

## Chapter 441: Bury Her Along

“I finally get why that school beauty spoke for Nie Zehai. It turns out they’re dating!”

“Is she blind or what? How did she even fall for Nie Zehai? So it’s true that beauty and brains don’t often go together!”

“They might have some shady dealings going on!”

“Rumor has it that a show that features the school beauty is going to air soon. Besides, the school beauty slayed the show! As for why she performed so well... Of course, we’ll have to ask the young male star.”

“Show? What show? The school beauty took part in a show? I can smell something fishy! Gossip time!”

“Awesome, these scandals come in waves now!”

Xia Qinghan and Bai Meixue couldn’t stop grinning as they read the discussion and condemnation directed towards Xia Xibei on the internet.

“Let’s see how she’s gonna save her a\*s this time!” Xia Qinghan sneered.

“I thought she was a smart one! Didn’t know she’s an idiot!”

Bai Meixue was delighted too. Before this, she was worried that Xia Xibei would start getting noticed, as “Million Dollar Wisdom and Courage” would be airing tonight. With Xia Xibei’s performance, she sure would draw a lot of attention.

However, she hadn’t expected that Xia Xibei would commit career suicide by sticking her nose in this scandal.

This scandal of Nie Zehai’s was doomed to end in a nasty way.

Bai Meixue had a lot of friends in the industry, so she surely had heard words that were at odds with Nie Zehai.

That couldn’t be more normal, because it was only natural that the rise of an individual would impede the interests of others.

Nie Zehai’s career was taking off at Xu Hening’s expense!

Xu Hening was a chart-topping young star who was trying to reinforce his popularity with “Legend of Qinghe,” but Nie Zehai ended up being the biggest beneficiary.

Nowadays, people would compare him with Nie Zehai whenever “Legend of Qinghe” was mentioned.

Xu Hening was a trust fund baby, and rumor had it that the Xu family's fortune was obtained through questionable means.

How could he not be mad that Nie Zehai had stolen his limelight?

Therefore, it was no wonder that he would do Nie Zehai dirty.

Gu Qiang's involvement was the rather unexpected part.

Sure enough, Xia Xibei's intervention was even more unexpected to Bai Meixue.

"I was wondering how she performed so well on the show. So Nie Zehai's been helping her all along!" Xia Qinghan wore a disdainful look, "I thought she really was sharp-witted!"

She still couldn't let go of how well Xia Xibei had performed on the show. She knew it! There was no way Xia Xibei could be that knowledgeable.

It turned out that she had been riding on someone's coattails for that!

"I wonder when she hooked up with Nie Zehai..." Bai Meixue sighed with emotion, "But she has made a fool of herself!"

Xia Qinghan laughed merrily, "If she wasn't a fool, we couldn't have made this work."

Nie Zehai's scandal wasn't one that could be easily resolved, unlike the usual affair or break-up scandals. This was a legal matter of a very serious nature, very difficult to handle.

Not only did Xia Xibei not cut off all ties with Nie Zehai in time, she even took the initiative to defend him. She was definitely out of her mind, wasn't she?

"This time, they are determined to get rid of Nie Zehai from the industry. Let them bury Xia Xibei along with him!" Xia Qinghan laughed in a sly manner.

She was also startled when she first received the photo of Nie Zehai and Xia Xibei.

Nevertheless, her feud with Xia Xibei was a well-known matter, thus it was only natural that the person sought help from her.

No matter what, she would always be more than willing to sabotage Xia Xibei.

"I'll have them add a little more fuel," Bai Meixue said with a chuckle, sending a few texts.

Very soon, pieces of news about Xia Xibei and "Million Dollar Courage and Wisdom" started showing up on the internet.

That night, "Million Dollar Courage and Wisdom" officially aired.

## **Chapter 442: This Wasn't Quite Right**

The preliminary rounds of "Million Dollar Courage and Wisdom" would be released on the website in two separate episodes, and filming would continue.

The show did release a trailer prior to the airing, but it did not draw much attention.

Nonetheless, it quickly became the center of attention after what happened with Xia Xibei and Nie Zehai.

The netizens were eager to know just how "astonishing" Xia Xibei's performance was on the show.

Thus, the crew found out that the number of views quickly skyrocketed after the first episode, which far surpassed their expectation.

The viewers who watched the first episode were in a quandary.

They had come to watch the show with the intention of checking out the scandal, but surprisingly ended up enjoying the show a lot!

What impressed them the most was Xia Xibei's performance.

The amount of confidence and composure she had and the immensity of her knowledge, as well as the way she had the answers to various questions at her fingertips left everyone in awe and envy.

She was so fast in responding that she came up with the answer right after a question was displayed!

The speed at which she answered the questions left all the viewers in total stupefaction.

“Damn! Is that how fierce all top scholars are?”

“Holy jeez, I feel like a moron right now!”

“How can someone have both looks and wits? I don’t think I should even exist now.”

“There are quite a few pretty girls on the show! Ren Ningning is my favorite!”

“I’m speechless! This reminds me of those scary top students back at school!”

“LOL, you guys actually believe she’s a top scholar? Can’t you tell from the look of it? The questions have been leaked!”

“Questions have been leaked? Holy cr\*p! You must be kidding right?”

“Didn’t you read the news? Xia Xibei and Nie Zehai had a fling! Do you think it’d be hard to get her the questions in advance, with Nie Zehai’s influence?”

“Goodness! Do all shows play dirty these days? What a huge disrespect to the viewers!”

“Xia Qinghan is pretty impressive too. Although she got two questions wrong, that’s just what we consider normal, ain’t it? She’s a true beauty with brains!”

“You’re right... It’s not logical, getting all the questions right!”

“Our Sister Bei has always been a genius. Those who say there’s some inside dealing going on must be dregs of the class I suppose? How would dregs understand the greatness of top scholars?”

“LMAO! Yeah, yeah, your Sister Bei is great! She’s the greatest of all! Why won’t she take a look in the mirror?”

Xia Qinghan and Bai Meixue were dying with laughter as they went through the comments.

However, they came to their senses after a while—this wasn’t quite right though!

Everyone was busy talking about Xia Xibei and Nie Zehai at the moment, what about Xia Qinghan then?

Xia Qinghan was also a contestant on the show, so why didn’t they mention her much?

Apparently, there were very few mentions of Xia Qinghan in the comments, not even adding up to one-fifth of the comments about Xia Xibei!

“No way, I’ll have them ramp up their efforts!”

Bai Meixue was wearing a look of dismay.

It was true that their motive was to bring Xia Xibei down, but Xia Qinghan’s popularity had to be boosted in the meantime!

But look at what was going on! Why was everyone only talking about Xia Xibei?

This wasn’t right!

Bai Meixue got in touch with the marketing company right away. Very soon, comments about Xia Qinghan started popping up on the internet.

Before they could rest at ease however, topics about Xia Xibei began raging all over again, and Xia Qinghan’s popularity went down in no time.

The two exchanged glances, their faces ashen.



Bai Meixue could only comfort Xia Qinghan, “Don’t worry! The more they talk about her now, the worse she’ll end up!”

Xia Qinghan had no choice but to grit her teeth and bear with it. She couldn’t wait to witness Xia Xibei’s nasty fall!

Soon, Gu Qiang posted screenshots of her conversation with Nie Zehai’s manager, Brother Mao, which stirred up another round of commotion.

#### **Chapter 443: Get the Hell Out of the Industry**

The screenshots posted by Gu Qiang raised a whole new climax.

[Brother Mao]: Here’s my sincere advice for you, admit your fault ASAP!

[Gu Qiang]: What fault do I have? It was Nie Zehai who tried to rape me! And you’re asking to admit my fault?!

[Brother Mao]: Tried to rape you? You know if he really did it, so do I. We both know it too well.

[Gu Qiang]: Yeah, we know it too well! You know what exactly Nie Zehai did!

[Brother Mao]: I know, you didn't defame Hai out of your own will. If you could admit to your mistake, I promise you, we'll leave it at that.

[Gu Qiang]: Defame him? LMAO! If you think I was trying to defame him, you should just call the cops!

[Brother Mao]: Gu Qiang, I know you've had a rough time in the industry. Don't let all your hard work go to waste.

[Gu Qiang]: Are you threatening me?

[Brother Mao]: I'm not threatening you. I just want you to know that if you don't hold yourself back before things get out of hand, the consequences will be beyond salvation.

[Gu Qiang]: Is that so? I'm eager to find out!

A massive outrage broke out right after the screenshots were posted.

"Holy sh\*t! So they even threatened her! Scumbags!!"

"This 'Brother Mao' is Nie Zehai's manager? It's true that birds of a feather flock together!"

"Look how good he is at it. How many times have they done things like that? I can't imagine how someone who looks as kind as Nie Zehai can be such a\*\*hole!"

“That’s downright disgusting! I’m officially a hater now!”

“Don’t worry, Gu Qiang, we’ll stand by your side through it all!”

“It’s the existence of jerks like him that wreak havoc on the entertainment industry!”

“Scumbags like him should get the hell out of the industry! What a terrible influence on youngsters!”

“Young girls out there even worship Nie Zehai! Idols like him are a bad influence!”

The netizens were indignant.

Rapists like him were worse than trash!

In the midst of their wrath, a couple more unheard-of female celebrities appeared out of nowhere and accused Nie Zehai of harassing them in the past.

Both of them had collaborated with Nie Zehai for a short period of time.

If this happened in the past, people would only think that they were trying to take advantage of his clout.

With Gu Qiang spearheading the accusation, however, people started to doubt Nie Zehai's character.

Perverts like him must be used to committing such acts. God knew just how many people he had harassed till this day!

In response to all these accusations, Nie Zehai finally made a move on Weibo.

"To the people who accused me of harassing or assaulting you, please get your evidence ready. Otherwise, watch out for the backlash!"

His words sparked a huge splash, like a drop of water that fell into a boiling pot of oil.

"Damn it! What a shameless narcissist! How dare he threaten his victims after what he did!"

"Holy cr\*p! I didn't know Nie Zehai was such a pervert! I'm a hater now! I'm gonna hate him for life!"

"Looks can be misleading indeed. Fans even called him a knight in shining armor before this! Now the joke's on them! Scumbags can be good-looking, y'all!"

"Trash like him should get the hell out of the industry!"

“Artist and manager alike, a bunch of sewer rats!”

#NieZehaiGetLost# and #SewerRats# topped the chart of most popular topics in no time, escalating relentlessly.

Topics about Nie Zehai almost occupied the entire list of trending topics for two days, while Xia Xibei was frequently mentioned as well.

On the other hand, Xia Qinghan’s name was nowhere to be seen among the trending topics.

In just a couple of days, Nie Zehai became a pest that people were loathing and condemning all the time.

While things were snowballing into a bigger and nastier mess, someone got a chance to interview Xu Hening to get his opinion on the incident.

#### **Chapter 444: Coming to a Climax**

Xu Hening had collaborated with Nie Zehai before, and having been frequently compared with him as of late, there was no way the reporters would let him go without getting his view on the incident.

Rumor even had it that Xu Hening had shown his distaste for Nie Zehai in private, and their fans had some strife before as well.

How could conflicts not arise when Nie Zehai, the supporting actor of “Legend of Qinghe”, had won more acclaim than Xu Hening, who was the male lead?

Hence, reporters went to Xu Hening, wanting to interview him on the incident.

Xu Hening wore a polite, social smile, “I’ve been busy with work lately. I’m not really sure what’s going on.”

Nonetheless, how could the reporters let him get away with it?

“What’s your impression of Nie Zehai, then? After all, you’ve been working together for such a long period of time.”

Xu Hening laughed a little, “We only got together for work, we didn’t hang out much in private.”

“From what you could see, what would you say about his character then?”

“We would act together when there were scenes that required us to. Other than that, we seldom got together. But I could see that he was often with other female co-workers...”

“Yeah? With other female co-workers? What did he do with them?” The reporters were instantly intrigued.

Xu Hening put on an awkward smile, as if he had said something that he shouldn't have. Hastily, he said, "Apologies, I have a gig coming up."

His manager came forth to do the peacemaking.

"Hening has a gig to attend, we gotta go now. Sorry!"

Xu Hening left, leaving the reporters with vast room for imagination and some maneuvering.

"Nie Zehai Had Close Association with Many Female Co-workers".

"Xu Hening: I'm Not Close with Nie Zehai".

"Nie Zehai's True Colors Revealed!"

Below these news articles were yet another surge of heated discussions among the netizens.

"Great job Xu Hening! Staying clear of jerks like him is exactly what you should do!"

"So it's true that he's a habitual offender. Now everyone knows what a scumbag Nie Zehai is!"

“Fans used to say that Nie Zehai was Qi Chen himself in real life, devoted and affectionate. LMFAO, now the joke’s on y’all!”

“Wasn’t Xu Hening trying to throw dirt on him by being so ambiguous?”

“Throw dirt on him? Did he need to do that when Nie Zehai’s already a proven douchebag?”

Articles about Xu Hening and Nie Zehai were dug up once again.

When “Legend of Qinghe” was trending previously, lots of busybodies had put the two of them in comparison.

At that time, Xu Hening’s acting had been a laughingstock.

Although Xu Hening had a lot of fans, they were unhappy about how the opposing force turned out equally unbeatable in the dispute.

Nie Zehai was like a dark horse that appeared out of nowhere, which posed a serious threat to Xu Hening’s status. It was bound to rouse a great amount of displeasure.

Besides, articles about Nie Zehai were all favorable before this, while the ones about Xu Hening were mostly negative. How could the fans take such an insult with ease?

They were all strung out about how Nie Zehai’s popularity was reaching new heights every day.



Then this incident struck like a bolt from the blue. It was like he couldn't wait to rush towards his own destruction!

How could they sit back and watch him fall apart without giving him a push?

This time, articles that sang praises and threw insults popped up all over the internet.

Fans even bragged about how Xu Hening was a positive, honest artist who wouldn't mingle with dregs of society like Nie Zehai.

Sure enough, those who stood by Nie Zehai's side were brutally condemned and proclaimed garbage!

As the incident came to a climax, the film crew, which had been silent all the while, finally spoke up.

"After a series of investigations, we agreed on the standpoint that @Gu Qiang was defaming @Nie Zehai, and detrimental consequences have resulted. Hence, we have decided to terminate our contract with @Gu Qiang."

Every bystander was shocked speechless.

Excuse me?!

## Chapter 445: Shocking Reversal

Wait, what?

Did they read it wrong, or did the crew send out the wrong news?

Shouldn't Nie Zehai be kicked out? Why was it Gu Qiang?

Things were so clear and obvious, so why was the result like this?

[Is Nie Zehai covering up the whole thing? It's outrageous!]

However, before their anger could fully erupt, Nie Zehai's blog and the company's official blog both sent out a lawyer's letter at the same time, both with intent to sue Gu Qiang for defamation and slander.

The audience didn't know what to say.

It felt like the drama was escalating.

This time, they didn't have to wait long.

Soon, two video links appeared on Nie Zehai's blog.

[Here's the evidence you asked for.]

Everyone froze for a moment, then quickly clicked on the video.

The first video was shot in a dressing room and was likely taken with a cell phone, as it was not as clear as a professional camera.

The door rang, Nie Zehai went to open the door and Gu Qiang came in.

Because of the angle, in the video, Gu Qiang could be seen smiling at Nie Zehai with great enthusiasm and charm. She said that she wanted to discuss the previous shoot with him.

However, when she looked up and saw a surveillance monitor in the corner, she decisively left.

This video made everyone mutter and think.

Here, Gu Qiang looked very enthusiastic, her eyes looked as if she wanted to eat Nie Zehai.

This... Was completely different from Gu Qiang's previous accusation!

With this idea in mind, everyone clicked on the second video.

The second video was several minutes long.

This time, the location had changed to a hotel room.

Nie Zehai opened the door again and couldn't help but stare.

"It's you?"

Gu Qiang was neatly dressed. She smiled at him and strode in with big steps, closing the door with her hand.

"Am I not welcome?"

Nie Zehai let her in before he could react.

"What do you want?" Nie Zehai asked, his face visibly darkening.

"I don't want anything, I just wanted to discuss something with you." Gu Qiang threw a wink at him.

"We can talk about whatever it is tomorrow, now please get out!" Nie Zehai wanted to push her out.

“Don’t get so emotional!” She dodged Nie Zehai’s shove and her smile became even more sultry. “I came here with great sincerity.”

“Get out!” Nie Zehai shouted with a sullen face.

Gu Qiang ripped open her collar, her smile deepening. “Don’t be like this, I really am sincere.” She leaned over and exhaled in a whisper, “I think you’re amazing... Ouch!”

As Nie Zehai turned, she almost fell, stumbling as she almost hit the wall.

“Nie Zehai!” She was a little annoyed, “You’re going too far!”

Nie Zehai’s jaw dropped.

How dare she say such a thing?! Who was going too far?!

“I’m warning you, don’t force me to do it!”

“Do it?” Gu Qiang’s eyes lit up. “Come on!”

Her voice was wobbly and the video couldn’t help but shake. It was probably due to the shaking hand of the person filming.

The audience outside the video couldn't help but shake.

Nie Zehai was infuriated by Gu Qiang's shamelessness.

"Get the hell out of here or I'll call someone!"

"Call someone? It's okay, go ahead and call. There's only me and you in the room. Who will they believe?" Gu Qiang smiled even wider, but her hands were tearing at her clothes.

"What do you want?" Nie Zehai's eyes widened. "You're crazy!"

Gu Qiang raised her eyebrows, "I'm not crazy, I'm normal."

As she said these words, she gave herself a slap.

The slap was so loud that everyone watching shook again.

This was too harsh!

In a moment, red swelling appeared on Gu Qiang's face, while her clothes were also torn into a mess.

“You...”

“Argh!”

Before Nie Zehai could finish talking, she screamed, opened the door, and rushed out.

### **Chapter 446: Slap in the Face**

Everyone’s jaws dropped after watching these two videos,

WTF?!

The content completely overthrew their previous perceptions.

It was not that Nie Zehai wanted to violate Gu Qiang, but that Gu Qiang was slandering Nie Zehai!

Everyone’s mind was in turmoil. The more cheerfully they had cursed before, the more ashamed they were now.

None of the arguments and statements were as clear and powerful as this video!

These two videos were like huge slaps, landing hard on their faces.

“WTF! It’s so damn exciting! I told you before, Brother Hai was definitely wrongly accused! See! This is a powerful slap in the face!”

“Ah! I’m crying! Brother Hai is innocent! Gu Qiang is the scum!”

“Those who condemned Brother Hai before, come out now! Is your face swollen? Is it?”

Fans who supported Nie Zehai were close to tears. Before, Nie Zehai had been blacked out by the whole internet and condemned by everyone. Even a lot of fans abandoned him, with only a few of them still fighting and believing in him.

Being an enemy to everyone was not easy.

Now it was fantastic! Nie Zehai’s fighting back was too effective! No statement or photo could be as straightforward as this video! This was the most powerful evidence!

Fans were so excited, they wanted to go out and fire a cannon salute!

Unlike the fans’ excitement and joy, others reacted with shame and anger.

Of course, this was directed towards Gu Qiang.



Now, they hated Gu Qiang as much as they had supported her before!

“I’m so mad! Gu Qiang, you b\*tch!”

“Gu Qiang should be annihilated! This was not slander, this was a set-up! It’s so vicious!”

“I want to apologize to Nie Zehai, I’m sorry! Gu Qiang, you scum! Go to hell! I’ll kill you!”

“Gu Qiang is too vicious! She used such tricks to frame others! It’s horrible! She is the real scum! If she succeeded, wouldn’t Nie Zehai’s life be ruined?”

“If she was just trying to get ahead, that’s one thing, but she was trying to get Nie Zehai killed! Gu Qiang, you should explode on the spot!”

“I’m curious, why didn’t Nie Zehai release the video before?”

“If the evidence had been released before, could we have seen this good show? I have to say, Nie Zehai is also scheming!”

“I think it’s a good idea to have a little bit of scheming, or you’ll just be set up! Would you want to be a naive fool, and not know it?”

“Now that I’ve carefully read the chat records posted by Gu Qiang before, I can see she was given the opportunity to confess!”

“Yes! Before, I thought the agent was threatening Gu Qiang, but now I realize that he was giving her a chance to change the story. It’s a pity, but Gu Qiang wanted to destroy herself!”

“There’s more people involved too! Those two D-list actresses, with their plastic-surgery! How dare they say Nie Zehai harassed them?!”

“In addition to those two plastic surgery faces, Xu Hening is not a good person either!”

“Just talk about it. Don’t bring our Ningning into it, okay?”

“Oh, now you’re playing innocent? Who said before that Brother Hai had more dealings with the opposite sex? Did he not start a rumor? He’s acting so phony!”

“Thanks to Zhou Chunheng, Yin Jiaojiao, and Xia Xibei! They are really good friends! It’s a time of crisis that shows your character!”

The reversal was so powerful, it stunned everyone.

The topics of #NieZehaiInnocent, #FacePunchingVideo, #GuQiangScum, #GuQiangGetOutOfEntertainment, etc., landed on the topic list and kept climbing wildly!

## Chapter 447: It's Over

Many people were confused when looking at the tidal wave of anger online.

Gu Qiang's mind was blank.

Her agent wanted to slap her, his face twisting as he growled, "When you went in, didn't you see the camera?!"

Gu Qiang's expression was bewildered as she mumbled, "I- I checked! There wasn't any!"

Why would Nie Zehai's hotel room have a surveillance camera?

"And there was no one inside!"

She had obviously checked to make sure nothing was there before she dared to act!

"Then where did these videos come from?!" The agent continued to growl, his voice as loud as a bell.

They had put a lot of effort into this plot.

They moved Brother Mao away and they cleared the others away, leaving Nie Zehai by himself in the room.

As long as Gu Qiang and Nie Zehai were alone together in the room, wasn't everything left to their interpretation?

Even if Nie Zehai wanted to explain, with no evidence, who would believe him?

But how did these videos pop up out of nowhere?!

As soon as they saw the videos, they knew it was over!

The evidence was so straightforward and clear, anyone with brains would know what was going on.

The first time the evidence appeared, they found online accounts to say that the video was faked by Nie Zehai, that the Gu Qiang in the video was faked by someone else.

However, they didn't try to explain this until two days after being scolded, so Nie Zehai's camp was prepared for everything.

Soon, someone took Gu Qiang's photo and used it to compare it with the person in the video.

The Gu Qiang in the video had a hickey at her collarbone when she was stripping her clothes, a mark that matched the photo she posted.

Together, with other features, such as the redness and swelling on her face, everyone quickly established the authenticity of the video.

Nie Zehai also had an explanation as for who took the video.

The first video was inadvertently taken by a friend.

The second time, the three of them were chatting in the room when Gu Qiang came again, so the two friends hid, not expecting to take this video.

There were also people who wondered how the video would be taken all of a sudden.

But no matter what, Nie Zehai stuck to his story.

Moreover, the video was not faked by them. It was indeed real.

It was certain that Gu Qiang set up Nie Zehai!

In the face of such evidence, Gu Qiang's side had no way to clear her name!

Now, everyone was condemning and scolding Gu Qiang angrily. If she went out, rotten eggs would definitely be thrown at her.

Gu Qiang's agent and company were all very anxious.

Originally, they wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to make her rise to the top, but they didn't expect to be hit in the face with such ferocity!

While they were panicking, Gu Qiang's assistant turned pale as she pointed at her phone and called out, "Sister Qiang, look!"

The assistant's reaction made their hearts jump.

When they took the assistant's phone and saw the photos on the screen, their faces suddenly turned white with fear.

"Gu Qiang's secret love life exposed! How many lovers does she have?"

There were several photos below. The men in the photos were different, but they all seemed very close to Gu Qiang.

Though these men's eyes were blurred, the blurring was not at all effective.

Gu Qiang's small face did not have a bit of blood. She was cold all over, with only one thought in her mind: she was finished!

The internet, which had not yet calmed down, was once again thrown into a frenzy as everyone's minds exploded.

Because, in addition to two middle-aged men with fat bellies among Gu Qiang's lovers, there was also Xu Hening!

In an instant, both fans and non-fans went crazy!

#### **Chapter 448: Crazy Backlash**

Xu Hening was a popular, young, male star and his fan base was always very strong.

Ever since childhood, he always had smooth sailing. Only Nie Zehai had made him suffer defeat.

His family was rich, and he had many girlfriends.

However, in the open, he had no girlfriend. After all, he relied on his female fans to make money, so his persona could not collapse.

Due to the straightforward persona he usually maintained, many people believed what he said before.

After that, he even found people to suppress Nie Zehai in public opinion.

One guy was bright and straightforward, and the other guy violated a girl; everyone knew who to trust.

Therefore, when his relationship with Gu Qiang was exposed, things instantly got out of hand.

It wasn't clear where the paparazzi got the information, but Gu Qiang's rich lovers were all found out.

When they saw that Xu Hening and Gu Qiang had an affair, everyone felt betrayed and outraged.

"The truth is out! Xu Hening and Gu Qiang had an affair. He was jealous of Nie Zehai's popularity, so he and Gu Qiang plotted to frame Nie Zehai! But they didn't expect that justice would be done, so let's see who the heavens will spare!"

"Gu Qiang was too good! She had her feet on so many boats at the same time! I want to laugh though— Xu Hening, no matter how powerful he is, is only one of the boats!"

"Scumbag boy and girl, they're a perfect match! But, if you guys want to ruin yourselves, don't drag others into it, okay?"

And that's not all.

Soon, photos of Xu Hening and other girls appeared online.



People then realized that he changed his girlfriend much faster than Gu Qiang changed her men!

And one of his many girlfriends was a fan!

A beautiful girl was his fan, and the two had a very secret relationship.

Xu Hening was very careful not to take any photos with her or leave traces.

But he didn't know that, after he fell asleep, the girl still took a picture of them together.

The girl originally thought that she was the only one with him. When she saw these photos on the Internet, she realized that she had been cheated on!

So, she exposed their relationship in outrage.

Everyone was shocked.

“Oh my God! What an amazing reversal! The entertainment circle is too messed up! Gu Qiang and Xu Hening are no good, but they really match each other!”

Didn't they?

Gu Qiang had so many benefactors, and Xu Hening had so many girlfriends... They were a match in heaven!

“Only Nie Zehai was a little bit miserable. He was almost ruined by them!”

It was also discovered that the two actresses who had previously accused Nie Zehai of harassing them also had an unspoken relationship with Xu Hening!

“Whoa! This is simply the drama of the year!”

Everyone almost died from all this explosive gossip.

In response, Xu Hening also released a statement, saying that these online speculations were false. He and Gu Qiang were just friends, and they did not have much interaction. If the rumors continued, he would take legal action.

He was also going to sue the fan, saying she had falsely accused him.

But anyone could see that he was struggling with desperation.

Because of this incident, Xu Hening’s image had dropped to the ground, and the damage was stronger than the previous attacks on Nie Zehai.

Everyone vented their guilt and frustration at this deception, and Xu Hening couldn't handle the crazy anger.

In just a few days, Xu Hening had lost several endorsements and projects.

Gu Qiang was not doing much better. The show had dropped her, and Nie Zehai sent her a lawyer's letter, taking her to court.

In addition to condemning the bad guys, Nie Zehai once again made a post to thank his friends for their support, and at the same time, he explained his relationship with Xia Xibei.

"We are just friends. If you want to put it differently—she saved my life!"

#### **Chapter 449: Not Playing the Couple**

"You saved his life?" Qiao Yanjue looked at Xia Xibei with an expressionless face, "When did you save him?"

Facing his deep gaze, Xia Xibei could not help but feel a little weak in the heart.

"Saving his life... That may be an overstatement. I only did him a small favor."

“A small favor?” Qiao Yanjue was still expressionless. “Why would he say that if it was just a small favor?”

Nie Zehai made a post expressing his gratitude to Zhou Chunheng and Yin Jiaojiao, posting a separate message saying that Xia Xibei was his lifesaver.

It was not a casual thing to say.

Thinking about what she did, Xia Xibei’s eyes wandered a bit.

“Actually, although I helped him, I also gained a lot of benefits. So, we were helping each other.”

“What benefits?”

“He helped me get an audition before, and this time he helped me get a variety show.”

“A variety show?” Qiao Yanjue frowned.

“Right,” Xia Xibei nodded, “And through this whole thing, my popularity has gone up a lot more.”

She joked, “So, I’m not losing out from this publicity.”

“Aren’t you afraid that they’ll ship you and him as a couple?”

Thinking about what the fans were saying online, the air pressure around Qiao Yanjue seemed to drop a few points.

Because Nie Zehai thanked Xia Xibei so formally, the fans got excited once again.

Xia Xibei was good-looking. She had top looks even in the entertainment industry, where there were many beautiful people, so she was a good match for Nie Zehai!

And when Nie Zehai had this crisis, she unhesitatingly stood by his side to support him. Wasn’t this true love?!

If it was before the crisis, there must be a lot of people accusing Xia Xibei of kissing up.

But after this incident, fans were much more tolerant of her.

There were also fans saying that the Haibei Couple pairing was the sweetest!

All of these comments made the veins on Qiao Yanjue’s forehead jump.

The more time he spent with Xia Xibei, the clearer he understood that she preferred a soft touch to a hard one.

Therefore, he could only hold back the resentment in his heart and tolerate it.

“Ship us as a couple?”

Xia Xibei looked at Qiao Yanjue in surprise. She didn’t expect him to be so trendy and to know this online slang!

However, she wasn’t worried.

“Don’t worry, this won’t work.”

“Why not?”

“They’re just saying it for fun right now. They just like making people into couples, even if the matches are random. We will not do anything to hype it, so there is no cooperation. After a while, when Brother Hai has other matches, this trend will naturally pass.”

Nie Zehai also considered this when he uploaded the post.

After all, he wasn’t just anyone. Anything could be overly interpreted by fans.

If Xia Xibei was connected to Nie Zehai too early, it wouldn't be good for her development.

However, as long as they didn't hype it afterwards and the paparazzi didn't capture their interactions, the buzz would slowly fade away.

"Is that so?"

Hearing her say that, Qiao Yanjue's face finally relaxed a little. "It would be bad for your development if you were linked with other people too early."

Xia Xibei looked at him in surprise, "I didn't expect you to know so much about this!"

Qiao Yanjue was amused by her. "Do you think I'm old-fashioned? I know how to surf the internet too!"

Although he did not follow celebrities, that did not mean that he didn't know anything. Besides, he owned an entertainment company!

"Yes, yes, yes! You are the trendiest!" Xia Xibei nodded her head.

That being said, the first thing Qiao Yanjue did when he went back was have someone squash talk of the Haibei Couple.

## Chapter 450: The Topic Dies Down

There were a lot of Haibei fans online because of this incident, and they also made the list of topics.

Although the fans' fascination about the matter would fade eventually, Xia Xibei did not want to let this matter continue to ferment and affect her development.

The best way to lower interest in something was to make something else hot.

Just after returning home, Xia Xibei received a call from Tang Luo.

Tang Luo said with a laugh, "We have made preparations for the next stage."

"Yes, thank you for your trouble," Xia Xibei said with a smile.

"You're welcome... Wait a minute?"

"What's wrong?" Xia Xibei asked immediately.

"There's a few topics that have dropped in popularity."

"Which topics?"



“The topics about you and Brother Hai.”

Xia Xibei was surprised. “What about the rest?”

“The other topics... Are on the rise.”

Xia Xibei was silent for a moment. “That’s not a problem, right?”

“No,” Tang Luo shook his head. “I will continue to put out news from my side.”

“Okay, thank you.”

After hanging up the phone, Xia Xibei also opened up the microblog topic list.

Soon, she saw that the #haibeicouple topic, originally ranked in the top 30, had fallen to top 80. If she hadn’t flipped to the end of the list, she wouldn’t have been able to find it.

The other two related topics also dropped to the bottom of the list.

And what rose was the topic about her and Xia Qinghan.

After the previous broadcast of “Million Dollar Wisdom & Courage,” many people doubted the authenticity of Xia Xibei’s results because of certain rumors.

In contrast, there was naturally a touting for Xia Qinghan.

Xia Qinghan only got a few questions wrong, which was a normal occurrence, whereas it was not reasonable for Xia Xibei to get all the questions right.

Xia Qinghan took advantage of this matter, pushing down on Xia Xibei and promoting her own topic.

If Nie Zehai did not end up vindicated, Xia Xibei would also be very badly affected. Then, Xia Qinghan would have won.

But unfortunately, things did not develop as Xia Qinghan and Bai Meixue thought they would.

The reversal caught them off-guard.

Xia Xibei casually clicked on a topic list to see everyone’s comments.

“If someone says Xia Xibei cheated, then I can also say that Xia Qinghan cheated! You can say anything with no evidence!”

“If the questions weren’t leaked, then how could Xia Xibei do so well? I don’t believe it!”

“Oh, just because you don’t believe it, doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist. There is a saying: My poverty limits my imagination. The same applies to you: Your IQ limits your imagination!”

There was another war of words below, all arguing over whether the questions had been leaked or not. This discussion was also interspersed with some strange remarks.

“I really don’t care whether the questions are leaked or not. Xibei is so beautiful! She’s a fairy tale maiden! And did Xia Qinghan offend the makeup artist? Didn’t they say they were about the same age? How come she looked so much older?”

“I thought so too! It felt like they had the same makeup. Why did Xia Qinghan look so much older?”

“Does anyone know the lipstick Xia Xibei was wearing? I want to buy it!”

“It seems that they both had the same lipstick, right? Don’t bother. This lipstick can’t be worn by everyone.”

“I love Xia Xibei’s necklace, it’s so beautiful!”

Looking at these skewed comments, Xia Xibei couldn’t help but shake her head and grin.

Soon, she received a call from an unfamiliar number.

“Sister Lili?” She was surprised.

“Xibei, did you know they are changing the rules and topics of the show?”

Xia Xibei was surprised.

“Changes?”

“Right,” Sister Lili nodded. “I heard them talking about it, so I wanted to let you know first. The announcement should be out soon. You should get ready as soon as possible.”

“Good. Thank you, Sister Lili.”

“Uh... There’s one more thing!”

## **Chapter 451: First Sale**

“What is it?”

“Umm, the facial and eye serums that you gave me before... Do you still have any of those left?”

Sister Lili sounded embarrassed yet a little excited.

The effects of the face serum and eye serum that Xia Xibei gave her were absolutely marvelous!

Previously, she didn't quite believe what Xia Xibei said when she gave her the face and eye serums.

Which brand of skincare products could possibly yield such spectacular results?

Nevertheless, since the things were now at her disposal, she wouldn't let them go to waste.

She happened to be running out of facial and eye serums at that time, so she reckoned she would give it a try.

Much to her surprise, she could feel the difference right after applying them on her face.

The products that she normally used were of a luxury brand as well. The results were fairly decent, but nothing too exaggerated.

However, after using the face and eye serums that Xia Xibei gave, she now understood that the alleged "peaches and cream complexion" and "seraphic, glowing skin" in commercials truly existed!

She used to have acne scars and blemishes on her face, which quickly disappeared after two to three days of use. Her skin became so much smoother and clearer.

The fine lines and wrinkles at the corners of her eyes had also visibly faded.

And it had only been a couple of days!

She was completely stunned by the instantaneous effect!

Were those celebrity products? The effects were unbelievable!

She had wanted to contact Xia Xibei before this, but having been occupied with her work, she was afraid to disturb Xia Xibei, considering that it was late at night when she came home.

Then a few days passed, and Xia Xibei had gotten involved in Nie Zehai's scandal. It was now an even worse time to disturb her.

The two little vials would become empty soon. She couldn't help it anymore, so she used the pretext of notifying Xia Xibei to bring up the matter today.

Xia Xibei laughed in response to her request.

"Of course I have them."

“Really?!” Sister Lili was elated, “Could I get some from you then? Money isn’t a problem!”

Xia Xibei previously gave them to her as a gift, and now was the time to spend her own money.

The products couldn’t be cheap, considering their striking effects. She couldn’t just get them for free.

“You have to ask someone else for them.”

Sister Lili couldn’t help but be disappointed.

“Ask who?”

“Sister Hong, of course, I got them all from her shop. You know how to reach her, right?”

“Yeah, yeah, I know! I’ll contact her now!”

“Sure,” Xia Xibei nodded with a smile, then hung up the call.

She had wondered why Sister Lili wasn’t calling, as her products shouldn’t be ineffective.

Fortunately, things had turned out well.

Very soon, Liu Manhong gave her a call.

“We just sold two sets!”

Liu Manhong was delighted. This was their first sale, and the products were sold at the prices that they had set beforehand.

“Great start!” Xia Xibei was satisfied too. “You’ve gotten the place ready too, haven’t you?”

“Of course. We’re tidying up now, so it’ll be up and running in a few days.”

Liu Manhong got even more excited as she talked about it.

Hongyan Beauty Parlor was renamed to Hongyan Beauty Club. The interior design of the place had been changed, as was a big proportion of the workforce.

When Sister Lili called, she recommended the club’s new programme to her, and assured her that the effects would be even more impressive when combined with the beauticians’ techniques.

Nevertheless, the price was equally expensive. The entire treatment would cost tens of thousands!

Hongyan’s products and programmes had never been cheap, but the price was a few times more expensive now! How many people could actually afford it?!



However, Liu Manhong also told her that since they just opened, the first twenty customers could enjoy a 40% discount, while customers who introduced the products to friends would be offered even more.

Therefore, Sister Lili didn't hesitate long before agreeing to bring her friends over.

"We'll let Xianrong get down on their knees and cry before us this time!" Liu Manhong pledged with confidence.

#### **Chapter 452: Whom Was He Here For**

Yu Lanxiang was dumbfounded when she learnt that Hongyan Beauty Club would be reopening in a few days, and a lot of people were invited.

All along, she had thought that Hongyan was closed down because they couldn't survive any longer. The so-called renovation and reopening were all just a cover-up.

Never had she expected Hongyan to reopen for real! Was Liu Manhong insane?

Many beauticians from Hongyan had been poached by Yu Lanxiang, including their apprentices.

Most importantly, she had taken over their customers.

Throughout the past month, at least 50 percent of Hongyan's customers had gone to Xianrong. Besides, the customers had given Xianrong good reviews.

Their sales were so good that Yu Lanxiang had even opened several branches at other locations, all of which were going to be launched very soon.

After getting to know Hongyan's plan, Yu Lanxiang hastened the renovation workers at the branches to speed up their work right away, even asking her employees to get ready.

She had decided to open on the same day as Hongyan!

She would let Hongyan know what it was like to cry their hearts out!

Yu Lanxiang couldn't stop grinning as she thought of how Liu Manhong would react.

Right as she started laughing, however, she saw her eldest son, Wan Shicheng, walking out in a formal suit.

"Where are you going?"

It was about 7 or 8 o'clock at night already. Where was he planning to go?

Wan Shicheng glanced at his mother and replied in a casual tone, "I have an appointment with a client."

"You're meeting a client at this hour?" Yu Lanxiang didn't quite believe what he said. What kind of client would ask to meet so late at night?

Anyway, she had never been too strict with Wan Shicheng, despite being his mother. Since Wan Shicheng had assumed a directing position at the company, she had even less control over him now.

"Be careful then."

"I know," Wan Shicheng nodded before striding out of the house.

Yu Lanxiang didn't notice the earnest, confident smile that he was wearing. He even tidied his tie in order to make himself look more handsome and jaunty.

If Yu Lanxiang knew the true reason that her son had gone out this late at night, she would surely go crazy!

Wan Shicheng was heading to the TV station.

He heard from Xia Qinghan that the semi-finals would be filmed tonight, so he decided to go over.

His target, of course, was Xia Xibei.

Having suffered defeat in front of Xia Xibei the last time they had met, Wan Shicheng felt somewhat disheartened.

Originally, he had planned to use that as an opportunity to get in touch with Xia Xibei, but the events that had unfolded later on were beyond his expectation.

He Sisi was full of resentment right now too. How could she not be after losing so much money?

Because of that, he even provided a few hundred thousands for He Sisi, thereby putting an end to her grudge.

Although the whole thing seemed a bit strange. How could he give up when Xia Xibei was nothing but a little girl?

The last encounter was an accident. This time, Xia Xibei would certainly be surprised and pleased that he went to pick her up from the TV station in person. After all, no girl in this world would be able to resist such a spontaneous move.

While brooding over it, Wan Shicheng drove the flashiest car that his family owned to the place.

Ten minutes after arriving at the TV station, he saw a small group of people walking out of the building.

His eyes lit up instantly.

“Miss Xia.”

“Brother Shicheng?” Xia Qinghan, who was in the rear, was extremely surprised. However, she didn’t understand why Wan Shicheng was calling her Miss Xia.

Wan Shicheng was Qiao Haoming’s older cousin, which made him her relative too. There was no need for such courtesy between them!

With an impeccable smile on his face, Wan Shicheng walked up to Xia Xibei.

“You are done with filming, aren’t you? How about I give you girls a ride back?”

The look on Xia Qinghan’s face turned awful right away.

### **Chapter 453: Overconfidence**

For a second, Xia Xibei was stunned by the sight of Wan Shicheng standing right in front of her, then the look in her eyes turned dark.

“No need for that, we’ll go back on our own.”

She turned down the offer without hesitation.

“Brother Shicheng.”

Xia Qinghan walked over from the back and shot Xia Xibei a fierce glare.

What a vixen, flirting with men everywhere she went! Even Wan Shicheng got seduced by her!

Ren Ningning, who was standing beside Xia Xibei, shot a ruthless glance at Xia Qinghan too. With a scornful look, she asked, “You guys know each other?”

The contempt in Ren Ningning’s eyes sparked Xia Qinghan’s anger right away, but she managed to hold it in.

She couldn’t help but grit her teeth as she thought about what happened throughout the day.

Due to the “question leak” incident that previously occurred, the show’s crew had drawn a lot of attention and doubt.

A question leak wasn’t a small issue. If the problem wasn’t properly addressed, the show’s crew would suffer a huge impact.

Thus, the crew had made some new changes.

For two days, the question-setting team had isolated themselves and come up with new questions.

Besides that, the team was prohibited from interacting with outsiders, and the questions were kept strictly confidential.

With the question bank renewed, both the closed tests and multiple-choice questions had now been altered.

During the competition later, the questions would be selected at random.

In other words, 50 percent of the thousand questions that they had previously set had been replaced.

Hence, when the competition started again, Xia Qinghan was completely dazed.

When she previously received the question bank, it took her a few days to memorize all the questions.

Great! Now the questions had been changed! What would become of her then?

Although she wasn't incompetent by default, she spent all her efforts on the question bank and hadn't paid any attention to other "irrelevant" questions.

Hence, during the filming today, her error rate was much higher than before.

It didn't have much impact on the other contestants, for they had been well-prepared all along.

Although a huge proportion of the questions had been replaced, not much discrepancies had arisen as the questions were derived from the same scope.

It only made the disparity in Xia Qinghan's results more noteworthy.

Compared with her outstanding performance in the previous round, she had done terribly this time.

Although she still managed to make it into the finals, her problem had become conspicuous to everyone.

That was why Ren Ningning disliked her so much.

Xia Qinghan gnashed her teeth in anger as she thought about it.

What enraged her the most was that Xia Xibei's performance was totally unaffected!

It was exactly the same as the first time. She managed to maintain a 100% accuracy!

That was something that no one else could accomplish! Xia Xibei surely had the new question bank in her hands!

She just couldn't figure out who was helping her.



Xia Qinghan was overwhelmed with suspicion and rage.

Therefore, she followed them out after the filming ended.

She didn't expect to see Wan Shicheng right upon stepping out of the building. Apparently, he had come especially for Xia Xibei!

"Brother Shicheng, are you here for me?" Xia Qinghan ignored Ren Ningning and looked towards Wan Shicheng.

Wan Shicheng was kind of surprised as he looked at Xia Qinghan. He didn't know that she hadn't left.

Anyway, he could use her as an excuse.

"Yeah, I happen to be passing by, so I thought I could give you a ride home."

Ren Ningning muttered to Xia Xibei, "Is he stupid or something? Can't he see that we don't get along?"

Xia Xibei chuckled softly.

Wan Shicheng wasn't stupid, he was just overconfident.

He had always thought that arguments among girls were nothing but trivial matters.

The most ludicrous part was that he genuinely thought that girls would bury the hatchet because of him and become BFFs ever since.

Xia Xibei couldn't criticize his overconfidence enough.

"Beibei!" a cheerful voice sounded from afar.

"Meow!"

"Woof!"

Xia Xibei's eyes lit up as she exclaimed, "Honey! Asura!"

"Ahhh!" someone gasped from the side.

**Chapter 454: Afraid of Cats and Dogs**

When Honey and Asura ran towards her, Xia Xibei clearly heard someone draw a sharp breath at her side.

She turned and saw Wan Shicheng staring at the fast-approaching Honey and Asura, his eyes wide with horror.

That was when Xia Xibei remembered something.

Wan Shicheng disliked cats because he was allergic to cat fur. He would start sneezing uncontrollably, and rashes would appear all over his skin when cats were around him. It would give him a very hard time.

As for dogs, he seemed to have been bitten when he was young, which left him a little traumatized.

Thus, he would never allow any cats and dogs to be within his view.

Not many people knew this, as it wasn't like he would go around telling people about his phobias.

Xia Xibei got to know it from her past life.

As she saw how Wan Shicheng became all tensed up and horrified, Xia Xibei couldn't help but laugh.

Then she whistled.

“Whoof!”

Asura and Honey received the signal right away. Their paws, which were originally headed for Xia Xibei, took a swerve and charged towards Wan Shicheng instead.

Wan Shicheng’s eyes were filled with dread. He wanted to run away, but his feet just couldn’t seem to budge.

Thus, he had no choice but to watch the cat and the dog dashing towards him, like two furry balls of excitement.

“Go away!” Xia Qinghan shrieked, as she was frightened too.

What if they bit her?!

Asura pounced onto Wan Shicheng’s feet merrily and stuck its tongue out at him in a welcoming manner.

Honey held on to the bottom of his trousers and meowed at him.

Ren Ningning and the others were speechless.

What the hell?!

How was Wan Shicheng so popular among cats and dogs?

No one knew that Wan Shicheng was, in fact, frozen with terror.

When he finally came to his senses, he couldn't help but scream in horror, "Get the hell off me!"

His scream was so loud and strident that it sounded even higher pitched than a soprano, piercing through the clouds above. He seemed like a pathetic victim that had been trampled on, screaming his lungs out.

Ren Ningning and the others didn't know what to do. They were all startled by Wan Shicheng's reaction.

Damn, that voice was unbelievable!

"Honey, Asura, come back here!"

Honey and Asura immediately ditched Wan Shicheng and pounced onto Xia Xibei right as she spoke, joyfully running in circles around her.

"Whoof! Whoof! Whoof!"

What a cowardly idiot.

“Meow!”

That wasn't fun at all.

No one knew what Honey and Asura meant, but they had a vague feeling that Xia Xibei was somehow the reason that Honey and Asura had been so cordial towards Wan Shicheng.

They weren't sure of it though; the feeling was too intangible.

Moreover, Xia Xibei wasn't even close with Wan Shicheng. Why would she treat him that way?

Xia Qinghan noticed the problem too. Angrily, she pointed a finger at Xia Xibei and yelled, “Xia Xibei, what's the matter with you?!”

Xia Xibei put on an innocent look, asking, “What did I do?”

“Why did you make them frighten Brother Shicheng?!”

Xia Xibei frowned, “What are you talking about? I made them frighten him? Don't simply accuse me!”

“Yeah!” Song Jiaren stepped forward instantly. “Who are you kidding?! Do you even have proof?”

“Who would have known that he’s afraid of cats and dogs!” Ren Ningning shot a contemptuous glance at Wan Shicheng.

“How can a man be such a scaredy cat...” Song Jiaren shook her head scornfully, her face full of disdain.

“Jiajia, don’t say that. Phobia of animals has nothing to do with gender,” Tang Luo told her off gently.

“I know,” Song Jiaren nodded, “But this is the first time I saw such an exaggerated reaction! What a waste of that hunky build.”

The three of them sang to each other’s tune, nearly driving Xia Qinghan insane.

“Qinghan!”

Wan Shicheng called out to Xia Qinghan, a petrified look on his face. Before he could say another word, however, he started sneezing like crazy.

## **Chapter 455: Allergy Acting Up**

“Achoo! Achoo!”

Wan Shicheng was sneezing like crazy, his face flushed.

Everyone around him moved away furtively, keeping a distance from him.

“Brother Shicheng, are you alright?” Anxious, Xia Qinghan asked in concern.

“I’m fin- Achoo! Achoo!”

Wan Shicheng couldn’t control himself at all. His nose was so sore and itchy that he wished he could sever it from his face.

Apart from that, he felt his arms starting to itch. Damn it!

“Umm... Are you okay?” Xia Xibei asked, concerned. “You wanna go see a doctor?”

Xia Xibei was slightly taken aback as well. She hadn’t expected such a dramatic reaction from Wan Shicheng either.

However, she was pretty satisfied with how it turned out. Thumbs-up to Honey and Asura.

“I’m alrig- Achoo!” Wan Shicheng wanted to tell Xia Xibei that he was alright, but his body didn’t allow him to act cool.



“I think you’d better go to the hospital.” Ren Ningning shook her head in sympathy, “Looks like you’re having an allergic reaction.”

Xia Qinghan was exasperated, “Xia Xibei!”

“I’m here!” Xia Xibei nodded immediately. “Anything I can help you with?”

“Yeah, what’s the problem?” the others chimed in, puffing up their chests.

Xia Qinghan was shocked.

There were only two people on her side, but the opposing team had a handful, plus a pair of furry fighters.

With such a huge disparity between their forces, what more could she say?

“Never- Never mind.”

Wan Shicheng raised a hand and put a stop to the argument, “Let’s- Let’s go to the hospital.”

“Yeah, don’t wait till your snot comes out. It’ll be nasty,” Song Jiaren gloated.

Even though Wan Shicheng was quite a handsome guy, they simply couldn't think highly of people who hung out with Xia Qinghan.

Besides, no matter how attractive a person was, no one would look good with snot dripping from their nose.

Wan Shicheng stiffened as he sensed the strange feeling in his nasal cavity, then turned to leave without wasting another second.

"We'll be on our way then. See you next time," he quickly excused himself before striding off.

Xia Qinghan shot them a death glare and caught up with him.

As she watched them leave, Xia Xibei shrugged and exchanged a speechless glance with the others.

It must have been difficult for Wan Shicheng to maintain his elegance in the midst of such a predicament.

Honey was snuggling affectionately at her feet. Xia Xibei bent down and picked Honey up before giving it a peck on the cheek, "Honey is a good girl!"

"Meow!"

"Whoof!"

Anxious, Asura stood up on its hind legs.

“Asura is awesome too!” Xia Xibei squatted and gave it a peck before stroking its fur.

“Whoof!”

Asura stuck its tongue out happily, its tail swinging like a pendulum.

As she saw how the animals were so fond of Xia Xibei, Ren Ningning was both envious and jealous at the same time.

She used to doubt what Ren Juncheng told her, but now she realized that she had been ignorant.

People whom animals adored truly did exist!

“Honey,” she called out softly.

“Meow!” Honey meowed at her while cuddling in Xia Xibei’s arms. It swung its tail at her, tugging her wrist.

Ren Ningning was left speechless. This little devil was fearless now!

How could her bitterness not vanish when Honey was gazing at her with those big, starry eyes, tugging at her hand?

“Alright, let’s get going. I’ve booked the place,” Yu Ziqi proclaimed.

He didn’t even take a look at Asura, who was nestling at Xia Xibei’s feet.

There was no need to upset yourself, right?

“Let’s go!”

It was Yu Ziqi’s birthday, so they had arranged a gathering and brought Honey and Asura along.

They left in a big group.

After finishing the meal and settling down the pets, they went to the KTV.

Something caught Xia Xibei’s eyes right upon entering.

**Chapter 456: Have Mercy on Our Ears**

Doubtful, Tang Luo paused beside her and asked, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing," Xia Xibei shook her head and marched on as if nothing happened.

Tang Luo took a look at where she was looking, then followed them into the booked room without asking another question.

The room was spacious and resplendent, and apparently wasn't a cheap one.

Blue Phoenix KTV was a reputable KTV in this area, which was known for its good service and reasonable pricing.

Rumor had it that some customers would run underhand dealings here, but ordinary people usually wouldn't come across them.

They entered the room in high spirits. Some of them went to select songs, while others got the microphones ready.

"Beibei, sing us a song, would you?"

Song Jiaren selected a song and handed a microphone to Xia Xibei.

“You guys should go ahead first,” Xia Xibei shook her head. “I talked too much today. I need to rest for now.”

“Alright then.” Song Jiaren nodded in disappointment. Then, when the music began, she began howling.

Xia Xibei’s smile gradually faded.

“Oh my, Jiajia!” Ren Ningning cried out, throwing herself onto Song Jiaren, “I’m begging you! Have mercy on us!”

Song Jiaren had lost quite a lot of weight, almost achieving her ideal weight by now. She could be considered a beauty now.

Her normal talking voice was pleasant but singing clearly wasn’t her thing!

She was so off-pitch that her singing sounded a thousand miles away from the key. It was beyond salvation!

Ren Juncheng and Yu Ziqi looked equally miserable, but they didn’t have the guts to interrupt Song Jiaren for fear of getting beaten to death.

Only Ren Ningning was daring enough to take the risk. She threw her arms around Song Jiaren to stop her from further tormenting their ears.

Song Jiaren set down the mic with great reluctance, then asked with a grim face, “Was that so unbearable?”

“It was!” Ren Ningning nodded immediately.

The others agreed by acquiescence.

“Hmph, you guys have bad taste!” Song Jiaren cast the mic away angrily.

“Let’s not sing anymore. We shall play the dice game instead.”

Ren Ningning pulled the jug of juice over. Tang Luo and she were the only ones who had turned eighteen, so alcohol wasn’t an option.

“Let’s have juice!”

Ren Juncheng and Yu Ziqi were more than happy as they put the microphones away, acting as if they had just survived a disaster.

Ren Juncheng gave Yu Ziqi a sentimental pat, “It’s a blessing that she didn’t keep singing, if not your seventeenth birthday... Come on, let us sing!”

Yu Ziqi felt like he just dodged a big bullet.

Watching her closest friends having a blast, Xia Xibei couldn't help but chuckle to herself.

However, as she thought of the people she saw outside a while ago, she couldn't help but get to her feet.

"Where are you going?" Tang Luo asked.

"Just going to take a walk outside. It aids digestion. Wanna join me?"

"Sure."

Xia Xibei shot him a look, "Let's go then."

They waved at the rest of the group and stepped out of the room.

After passing the hallway, Xia Xibei headed straight to where they had come in from. Tang Luo quietly followed her steps.

Very soon, they reached the end of the fire passage.

The whole KTV was shrouded in dim lighting, as were the stairs behind the door.



However, they managed to see a man and a woman behind the door, tangled up with each other.

The two of them exchanged a glance, quickening their pace.

Very soon, they climbed down a flight of stairs and peeked from above.

Xia Xibei even fumbled to take out her phone and open the camera.

The two down there could hardly get themselves off of each other. In the midst of making out, the man even put his hand underneath the woman's top.

Right before the rated-R scene unfolded, the woman finally pushed the man away.

"Brother Hao, don't do it here."

The man gave a lecherous laugh, "Little b\*tch, I'll f\*ck you to death once we get a place!"

The woman let his hand wander all over her chest. With her cheeks flushed, she tried hard to maintain her breathing.

"How's it going there?" she asked.

"Don't worry, I've sent my people there. Just sit back and enjoy the show."

The woman chuckled seductively, "Thanks, Brother Hao."

#### **Chapter 457: Zheng Xiaowen's Hatred**

Xia Xibei's hand was steady. Pointing the phone at the two of them, she recorded all of their actions and conversation.

"What's your grudge with those guys?"

Brother Hao's hand squeezed Zheng Xiaowen's chest while he asked.

"They bullied me at school."

Zheng Xiaowen looked aggrieved.

In the dim light, her eyes were tinged with resentment, something Brother Hao didn't notice.

When she thought of how cold Yu Ziqi had been to her these days, she gnashed her teeth with hatred.

When she was young, she and Yu Ziqi lived in the same neighborhood, and the two families were similar in background.

However, by the second or third grade, Yu Ziqi's parents' business was getting better and better while the Zheng family was in decline.

In the end, her father went bankrupt and her family had to leave in disgrace.

When she got into Qing Ye High School and met Yu Ziqi, she realized that their lives were worlds apart.

Yu Ziqi's life was getting better and better. His gaze was still so simple, and at a glance, one could tell that he had not suffered.

And her?

When she was a child, she lived like a princess. Now she was a poor maid!

She was not used to her current life at all and had always wanted to go back to those old days.

So she used the opportunity of sharing a desk with Yu Ziqi to get close to him.

Things were going well. Yu Ziqi was naive. Whenever she showed her difficulties, he was always enthusiastic to help.

Although Yu Ziqi was a little chubby, he did not look greasy. He was actually a little adorable.

So, she didn't feel as if she missed out.

In order to achieve her goal, she consciously drove away all of his friends, leaving only herself in the end.

Yu Ziqi was clueless and didn't even notice that his friends were almost all gone.

She was about to become his only friend.

But at this time, she found out that Yu Ziqi had met a new friend and they were quite close!

How could this be?

So, she chose to go after Song Jiaren.

But unexpectedly, after she took one wrong step, more wrong steps followed.

Since then, she had been targeted by Song Jiaren and the others, and they had told Yu Ziqi to stay away from her!

Yu Ziqi was also a fool. He was really brainwashed by them to stay away from her!

Zheng Xiaowen was furious when she thought about it.

Yu Ziqi was finally in her net, but she had not yet closed it!

She watched Yu Ziqi get farther and farther away from her. No matter what she said, he did not pay attention to her. She was so angry that she went crazy!

Looking at Song Jiaren getting thinner and thinner, Xia Xibei's popularity getting higher and higher, and Yu Ziqi getting happier and happier... And then seeing her own messy life, Zheng Xiaowen just couldn't help it.

She knew that today was Yu Ziqi's birthday, but she didn't know that he wouldn't invite her!

What's more, she didn't expect that they would choose to come and play in the KTV where she worked.

Since they had delivered themselves to her door, it would be a pity if she didn't do something to them!

Besides, wasn't Xia Xibei a star? What kind of a star could she be if she had a scandal?

Anyway, if she was not doing well, no one could do well!

“Brother Hao...” She pouted. “You don’t know how annoying they are!”

“Are they?” Brother Hao rubbed her chest absentmindedly. “Don’t worry, brother will help you with them. When the police come, things will be fine.”

“Thank you, Brother Hao!”

Zheng Xiaowen happily gave him a kiss.

Watching them kiss again, Xia Xibei and Tang Luo glanced at each other, putting away their phones and leaving.

When they returned to their private room, a waiter just came out from inside, but when he saw them, he seemed startled. He nodded at them and quickly left.

## **Chapter 458: Leave First**

The two of them quickly went inside, just in time to see Song Jiaren pouring drinks.

“Wait a minute!”

Xia Xibei immediately shouted for her stop, so loud that Song Jiaren's hand shook.

"What's wrong?" she asked, dumbfounded.

Xia Xibei quickly stepped forward and snatched the drink out of her hand.

They watched as she brought the drink to the tip of her nose and inhaled, her brow furrowed.

"What else did that waiter do when he came in just now?"

Song Jiaren and Ren Ningning looked at each other with a sense of foreboding.

"He also helped us with the air conditioning."

The air conditioner was too cold, so when the waiter came over, they asked him to help with it.

Xia Xibei and Tang Luo immediately walked over to the air conditioner control panel.

Below the panel was a leather sofa.

The two of them looked at each other and put their hands into the gap at the edge of the sofa.

“What’s wrong?”

Their movements left everyone bewildered.

Soon, Xia Xibei pulled her hand out.

Looking at the small clear bag in her hand, and the pills inside, everyone drew a breath.

“What the-! This can’t be...”

Several people’s eyes were horrified as they looked at the pills incredulously.

Who didn’t understand when something like this suddenly appeared at this kind of place?

Xia Xibei walked to the table and picked up a few other unopened bottles of drinks.

Everyone held their breath, just watching her movements.

Song Jiaren could hardly hold back, becoming impatient.

“What is going on?” she demanded.



“Zheng Xiaowen is trying to set us up.”

“Zheng Xiaowen?!”

“Set us up?!”

The room resounded with shrieks, everyone looking at Tang Luo in disbelief.

Yu Ziqi was even more shocked.

“Zheng Xiaowen is here too?”

“She’s a waitress here,” Tang Luo explained.

Just now, they saw that Zheng Xiaowen was wearing a waitress’s outfit.

“Da\*n! That bit\*h!” Song Jiaren gritted her teeth. “Is she crazy?!”

Although Xia Xibei hadn’t said anything yet, they could all see that the situation wasn’t good.

Even Yu Ziqi looked incredulous. How could Zheng Xiaowen be so heartless?

“Only this bottle was tampered with,” Xia Xibei finally spoke up.

Song Jiaren and Ren Ningning looked at the drink in her hand and were instantly creeped out.

This was what the waiter opened for them. If Xia Xibei hadn't returned in time, wouldn't they have drunk it?

“Where is that bit\*h? I'm going to kill her!” Song Jiaren stood up angrily, wanting to punish Zheng Xiaowen.

Xia Xibei shook her head and stopped her.

“There's no hurry,” she said calmly.

“Why shouldn't we be in a hurry? We were almost ruined by her!”

“Don't worry, she won't get away.”

Xia Xibei's eyes were cold and her voice was like ice.

She hadn't planned to do anything to Zheng Xiaowen before, but to her surprise, she ran into it herself.

Sure enough, rivers and mountains were easier to change than someone's nature, and scum stayed scum.

"So what now?"

Since Xia Xibei had said so, Song Jiaren could only hold back.

"Let's get out of here first."

Xia Xibei's words made them jump.

"Just leave?"

What about Zheng Xiaowen?

Xia Xibei smiled, though the smile did not reach her eyes.

"A gentleman does not stand under a dangerous wall. Although we are not gentlemen, there is no need to get ourselves involved in these things."

After that, there would definitely be more chaos. They should avoid the chaos first, then strike back.

The few of them looked at each other before finally nodding.

“Okay, let’s go.”

After all, Xia Xibei would be a big star later. She could not be associated with these things.

After Xia Xibei finished dealing with the tainted bottle, she led them to the checkout area.

When Zheng Xiaowen passed by the private room, she was dumbfounded.

Where was everyone?

#### **Chapter 459: The Safest Place**

Zheng Xiaowen was confused looking at the empty private room.

Where was everyone?

She immediately went to the front desk and asked, only to find out that the people in the room had left a few minutes earlier.

WTF?! How did they get away?!

According to her plan, the police would come in half an hour, just in time to arrest the people who were acting up after drinking the spiked drinks.

Once they got involved with these things, they would be toast. Even if not everyone drank the drinks, they were in the same group and couldn't get away with it.

Besides, they had just arrived, and wouldn't leave for at least two hours, so there was plenty of time for them to react to the drugs.

But who would have thought that they would be gone so soon?!

Did they just happen to have something to do, so they left, or did they notice something wrong?

For a moment, she was a little confused.

Zheng Xiaowen was flustered and hurriedly turned around to find Brother Hao.

However, Brother Hao was also confused. Who would have thought that Xia Xibei and the others would suddenly be gone?

“Forget it, I'll get them for you next time.”

That was all Brother Hao could do to comfort her.

Zheng Xiaowen was disappointed, but there was nothing she could do. It was not as if she could ask Brother Hao to go and capture them, right?

In that case, things would come back to haunt her.

“Thank you, Brother Hao.”

That was all she could say.

“Okay, you go ahead and take care of yourself. I still have things to do.”

After saying that, Brother Hao walked away with a few of his men.

“Take care, Brother Hao.”

Zheng Xiaowen could only send him off with a smile.

Brother Hao didn't care about Zheng Xiaowen's mood. He was also a little disappointed.

He thought he could get those kids to distract the police tonight, but he never thought that those kids would leave early?

They were too lucky!

However, his previous plan still had to go on. He only wanted to help Zheng Xiaowen because he wanted an extra layer of protection.

He went to a location with a few of his men and soon had a few large heavy bags.

After driving around outside, they arrived at a somewhat dilapidated factory.

This factory was about to be relocated, but the power lines hadn't been removed yet, so they could still see the road.

This neighborhood consisted of farmland, with the nearby area being demolished. At night, there were not many people.

However, there was a relatively small police station in this neighborhood.

This was quite safe for them, however.

After all, the most dangerous place was the safest place. Who would have thought that they would be doing deals next to a police station?

Soon, another car came over, and a few people came out of the car. They were also carrying large, heavy bags.

Brother Hao smiled and walked over, shaking hands and hugging them.

After the usual process, the two sides went straight to the point.

“Have you brought the goods?”

“Sure,” the other side nodded. “Where’s the money?”

“We brought it.”

“Okay, then let’s count.”

“OK.”

Both sides opened their big bags, and each side sent one of their men over.



One large bag opened to reveal glittering gold.

The other large bag contained packs of white powder and many pills.

Everyone took out the machine for inventory, looking very professional.

After a few minutes, everyone stopped in unison.

“It’s fine.”

“Looks good.”

“Okay, we enjoyed working with you.”

“Same.”

Brother Hao shook hands with the other men with a big smile.

The two groups were about to leave when the door was kicked open violently and several men rushed in. Guns were soon pointed at them.

Everyone’s faces suddenly paled.

How did the news get out?!

## **Chapter 460: Arrested**

After Brother Hao left, Zheng Xiaowen felt stifled and vaguely uncomfortable.

She ended up blaming all the discomfort on Xia Xibei and the others. If they hadn't left early, she would have been able to watch a show by now.

"Oops!"

With her mind preoccupied, she collided with a man at a corner.

"You..."

"Sorry, sorry, sorry!" The person who bumped into her apologized repeatedly and hurriedly walked away.

Zheng Xiaowen watched the man depart and didn't think much of it, but the frustration in her heart grew even more.

Next, she was also much lazier in her work.

However, everyone knew that she and Brother Hao had a thing, so who dared to say anything?

Everyone could only mutter to themselves watching her be lazy.

An hour had passed, and it was almost twelve o'clock, but the customers were still very high-spirited.

Listening to the people inside singing without any worries, she was so jealous that her eyes almost turned green.

If the thing with Yu Ziqi had worked out, she would have been living a good life now, without worrying about money. She could just have fun.

Whereas now, she still had to deal with Brother Hao.

Brother Hao was not bad to her, but he was already in his thirties, almost 20 years older than her, and he had several lovers. She was nothing to him.

The more she thought about it, the more annoyed she was, and the work she was doing stopped completely.

Suddenly, there was a commotion outside.

When she looked up, she saw the manager walking in with several uniformed police officers.

“Who is Zheng Xiaowen?”

“That’s her!”

Immediately, someone pointed at her.

Zheng Xiaowen’s heart skipped looking at the police officer’s serious expression. “I- I am, what do you... Want from me?”

“You and Zhan Jiahao are in a relationship as boyfriend and girlfriend, right?”

“Is... Is there a problem?” Her face went white as she asked the question.

“Zhan Jiahao has been arrested, and we received a report that you and Zhan Jiahao are involved in drug-dealing...”

Zheng Xiaowen did not hear what the police officer said next. She was stunned.

“What?!”

The other people also looked over with horrified faces.

Zheng Xiaowen actually had something to do with this?

They couldn't help but take a few steps backward, not daring to come closer.

"Who is Lin Gang?"

The crowd's attention turned to one of the men.

The waiter-like man immediately panicked and waved his hands back and forth.

"I- I- I- No, no! It had nothing to do with me, they forced me to do it!"

With that statement, everyone's expression immediately changed.

Sure enough, they were not wronged!

"Please come with us to the police station for the rest of the investigation."

Zheng Xiaowen's mind went blank. Her ears buzzed and her eyes went black, as she passed out.

By the time she woke up, she realized that things were far more complicated than she had imagined them to be!

Brother Hao was caught red-handed in a drug deal. None of the nearly 10 people on the scene were able to get away, not with the pile of merchandise and gold right there.

The police also found a bag of pills in her pocket.

Moreover, Brother Hao, for whatever insane reason, insisted that she was part of their group!

If not for her clean drug test, her charges might have increased.

Still, she had to face multiple charges of drug possession and drug trafficking...

Even though she was not yet 18-years-old, these charges were enough for her to spend a few years in prison.

She couldn't help but tremble after meeting Brother Hao's crazy, sinister eyes, feeling that he wanted to destroy her.

In fact, if she was not mistaken, even if she had not gone to jail, Brother Hao would have killed her!

