

Chapter 401 - Unscrupulous

"So they are twins." Uncle Yun didn't look relieved. Because, whether it was Lanni or her sister, his daughter had indeed been robbed of the opportunity to be with the man she loved.

"Dad, let's go home first. You must have had a long flight." Xiaoshi hooked her arm around her father's to avert the argument that was about to break out.

When he entered the car, Xiaoshi stopped Xiehan, looking aggrieved. "I'm sorry, cousin. I had always rattled to him about how I felt. When I found out that Xingyu is engaged, I told him about it too... I didn't know he would blame Lanni."

Xiehan studied his cousin and wondered whether she didn't deliberately say something misleading to her father. Her expression was filled with sadness but not an ounce of guilt, so he believed that it was Uncle Yun who had overreacted on his own. Besides, he knew the girl well enough, and he knew that she was not the type to forcefully hog on what did not belong to her. As for how Uncle Yun got a picture of Xingyu's fiancée, he could have done some digging. Xingyu's and Luna's engagement party was so grand. Countless media outlets had written articles in magazines and published videos on their websites. Hence, he patted her head. "It's okay. As long as you know your place."

Seeing that her cousin did not misunderstand her, she was relieved. "I know."

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Lanni did not understand why Uncle Yun seemed to be hostile towards her. Even so, she remained polite to him and stuck to Xiehan's side most of the time.

The middle-aged couple was tired, so the servants prepared refreshments.

"What are you busy with, recently?" Uncle Yun asked Lanni, out of the blue.

It was a normal question, so Lanni politely answered, "I work at a news agency."

As soon as she spoke, the man's eyes furrowed. "So you're a reporter. I heard reporters earn more money if they publish huge scandals, so they usually make up fake tales just for traffic."

"That's not true. In every field of work, there are deceptive individuals, but that doesn't make everyone else evil." She forced a smile.

The man grinned. "While that may be true, I think every reporter is a liar."

She was yet to respond when he asked, "What family are you from?"

"Uhm..." This was a complicated question. She thought about it for a moment before saying, "My father's surname is Xia while my mother's is Li."

"So you took your mother's surname." He smirked indifferently as took a sip of his tea.

Although she was uncomfortable, she held onto Xiehan's hand as she nodded. "Yes."

He look in her direction sharply. "I heard that women who let their children take their own surnames are either unscrupulous or they pretend to be strong when they're not. No matter what category she falls under, I wonder what type of daughter she brought up."

"You cannot say such things about my mother!" Lanni lost her temper on the spot and shot up, glaring daggers in Uncle Yun's direction.

Xiehan patted her hand and pulled her back to the seat, before glancing at his uncle. "What do you think you're doing?"

The man laughed. "I'm just teasing your girlfriend a little. Who would have thought that she was so temperamental? One word and she is already exploding, how will she be able to take care of the Ji family in future?"

Lanni shook her head at the ridiculous joke. "Call..."

Xiehan patted her hand, and she glared at him before she continued, "Call it a joke, a test or whatever. I will never be able to sit by and let anyone insult my mother. For a man to be able to say such things about a woman, it makes one wonder whether your mother's teachings went to waste, or whether she bothered to teach you at all."

When his expression darkened, she raised an eyebrow. "You may be an elder but I will only respect you if you deserve it. Excuse me." She left the room when she was done speaking.

Xiehan stood up and faced his uncle. "What I was about to say is, it was never her responsibility to take care of my family. If that was a joke, it was not funny. Stick to your lane, uncle."

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Xiehan looked for Lanni until he eventually found her sitting in the gazebo. He walked over and sat beside her.

"I'm sorry I lost my cool." She dipped her head into his chest.

He tousled her hair. "It's okay. You don't need to hold back against anybody. No matter who tries to bully you, you have every right to retaliate."

Hearing his words, Lanni tightened her arms around his waist, feeling much better. "What does he have against me anyway? We only just met."

He knew that she would remember it sooner or later so he explained, "It's about Xingyu."

She rolled her eyes helplessly. "Are you kidding me? Is he going to mess with the whole family just because my sister got together with Xingyu? What a lame excuse to do stupid things! I will put him in his place if he tries to mess with me again!"

He chuckled at her countenance that looked like an angry cat. "I'll do that for you. You don't need to dirty your adorable little claws."

"Claws?" She hit his shoulder with an annoyed expression.

He laughed as he defended himself. "Who is to blame? It's just that when you're angry, you're so adorable that it makes one think of a kitten. Hey, don't hit me there!"

"I'm going to hit you!" She threatened.

Grabbing her little hand, he placed it on his chest instead. "You will need it later."

She blushed furiously. "You won't ever stop being a pervert, will you?"

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Meanwhile, in the living room.

Ji Meiling took her tea silently as she suppressed her emotions. In the end, she shot a glare at her husband. "What the hell is wrong with you! Xiehan loves this girl very much and she is very obedient and kind. Yet, instead of trying to help her feel comfortable, you are targeting her?!"

"Why are you speaking up for outsiders instead of your own daughter? Do you know what she has been through?" He glared at her.

Xiaoshi couldn't watch it anymore. "Dad, I'm really okay now. Besides, it's no one's fault and..."

"You shut up. Don't think I don't know that you tried to have your memory erased!" He bellowed.

Ji Meiling was just about to scold her husband when she heard his words. She was stunned. "She did what?"

She looked at her daughter in disbelief. "Shishi, is this true?"

Since it had already been found out, Xiaoshi couldn't try to hide it anymore. She sighed. "Yes mom. But, I was just silly for a while and wanted to forget everything. However, I have given up on that thought."

Ji Meiling's eyes darkened, sadness seeping into her heart. Her baby had suffered so much. Even so, she glared at her husband. "Shishi is our daughter and we want her to have everything she wants. However, that does not excuse your behaviour towards Lanni. After all, neither Lanni nor Luna broke up an existing relationship. It was all our daughter's one-sided feelings."

The man was furious. "How can you say such heartless things? What kind of mother are you?!"

"One who will tell her daughter the truth no matter what. Although I want her to be happy, I don't want her to ruin her life by spending all of it chasing after things that will never belong to her. Besides, so what if you break Jiang Xingyu and Lanni's sister apart? If he didn't like Shishi in the past, will he notice her now?"

He won't! You will only cause misunderstandings between Lanni and Xiehan while at it."

"Insolence!" Uncle Yun exploded.

Xiaoshi bit her lip tightly. She already knew. She knew that Xingyu would never like her. But hearing it from her mother, it still hurt so much that she almost couldn't breathe. However, she knew that although her mother's words were cruel, they were true. She patted her father's arm. "Daddy, mom is right."

Uncle Yun's heart softened when he saw how his daughter looked. "My poor baby. You have suffered so much." Don't worry, daddy will make things right for you.

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The following day, in Xiaoshi's apartment. When she woke up, she was conflicted. Should she make lunch for the doctor or not?

It wasn't that she was afraid he would go hungry if she didn't—after all, he had not been starving before she started making him bentos. However, she was worried that if her father found out that he was the doctor she had asked to erase her memory, trouble might erupt. She didn't want to do anything that would cause trouble to the handsome doctor. Hence, she gave up on the thought and went to work.

The result was her being unable to concentrate on her work and thinking about him all morning.

Chapter 402 - Speak Of The Devil

"Yun Xiaoshi, what is wrong with you?" Luna's stern voice pulled her out of her thoughts. She snapped back and looked up, meeting her boss's strict gaze. "We are discussing an important matter. Why are you blanking out?"

"I... I'm sorry."

"I will not repeat anything I just said. If you are not going to pay attention in a meeting, why bother being present?" Luna scolded, then continued explaining the details of the next project.

After being called out, Xiaoshi was embarrassed but she concentrated for the rest of the meeting.

As soon as it was over, she went to Luna's office to ask about the details she had missed.

"Boss, I..." She didn't know how to say it.

Luna looked up from her laptop. "Is there anything bothering you?"

"Well..." thinking about it, she decided that Luna already had more than enough on her plate. Besides, they were not even close. So she shook her head. "It's nothing."

Luna hummed as she looked at the young lady. "I suggest you take care of it. It's affecting your job. Take the rest of the day off, okay?"

Xiaoshi was stunned. Although Luna was strict, she was kind enough to give her the day off so she would settle her private matter. However, she shook her head. "Thank you boss, but I don't need a day off. I will not let my mood affect my work anymore."

Luna nodded and let her go.

Soon after Xiaoshi left, Cheng Yu walked in with her tablet. "The background is ready."

Luna took the tablet to take a look. "Not bad. Send it to Xiaoshi. The game should be ready in a week."

"That's manageable. Cedric and I are already done."

After hearing the report regarding official matters, Luna's gaze suddenly turned into a naughty one. "Speaking of Cedric, how much progress have the two of you made?"

Cheng Yu blushed at the thought of it. "Why are you so gossipy? Get back to work!"

Luna laughed and continued teasing. "Did you do it all night?"

Cheng Yu was flabbergasted. "You and Lanni are indeed twins. No doubt about that!" Even their perverted questions were the same.

"Don't even mention Lanni to me. That girl forgot all about our meeting yesterday." Luna frowned begrudgingly.

"How about you seek her for vengeance?" Cheng Yu grabbed the chance to flee.

Luna laughed at her friend's speed of dashing away. Just as she was about to get back to work, her secretary knocked. "CEO, there is a Mr. Xia here to see you."

"Let him in." She instructed, wondering what her father could be doing here.

When he was led in, she looked at him curiously. "Dad? Why are you here?"

The man harrumphed and sat opposite her. "If I didn't come, would you have forgotten that you have a dad?"

She shook her head guiltily, realizing just how long it had been since she spoke to her father. She had been missing his calls lately and kept forgetting to call back. "Of course not, you are the best dad in the world, how can I forget about you?"

"You're just trying to sweet talk me." He pretended to be angry.

She stood up and circled the desk to his side, clinging onto his arm. "Of course not. Don't you trust me anymore? Even if I didn't miss you, your grandchild would miss you to death."

At the mention of his Grandchild, Xia Hanchen's heart melted. He could no longer pretend to be mad. He carefully led her to the fluffy couch at the side and asked, "How is my grandchild?"

"He gets a little stubborn sometimes. At times, he is so naughty that I can neither eat nor have a good night of sleep." Although it was so troublesome, her expression was still filled with love and pride when she talked about her baby.

Xia Hanchen patted her head. "It will be alright. Your mother didn't have it easy either."

"She didn't?" Luna looked up curiously. She had heard tales about it but this was the first time that Xia Hanchen was mentioning it.

He shook his head, looking solemn. "She was carrying twins after all—conjoined twins at that. Her second trimester was so troublesome that the gynecologist advised us to consider an abortion.

However, we were not ready to give up. We endured it to the end, until you were born. As soon as we compared your piercing yells to your sister's silent tears, we guessed that you must have been the stubborn one."

"No way!" Luna burst into laughter.

"I'm not kidding. From the start, we thought that you would be the most active while your sister would be the calm type. Who would have thought..."

He paused when he realized that he had spoken too much. Perhaps because he had been holding it in for too long, he simply let it out. "If I knew Li Yuming was so heartless, I would never have married her. Because of that mistake I made... by falling in love with her, my babies have suffered the consequences all their lives. You had to grow up separated from your mother while Lanni couldn't be with her father. Yet, that heartless creature didn't care."

Luna hugged his arm. "It's okay, dad. We don't care anymore."

"But I do. I know that she tried countless times to turn Lanni against me. What is wrong with her?" He patted his daughter's head. "I'm sorry pumpkin. I shouldn't vent my feelings to you."

"Dad, you can always feel free to tell me how you feel. You can't keep it all pent up. Also, if..."

"If what?" Xia Hanchen had a weird feeling about his daughter's gaze.

Luna stuck her forefingers together. "If you want to get someone to keep you company, we don't mind."

He glanced at her and shook his head in shock, flicking her forehead. "What have you cheeky girls been thinking about?"

"Dad, we are just worried about you!" She complained as she rubbed the part he had just flicked.

"You don't need to worry about me." He coughed ambiguously, making her wonder whether he was really seeing someone.

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That evening, In Xiehan's Highbridge Mansion.

"Are you going somewhere?" Uncle Yun asked Ji Meiling who had just finished dressing up.

She slid on a bangle and checked her hair. "I'm going to say hi to Xinghe. It's been years since we last saw each other so she called us over for dinner. Do you want to come along?"

Before her husband could respond, she recalled a detail and shook her head. "You probably don't. Xinghe's daughter-in-law is Lanni's sister, after all." Since they were engaged and Luna was pregnant, it was not a surprise if they were staying together. Which went to say, it was not impossible for them to bump into each other. If her husband caused trouble for Luna...

The man frowned when he understood his wife's worries. "Don't worry. I will catch up with Xingren over some drinks."

"Okay."

Uncle Yun got ready, and just as they left, they ran into Xiaoshi in the living area.

The girl was surprised. "Dad, mom, you are going out? I was going to invite both of you for dinner at my place."

Ji Meiling was yet to respond when the man beside her spoke. "We have been invited by some old friends. Come with us, I will introduce you to them. If you encounter trouble while we are away, they can help you out."

Xiaoshi tilted her head in surprise. "If I encounter trouble, I can always tell my cousin about it. Besides, isn't Uncle Ji in B City too?"

"You know that our relationship with your aunt isn't that great, don't you? Stop asking questions and come with us." He instructed.

Ji Meiling glanced at her husband and was about to say something but she shook her head instead. She would be there too anyway. Nothing could go wrong.

In the end, the family of three made their way to the Jiang Old mansion.

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In the living room.

After making some small talk and catching up, Uncle Yun glanced at Jiang Xingren. "How is your son? I heard he is doing quite well in the business field."

"It's just some small achievements. That punk finally settled down and became a little more responsible." Although he was proud of his son, Jiang Xingren didn't flaunt too much.

Of course, Uncle Yun was not interested in Xingyu's achievements and whatnot. He laughed heartily before asking, "Isn't he home?"

Xiaoshi felt something bad coming, so she excused herself to go to the bathroom.

Just before she left, she heard Jiang Xingren saying, "He went to pick our daughter-in-law up. Ah, speak of the devil. There they are."

Xiaoshi swallowed and disappeared towards the communal washroom.

Uncle Yun's gaze darkened. He had brought his daughter along to create more chances between her and Xingyu. Who would have thought that Luna would come along?

Since there were guests at home, Xinghe took Luna's hand and happily introduced her to Xiaoshi's parents.

The latter gave a friendly smile to Ji Meiling, but when she shook Uncle Yun's hand, her expression was unreadable.

The man felt as though her eyes contained some warning in them. Was he overthinking?

Chapter 403 - I Neither Hate You Nor Like You

Luna retracted her gaze from the middle-aged man. She had interacted with many traitors and backstabbers in her life so she could easily tell if one had questionable motives. For some reason, she felt that the man before her was one she should be guarded against.

Straightening up, she looked at Madam Jiang with a slight smile. "Aunty, I have a few things to do before dinner."

"No problem. I'll call you when dinner is ready." responded Xinghe, wondering why the atmosphere suddenly felt tensed.

Hearing that Luna was leaving, Uncle Yun grabbed the opportunity. "Shishi is still new to B City and doesn't have any friends yet. Xingyu, why don't you show her around?"

Xiaoshi had just returned from the bathroom when she heard the instruction. She gulped. What was her father doing?

Xinghe finally realized what was happening and she felt uncomfortable. Although she liked Xiaoshi and was in a friendly relationship with the Yuns, her son was engaged! What was old Yun doing?

She was just about to create an excuse for Xingyu when he spoke up. "Sure."

He then led Xiaoshi out, after giving his mother a reassuring look.

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In the garden.

Xiaoshi didn't dare to get too close to Xingyu. Although this was the man she had loved for years, she knew better than anyone what would happen if she got her hopes too high.

She hesitated before saying, "I...I'll have a word with my dad."

"Mmh." The man grunted and said nothing else. He sat on a bench, not paying any attention to her. Instead, he took out his phone and asked Luna to wait for him.

Biting her lip, Xiaoshi went over and sat on the bench, cleverly leaving some distance between them. She tilted her head and looked at him. "Xingyu, I just want to know..."

"Mmh?" He looked over, almost losing his patience.

Even so, the girl gripped her hem as she asked the question she was most curious about. "If you never met Luna, would you ever consider me?"

He frowned as he looked at her. She knew that his answer would break her heart, yet she still asked. Was this little girl a masochist? If this was any other girl, he would have ruthlessly sent her off with the meanest words possible. However, considering the fact that she was his best friend's beloved cousin, he told her the truth but in a milder way. "Before I met Luna, I didn't ever think about my marriage or my future. But since I met her, I know that I will never fall in love with any other woman. I already said this on the day of our engagement banquet. Besides, Xiaoshi, I thought you had already given up."

Her eyes drooped. "I did. I don't want to keep hurting myself either. It's just my dad..."

"He would not misunderstand the situation if you didn't tell him the wrong thing." He interrupted and stood up, looking down at her. "Yun Xiaoshi, I have always thought of you as the person you are— Xiehan's cousin. Nothing more. Not as a woman I can be with, not as a friend. Not even a younger sister, and I neither like you nor hate you."

However, if your dad continues to create trouble, I cannot guarantee that the two of you will not be my enemies."

Watching his departing back, Xiaoshi held it in until she couldn't anymore, and burst into tears. She thought she was numb to the ache, but hearing such words from the man she loved, how could she still pretend to be strong?

She choked on her sobs and suddenly heard footsteps from behind her. Freezing, she quickly wiped her tears and turned. "Dad?"

Uncle Yun was furious when he saw his daughter's soaked face. "That jerk! In what way is my daughter any worse than that sly vixen? She even has a past record of murder. How can she compare to you?!"

Xiaoshi was taken aback. Luna had murder record?

No, the point was, "Dad, it really doesn't matter anymore. I have moved on."

"Of course you have." His expression did not look convinced in the slightest.

Xiaoshi tried not to cry as she thought about how she could be Xingyu's enemy if her father continued to try and matchmake them. Although she would have loved to be with him, she wouldn't be able to deal with the guilt of destroying a pregnant woman's life, and she didn't want to be his enemy either. So she bit her lip and explained, "Actually, I have a boyfriend."

"Don't be ridiculous." Uncle Yun frowned as he sat beside his daughter. "Who would cry over another man if they had a boyfriend?"

"I really do." She insisted. "I wasn't crying over Xingyu. I just...think he doesn't pay enough attention to me. I'm starting to think he doesn't like me anymore and that's why..."

The man studied his daughter's expression but was still not convinced. "Who is this boyfriend and why have I not heard about him?"

"Our relationship is still in its early stages and he is very busy because he is a doctor. I didn't get the chance to tell you about him before you started...doing what you did earlier."

"You are lying."

"No I'm not." She shook her head. In her desperation to make him believe her, she blurted out the first nonsense that popped up in her head. "Then, I will bring him to meet you."

She had thought that her dad would be convinced and stop asking. However, he nodded. "Okay. Bring him for dinner tomorrow."

"Uh... What?" She was startled.

The man crossed his arms. "Well? There isn't a man who would not make time to meet up with his girlfriend's parents. If the man exists, that is."

Xiaoshi so badly wanted to bite her tongue off. What had she gotten herself into?

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The following day.

"Doctor Han, I need your help!" She rushed up to Han Xichen as soon as he arrived.

The man raised an eyebrow curiously. "You didn't come yesterday, I thought you have given up bringing fruits and lunch."

She grabbed his hand in an attempt to shut him up. "It's an emergency!"

"An emergency? What happened? Do you need me to arrange for an ambulance?"

She shook her head. "No, it's not a medical emergency. But you may as well prepare for emergency treatment because I'm about to faint!"

"What happened?" He was more relaxed. Seeing her peek around in case there was anyone else within earshot, he led her to his office and had her sit. "Tell me about it."

She took a deep breath. "I told you about how the guy I liked is engaged, right?"

When he nodded, she continued in one breath. "So the guy is my boss's fiancé but my dad is trying hard to make things work between me and him and that would only make things awkward for everyone so I tried to stop him but he is too stubborn and I ended up blurting out about how I had a boyfriend." She sighed and dropped the bigger bombshell. "So, I have to find a boyfriend today and bring him to have dinner with my dad this evening."

Han Xichen frowned. "And for some reason, you think he would not suspect you of bringing a fake boyfriend?"

"It's better than not trying."

He massaged his temples. "So, why are you here? Do you want me to help you find a fake boyfriend?"

She nodded pleadingly. "I would have grabbed a random guy from anywhere but I lied that my boyfriend is a doctor. Please help me hire one of your colleagues as a temporary boyfriend."

Han Xichen was speechless.

One could always trust Xiaoshi to make the weirdest kind of requests. First, she wanted her memory erased and now she wanted him to hook her up with one of his colleagues, and she was doing so with such a pitiful, begging expression.

He thought about it for a while and shook his head. "If you got taken advantage of, how would I answer to Xiehan?"

"Huh? You know my cousin?" She was shocked.

He nodded. "We are friends. You now understand why I can't do it, right?"

She looked like she was about to cry. "But I have no other choice. I promise, I won't get you in trouble."

He firmly shook his head. "No can do, Xiaoshi. I could lose my job. I'm sorry."

She looked at him gloomily, but because she didn't want to make things difficult for him, she took a deep breath and took out her phone.

"You're not about to post an announcement on your social media, are you? Even if you block your dad, how long will it take before you find a suitable boyfriend?"

Xiaoshi was stunned. Did psychologists really know how to read minds? She was about to point it out when she realized that he was right. Indeed, it would be by the time she found the right suitor. How many doctors had the time to check social media, and how many of them would be interested in such a ploy?

The man was about to tell her how to make her father forget about it when he changed his words to, "I'll go.. I'll be your fake boyfriend."

"You... What?" Xiaoshi was taken aback.

Han Xichen frowned as he reclined in his chair. "I just don't want you to bump into some hooligan who will take advantage of you. Otherwise, I will not be able to forgive myself."

Xiaoshi was just thinking of hiring an actor to pretend to be a doctor when she heard his words. Thinking of how considerate he was, her heart softened. "Thank you."

Besides, he really was the safest option. If her father did a background check, he would be more convinced about their relationship after learning that he was Xiehan's friend.

"So, how did we meet?" She wondered aloud. If they narrated their real meeting, it would make it seem like he was taking advantage of her weakness for personal gain.

Thinking about it for a second, he frowned. "Isn't it obvious? Xiehan introduced us. This is the most plausible situation."

"But if he asks Xiehan..." She was afraid of dragging her cousin into a mess.

"Don't worry. He will not bother to ask if we make the act convincing. Besides, we will only mention that Xiehan introduced us casually. It has nothing to do with whether or not we developed feelings for each other." He reassured.

"Well, that's true." She had to admit that he was better at playing mind games than she was.

Twirling a pen, he said, "Tell me where we are meeting your dad and leave the rest to me."

"Okay, I will send you the address as soon as my dad tells me." She trusted him, not that she had any other choice.

"Do you have my number?" He looked up at her and asked when she stood to leave.

"Uhm...nope." If she did, she would not need to make a trip and wait for him for so long.

"How will you tell me the address?" He stretched out his palm. It took a moment for her to understand that he was asking for her phone and when she did, she awkwardly placed her phone in his palm.

After keying in his private phone number and leaving himself a missed call, he returned her phone to her. As she reached to take it, her fingers accidentally touched his and she felt like she had been struck with electricity. She let go like her fingers had been scalded.

She looked at the hands before her for a while. These were the hands that had saved so many lives before...

She had done some online search about him and found out that before he majored in psychology, he was a surgeon and had performed so many life-saving surgeries despite his young age. She didn't know why she felt surprised seeing that his hands were just like any other man's—and had long, beautiful fingers. Was she expecting him to have ten fingers on each hand instead of five?

"Your phone." He gently reminded.

"Oh." She took it and instead of keeping it in her bag, stared at it as though it had inherited some of his 'life saving aura' from his palm.

Looking at the little girl, Han Xichen was amused. For the second time, he realized that he couldn't truly figure her out. Why was she suddenly acting strange? Just what was she thinking about this time?

"I have to go to work!" She excused herself and rushed, arriving one minute late.

She ran into Luna who was heading towards the executive elevator and frantically apologized. "I'm sorry I'm late."

"Xiao Yu has sent the background to your email. Get to work, I want the project done before this evening."

"This evening...? Xiaoshi was stunned. She could complete the remaining part of the game within the day but what about testing it? That should take at least a few days!

Luna knew what she was thinking, so she smiled." Just complete what you should and send it to me. I will do the rest."

"Okay." She hurried to her office and got to work. This time, she made sure not to be distracted and worked continuously until lunch break. As soon as she had finished setting up the background and sending it to Luna, she let out a sigh then her mind immediately ran wild.

The first thing she thought about was him—Han Xichen. What were his hobbies, likes and dislikes? What about his family? She should know about these details, right? Otherwise, it would be strange if she didn't know such important details about her boyfriend. Well, fake boyfriend.

"What's the difference? He is my boyfriend for the day anyway." She thought aloud. Whether fake or not, there probably wasn't any woman who wouldn't want to claim such a handsome man. Wait. What nonsense was she thinking?

Meanwhile, in Tian Yu Media.

Lanni read the email in her inbox and frowned. Damned Rong Han Studio. They had scouted over Tian Yu Media's guest, again.

Aside from a daily newspaper and Business, Fashion and Health & Fitness magazines, Tian Yu Media also owned a television studio.

They had a weekly business program and would invite prominent business people every Tuesday for a live interview. For this week, they had invited a real estate tycoon from City S. However, Lanni had just received an email stating that the tycoon had backed out on the interview, and she instantly knew that he had been convinced by their rival, Rong Han Studio.

She was just wondering whether to contact the tycoon when an idea flashed in her mind. Why would she need to lick the boots of outsiders when she could simply replace the guest?

Dialing the telephone on her desk, she made a call to Moonlight Studios.

"Luna, do you and Xingyu have something on tomorrow evening?" She asked when the call connected.

"No, why?"

"I was initially planning to publish your interview on this week's issue of the business magazine. However, our guest for tomorrow evening's live interview suddenly backed out. Do you think you could replace him?" She went ahead to explain why a TV interview would have a much better effect than magazine.

"I would love to!" Luna exclaimed excitedly. "Hold on. Let me ask Xingyu." She took out her personal phone without hanging up and called Xingyu to ask if he would be free. When she received his response, she got back to Lanni. "Xingyu will be available too. Send me the address later."

Lanni sighed in relief. If she didn't get a guest of the same level of influence, she might have to answer to the CEO. Luckily, although Luna was still new in the business field, Xingyu was already an influential businessman that a news agency like Tian Yu Media would never dream of inviting.

When she was done communicating with the studio so they would confirm the time slot, she received a call to go to the CEO's office.

She went over and knocked gantly, getting in when she heard his deep voice. "CEO Qian."

The man sized her up. "I saw that you intend to invite CEO Jiang of Jiang Corporation to tomorrow's interview. What happened to the guest I had invited?"

"He backed out. He has already sent over the compensation." She answered calmly.

The man frowned at the last-minute rejection but thought that it wasn't such a bad thing after all. With such an attitude, it would be no surprise if the man refused to answer all the questions later, humiliating them in a live telecast. However, "Will you be able to invite CEO Jiang?"

One must know that even if they managed to get such a man to an interview, they had to tell him about it a few weeks in advance. Would he clear his busy schedule just for them?

"He has already agreed." Lanni's answer dispelled his worries, but he couldn't help but gush at the kind of people that this little girl associated with. After doing a background search of her, he found out that she was the girlfriend of Feng Ji International's Ji Xiehan, and the renown businessman, Xia Hanchen, was her father. Not only that, but she was also friends with the CEO of Lin Media Group, and now that he thought about a piece of news that had erupted several weeks ago, Jiang Xingyu should be her sister's fiancé. Not to mention, the world-famous artist, Li Yuming, was her mother. She was basically surrounded by big shots.

He couldn't help asking, "Why did you choose to work here?"

He was not going to ask why she needed to work—one couldn't sit at home and idle around just because they were related to big shots—but why Tian Yu Media? Why not Lin Media Group?

After working here for a while, Lanni knew that he was a trustworthy and competent man so she was honest. "I want to gain enough experience."

"You want to start your own agency later?" He guessed correctly. When she nodded, he was intrigued. "You have come to the right place. As long as you work hard, I can train you."

Lanni was surprised by the sudden pie that had just dropped from the sky.. "Thank you, CEO."

Leaving the CEO's office, Lanni was in a jubilant mood. How would she have thought that she would land herself a mentor just by answering a few questions?

However, she would think about that later. At the moment, she had to prepare for the next day's interview.

After deciding on the host, she wrote down a series of questions. She was aware that some hosts liked to take advantage and ask questions that made the guests uncomfortable or awkward. Although there was nothing wrong with asking about matters that the audience was most curious about, the guests' willingness and comfort was the top priority. She would have considered this even if she had not invited her sister this week.

After setting up a series of main topics, she sent them to the host in an email and gave him a call. "You are allowed to ask one or two off-topic questions but make sure they are not too personal. Don't let the guests feel that their privacy is being intruded too much.

The man listened to her warning before suddenly chuckling. "Little missy, aren't you a little too controlling?"

Lanni frowned but before she said a word, the other party hung up.

She sighed. It turned out, she was yet to gain enough authority in the agency.

It was not completely unexpected. Although she had dealt with Han Lili and changed everyone's opinion of her, there were bound to be a few subordinates who still thought her abilities were being exaggerated. Of course, her own physique was more or less a disadvantage.

Putting her age and looks aside, her voice was so soft that it was hard to take a command from her seriously. Despite that, she rolled her pen resolutely. She would let that guy—and whoever else was disrespecting her—that the worst thing one could do is underestimate anyone.

That evening—Royal Restaurant.

Uncle Yun had reserved a spot and arrived earlier than the agreed time. It was obvious just how much he looked forward to seeing his daughter's so-called boyfriend.

He sipped on some tea as he quietly waited for his daughter.

At 6pm, she finally arrived. He looked behind her and noticed that there was no one with her. To be honest, he was expecting this.

Since his daughter had claimed that the other party was a doctor, it would be unsuspecting for her to simply apologize and say that he was caught up in an emergency. He frowned as his daughter sat down and placed her bag beside her. "Shishi, you don't need to lie to daddy. I understand."

Hearing her father's words, Xiaoshi understood why Han Xichen had been against the idea of her cancelling the meeting in the name of an emergency. It was not believable.

However, she shook her head with a smile. "He agreed to the meeting. He should be here soon."

"I see." Uncle Yun said, then they waited.

Time passed by the minute and soon, it was almost 7pm. Xiaoshi was starting to get anxious. Didn't he agree to be at the restaurant by 6:30? She didn't have anything against his tardiness but she knew that the longer they waited, the more her father was convinced that it was an act. It would be hard to make him believe them later.

She took out her phone and tried to make a call. When the other party didn't answer, she sent a string of text messages.

The man silently watched his daughter and was prepared for her to say that her boyfriend could not make it. He suddenly felt bad for her.

"It's rush hour. Perhaps he is caught up in a traffic jam." She made a reasonable excuse while her heart raced. If he was caught up in traffic, why didn't he answer her calls?!

After waiting for a while, she couldn't sit still anymore. She stood up to head to the restroom. She was just about to turn when a pair of hands engulfed her, and a voice spoke beside her ear. "Babe, did you wait for too long? I'm sorry, I had to deal with some matters before rushing over."

Xiaoshi immediately recognized Han Xichen's voice and she could swear that her heart had skipped a few beats. She was not accustomed to having such close contact with men, let alone being spoken to in such an intimate manner. Paired with Han Xichen's unbelievably flirtatious tone, her cheeks immediately flushed.

She dared not look up at him when she remembered how he had hugged her from behind. "Excuse me."

She then stumbled to the restrooms.

While Han Xichen and Xiaoshi both knew why she was blushing, that was not what Uncle Yun thought. From his point of view, his little daughter was excited to see her boyfriend but when she recalled that her dad had seen their intimate act, she was embarrassed.

A smile formed on his lips. So the boyfriend was real after all.

Han Xiechen gave himself a thumbs-up when he saw that he had accomplished the desired effect. No matter how awkward she seemed around him, Uncle Yun would mistake it for shyness.

"So you are the guy who's been making my Shishi cry." The man expressed his displeasure when he recalled how heartbrokenly Xiaoshi had cried the day before.

Han Xichen didn't understand the entire situation so he had to quickly adjust. He extended a hand in greeting. "Hello sir."

The man ignored him, which was expected. So he sat down and explained, "I would never deliberately make Xiaoshi cry. I love her so much." Seeing the other party's accusatory glare, he added, "It's just that I have been so busy lately that I didn't get to spend enough time with her that Shishi felt neglected. However, I have already submitted a request for a change in department so I will be less busy in future."

"I see." Uncle Yun contemplated. Although these responses were flawless, why did he still feel something was wrong?

Shishi had still been so madly in love with that Jiang guy less than three weeks ago. How was it possible that she had already fallen in love with another man and they were already fighting? It didn't make much sense.

Understanding the man's concerns, Xichen seized the chance to cancel out all the possible questions. "I will be on leave next week: I plan to use this time to travel around with Xiaoshi and get to spend more time with her. You see, our relationship was quite rushed and there is still a lot we are yet to know about each other. I hope you won't mind if you don't get to see her for a while."

With this, Uncle's Yun's question of how long they had known each other and when they started dating was no longer valid. He could only nod. "Take as much time as you want. It's important to get to know each other."

Even so, he didn't give up prying as he still had suspicions. "Since you didn't know each other that well, why did you still rush your relationship?"

To this he smiled slightly. "Uncle, feelings cannot be controlled, can they? We fell in love at first sight: it didn't matter whether we got together immediately or ten years later, the results would still be the same."

Xiaoshi had just returned from the bathroom when she heard his statement about falling in love at first sight. For a moment, she looked up at the man beside her. How come she didn't realize that he was so good at bluffing his way out of a situation?

Meeting her gaze, he added, "Don't some people get married after meeting just a few times?"

When Uncle Yun thought about it, he had no way to refute it. In fact, he and Meiling had gotten after meeting thrice. The third time was on their wedding day. Yet, he loved her so much that no one would think it was an arranged marriage between them.

After ordering their food, he continued asking a few questions. "Which family are you from?"

Knowing that the man would investigate, he answered, "The Han clan from City H."

The awe in Uncle Yun's eyes was evident. "The Han clan, the widely-known practitioners of medicine? Are you Han Honglin's grandson?"

"Yes." Han Xichen nodded, while Xiaoshi was curious. Could it be that infamous cardiologist she had heard about?

In reality, not everyone from the Han clan was a doctor. There was in fact just a few of them. However, Han Honglin was one of the most respected figures in the country, hence everyone knew about his family.

Han Xichen had never cared about this but it was convenient at the moment. Uncle Yun would no longer suspect him of having ulterior motives towards his daughter since he had such an impressive background.

Feeling a burning gaze on him, Han Xichen let down his cutlery and picked up the small hand beside him. Xiaoshi was so shocked that she almost yelped, but his gentle smile rendered her speechless.

It was already unfair enough that this man was so talented. Did he have to be so insanely handsome as well? She was about to pass out from that smile!

Chapter 406 - Stuffed To Death With Dog Food

The dinner went much better than Xiaoshi had anticipated. After learning that Xichen was the grandson of a renowned cardiologist as well as a reputable doctor, Uncle Yun was no longer suspicious of him. After all, the Yun family was nothing in comparison to the infamous Han clan. There was no way a man with such an excellent background would be interested in playing a charade with his daughter. On the other hand, his daughter was a stunning beauty. Although it was also almost impossible for her to be affiliated with a man of such social standing, it was more believable for them to be in a relationship than to team up and lie to him.

Never would he have expected that these two incompatible individuals were, in fact, teaming up to trick him.

When Uncle Yun learnt that Han Xichen was one of Xiehan's close friends, he was even more impressed. He knew that his nephew was careful while making friends. Based on this fact, he was convinced that his daughter would not be at a disadvantage.

...

When they were done, Uncle Yun left first and let the youngsters catch up.

As the two of them walked to the parking lot, Xiaoshi let out the breath she had been holding. She excitedly let out a squeal and launched herself into his arms. "You were awesome! What a sweet tongue you have, you have totally convinced him!"

After rambling for a while, she finally realized that she was hugging him tightly...

She awkwardly pulled away, wishing nothing more than to punch herself. She was so used to hugging her friends when she was excited that she forgot her manners.

Seeing her embarrassed little face, Han Xichen thought that she looked quite cute. He smiled and changed the topic. "You can ask your friends out a few times and let your dad assume that you are with me. I don't think he has the time or thought to stalk you."

"Okay! Why don't I treat you to a meal as thanks?" She added as she nodded to his suggestion.

Han Xichen would have readily agreed. However, although she was jovially inviting him, he could tell that she was conflicted about it. The meal was not a mere thanks. It was a way to entirely cut ties with him, so they would no longer have to see each other. Seeing that she was forcing herself to make a decision she didn't know whether she was ready to make, he spoke up. "There's no need for a meal. If you feel so indebted to me, you can owe me a favor and I will contact you in future if I ever need your help."

She thought about it and nodded. "Deal."

This was partially because as a grandson of the Han clan, why would he ever need anyone's help? The possibility of his contacting her was quite slim. On the other hand, it would not entirely break things off between them.

Perhaps because she didn't have many friends, she selfishly wanted to cling onto this man who she found to be kind and easy to talk to. She would be happy if they were friends but at the same time, she didn't want to cause him any trouble.

"Then, I'll go home now. I still have a prototype to complete." She waved and prepared to leave.

"I'll drop you off." He offered.

"My cousin's bodyguard drove me here." The words flew out of her mouth before she could stop them, and she didn't know why she felt regretful.

Just before they parted, a pair of familiar faces came into view. It was Xingyu and Luna, who had just left their car. Xingyu was going on about something and seemed to be trying to curry her favor, while Luna ignored him disdainfully.

Xiaoshi's gaze lingered on them for a while before she recovered from her trance to look at something else.

"Yo, Xingyu." Han Xichen waved over when the couple was close enough.

Xingyu looked over and was a little surprised as he walked over with Luna. "Xichen? What are you doing here?"

"I came to accompany a little beauty for dinner." He gave the simplest excuse. "I could ask you the same thing."

"I promised my wife to buy her dessert from this restaurant but forgot about it, so she is mad at me. I brought her over to pacify her and end this cold war." Xingyu explained. Even though he said that they were fighting, they were holding hands and exchanging sweet smiles from time to time.

Han Xichen couldn't take it. "We have not met in a long time and the first thing you want to do is stuff me to death with dog food? You horrible man!"

The men bumped shoulders as a form of greeting. Xingyu then introduced the two. "Luna, this is Xichen. I don't know whether you have heard of him before but if you want to look for the most incompetent doctor in the world, this is him."

"Hey, how dare you slander me in front of sister-in-law?"[1] Han Xichen playfully punched his friend's arm before extending a hand to greet Luna. "I finally get to meet you. This unreliable man must have kept you away in fear that I would expose his dirty past to you."

"What dirty past? Don't speak nonsense." Xingyu immediately defended himself. "Love, don't listen to him. He is only bluffing because I exposed him."

When Han Xichen saw his friend—who was usually too proud for his own good—explaining to Luna so patiently, he was baffled. It turned out, it was true that love could change men in the most unbelievable ways.

Finally recalling why he thought Luna was familiar, he was stunned. Wasn't this Lanni's sister? The last time he saw her, she looked like a tomboy. Seeing her again, he could swear that he would have mistaken her for Lanni if she wasn't holding hands with Xingyu.

"Why are you looking at my wife?" Xingyu hid Luna behind him, behaving like a kid who didn't want his precious gift to be swooned over by other kids.

Han Xichen laughed at his possessiveness. "I'm just wondering why Li Yuming didn't have triplets."

His implication was the same as Lin Jian's when he discovered that his friends were dating twins.

Luna and Xingyu took it as a casual joke, but it was different for Xiaoshi. For some reason, she felt a little uncomfortable hearing such words from Han Xichen. To put it plainly, she had been uncomfortable from the moment the two men started talking about Luna.

Yet, she couldn't tell whether she was jealous of Luna or envious of the fact that Xingyu was so protective of her—or whether it was because Han Xichen had given a remark that could easily pass off as flirtatious.

Luna had long noticed Xiaoshi but their relationship was still awkward so she didn't say a word. After a short exchange between the two men, Xingyu led Luna into the restaurant.

Han Xichen tapped Xiaoshi who was lost in thought. "I have a feeling that Xingyu is the man you love, the one who didn't love you back and got engaged with another woman. Am I right?"

Xiaoshi subconsciously wanted to deny it but she was too shocked. "How did you know?"

"Logic." The man grinned. It made sense now that he thought about it. As Xiehan's cousin, it was likely for her to like one of his friends, especially if that man is Xingyu. Many girls tended to like men like him. But, even if there was no logical explanation behind it, Xiaoshi's gaze on Xingyu had betrayed her.

He thought about the situation and was a little surprised. "You don't look like a heartbroken girl to me, though."

"Huh?" She tilted her head to ask curiously.

Looking at her, he analyzed, "If you were still so madly in love with him, you would not be able to stand that fierce display of affection."

Xiaoshi was stunned when she realized it. Indeed. If this was any other time, she would have long excused herself to go and cry elsewhere. Even if she didn't do anything about it, the sight of Xingyu dotting on another woman so much would have felt like a sword being twisted ruthlessly in her heart.

Han Xichen softly continued, "You are moving on. You are starting to make peace with the fact that he cannot be yours, and it's the best thing for you to do."

Xiaoshi was once again stunned. Perhaps because she had never had too much hope to begin with, the truth was not as hard to accept as she had thought it would be.

Han Xichen saw her changing expressions and had the urge to pat her head. This feeling, it was no different from successfully completing a patient's therapy. He knew that Xiaoshi's case was the easiest to deal with. After learning about her, he concluded that as long as she discovered that she could do it, it would be much easier for her to move on. Which is why he had told her about her own progress, and from the looks of her expression, it had worked.

[1]....In some countries, it's normal for a man to call his friend's wife 'sister-in-law'.

The following day, Moonlight Studios.

Xioshi was on her way to the CEO's office when she ran into Cheng Yu.

"Are you going to Luna's office too?" Cheng Yu asked her.

"Yes." Grabbing this heavenly sent chance, she stuffed a flash drive into Cheng Yu's hands. "The prototype is complete. Please help me give it to her, thank you!"

Before Cheng Yu could say a word, the latter had fled back into the elevator. She laughed at the girl's theatrics, though she couldn't blame her. Although they had not deliberately done anything to hurt each other, it was almost impossible for love rivals to get along. In fact, Xiaoshi's relationship with Luna was the most difficult to deal with, since they would cross paths whether they liked it or not. Knowing that a war might break out between them at any second, Cheng Yu felt as though this was a ticking time bomb.

She was just about to take a detour to Luna's office when someone came running after her. It was Cedric, and he must have rushed over since he was out of breath.

"Yu, there is a glitch in the system." He reported anxiously.

"What?" Cheng Yu had thought that Cedric was seeking her for a personal matter so she was stunned for a second matter.

"I suddenly cannot access any page on the app. It's all blank." He showed his phone to Cheng Yu.

She took it and compared it to her own app, then frowned. "Did you report it to the technical department?"

The young man nodded. "I did, but no one responded. I thought I should tell you because it would be tragic if too many users experienced this, especially new users."

Cheng Yu had to admit that he made a lot of sense. The application was still fairly new. If it started breaking down so soon, it might affect the ratings. Hence, the sooner it was dealt with, the less damage there would be. "I'll tell Luna."

As soon as she spoke, she rushed to Luna's office. The latter was stretching her long fingers and when Cheng Yu walked in, she looked over with a raised eyebrow.

"There is a..." Cheng Yu was in the middle of explaining when she suddenly paused, shocked at the twist. The application was working as usual.

Guessing the reason for her anxiety, Luna explained, "I just dealt with it."

"Oh." How fast. As expected of Luna.

She gave her the USB flash drive she had been given by Xiaoshi as she asked, "Did Lanni send the venue for tonight's interview?"

"TY Center, the interview starts at 8pm. Are you coming?"

As a Co-founder of Moonlight studios, it was only natural for Cheng Yu to receive an invite to the interview too. However, she was not sure whether she wanted to go.

After thinking about it, she shrugged. "Why not? I was afraid that my parents would bother me if they know about my involvement with you and Xingyu. But now that I think about it, why should I care? I will shoo them off if they attempt anything they shouldn't. I cannot hide my potential forever just because of them."

"That's a strong girl." Luna was happy that Cheng Yu was slowly peeling herself out of the cocoon in which she had been fearfully hiding. "Xingyu will pick us up in the evening." After discussing the details and a few other things, Cheng Yu left the CEO's office, only to find that Cedric was waiting for her outside.

"Is something wrong?" She asked.

Cedric didn't know how to describe his sentiments. Although he was a bit older than his girlfriend, she was so serious when she switched into 'boss' mode that he almost felt inferior to her.

"Can we have dinner together this evening?" He went straight to the point, knowing that she wanted to return to work.

"I have an interview at 8pm." She responded apologetically.

"Oh... Then can I drop you off at the venue?"

She couldn't possibly say no this. Unlike other girlfriends, she spent so much time working that she almost didn't have time for her boyfriend. Since this was the only way they could spend a few extra minutes together, she nodded. "Pick me up at 7pm."

...

In the end, they arrived at TY Center in pairs. They were shown to the waiting lounge, where Cedric would sit and wait for her interview to complete. Although he could not be beside her during the interview, there was a large, high density screen on the wall in front of him, so he would be able to watch a live broadcast of the interview.

They had arrived just a few minutes before the interview was set to begin so they were immediately shown to the studio.

The host, a man who looked to be in his mid thirties, handed a sheet of paper to them. "The interview will border around these topics. If there is any of them you are uncomfortable with, let me know so I can eliminate it."

They skimmed through them then Xingyu said, "They are alright." They were all business-related topics so there was nothing wrong with them.

However, none of them knew that the host had no intention to use any of those topics.

He was merely asking as a formality. He showed them to their seats and prepared to start.

Helping Luna onto the red, velvet couch, Xingyu took a second glance at the host. He had a bad feeling about the man's attitude.

However, knowing that there wasn't anything a host could do in front of the live cameras, he withdrew his gaze and sat down.

Soon, the live interview started.

The first few questions were meant to warm up the atmosphere so the host kept it light.

He looked at Cheng Yu and Luna who were sitting opposite each other and asked gushingly, "I heard the two of you are still very young. How old are you?"

"I'll be 21 in two months, Luna is 20." Cheng Yu responded.

"You are very talented despite your young age. Girls like you should be the pride of society! When I was your age, I was still playing around and wasting my days away." The host laughed, then questioned, "I wonder if the two of you are still students? Which university are you studying at?"

Luna nodded at Cheng Yu to go first, so she answered, "I just finished my comic arts course at Star Art International."

Luna added humorously, "I dropped out of college." There was no point hiding it since it could be dug out anyway.

Although it was true, her tone made it sound like she was telling a joke. Not only the host, even Cheng Yu, Xingyu and the live audience found her response comical.

The host stopped laughing and focused his gaze on Luna. "Despite being a college drop-out, you managed to create a company from scratch? You must be a genius."

Luna had a bad feeling about his answer. Why did it sound like he was being sarcastic?

She was yet to conclude her thought when the man suddenly asked, "Speaking of which, why did a start-up company get an investment from Jiang Corporation? Mr. Jiang, could you tell us why?"

Everyone was curious about it, so Xingyu answered, "I went through the company details and found that it was worthy of an investment. No businessman would let go of an opportunity to earn profit in future, after all. Of course, the main point is to support my fiancée."

When he heard Xingyu's main point, the host was no longer able to pin 'relying on a rich man' on Luna. Hence, he changed his tactics. "As a good fiancé, that's a sane thing to do. Though everyone is curious. Why would you help Miss Cheng get into Star Art International? Also, why did you make her your partner in this startup as well? Is it because she is Miss Xia's friend, or are there other reasons?"

Xingyu frowned at the dumb question. While he sounded curious, he was indirectly asking whether Xingyu had an intimate relationship with Cheng Yu!

He tried not to lose his temper and laughed it off. "Miss Cheng is an excellent artist. She doesn't need any help getting into whichever art institution she wants. For the second question, haven't you already given an answer to that?"

The man could not refute his words. If he pressed too much, it would sound like a direct accusation so he laughed in good humor. "It turns out, Miss Cheng and Miss Xia are close friends."

The trio was yet to relax when yet another bomb was dropped in form of a question. "Have you ever worried about the consequences of collaborating with these two young ladies?"

Xingyu had a bad feeling, so he shut the other with a single word, "No."

However, the man did not give up. "You are so loving, Mr. Jiang. You are willing to support your fiancée despite her past. Speaking of which, Miss Xia, people have been asking about how you managed to get out of jail despite the irrefutable evidence of your crime. Did the Jiang family help you out?"

Luna patted Xingyu to stop him from flying into a rage. If he fought, the host would only term it as a guilt conscience.

"Did you invite us to this interview to ask us about our company or to indirectly hurl false accusations at us?"

Chapter 408 - Fired

The host was stunned. He had not expected Luna to question him so directly.

When faced with such questions, most guests would usually appear calm in an interview, in fear or tarnishing their own reputation. As long as the answer was dismissive in the slightest, the host could choose to twist it into whatever he wanted. He could even label the guest as arrogant or call them out for despising everyone after gaining a few achievements. Even if there was no evidence, sometimes an article was all it took to destroy one's effort.

Luna's company was yet to gain a foothold in the industry, so a slight mistake could doom its growth. This was why the host had been confident that she would not retaliate no matter what.

However, he was wrong. Luna questioned him calmly, "What was the point of asking us about our opinions regarding the topics prepared if you were not planning to use any of them?"

To this, the host gave a fake smile. "Miss Xia, you have misunderstood. Although we did prepare a series of questions beforehand, we also allow the live audience to send some of the questions they are curious about." inwardly, he laughed. Hehe... Did she think it was hard to deal with a little girl?

"This matter has long been clarified. You can look it up, I'm sure the news is still online. If you still have doubts, you are welcome to go and question the court about it." She answered unhurriedly.

"How would we know? After all, the Jiang family..." He still clung to this point.

Xingyu suddenly stood up, his face devoid of expression. "I'm sorry. My fiancée is pregnant and needs to rest more. We should get going now."

If it wasn't because Lanni was an employee of Tian Yu Media, heaven knows he would have flipped up. Giving a reasonable excuse was merely because he didn't want to make things difficult for Lanni, who had invited them.

The host panicked. Although Xingyu had given such an irrefutable reason, the audience was not blind. He was clearly trying to hold back his displeasure.

Comments had already started flooding on the bullet screen and TY Media's website.

[It's already hard enough to watch an interview of my idol but he wants to leave. I'm so sad T_T]

[Isn't it because of that trash host? I feel like he's holding a grudge against Miss Xia right from the first question!]

[I paid attention to the so-called murder case. It turned out, Xia Luna had been framed and blackmailed into pleading guilty in court. After such an ordeal, it takes courage to be able to continue living. Yet, not only are you not encouraging her for her bravery, you are using the incident to slander her instead? Are you even human?!]

[That's it. I'm not going to watch any more interviews and programmes from TY. Trash studio! (emoji:furious)]

Luna was wondering what to do when they heard the soft clank of high heels as a woman walked in.

She looked young and had her hair tied into a neat bun. With her white dress and light makeup, one could consider her as cute. But at this moment, she looked serious as she whispered something to the man. The man's expression paled and he walked out of the studio, as the young woman took his seat.

She glanced at the guests with a gentle smile. "I'm so sorry for what my colleague has done. Miss Xia, Miss Cheng, Mr. Jiang, if it's not troublesome, could we continue the interview? I will replace him."

It was not uncommon for guests to walk out on interviews, but replacing guests did not happen very often. She was nervous.

Cheng Yu sighed. "I'll let Luna decide."

The young lady looked at Xingyu, who said the same thing. "Babe, what do you want to do?"

Although it was such an awkward moment, the live audience couldn't help shrieking in excitement. Comments filled the bullet screen once more.

[Aaaaah! My husband is so tyrannical!]

[The commentator above, keep your drool to yourself. He is someone else's husband.]

The first commentator retorted [Do you dare to claim that you didn't drool?]

[He dotes on Luna so much! The way he said 'babe, what do you want to do?' made my knees weak.]

[I'm so done with this live PDA, but my eyes just won't budge!]

Seeing the comments start to change for the better, and the initially dropping viewer ratings start to rise, the new host, Ava, was nervous. What would Luna say?

Luna was still displeased. However, seeing Ava's anticipating eyes, her heart softened. The girl was probably an intern. If she successfully averted the crisis, she may have a breakthrough in her career. Since she didn't want to make things difficult for an intern, Luna nodded. "Let's go on."

Outside the live studio, Lanni heaved a sigh of relief when she heard Luna's compliance.

She turned and glanced at the former host, who she had summoned out a while ago. "You are fired."

The man had expected a scolding from his superiors, but he didn't expect that Lanni would directly utter such words. He scoffed amid his surprise. "Why?"

Lanni did not want to waste time dealing with such a scumbag. "If you still want to feign ignorance, then you will know the reason once you receive the letter of termination."

She then sauntered away in her high heels.

In truth, the host had nothing against Luna. It was only because he had been warned by Lanni earlier that he looked the guests up. When he realized that Cheng Yu was Lanni's friend and that Luna was her sister, he planned out this strike. Since Lanni treasured them so much, he would make them make fools of themselves in front of the watching eyes of the entire nation.

When he saw that they were about to walk out, he had been unfazed, because he could simply write a few explosive headlines and throw the blame on the three of them.

Yet, who would have expected that he would be kicked out of the interview instead? This was a huge blow to his career! As if that was not enough, he was fired!

Although he was afraid, he harrumphed. What authority did a little girl have? Why did she think she had the right to fire him?

"Let's see who gets fired in the end." He laughed.

...

Inside the studio, the interview was lively and humorous. Since it was an open interview, there were many topics regarding Moonlight Studios that could be talked about. And Ava knew just the right questions to ask. Not only did she spike the interest of potential investors for the company, her own intelligence was also displayed.

Once in a while, she would throw in a question or two about their personal lives, and the comments were threatening to blow the screens.

Ava looked at Cheng Yu who had just finished answering a question. "You are so smart. I'm sure your boyfriend feels like the luckiest man on earth. Wait. Do you have a boyfriend?" She lowered her tone dramatically through the second part, acting like it was supposed to be a secret question.

Cheng Yu blushed when she thought about Cedric who must be waiting for her. Clearing her throat, she nodded. "Yes."

"Did you hear that? The hearts of all the single men just broke!" Ava joked, but it was no exaggeration. All of Cheng Yu's fans started crying and expressing their heartbreak on the bullet screens.

Getting back to the main business, Ava asked about Moonlight Studio's latest project.

"The newest upcoming project is a game called Demons Vs gods. It was based on the comics "The Demigod's Wife" by Cheng Yu and "Demon Under Me" by Cedric Han." Luna explained.

Ava was awed when she heard the explanation. "I have read both the comics." She almost lost herself and squealed when she thought about the five devilishly handsome brothers in "Demon Under Me".

She was not the only one. The comment screen was filled with red hearts as fans of the comics flooded the site with comments.

"How soon will we get to play it?" Ava asked the question in most of the comments.

Cheng Yu smiled when she saw how excited the fans of both comics were. "The game is currently undergoing test-runs. If everything goes well, it should be available to play in a few days."

Since it was yet to be officially released, they didn't give too much details. Even so, the fans were already looking forward to it. It was evident that in the coming days, Luna and Cheng Yu would explode in popularity. Although Xingyu was already a widely known businessman, his popularity would increase as well.

—

Li Yuming's villa.

Li Yuming was waiting for the TV drama she liked to watch. There was still about half an hour before it started so she leisurely switched through the channels to find something to watch while waiting. She casually switched to TY and was surprised when she saw the ongoing interview.

Her surprise morphed into curiosity and she listened. Luna and Cheng Yu took turns explaining the genre and general overview of their new game.

Li Yuming's lips curled upwards unknowingly. "So smart." [1]

.....

[1]Make a guess.

Who is Li Yuming referring to as smart?

Xingyu?

Her apprentice, Cheng Yu?

Her estranged daughter, Luna?

Chapter 409 - Family Comes First

After the interview, the outcome was better than they had anticipated. In the next few days, Moonlight Studios exploded in popularity and potential investors flooded in. At the same time, there were countless new applicants for various departments in the company.

Luna checked through their information and rejected those that did not qualify, then asked the others to attend an interview. Even though they were still short of employees, she was not going to blindly hire people who might disappoint her later.

Aside from the countless emails threatening to break down her computer, their social media accounts were on the verge of breaking down as well.

In just a few days, there were innumerable new followers and thousands of requests for the game to be released sooner. The comments were hilarious.

[Little moon, don't be such a bully. Release the game and we will love you forever!] The 'little moon' in the comment was obviously Luna. After this user started it, all the other commentators started fondly addressing her using this new nickname.

[Little moon, if you do not release the game sooner, we will haunt you in your dreams.]

[Shoo! Don't scare our little moon. Ps-I have already found a suitable nickname to use in the game. Grandmaster of leaderboard legends.]

[How arrogant!]

[I found one too! Damon's little fox.]

Damon was one of the male characters in the comic, and Luna had confirmed that he would be a character in the game as well. The news had sent young women shrieking in excitement. As soon as one user declared that she would use a nickname with Damon's name in it, several teenage girls and young women followed suit.

Until a teenage boy commented, [Mine is "The moon's little star"]

The comments paused for a moment, then erupted in a flash. The moon's little star? Was he asking for a beating from Xingyu?

Luna laughed when she saw their comments. How lively.

The situation was no different on Cheng Yu's side. She had gained thousands of new followers in the last few days. She rarely posted pictures of herself and instead posted her paintings or snippets and fan arts of her comics. However, when she started dating Cedric, she had posted a picture of their intertwined hands and added the caption "I didn't think I would ever fall in love until I met you."

The post had not garnered much attention before but was suddenly flooded with comments full of tears and heartbreak emojis from the guys. There were even some who jokingly asked when the two of them would break up and whether they would have a chance.

Cedric was infuriated. What did they mean 'break up'? feeling aggrieved, he rushed to Cheng Yu at lunch break and complained about it sadly. "Yu, you are not allowed to fall in love with other guys."

Cheng Yu laughed at his childish demeanor. Even so, she caressed his face lovingly. "Of course not. I only like you."

Luna was suddenly stuffed with this display of affection. She couldn't believe that rumor portrayed Cedric as a tyrannical young master. Indeed, one should never trust rumors. She stood up and reminded Cheng Yu, "We need to create official social media accounts for the company. Let the authors create their own accounts too." After this influx in popularity, there would be more new users on the comic app, and the authors would gain new fans.

Cheng Yu nodded. "I'll do that right away. About the requests to release the game sooner..."

Luna smiled wickedly. "Delay it by two weeks."

Cheng Yu did not immediately comprehend what she was trying to do but Cedric was awed. "You don't want them to get what they want too easily?"

Luna nodded. "If it seems too easy, there is nothing special about it. They will forget all about the game after just a day or two of playing."

There were new games on the market every other day, so she did not hope that Demons Vs Gods would be so addictive that the users would play it forever. However, she hoped that they would not get bored of it too soon.

Cheng Yu thought about it and felt nervous too. But then again, there would be new users so it wouldn't be the end of it if the old ones got bored.

Luna let the love birds spend some time together and went to give Lanni a call. She invited her out for dinner to thank her.

Meanwhile, Lanni was summoned by the CEO soon after the call ended.

The man didn't look pleased. "By switching the host in the middle of an interview, do you realize the effect that had on TY Media?"

Lanni sighed softly. "I'm sorry. However, the effect would have been much worse if the guests really walked out."

CEO Qian looked up at the young girl in contemplation. "The point is, by doing that, you basically admitted that we are the only ones at fault."

Lanni was not intimidated by his gaze. "But that's the case. He was slandering the guests and if they really walked out, who knows what nonsense he would have spread." She was at fault for not switching out the host as soon as she sensed something wrong with him, and the host was at fault for trying to pick on a guest.

The CEO could not refute her words. Even so, his eyes were still full of questions. "I still think you made such a decision and fired him mainly because of your sister."

Lanni's eyes flickered. Although she was not being reprimanded for it, she had to admit that if the host was picking on someone else, she would not be as angry as she was. She took a deep breath and admitted it. "CEO, I'm sorry if my decision had a negative impact on the company. However, I really couldn't watch my sister, brother-in-law and best friend get bullied and do nothing about it. If I cannot even protect the people I care about, then what's my use in this world?" Her words were unhurried, firm yet not rude.

"I do not wish to choose between the company's reputation and my family's reputation. But if I really have to choose, then I would choose my family."

The man said nothing but his eyes dimmed slightly.

If I really have to choose, I would choose my family.

This little girl probably knew nothing about the impact of her words.

He pushed his thoughts to the back of his mind and probed, "What if I ask you to issue a public apology for your actions?"

Lanni frowned slightly. "That would equate to me insinuating that Luna was not being slandered, that she was putting on airs and that there was nothing wrong with what Wang asked." Wang was the name of the male host who had been kicked out.

The CEO looked at her with a slightly raised eyebrow, making his point clear. His implication was clear. He was putting her at a tight spot.

Although no one was talking about it, TY Media had lost its trust in the eyes of the public since Wang was their employee after all. The effect was only alleviated by the fact that Ava was such a darling that the public liked her. Even so, their official website had received comments of disapproval.

thinking about it briefly, she decided to be honest. "I would rather quit."

She would rather quit... CEO Qian studied the girl for a while.

Could it be that women were more inclined towards caring for their loved ones? She was so determined that she didn't seem to care that the company might drag her name in the mud if she did not yield.

Of course, he was neither planning to fire her nor soil her reputation. The question was merely meant for testing her. He simply wanted to know whether she was the type of person who would give up her career for love.

Lanni waited anxiously and started wondering whether she had said anything wrong. The man finally asked, "You have a boyfriend, right?"

"Yes." She looked at him curiously. What was with this unrelated question?

He paused for a moment then asked, "What would you do if he gave you up for his career?"

If... he had a one in a lifetime opportunity but he could not pursue it because of your relationship, what would you want him to do?"

Lanni found the question strange but she shook her head. "I don't know. Realistically, I don't think he would ever leave me even at gunpoint. But hypothetically speaking, I would be sad if he left... But I would not stand in the way of his decisions."

"I might really be a jerk."

Silence engulfed the room for an unknown amount of time. Just as Lanni wondered whether she should leave, the man suddenly changed the topic. "I'll send you some study cases and tests. You can do them during your free time and let me assess your capabilities."

He had offered to train Lanni before so this was a normal task. She nodded. "Okay.." She wanted to say something but in the end, she decided to mind her own business.

Chapter 410 - Ticking Time Bomb

Leaving the CEO's office, Lanni could not comprehend what she was feeling. She got a cup of coffee to calm her nerves before getting back to work.

In the evening, she went to The Star restaurant where Luna was already waiting. However, she was not on her own. At the table next to theirs, Cheng Yu and Cedric were exchanging infatuated smiles.

"It's a coincidence that Xiao Yu and her guy decided to have dinner here as well." Luna explained as Lanni sat down. It was not unexpected. After all, The Star Restaurant was widely known for its calm and romantic ambience. It was practically heaven for young couples and Cedric and Cheng Yu were no different. To be close to their friends but still have their own private conversations, they had chosen the that was just a few feet away from theirs.

"I'm hungry. Have you placed the orders yet?" Lanni's stomach grumbled just as she spoke.

"I ordered crab for you. I heard that this restaurant has the best sea food in town." Luna responded, Sighing at the fact that she could no longer eat sea food. It always made her lose her appetite no matter how delicious it tasted.

Lanni laughed and patted her head. "Don't worry. Once my nephew/niece is born, I will take you to eat all the sea food in the world."

Luna swatted her hand away in disdain. "How is work? You look tired."

"Hanging in there." She was having trouble keeping up. She had started as a chief editor as soon as she joined the company. The work load would be unbearable if it increased in the slightest. Of course she would be tired. She was not a superhuman, after all. However, she was not about to give up. She believed that she would get used to it after some time.

Their food arrived; Lanni's oven-roasted crab and Luna's vegetable salad. Although it looked especially pleasing to the eye, it was all veggies and no meat. Lanni looked at the plate of her sister who disliked vegetables and looked aggrieved every time she ate them. She was puzzled. What puzzled her even more was that Luna dug in and looked like she was enjoying her meal.

"Uh..."

Was her nephew or niece a future vegetarian?

"Don't push yourself too hard." Luna lectured. In the next second, she turned her head sharply and looked around behind her.

"What's wrong?" Lanni followed her gaze and frowned when she saw nothing out of place.

Luna retracted her gaze and squinted her eyes. "It's nothing. I think I'm just being too sensitive." Even she couldn't understand why she suddenly felt that something was ammiss. When she remembered

how the gynecologist had mentioned that women were more sensitive when they were pregnant, she calmed down.

Lanni thought about it and subconsciously placed a hand over her chest. Why was her heart racing? Was it because her sister was uneasy so it had startled her?

"Lanni, that..." Cheng Yu suddenly looked in the sisters' direction.

They looked over in unison, their faces equally anxious. Even the way they raised their left eyebrows to probe was identical.

Cheng Yu laughed and shook her head. "It's nothing."

Her turned to continue eating. Just now, she had seen Xia Hanchen with a woman, hugging intimately. Her first reaction was to gasp in shock and call for Lanni's attention. But as soon as she called Lanni, she realized how silly she was being.

Why was she making a fuss out of nothing? If Xia Hanchen was with a woman, it could be Li Yuming. She had not seen the woman's face but she shouldn't be a young woman based on her style. Not only that, she also had the same hair color which should be about the same length as Li Yuming's.

If the sisters were to see their parents together, they might be too excited about the possibility of their family reuniting. However, what if things were not the way they appeared? She had not seen the woman's face after all. Perhaps she was someone else.

Of course, she would not judge Xia Hanchen if he were to get together with another woman since he and Li Yuming were long divorced. It would just be a shock, and it was probably better if Xia Hanchen was the one to tell his daughters about his relationship.

Obviously, Cheng Yu did not realize that Xia Hanchen had noticed his daughters and that he had hugged the woman to conceal her identity. He had also retreated behind a pillar. It was almost as if... there was something to hide.

....

"Lanni, are the Yuns troubling you?" Luna changed the topic when she realized that Cheng Yu was no longer going to talk.

The latter shook her head. "Do they dare?"

She had been trying to be polite but kept her distance from them. It was not sure what Uncle Yun was thinking, he had stopped trying to find trouble with her. He was even friendlier to her. Either way, Lanni wanted to stay out of trouble so she did not bother about him. She had a more important matter bugging her at the moment.

...

After finishing dinner, she waited for the Jiang family's chauffeur to pick Luna up before she went to Xiehan's place.

The man was in the study, paper carelessly strewn on his desk.

She waked forward and gently asked, "You didn't find anything?"

If he did, he would not look this distressed.

He shook his head and grabbed her hand, yanking her into his arms. His heart raced and she couldn't help tousling his soft hair gently. She then made herself comfortable on his lap and took up a piece of the strewn paper.

Xiehan was investigating the matter regarding Ruby's past. He had managed to prove that indeed, Ruby had mysteriously appeared in the hospital where Neil Chan's baby was born. However, there was nothing strange that happened in the hospital where Ji Feifei was born.

To put it simply, the culprit must have found a baby from a different hospital so it would be untraceable even if anyone ever had suspicions. However, what was the motive of doing such a thing?

"Ji Feifei should be a pawn that should be used for the other party's benefit. That is why they have supported her for so long." Xiehan analyzed.

Lanni thought about it. "People usually plant moles in the form of employees or spouses. This is the first time I'm hearing of someone planting a child...it takes long for the child to grow up into someone who can be of use. This means, the other party was not in a hurry to execute their plan."

The man's arms tightened around her. "But then, she is an adult now. It's a ticking time bomb."

They both silently wondered whether the other party not helping Ji Feifei out of prison was part of their grand plan.

The main point was, "For one to plan a scheme for more than twenty years... Just who did the Ji family offend in the past?"

"That's what I've been trying to investigate." He glanced at the documents on the large desk. Knowing that he might miss a detail, he had searched on every single detail related to the Ji family before Ji Feifei's birth. He had even investigated Ji Feifei, hoping that he would find a clue regarding the mysterious supporter. However, both searches were futile.

He let Lanni go through the tiny snippets of information that he had found. Perhaps, from a third party's point of view, she might discover something that he might have missed thanks to his anxiety.

She calmly read through them word by word and frowned when she saw a printed picture of a letter. She pointed at it. "This is?"

"It was in the Old Ji Mansion's library. It's old and almost unreadable so I took a picture and printed it, but I don't know what language that is." He had had people search for one of the phrases and to his dismay, it wasn't any of the known languages on earth. It was almost as if it was a random combination of characters. However, it was letter. Which went to say that it was an existent language.

Lanni scanned it for a while. Something flashed through her mind but she was unable to grasp it before it faded away.

Xiehan noticed the change in her expression and sighed. "Forget it. I thought it could be a lead but it's useless if we cannot understand it. We have other leads; Ji Feifei is a major lead."

"I've seen this before." She gasped.

"What?" He leaned over and looked at what her finger was touching. At the end of the letter, there was something after the initials and signature. It looked like a logo of sorts, but the character was incomprehensible. He had thought that it was a strange signature.

Lanni looked up. "Do you have the original letter?"