married and yet you're out here deflowering young girls?!"

"I... I... Well... " "

No matter how hard Yang Chen tried to defend himself, the situation had already spiraled out of control. What a huge misunderstanding it has become!

**Chapter 1058 The World's Top 500**

The glares from the crowd were ugly, especially those coming from the women. They were looking at Yang Chen as if he had wronged them personally.

An old lady immediately reprimanded him. "What is wrong with the world these days?! How can a man be so bold to admit that he has a mistress? You really think you're some hotshot just because you got some money?!"

Yang Chen was stuck between laughing and crying. Yes, it was true that he had mistresses but Luo Xiaoxiao wasn't one of them!

A few younger males immediately took advantage of the situation, deeming it a perfect time to rescue a damsel in distress.

"Miss, though I'm evidently less wealthy than he is, I've got great ambition and boundless loyalty to offer! Trust me, within three years, I could definitely make it within the world's top five hundred strongest entrepreneurs, or at least secure a job as a security guard! How about you come with me..."

"Pretty lady, are you cold? How about I treat you to some warm steamed cakes?"

The young males continued to cast her hopeful glances.

Yang Chen decided that he had enough of this. Fine! Looks like he wasn't going to be able to borrow a phone. Staring back at the girl who had her eyes filled with crocodile tears, Yang Chen could only sigh and muster out a wobbly smile.

He shook his head disappointedly, choosing to ignore the others. Yang Chen returned to his car, started the engine and drove away.

The crowd watched the BMW x6 as it left a cloud of dust behind. The young men started to cuss at its retreating behind.

"Fuck you! I can't believe she chose his BMW! I knew love is no longer to be trusted! Let's just leave this fucking place!"

At the same time, as soon as she felt the car move, the teary-eyed girl suddenly dropped the act and reverted into delight. She was so happy that she started to hum to an upbeat pop song.

"We walked in the rain, if you're a diamond you should be radiant, everyone should be dreamers..."

Yang Chen spared a brief glance at the joyous Luo Xiaoxiao. Admittedly, the girl could sing better than Lin Ruoxi.

Come to think of it, there weren't many girls who could sing worse than Lin Ruoxi.

He sighed. "Enough. I accept my defeat."

That stopped Luo Xiaoxiao from singing. "Oh, you're finally admitting defeat? Hehe, I'm glad you understand that I'm someone to not mess with! I'm honest but I'm no idiot!"

Serves you right for lying to me back then. You have no idea how much I cried myself to sleep. You bullied me and even lied to me. I'm sure you've noticed the boys trying to win me over. I've got no interest in boys like that!"

“Then why are you interested in me?”

“I had this inexplicable feeling!”

“Bullshit.”

“It’s true! It’s the same with guys and their sports teams! No matter how bad or how good they perform, you would still be their fan. There’s no good explanation behind the fondness!”

Yang Chen stared at Luo Xiaoxiao who had adorned a serious expression. “Is it not because you had your ass against my face?”

“Well...”

Luo Xiaoxiao held her finger beneath her chin. She gave it a thought before answering, “Maybe, but that just serves as a trigger. The best way I can explain it is a form of hormonal attraction.”

Yang Chen was about to lose his mind. This girl sure had her way with words!

Finding an empty parking spot, he parked the vehicle. Yang Chen took a good look at the time. He would definitely be late by the time he got home. Might as well settle this once and for all.

“Miss Luo, I think we should talk this out seriously. Since you mentioned that you’re not stupid, it’s about time to understand that I’m not joking.” Yang Chen’s tone was stern.

Luo Xiaoxiao pouted. “I’m not joking too. I’m still a virgin...”

A bulged vein appeared on Yang Chen’s face. What the hell had this conversation to do with her virginity?! He was a virgin too ten years ago! It was nothing special!

“My point is, I’m married and I have a family. We’re not cut out for each other. Before any hatred takes place between us, how about we forget about what happened earlier and be friends?”

Yang Chen was not expecting to get rid of her within a day, but he had to resolve it somehow.

Luo Xiaoxiao mumbled, “Didn’t you mentioned that you have other mistresses too?”

Yang Chen was in disbelief. “Are you asking me to make you one of my mistresses?”

“No! That’s not it!” Luo Xiaoxiao continued, “Since you’re not a dedicated lover, how about you make me your wife and make your wife your mistress instead?”

“I...” Yang Chen was about to roar at her but Luo Xiaoxiao immediately stopped him.

“I’m not trying to bully your wife. If I become a mistress, my daddy will definitely beat the shit out of you!”

Taking a long hard look at Luo Xiaoxiao’s face, it was obvious that she meant her words. Yang Chen was starting to feel dizzy from all the rage. After breaking down the situation, he roared, “I’m not even trying to get involved in a relationship with you! Why are you so stubborn?! What do you not understand?!”

The sudden increment in volume had intensified the echo in his car.

Luo Xiaoxiao's glittering round hazel eyes stared blankly back at Yang Chen, who was on the verge of insanity.

Slowly, Luo Xiaoxiao's eye socket began to turn red, tears started to roll in her eyes.

"I'm sorry." Yang Chen wiped her face with his hand. "I'm not trying to scold you nor was I lashing out at you, I'm just..."

"I know!" Luo Xiaoxiao frowned. "I know you don't like me..."

Yang Chen gaped but decided to stay silent. He didn't know what to say.

Luo Xiaoxiao sniffled and said, "This is the first time in my life I'm serious about a boy. I just wanted you to like me. Please don't hate me. Why is it so difficult to make you feel the same?"

Yang Chen's heart clenched at the pitiful sight.

No matter what, she was just a young girl who knew nothing much about the world. Perhaps her actions and bold words meant nothing but a figment of her own fantasy. She probably had no intention of making it a reality.

Yang Chen hesitated for a moment before he extended an arm to caress the top of her head.

Luo Xiaoxiao begrudgingly lifted her head. Suddenly, she noticed that water droplets were leaving her hair and her top. Soon enough, she was all dry!

Yang Chen was using the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy to remove the water molecules from their clothes.

Regular water was exceptionally easy to manipulate for Yang Chen as he had mastered the basics of Kui Water.

"Ah, that's amazing!" Luo Xiaoxiao slowly blinked. "How are you able to control the yuan energy of water with such impressive precision? Have you undergone your Tribulation Passing stage already?"

Yang Chen was surprised. "You... Who exactly are you?"

Luo Xiaoxiao finally noticed that she slipped. She quickly covered her mouth, opened the door and unbuckled herself from the seat. She then proceeded to exit the car!

Before Yang Chen could say anything else, Luo Xiaoxiao had already thrown the door shut. She was already running out of the parking lot with astonishing speed.

Just like that, Yang Chen was left behind. He stared at the retreating back of the girl who disappeared into the dark and scoffed. "If only I knew it would be this easy to get rid of you."

Yang Chen started his car again to rush home. His nose and mouth could still catch the whiff of her remaining fragrance. The scent was faint but pleasant, it felt warm and youthful.

Luo Xiaoxiao's identity remained a mystery. He was curious but he wasn't willing to probe into it. He had his own problems to take care of.

Soon, Yang Chen remembered something about his home. With his delayed return, Lin Ruoxi was probably fuming with no way to contact him whatsoever. Today was such a crazy mess!

Half an hour later, Yang Chen finally made it home. The lights in the mansion were lit and the entrance to it was tightly shut.

Yang Chen parked his car and made his way over to the door cautiously. He took out his keys, took a deep breath and then turned his door open.

He could already smell the strong scent of corn stew from where he was. Yang Chen took the liberty to suck in a large gulp of air to enjoy it.

In the dining room, all the women in the family were already gathered around the table.

Guo Xuehua, Wang Ma and Min Juan were seated at their spots while Lin Ruoxi sat together with Lanlan. Lin Ruoxi was busy picking out ribs for the little girl.

Lanlan had a napkin around her neck as she enjoyed her feast of ribs. From the pile of bones before her, it was evident that she had ingested at least half of the stew. But of course, Lin Ruoxi had prepared more than one pot of it.

“Oh my, it smells so good. It looks like my lovely wife has improved a lot in her cooking. Having a kid sure served as good encouragement, haha...”

Noticing that no one had bothered to respond to him, Yang Chen tried his best to make sure his expression was natural. He quickly sat down at his spot.

However, it wasn't hard to miss that there wasn't a set of cutleries laid out for him.

She assumed he wasn't coming home today.

Lin Ruoxi had completely ignored him, treating him like air. It wasn't difficult to guess that his wife was furious with his late arrival. She had reminded him to come home early for dinner but not only had the man arrived an hour late, he hadn't bothered to call home!

In the end, mothers would always have a soft spot for their child. Guo Xuehua sighed deeply before turning to ask, “Yang Chen, where were you? We waited long for you and none of our calls made it through. Couldn't you notify us earlier? The dishes were turning cold.”

“Bad uncle! Lanlan almost starved to death!” Lanlan continued to chew on the rib, not forgetting to add salt to his wound.

Lin Ruoxi spared a glare towards Yang Chen. Her expression was cold but she remained silent as if it wasn't worth the effort to even question his whereabouts.

Wang Ma was genuinely concerned. Though Yang Chen's actions had made her angry, she still felt like he deserved a chance to tell his side of the story.

There was nothing much Yang Chen could do but to tell the entire ordeal of how he bumped into Luo Xiaoxiao and the misfortune that unfolded next. He even made it a point to display his water damaged phone on the table.

“Look, I really wasn’t ignoring your calls on purpose. My phone was damaged when I jumped into the lake...”

Guo Xuehua took the phone over and pressed its buttons. She turned to face Lin Ruoxi, “Ruoxi, Yang Chen is telling the truth, his phone is really not working at all.”

Wang Ma suddenly remembered the incident when they were out shopping for shoes. She nodded and added, “Miss, Sir is telling the truth. I’ve seen the girl before. I could only say that today was just a mere coincidence.”

Lin Ruoxi placed her chopsticks down. She muttered calmly, “I believe that you’re telling the truth but there’s something else I’d like to know. Why is it that she had already made it clear that she liked you when you first met?”

Admittedly, that was a very good question that rendered Yang Chen speechless.

The question was spot on.

How should Yang Chen answer her? He couldn’t just say that it was because he had his face pressed against the girl’s butt before. That would be suicide.

“I... Because..”

Yang Chen looked at Wang Ma pitifully, pleading for help. Sadly, Wang Ma couldn’t offer a better explanation for she was equally embarrassed.

“I understand now.” Li Ruoxi continued nonchalantly, “It seems like there’s a mac daddy in the house. The first time a girl meets you, she’s suddenly all over you and seemingly in love with you. I wasn’t aware that you had such charisma. Also, even if your phone was damaged, couldn’t you borrow one from someone else?”

Yang Chen quickly defended himself, “I did try to borrow one but they had collectively misunderstood my intentions! They didn’t want to borrow me one no matter how hard I begged!”

“That’s enough!” Lin Ruoxi angrily stood up from her seat. Her supporting forearm that was against the table shook with fury. “Since you’ve already admitted it, there’s no need to feign your innocence!”

### **Chapter 1059 – Half-Hidden Face Behind A Pipa**

In the face of her rage, Yang Chen’s mind immediately went blank. All he could do was flail his arms and gape helplessly.

“It’s true that I have mistresses but she’s not one of them... No! Uh, I swear I’m not cheating on you... I’m just... I... God...”

Yang Chen had no tears left to cry. How was he supposed to explain something like this to her?

It was evident that Lin Ruoxi had enough of his bullshit. Inhaling a deep breath, she left the table to run upstairs.

Guo Xuehua called after her but Lin Ruoxi ignored her. The door to the study was slammed shut.

Back at the dining table, Lanlan pouted her lips in an exaggerated childlike manner. She squealed, “Bad uncle! You bullied mama!”

Min Juan hurriedly rushed over to calm the little girl, afraid that the child would tear the table apart.

Yang Chen paid no mind to the child’s babble. He grabbed a fistful of his hair out of frustration. He had completely lost his appetite.

“What the hell are you still here for?! Go explain yourself to Lin Ruoxi! It’ll be worse if you don’t explain the situation well!” Guo Xuehua slapped her son’s shoulder.

It made sense to Yang Chen, who then cautiously made his way to the study. He knocked on its door.

Lin Ruoxi gave no response. The only thing Yang Chen could hear from outside was her rapid breathing. She was still very angry at him

Yang Chen turned to look at his family members downstairs and threw his hands.

“I think I’ll wait till she calms down, I don’t think she wants me near her.”

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma looked at each other with a bitter smile. At this point, no explanation or reasoning would be of use. Yang Chen had a long record of faults, for him to receive Lin Ruoxi’s forgiveness was close to impossible.

There was still much to learn for these two adults. If Yang Chen really was up to no good with the girl, would he have rushed home for dinner in the middle of that? Once Lin Ruoxi has calmed down, she would better understand the situation. Therefore, there wasn’t much to worry about. As long as he went to her and explained himself, the conflict could be resolved.

Dinner was cleared away. Thankfully, a good portion of it was finished by Lanlan so not much was wasted.

Yang Chen sighed wearily as he returned to his bedroom. Before he could take a bath and change into a set of new clothes, he noticed a call invitation had appeared on his laptop screen. It was Sauron.

That brought Yang Chen out of his daze, he scurried over to accept the call. Sauron had sent him plenty of information throughout the afternoon but he wasn’t at home to receive it.

In no time, Sauron, who had on reading glasses, came to sight. He seemed to be preoccupied with some files.

Yang Chen was used to the red-haired man’s typical rugged appearance, the glasses on Sauron made him look sophisticated. It was weird. Without knowing it, Sauron had aged. It has been quite a while since their first meeting.

Finally noticing Yang Chen on his screen, Sauron lifted his gaze and gave the younger man a respectful nod. Sauron said, “Your Majesty Pluto, I’ve sent you all the information you requested about an ancient civilization untouched by mankind. We managed to find eight of them. You can find everything in your mailbox.”

Yang Chen nodded. “I’ll give it a look soon. Thank you for your hard work. Did you face any problems?”



“Not really but I’m very curious. Your Majesty Pluto, why did you require such information? Most of these places are very desolate and inhabitable. The only reason why the ancient civilization remains could survive this long was because of its inhabitable grounds. Any mortal who goes there is bound to die.”

Yang Chen laughed. “That’s what I’m looking for. Places like that are where I’ll be able to find something I want. Nevermind, it’s quite a long story. I’ll explain it to you next time. I’ll go give the information a read.”

Sauron wasn’t a talkative person, he quickly bid farewell and disconnected the call.

Yang Chen hovered over the information he sent on the eight places. He clicked into it and started to read.

The information was very comprehensive, it took him quite some time to get to the end of it.

When he had finished, Yang Chen had made a decision on the first place he’d travel to. But before anything else, he needed to ask for Xiao Zhiqing’s opinion. The man quickly contacted Xiao Zhiqing.

Now that Xiao Zhiqing had dropped out of school, there wasn’t much to do with all that new-found free time. It didn’t take long for her to return his opinion.

Coincidentally, they both had chosen to cast aside the Everglades in the Southern United States, the Amazon basin, the Panama Forest and so on in favor of the extremely desolate Arnhem Land in Northern Australia.

Not only was the place devoid of mankind, but it also housed a fifty-thousand-year rich aboriginal civilization. As Xiao Zhiqing had mentioned, only a place that had birthed culture holds sufficient spiritual energy to give new materials for alchemy.

October was already right around the corner. With Australia situated in the Southern Hemisphere, the country’s north was about to enter summer, especially savannah climate zones like Arnhem Land. Things would get difficult when the lack of water sources becomes a problem if they didn’t take action soon.

Xiao Zhiqing was getting bored with staying home. With Yang Chen involved, there wasn’t much to worry about her own safety, which helped fuel her interest.

Yang Chen closed his laptop then sighed. Though Lin Ruoxi was still angry at him, he still needed to inform her about his departure. He needed to emphasize that he was bringing Xiao Zhiqing on the journey too.

No matter what Lin Ruoxi’s response was, he couldn’t be too accommodating of her. This was beyond just her.

He allowed his mind to wander into a mess. Yang Chen stripped naked and went into the shower. Perhaps it would be best for him to be clean before dealing with Lin Ruoxi.

Meanwhile, in Lin Ruoxi’s study.

Wang Ma placed a plate of nicely peeled fruits on Lin Ruoxi’s table. The woman’s face was devoid of any emotion.

“Miss, are you still angry?”

Lin Ruoxi lifted her head and pouted. “Wang Ma, don’t even try to help that bastard! The more you spoil him, the less he cares about this family!”

Wang Ma only returned a sad smile. “That’s not it. Miss, I’m on your side but what Sir said was no lie...”

Lin Ruoxi didn’t look too happy. “How would you know, Wang Ma? Without us knowing it, he had silently made his way into the pants of those coquettes back then. He even had a way to end up in bed with Qianni and Mingyu under my careful watch.”

Wang Ma had found her rants funny but the older woman held back her laughter. Wang Ma harrumphed. “About the girl he mentioned, he had played no part in her interest in him. I just couldn’t spill the beans just now. It was too embarrassing to say aloud. That day...”

Wang Ma recalled the misunderstanding between Luo Xiaoxiao and Yang Chen of that fateful day.

Lin Ruoxi listened attentively. Immediately, she was flooded with regret. “Wang Ma, why didn’t you say this during dinner?!”

“I...” Wang Ma was sheepish. “Well, it had to do with faces and buttocks. Lanlan was there too, how could I say those in front of her?”

“Jeez, this girl has no shame.” Lin Ruoxi raised a brow in displeasure. Though so, her eyes were filled with unconcealed remorse.

She knew she had blamed Yang Chen wrongly. After the rage, Lin Ruoxi finally thought it through. If Yang Chen really had something going on with the girl, he wouldn’t have left halfway to come home for dinner.

The more she thought about it, the more she was embarrassed. But she just couldn’t put down her ego to ask for Yang Chen’s forgiveness.

Wang Ma saw through her woes, she smiled. “Miss, there’s no need to overthink. Just go apologize to him.”

“I... I’m not planning to apologize. Hmph, he has bullied me way too many times before. What damage would one misunderstanding on my part do to him?” Lin Ruoxi remained firm.

Wang Ma sighed. “Honestly, Miss, in a union, there’s nothing more precious than a man who can tolerate you unconditionally. Sir is a good man. It’s not that he is no match for you when it comes to disagreements, but he lets it go because he loves you. Sometimes, you should control your temper.”

Those words struck Lin Ruoxi hard. She could feel her cheeks burning up, her heart was a mess. The younger woman quickly placed her pen down and stood up from her seat for the door.

“Wang Ma, you can go watch some TV. I’ll go tuck Lanlan in...”

As she spoke, Lin Ruoxi started to head over to the bedroom in quickened steps. Obviously, she was trying to run from the conversation.

Wang Ma extended a hand to stop her to no avail. She looked down at the fruit platter that was now wasted while shaking her head in defeat.

Entering her bedroom, a soundly asleep Lan Lan came to sight.

Deep in sleep, the child was extremely adorable. Lin Ruoxi suddenly recalled that Min Juan had mentioned that Lanlan could go for a few days without a single wink of sleep back then. Weirdly, after she had begun to sleep with her, Lanlan's sleep schedule was like that of a regular child.

Min Juan had teased the possibility of Lanlan harboring fear over her. Perhaps fear was what put the child to sleep.

Despite that, Lin Ruoxi had always felt this inexplicable feeling that Lan Lan was only able to relax and be in peace around her, which was why the child was more willing to give in to slumber.

Of course, this was something Lanlan couldn't answer. A child had no reserve over their urges. If they wanted to sleep, they would sleep. If they wanted to eat, they would eat.

Lin Ruoxi came to the side of the bed to land a loving smooch on her daughter's forehead.

Lan Lan began to smack her lips sleepily. She seemed to be enjoying a sweet dream, looking so cute nestled in her blankets.

"Silly girl, of course, you would be dreaming of food. Mama is afraid you're going to be so chubby if this goes on." Lin Ruoxi thought to herself as she continued to stare at her little adorable face.

Silently, she exited the room. Lin Ruoxi's mind was plagued with the question of how she should dissolve the tension between her and Yang Chen. She was well aware of how unreasonable she was being. She hadn't given him a chance to explain himself and accused him of cheating.

Unknowingly, she reached the end of the second-floor corridor. Pushing open the glass doors, she went to the balcony.

### **Chapter 1060 – Was it Soft?**

The scenery around the western suburbs was gorgeous. Along with fresh air, the area was blessed with the luxury of clear stars in the night sky.

The dark autumn night was chilly. Silence enveloped the front yard leaving only the rustle of the trees made audible by the breeze.

Lin Ruoxi leaned against the railing. She was only wearing a thin white sweater. In the past, she would've felt cold from the night breeze. But since she picked up Yang Chen's unnamed skill and became half a friar, she now had some impressive true Qi.

However, when compared with Rose, Cai Yan and the other women that had a martial arts background, Lin Ruoxi's physical constitution was nothing special. Her strength was equivalent to that of a normal athletic female.

Thankfully, there was still Liu Mingyu, An Xin and a handful of them who shared the same level as her. Lin Ruoxi wasn't too pressed about being left behind.

As she continued to ponder about the correct approach to Yang Chen, the corner of Lin Ruoxi's eye caught something. She noticed a lonely figure sitting on the stairs on the ground floor.

It was Yang Chen.

At this moment, Yang Chen seemed to be in a daze as he sat on the ice-cold stairs. He sat cross-legged, one hand touching the base of his foot and the other gripping a cigarette.

His eyes were in thin crescents. Yang Chen was trying to figure out how to make his plan involving Xiao Zhiqing more bearable for Lin Ruoxi.

As he preoccupied with the concern on hand, he didn't notice Lin Ruoxi standing above him.

She couldn't help but think that he was angry at her.

Yang Chen must be angry now. He must be so frustrated and irritated to be smoking in the cold like that.

From what she could recall, it had been a while since Yang Chen had smoked.

Lin Ruoxi mustered up some courage and exclaimed, "Hey, stop smoking. Why are you smoking this late at night?"

That bought Yang Chen's attention. He lifted his head to see Lin Ruoxi who was leaning against the balcony railing. He grinned. "Oh, darling, you're not angry anymore?"

Lin Ruoxi's heart sank a little.

Clearly, she was the one who misunderstood him, but he was more concerned about her.

Her heart swelled with sweetness. She was ashamed of herself, the way she looked at him turned tender.

"No, I'm not angry anymore. I realized my mistake after listening to what Wang Ma had to say."

Yang Chen nodded, seemingly unfazed by the whole ordeal. "Ah, I'm indebted to Wang Ma. It honestly wasn't anything too severe. The girl was just very mental. But I can assure you that we probably won't meet in the future, everything is fine."

Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but laugh. "So... That Luo Xiaoxiao's ass, was it soft?"

The question flustered Lin Ruoxi.

Yang Chen sheepishly rubbed the back of his head, the cigarette butt in his hand coming a little too close to his hair. "Uh... It was alright, not as soft as yours though..."

"Fuck off!" Lin Ruoxi glared daggers at him. She continued, "Stop smoking already. Even if you itch for a smoke, buy high-quality cigarettes. Is there really a need to enjoy these low-quality brands?"

Yang Chen chuckled. He took one last inhale then tossed the butt on the ground and stepped on it. "I guess I'm just used to that brand. Plus, there isn't much left in that pack. I was just trying to finish it off to focus on my work better."

Lin Ruoxi was finally at ease. She asked, "What are you thinking about? Do you need my help?"

Utilizing that prompt, Yang Chen told her in full detail about his plans to Australia along with how he was bringing Xiao Zhiqing along to look for some herbs there.

Initially, Lin Ruoxi wasn't bothered by the news but as soon as she heard that the journey was just going to be him alone with Xiao Zhiqing, she couldn't help but furrow her brows.

Xiao Zhiqing was not like any other woman. She was soft and radiated a feminine charisma. It didn't help that Yang Chen had slept with her before.

"I know you may feel uneasy but this is really something I need to do. The terrain of Arnhem Land is definitely not a place for leisure. I remember chasing after a drug lord to its borders a few years back and I kid you not, that place is most certainly the wilderness.

That place probably won't pose much threat to me but I'll be gone for some time.

Ruoxi, please just take it as me bringing Xiao Zhiqing on a trip to hell. Please just grant me permission to go!"

Lin Ruoxi continued to stare at Yang Chen wordlessly. Her heart was in a state of confusion.

The best way around this was to tag along with him. But Yang Chen would be gone for god knows how long. She couldn't bear to leave Lanlan at home and she needed to keep an eye on her company.

Plus, Lanlan's grandfather might return in October, how could she leave at such a time?

Hence, she needed to assign someone she could trust to keep Xiao Zhiqing in place. Lin Ruoxi wasn't keen on opening up an opportunity to let Xiao Zhiqing have her way with her own husband.

She pondered for a bit before answering, "Yeah, sure you can bring her with you but I need you to bring one more person along."

Yang Chen was taken aback. "Another person? One more person shouldn't be a hassle. Who should I bring along?"

"Mingyu."

"Huh?" Yang Chen was stunned. "You're asking me to bring Mingyu with us? Darling, why are you asking me to bring another woman along?"

Lin Ruoxi replied, "Of course your additional companion has to be a woman. At least Mingyu wouldn't hope for Xiao Zhiqing to be involved with you again."

Yang Chen finally understood her intention. Lin Ruoxi had her hands full of responsibilities so she had another woman to keep him in check. True enough, from Mingyu's perspective, she too would be reluctant to have Xiao Zhiqing associate herself with him again.

Lin Ruoxi continued with an analysis. "Honestly, judging from physical constitutes, Cai Ning and Rose in Beijing would naturally be the best option. But they're too accommodating of you, they couldn't care less about what you do.

Yanyan and Qianni... They grew up with me but had the mind to commit such adultery behind my back. I'm not about to give them more liberty.

That little devil, Anxin... forget about her. Tang Wan... no way in hell. After much thought, only Mingyu fitted my criteria. She's lawful and obedient to me. She's got her own principles too, definitely not someone to mess with."

Yang Chen began to sweat buckets. He wasn't expecting Lin Ruoxi's mind to be filled with such thoughts. She even devised her ideal choice to decrease her risk factor.

Though Liu Mingyu had made transcendent choices when it came to relationships, her heart was filled with the utmost respect for Lin Ruoxi. It only made sense for his wife to have Liu Mingyu keep tabs on him.

"Yeah, I should stop thinking about this before I get too worried." With a small clap, Lin Ruoxi concluded her decision. "Alright, so it's decided. I'll go approve a long leave for Liu Mingyu and have the vice department leader take over her job for the time being. She, on the other hand, will be substituting me to accompany you on your Australian trip and disappoint Xiao Zhiqing!"

A stiff smile was plastered on Yang Chen's face. "Ah, my wife is so smart."

Lin Ruoxi teased him mercilessly with a knowing stare, "Don't act like you've been wronged. I'm giving you the chance to be sandwiched between two pretty ladies."

Yang Chen gave it a thought. Yeah, that was true. He wasn't there for travel, he was there to work. If she wanted to keep tabs on him then let it be.

It was getting late. Yang Chen stretched his body, calmed his mind and went upstairs to go to bed.

Latest by a day after tomorrow, he'd be embarking on a journey to the other hemisphere of the planet along with two females.

Meanwhile in the North Pole,

Wen Tao, dressed in a thick white coat, had his fingers against a faint projected button. His eyes were glued to the countless data and complex biochemical formulas that flashed by on the gigantic screen.

The information before Wen Tao was the pinnacle of science. It even included some of the most futuristic techniques that exceeded the human imagination and current advancements of technology.

Wen Tao licked his lips, the glimmer in his eye grew increasingly brighter. He started to mumble incoherently. "That's right... That's right... Mmm, yes, you don't say. You may be dead but I must say, you're a fucking genius!"

Wen Tao's legs were spread open. In the middle of it was a kneeling, naked Luo Cuishan.

The seductive lady had already stripped Wen Tao's bottom clean of any clothing. Her red hot lips were tight around his stiff erect penis.

Hearing Wen Tao's excited mumblings had prompted her to blink her eyes open. She released the lewd member and licked her lips. "What is it? A breakthrough discovery?"

"Antimatter energy has uses far beyond anything I could ever imagine." Wen Tao smirk was malicious, not providing her with further explanation.

At this moment, the doors to the lab were opened. Ning Guodong, clad in a black windbreaker, entered with a cold unbothered expression.

Noticing the kneeling Luo Cuishan between Wen Tao's thighs, Ning Guodong only frowned but said nothing. He announced, "Yang Chen is about to leave Zhonghai."