

My Life 411

Chapter 411: Humiliated; and who's here?

"Miss Wen, let me raise a toast to you!"

"..."

Everyone chimed in to pile compliments on Wen Yadaï.

After the commotion died down, Wen Yadaï turned toward Nian Xiaomu and sweetly said, "Manager Nian, it's your turn now."

Once she gave the go-ahead, the rest of the people followed her lead and cajoled Nian Xiaomu to perform for them.

"Manager Nian is so competent. I'm sure her piano skills are remarkable too!"

"That's right! We are looking forward to it!"

"I am greatly honored to be able to listen to the previous and present managers of the public relations department play the piano today..."

"Old Ji, it's too soon to say that. Manager Nian wouldn't even have a drink with us. She's too high and mighty to play the piano." President Fang was still greatly displeased. Now that he was intoxicated, he was shooting off his mouth.

The people around him could not hold him back.

This was the chance that Wen Yadaï had been waiting for.

She smiled at Nian Xiaomu and said, "Surely Manager Nian Xiaomu will not disappoint everyone, right?"

"..."

Nian Xiaomu was not just going to play the piano. She was going to play it better than Wen Yadaï did.

Otherwise, her standing in the hearts of these clients would be lower than Wen Yadaï's.

The partnership between them would surely be affected in the future.

Nian Xiaomu's fingers stroked the sides of the tea cup, and the sides of her lips curled upward when she saw through Wen Yadaï's motives.

Getting up slowly from her seat, she walked to the front of the piano.

Her outstanding features and elegant disposition made the people around her take in a deep breath as she rested her hands on the keyboard.

This was truly a beautiful sight to behold, and her aura was quite dignified.

For now, it wasn't even important to discuss her skills. Just the image of Nian Xiaomu at the piano was already very pleasing to the eyes and heart.

Wen Yadai silently clenched her fists.

That vixen!

Did she think that she could bluff her way through with that bewitching face of hers?

How was she going to save herself after she made a mess of her performance?

A melodious tune very quickly filled the air.

Nian Xiaomu did not say much, but used her long fingers to create magic on the black and white keys. In an instant, she had turned into a musical fairy.

As her fingers danced on the keyboard, everyone felt like a picture was being drawn right in front of their eyes...

It was bright and sunny, the birds were chirping, and the flowers were in full bloom.

All of the loved ones of the listeners started to appear in the minds of the people listening to the song.

These images appeared with the flow of the song...

Compared to Wen Yadai's stiff performance earlier, Nian Xiaomu's rendition was way more lively and touching.

The song ended.

For a long while, there was no reaction in the private room.

Nian Xiaomu lifted her hands off the piano and snickered as she glanced over at Wen Yadai who was now shocked beyond words.

Wen Yadai had been on an overseas assignment during Matriarch Yu's 70th birthday celebration, so she had not attended the banquet and did not know what had happened there.

Wen Yadai had merely assumed that a lowly nurse like Nian Xiaomu would surely not have any talents to boast about. That was why she boldly set Nian Xiaomu up for humiliation.

Now, however...

While Wen Yadai remained in a daze, her ears were ringing from the loud applause that broke out in the room.

"Manager Nian has such great hidden talent!"

"Manager Nian is not only beautiful, but she can also play the piano so well. She can even match up to professional musicians!"

"If I were to compare, then Miss Wen's performance was..."

Before the sentence could be completed, it was cut short.

However, Wen Yadai's face was already stinging with embarrassment.

Nothing could be more disgraceful than failing to make Nian Xiaomu look bad and ending up as the laughing stock instead!

Wen Yadaï's ears were flooded with praises directed at Nian Xiaomu.

She could not stay here even a second longer and hurriedly grabbed her bag, ready to leave. Just as she was about to sneak out of the room, the door suddenly opened from the outside!

Chapter 412: You make an exception once, you make it twice

Wen Yadaï paused in her tracks, and her eyes grew wide with shock when she noticed the royal figure outside!

Yu Yuehan was standing at the entrance.

Dressed in a black suit, his slender body stood bolted upright as his chilly face carried about a strong sense of self-restraint.

Even though he was simply standing there, the surrounding pressure seemed to have instantly dropped to its lowest point.

Everyone shifted their gaze on him unconsciously due to that formidable aura of his.

"Young Master Han..." Wen Yadaï grasped the bag in her hand and shivered all over.

A look of disbelief flowed through her eyes.

Wen Yadaï had known since she was young that Yu Yuehan did not like to engage in social activities.

After she joined the Yu Corporation, Yu Yuehan would reject her whenever any activity was reported to the President's office, be it a major one or a minor one.

She had already been very surprised when he agreed to attend the department gathering for the employees the other time.

She had originally assumed that he had finally noticed the efforts that she had put in for him and decided to pay special attention to her as a result.

She only realized afterward that he had done it because of Nian Xiaomu...

Furthermore, just for Nian Xiaomu, he now showed up in person to accompany some of her clients for a meal!

Veins popped up from the hand that Wen Yadaï used to grasp her bag!

What exactly was so great about Nian Xiaomu?

Wen Yadaï bit her lips so hard and to such an extent that blood stains could be seen; she almost failed to restrain her emotions and wanted to say something.

Just before she could open her mouth, Yu Yuehan's chilly gaze had already swept in her direction!

A strong sense of warning seeped through his still gaze.

It poured down on her head directly, just like a basin of cold water.

Wen Yadaï's body seemed to be fixed within a plaster cast as she instantly froze right where she was.

She was finally aware that the shoe was on the other foot now.

At this point in time, he would perhaps be filled with disgust even if he simply shot her another look.

She had long since lost the privilege of standing beside him...

As Yu Yuehan pushed open the door and entered, the noises he made in the corridor spread faintly into the private room.

When Wen Yadaï heard someone calling her name, she finally remembered the lecherous old man that she had left behind in the private room next door.

All of a sudden, she was thrown into a state of confusion when she took another look at the absolutely royal Yu Yuehan.

What kind of gaze would he have directed at her if he knew the purpose of her coming to the clubhouse today?

She could tolerate everyone else's taunts, but simply could not stand a look of disdain from him. Not even a tiny little bit...

At this point in time, Wen Yadaï no longer dared to speak ill of Nian Xiaomu. She tried to explain her actions and said, "I only came in to say hello because I saw President Fang and the other clients that I used to work with. I'll leave now!"

Noticing that Yu Yuehan absolutely did not have eyes for her, she gritted her teeth when she finished her words.

Crestfallen, she lowered her head and left.

In the private room.

From the moment Yu Yuehan that appeared, no one cared about Wen Yadaï.

Nian Xiaomu blinked her animated eyes repeatedly as she stood in front of the piano in shock and stared at the man before her. She was unable to react for quite a while.

Hadn't the secretary mentioned that he did not like to attend gatherings like this?

He would have rejected it straightforwardly in the past.

As such, she did not specially inform him about today and brought the secretary along with her before the president's office could send a reply.

However, could anyone tell her why Yu Yuehan had headed over all of a sudden?

Furthermore, the expression on his face seemed to be a little ugly...

At that moment and while she was still lost in her thoughts, his long and slender body had already made its way toward her. Lowering his gaze a little, he swept his face past hers.

His head came down extremely low.

He seemed to be checking her body for any hint of the smell of alcohol.

After he was sure that she had not been drinking, the look on his chilly face eased up a little.

Speaking in a deeper voice as well as at a volume that only she could hear, he opened his lips slowly and said, "Not bad. You were obedient and did not secretly drink alcohol when I wasn't around."

Chapter 413: Scam alert!

His voice was filled with magnetism.

Since they were both standing at a very close proximity to each other, the warm breath that he was exhaling hit her right on the tip of the nose.

It felt itchy.

As Nian Xiaomu lifted her head up and took a glance at his handsome face, she nearly went on tip-toe and kissed him.

She fought against her desire and wanted to retreat backward.

However, Yu Yuehan advanced a step forward whenever she retreated a step backward.

The distance between the two of them never grew apart.

Just when it seemed like she was about to collide with the secretary at any moment, Yu Yuehan finally stopped in his tracks. He looked up slowly and took a quick scan of the people present.

These few presidents, who were usually so overbearing and haughty when they were in their own companies, straightened their backs automatically when they caught sight of his scrutinizing gaze.

They snapped back out of their shock and greeted Yu Yuehan uniformly, "Young Master Han..."

It had never crossed anyone's mind that Yu Yuehan would actually attend a gathering in person.

When these few presidents saw him, they were shocked at first, then became pleasantly surprised.

Each and every one of them headed forward happily and greeted him.

The secretary was very quick in her reaction as well, and she immediately pulled a chair out for Yu Yuehan and invited him to have a seat.

His seat was right next to Nian Xiaomu.

As Yu Yuehan sat down, he picked up a glass of red wine and swirled the contents leisurely.

He did not drink and only stared at it.

He looked like a peeved child, waiting to be coaxed.

Nian Xiaomu reached out and scratched the back of her head; she felt that something was amiss, yet she couldn't tell exactly what was amiss.

She pulled her chair out and sat beside him.

However, she managed to recall it very quickly. The fact that Yu Yuehan had attended the gathering in person was far more reassuring to these regular business partners!

Yu Yuehan had never once done a thing like this before.

Anyone would feel overwhelmed with flattery and honor!

Nian Xiaomu lifted her head up and took a glance. At this point in time, the expressions of the presidents who were sitting around the table had all completely changed.

All of them had a wine glass on hand and wanted to propose toasts to Yu Yuehan.

However, Yu Yuehan collected his gaze nonchalantly and said, "I happened to have the time, so I came over to take a look. Don't mind me. You all can continue your conversations."

When he finished his words, looks of confusion surfaced in the eyes of this group of presidents.

Nian Xiaomu lost her cool instantly when she saw what was happening. She reached out and tugged his shirt.

Lowering her voice, she reminded him, "Put in some good words for me since you are already here!"

When Yu Yuehan heard this, he took a sideways glance at her and said with an icy cold gaze, "Why should I help you?"

Nian Xiaomu: "..."

Young Master Han, perhaps you have already given up on having a girlfriend.

Have you seen someone become single after just a second?

You will soon be able to witness it if you have not seen it before!

"It's not impossible for me to help you..." The corners of Yu Yuehan's lips curved into a devilish smile as a treacherous ray of light shimmered in his eyes.

Nian Xiaomu was delighted when she heard that there was still room for discussion.

She immediately asked him what he meant with a movement of her eyes.

The next second, he responded, "Let's sleep together tonight."

"Ptui..." Nian Xiaomu nearly spurted out the tea that had just entered her mouth.

She pulled out some tissue paper in a flurry and wiped her mouth.

Turning around, she glared at the man who sat beside her.

As if nothing had happened, Yu Yuehan sat in his seat calmly with no emotions on his face.

A sense of self-restraint seeped through every part of his body.

Nian Xiaomu cursed silently in her heart and called him a big bad wolf!

She sat back in her seat properly once again. Reaching out, she massaged her aching waist and pretended not to have heard what he said as she continued to chat with her clients.

However, as long as Yu Yuehan was around, the presidents present would definitely shift the topic and talk about something related to him.

Soon after, someone said, "I heard that Manager Nian was a talent that Young Master Han personally groomed. Young Master Han must claim some of the credit for the fact that Manager Nian is so outstanding!"

Chapter 414: Cannot mess around like this...

Hearing this, Nian Xiaomu pricked up her ears to listen to what he had to say.

Ever since she joined the Yu Corporation, she had completed every assignment with great success.

Even if she was not the best manager in the company, she definitely deserved a few words of praise!

However, after a few seconds, Nian Xiaomu realized that Yu Yuehan was not intending on giving any response to the comment.

His eyebrows were slightly raised as he slowly enjoyed the wine in his glass. It was as if he had not heard what the clients had said earlier on.

President Ji did not think too much about it and repeated what he said for Yu Yuehan.

"Manager Nian might be a rookie, but she is very competent and outstanding. She's also very talented and even outshone Miss Wen just now. Master Han, you have a good eye for picking the right people!"

"..."

Yu Yuehan still did not respond to what President Ji said, and Nian Xiaomu felt like she was going to explode out of panic.

The people in the room were all important clients of the public relations department.

As she was a newly appointed manager, she had arranged this lunch gathering to reassure the clients that they had nothing to worry about regarding this change in leadership.

She had hoped that they would put their trust in her and continue to work closely together.

At first, she had felt pleased that Yu Yuehan was here to show his support for her.

Now, however, he was just keeping quiet and ignoring the compliments that the others were showering upon her. Wasn't this as good as telling her clients that he did not agree with them about her abilities?

He wasn't here to help her—he was here to harm her!

Nian Xiaomu reached out under the table to pinch Yu Yuehan's thigh while she whispering in a low voice that no one else could hear. Maintaining a poker face, she warned, "Master Han, quit messing around. You'll stir up big trouble! Don't you forget that this is your company!"

She could lose face, but he would suffer a bigger loss if they lost their clients!

As Yu Yuehan threw a glance at her, the sides of his lips curled upward, and he asked, "You think I'll be afraid?"

Nian Xiaomu: "..."

Oh lord! He might not be afraid, but she was!

These were all her clients.

Of all things to mess around with, why did he have to choose her clients?!

"Have you thought it through? Do you want to sleep together tonight?" Yu Yuehan had slipped his hand under the table as well and grasped her hand that was pinching his thigh.

His long fingers gently stroked her palm.

Nian Xiaomu felt herself shiver from his magnetic voice. When she turned to take a glance at his perfect-looking face, she swallowed a mouthful of saliva to calm her nerves.

Then, she silently reminded herself that she had to exercise self-control!

Her waist was still aching.

If she were to sleep with him tonight, she would surely not be able to get out of bed tomorrow...

However, if she did not agree, then the lunch gathering...

While Nian Xiaomu was hesitating, Yu Yuehan could see through her dilemma. He added, "Don't worry. I won't do anything. We will just chat under the covers."

Nian Xiaomu: "...!!"

"Master Han? Master Han?"

The two of them had maintained a long silence. The clients at the table were already worried that they might have said something that offended Yu Yuehan.

However, they had not said anything other than compliments toward Nian Xiaomu.

Seeing this, Nian Xiaomu could only grit her teeth and reply, "Deal!"

As soon as she spoke, Yu Yuehan lifted his handsome face and shifted his satisfied gaze toward President Ji, the one who had raised the question earlier on.

"She does have a bit of wits about her, but she's too cheeky."

Everyone: "...!!"

It sounded like he was describing his child who needed some disciplining. Why did his words sound so strange?

“What’s wrong? Am I wrong to say that?” Yu Yuehan swirled the red wine in his glass and maintained a calm gaze at everyone else.

The private room was dead silent.

No one dared to reply to him.

The looks on their faces had all changed...

Chapter 415: Chase me away? With just you?

For some unknown reason, judging from the sentence that he had said just now, she felt that he seemed to be declaring sovereignty.

Nian Xiaomu was wishfully waiting for him to praise her and had never expected him to blurted out such a sentence. She retracted her hand that he was holding and withdrew it from his palm.

Following which, she moved that hand to his thigh and pinched forcefully!

“Ah...” Yu Yuehan sucked a chilly breath back in. He was in such pain that he had nearly crushed the wine glass in his hand.

He glanced sideways at the person beside him. With puffed up cheeks, she bared her fangs and brandished her claws just like a lobster. Using the power of her gaze, she warned him to speak about her properly!

Otherwise, he would have to be prepared to sleep on the sofa tonight!

Yu Yuehan gave a light cough. With a stern look, he said, “She is indeed capable. The Yu Corporation has always been strict about our employees and would never jeopardize our clients’ interests. Among all the new talents that I have met, she is the one with the highest potential in the business industry.”

He wasn’t just flattering her.

In fact, Nian Xiaomu had already caught him by surprise time after time with her talents.

It was true that she did not know anything, but she still performed very remarkably.

Even though she was a rookie, she had great foresight. Coupled with her sharp sense for business opportunities, she seemed just like a queen standing from a high place who had an inborn ability that could set the world to rights!

When Yu Yuehan thought of something, his gaze turned deep and profound...

As he finished his sentence, the first person to be stunned was Nian Xiaomu, who was still baring her teeth.

He seemed to have frightened her as her lovable and good-looking face turned red immediately.

As she steadily sat back into her own seat, her hand that was pinching him retracted back as well and rested itself obediently on the chair.

She accepted the gazes that were fixated on her.

She cursed silently in her mind, *This man indeed had the power... the power to turn one's legs to jelly the moment he became totally serious!*

"Manager Nian is a heroine."

"You must be highly capable in order to win recognition from Young Master Han!"

"Yeah, we feel reassured to be working together with Young Master Han and Manager Nian!"

"..."

As the praises came in an endless stream, the atmosphere returned to normal again. It was a joyous and harmonious sight.

Outside the private room.

Wen Yadai had drunk a drop too much and had great difficulty dealing with the lecherous old man before she finally signed the proposal.

Walking out of the washroom alone, she supported herself by leaning against the wall.

With her bag in hand, she left in a hurry and did not dare look into the private room that Yu Yuehan was in.

She flagged down a cab and told the driver the Wen Family's address.

She only woke up groggily when the car came to a halt. After she paid for her ride, she got out of the car and walked to the entrance before shouting at the guard to open the gate.

Before the guard at the gate appeared, someone whom she absolutely did not want to see came into view.

"Ey, what is this?! Why is our Miss Wen so drunk?" A middle-aged woman who was dressed luxuriously with an appearance that stood out was just returning home right at that moment.

When she saw Wen Yadai, she smiled at her and said, "Haha, look at this drunk, slutty look of yours. Are you still the high and mighty miss of the family? Why do you look like those women who sleep around? Those who have no idea might assume that the Wen Family is in dire straits!"

The one who was speaking was President Wen's second wife, Zhang Mingyan.

It was a business marriage for both President Wen and Wen Yadai's mother, so the couple did not have much feelings for each other.

After Madam Wen passed away due to illness, President Wen kept a woman on the outside, and this woman even gave birth to a son.

Initially, Wen Yadai was still well-adored by the Yu Family as she had once saved Yu Yuehan's life. As such, President Wen did not dare to bring back Zhang Mingyan and her son or allow them to stay in the Wen Family home.

Now, however...

Wen Yadai lifted her head up swiftly. Throwing a vicious stare at Zhang Mingyan, Wen Yadai erupted, "How dare a shady mistress like you flaunt your prowess in front of me? Trust me when I say that my dad will throw you and your cheap son out of the house with just a word from me!"

When Zhang Mingyan heard what she said, she covered her mouth immediately and laughed, replying, "Chase me away? With just you in your current state?"

Chapter 416: Are you really drunk or are you faking it?

"Wen Yadai, are you still assuming that others will give way to you like they did in the past just because you're the miss of the Wen Family? Look at yourself now. Is there still any nobility or elegance left in you? You're just someone who can't even enter the gates of the Yu Family villa, must less expect that Young Master Han would marry you. Why are you still putting on airs?" asked Zhang Mingyan as she sneered.

With arms akimbo, she circled and walked around Wen Yadai.

"With the state you are in now, it's already a blessing that you can still stay and do something for the Wen Family. Don't forget that you're the disappointing one who angered Young Master Han. If you dare to act with such unbridled behavior again, let's see who will be the one that gets chased out of this house!"

After she finished her piece, she lifted her chin in a haughty manner as she raised her hands out and allowed the chauffeur to carry her shopping bags in.

She did not take another glance at Wen Yadai.

"You!" Wen Yadai gritted her teeth in anger.

She wanted to head forward and tear her apart so badly!

In the past, almost the entire Wen Family had been under Wen Yadai's control. Even her father would speak to her in a slow and soft voice.

He would always call her "Daidai."

She wouldn't have paid any attention to such a minor character like Zhang Mingyan.

However, she had been chased out of the Yu Corporation, and now, even a mistress dared to walk all over her!

The darned thing now was that her father would no longer listen to her because he was afraid of offending the Yu Family. Otherwise, she would surely show Zhang Mingyan what she was capable of!

—
In the car park at the clubhouse.

After Nian Xiaomu sent the clients off, she held Yu Yuehan and finally reached the car with great difficulty.

“Yu Yuehan, steady yourself. I can’t open the car door with you being like this!” Nian Xiaomu couldn’t help it and shouted at the man whom she was supporting strenuously. He had had a drop too much and was pushing against her with almost his entire body weight.

She did not know what had happened either.

Yu Yuehan, who was usually a man of few words, suddenly loosened up and began drinking with the clients just now.

It wouldn’t be appropriate for her to stop him from drinking in front of the clients either. As such, she could only watch as he gulped the drinks down glass by glass... So here he was, very drunk.

Yu Yuehan lifted his head up slightly from her shoulders when he heard her voice.

A muddled, misty ray of light seeped through his pair of dark and soulful eyes.

He stood still right in front of her, just like a kid who was being lectured.

When Nian Xiaomu saw that look of his, her heart softened, and she said, “I asked you not to drink so much, but you insisted on drinking. Look, you must be feeling awful now, am I right...? Forget it. Stay still here and let me drive.”

Just when she was about to turn around, she heard his voice say, “Kiss kiss.”

“What?” She did not hear it clearly.

She turned around to look at him. However, Yu Yuehan had already reached out and grabbed the back of her head. Following which, he pulled her into position right in front of himself as he lowered his head and kissed her lips!

Yu Yuehan acted like a wolf that had been starved for 20 odd years before finally managing to get his hands on some meat.

He took all sorts of advantages the moment he seized the chance to do so.

Who cared about being elegant and aristocratic?

Who cared about being an abstinent heartthrob?

All of these were fed to dogs.

Drunk, he leaned his entire body against Nian Xiaomu, just like a shameless kid.

Kissing, hugging, and hoisting her high up—he had checked everything on the list.

At the very end, Nian Xiaomu was so worn down that she nearly kicked him out of the car. With great difficulty, she carried him by the shoulders when they finally reached the Yu Family villa.

In her heart, Nian Xiaomu silently thought that she would be better off now that he was drunk.

Since he was in such a drunken state, he would surely fall asleep right after the butler brought him upstairs.

She could then slip back to her room secretly...

She plotted her plan gleefully in her mind.

She was prepared to call for the butler the moment they stepped out of the car.

However, Yu Yuehan, who was still in a sleepy and dizzy state just now, seemed to have regained consciousness after a minute as he wrapped his arm around Nian Xiaomu's waist and lifted her up.

Carrying her in his arms, he headed upstairs.

Nian Xiaomu was stunned. As she hugged him, she shouted, "Yu Yuehan, what are you doing?!"

Lowering his gaze, he took a single glance at her. Even though his gaze still looked as muddled as before, a ray of dull light flashed past his eyes as he said, "Return to the room and sleep."

Nian Xiaomu: "...!!"

Chapter 417: Please acknowledge receipt of your delivery!

After carrying out a slew of defensive strategies against the Fan Corporation's invasion of City H, Nian Xiaomu felt more at ease.

After listening to the secretary's reports, she took a sip of her coffee and subconsciously reached her hand down to massage her waist.

Immediately, her face contorted into an expression of aching pain.

Afraid that the secretary might sense that something was amiss, she did not dare to even let out a gasp. She could only secretly curse and swear at Yu Yuehan in her heart!

As the secretary tidied the documents, she could not resist adding a last comment and said, "Regarding the Fan Corporation, we have been keeping an eye on them. It seems that Fan Yu hasn't been going to the office these past few days."

Hearing this, Nian Xiaomu's eyes lit up, and she put her cup of coffee down.

"Do you know what he's been up to?"

It was important to know yourself and your enemy well.

Although she had confidence in the defensive strategies that she had prepared, she knew better than to underestimate her business rival.

After meeting him a few times, she had found that Fan Yu was a rather peculiar character.

He appeared to be a very friendly person, but his smile seemed to hide his desolation.

It was not possible to see through that smiling face to know what his inner feelings were.

There was always a tinge of loneliness about him...

He had always picked on the Yu Corporation, yet upon further thinking, he had actually not done anything at all.

Even though he had previously met up with her clients, there was no follow-up after that.

If it were any other president from some other company, they would surely be anxious after meeting with so many setbacks while trying to expand their business. Fan Yu seemed perfectly fine.

He had even stopped turning up at the office, as if he did not care anymore...

Such a rival was really hard to fathom.

The secretary shook her head and replied, "I've sent someone to find out more, but there is no news."

"Just leave it then. Focus on what needs to be done." As soon as Nian Xiaomu finished speaking, there was a knock on the door.

"Manager Nian, there is a delivery for you. You'll need to sign for it."

Hearing this, Nian Xiaomu got up and walked out of her office.

When she arrived at the entrance of the public relations department, she saw a delivery man standing there with a huge bouquet of red roses and a box of chocolate.

Seeing her, the delivery man quickly walked over and said, "Miss Nian, this is for you. Please acknowledge the receipt of delivery."

Nian Xiaomu: "..."

She hadn't bought anything. Who had sent them?

Nian Xiaomu signed for the flowers and chocolates.

Her colleagues had already gathered around her, their faces filled with curiosity.

"Who sent them? Very interesting!"

"It seems like Manager Nian doesn't know who they are from either. Quickly check to see if there is a card among the flowers!"

"The flowers are so beautiful. They must be from an admirer!"

"..."

She looked through the flowers and chocolates, but did not find any card among them.

Instead, she received a text message on her cell phone.

Swiping it open, she saw that it was from Yu Yuehan. It was a simple sentence: [Is your body feeling better?]

Now he was showing concern for her?

In that case, why didn't he hold himself back last night when she pleaded for him to stop?

What a hypocrite!

Nian Xiaomu looked briefly at the message and irately put her phone back into her pocket.

Taking a second look at the flowers and the chocolates, she felt a surge of annoyance at the sight of them.

She picked up the bouquet and, when she returned to her office, dumped them immediately into the trash bin.

However, after a few minutes, she lost her self-control, walked over to pick up the flowers from the trash, and arranged them in a vase.

Sitting down at her desk, she smiled blissfully as she admired the red roses that had yet to fully bloom.

Then, as she put a piece of chocolate into her mouth, the aching from her waist seemed less painful.

Picking up her phone to reply to Yu Yuehan's text message, she was interrupted by the secretary who urgently barged in.

"Manager Nian, we just received news that our colleague was beaten up at the event location!"

Chapter 418: Making things difficult

Nian Xiaomu listened to a summary of what had happened from the secretary. Then, she tucked her cell phone into her bag and followed the secretary out of the office as they made their way to the event location.

As they traveled to the venue, the secretary explained in greater detail what had happened.

"Xiaoxiao has been the one handling the 'Youth Event' project. Today, we have invited a rising entertainer, Zhang Qi, to grace the product launch. At first, things were fine, but I'm not sure what transpired after that. Zhang Qi suddenly lost her temper and even hit Xiaoxiao..."

Xiaoxiao was well-known for being serious about her work. In the beginning, when Nian Xiaomu first joined the public relations department, Xiaoxiao was the only person who maintained a good relationship with her even when everyone else was cold to her.

How could such a good-natured girl like her offend anyone easily?

Nian Xiaomu looked through Zhang Qi's dossier and instructed the secretary to speed up.

The car arrived at the location very quickly.

The event was held on the ground floor of a five-star hotel.

The event was about to commence, and the venue was filled with reporters and the audience.

A row of cameras and microphones was neatly arranged on the stage.

Nian Xiaomu and the secretary entered the backstage area through a special walkway, but did not find Zhang Qi.

“Where’s Zhang Qi?”

Nian Xiaomu furrowed her brow.

The event was about to start, yet the entertainer whom they had hired was not getting ready in the dressing room.

One of the staff members heard her speak and replied cautiously, “Zhang Qi... Zhang Qi is resting in her room...”

Hearing this, Nian Xiaomu turned and walked over to the hotel room section.

For the event, the Yu Corporation had conveniently arranged rooms in the hotel that the entertainers could rest in.

When Nian Xiaomu and the secretary arrived on the floor that Zhang Qi’s room was located, they saw Xiaoxiao turn the corner and walk toward them while holding her face with her hand.

Xiaoxiao was clad in a white t-shirt and jeans. Her ponytail was a little messy.

Her eyes were red, and it looked like she had just been crying.

There was also a strange redness on her cheek...

Seeing Nian Xiaomu, Xiaoxiao was a little alarmed and hurriedly lifted her hand to cover her face.

“Manager, Manager Nian, why did you come here personally...”

“How’s your face?” Nian Xiaomu walked over to check on her, but Xiaoxiao stumbled backward in shock and shook her head wildly.

“I’m okay. It was only a light touch. It’s not a big deal. However, Zhang Qi is very upset now and refuses to participate in the event. The event is about to start...” Xiaoxiao’s eyes welled up with tears as she spoke.

Nian Xiaomu did not say anything, but moved away the hand that was covering Xiaoxiao’s face.

Seeing a clear hand-print on one side of Xiaoxiao’s face that was already swelling up, Nian Xiaomu’s face darkened instantly.

“She’s too much!”

Nian Xiaomu reached out to hold Xiaoxiao’s hand and stomped over to Zhang Qi’s room.

Zhang Qi’s room was not locked.

She was lying down comfortably on the sofa playing video games on her cell phone.

When she saw Nian Xiaomu and Xiaoxiao walk in, she smugly turned her head to take a glance at them.

The next second, her manager leaned over to say something to her. She sat up and tossed her cell phone to the side.

Crossing her arms, Zhang Qi fired at them, "Manager Nian came just in time. I want an explanation from you. Why did you send such a clumsy newbie to handle my matters at such an important event like this?"

"What does Miss Zhang mean by clumsy? Was it only because Xiaoxiao refused to change the script and describe you as a top star?" Nian Xiaomu's tone was cold as she shot a sharp glare at Zhang Qi.

Nian Xiaomu had checked the facts before arriving at the venue.

Zhang Qi had been cooperative until she found out that there was a large number of reporters. Then, she started to make demands.

Chapter 419: How dare you hit me?

She wanted to have a different makeup artist one moment, then requested to have a change of wardrobe the very next instant. By the end, she even insisted on editing the lines of her introduction...

She treated the staff members as her punching bags the moment something did not go her way.

Before slapping Xiaoxiao, she had already scolded a few staff members so badly that they burst into tears on the spot.

A look of guilt flashed past Zhang Qi's face when she heard what Nian Xiaomu had said. Following which, she lifted her chin up and said, "You were the one who said that, not me. Your subordinate was the one who was blind and spilled water on me. Did you expect me to suffer in silence?"

Xiaoxiao anxiously wanted to explain herself when she heard this. However, the secretary held her back and motioned for her not to say anything.

They had already checked with the other staff members and determined that it was Zhang Qi who wanted to vent her anger on Xiaoxiao. This led Zhang Qi to bump into Xiaoxiao's hand on purpose, and it resulted in water spilling onto Zhang Qi because she had knocked over the glass of water in Xiaoxiao's hand.

Even under these circumstances, Zhang Qi would never admit her wrongdoings with that character of hers.

Instead, she would trump up a counter-charge against them and claim that they were shielding one another.

The event was about to begin. The most important thing right now was to placate Zhang Qi and get her up on the stage.

Other matters could be discussed later on.

"Yeah, as long as it floats your boat, Miss Zhang. However, you have already vented your anger and my staff has already apologized to you as well. What more do you want?" Nian Xiaomu's hands were

clenched into two balled up fists as she countered Zhang Qi with another question. She emphasized her words by speaking with a pause after each word.

If this had happened during a typical time, Nian Xiaomu might not have been able to contain herself when she saw the marks on Xiaoxiao's face.

However, today's event was a collaboration with President Fang.

Due to the incident yesterday, where she had refused to drink alcohol, President Fang already felt that he was not being taken seriously.

If something went wrong with the event today, President Fang might misunderstand and think that she was taking vengeance on purpose. In a way, it might take a toll on the client's trust in the Yu Corporation.

Furthermore, this was the first public event that they had organized since the Fan Corporation had entered City H.

The event would be greatly publicized if there was a screw up.

Nian Xiaomu had to wait if she wanted to settle the score with Zhang Qi...

"She drenched the clothes that I wanted to wear when I appear onstage later. Are you going to settle it with just a sorry?"

Zhang Qi stood up from the sofa. With her fingers that were smeared with red nail polish, she pointed at Xiaoxiao arrogantly and said, "I want her to kneel down and apologize to me. If not, don't expect me to go onstage today!"

"Dream on!" Nian Xiaomu blurted out without hesitation.

Employees were humans as well. She would exercise some tolerance toward Zhang Qi for the sake of business, but she would never allow Zhang Qi to humiliate her employees as she wished!

"Miss Zhang, I hope that you can be clear about this. You have signed a contract with us to attend this event. If you don't appear onstage, you will have to compensate us with a huge sum for the penalty fee. You better think twice!"

"Are you threatening me? Who the hell are you!" Just like a cat whose tail had been stepped on, Zhang Qi rushed right in front of Nian Xiaomu the moment she heard that she would have to pay a penalty fee.

"Let me tell you guys, I am someone who has got millions of fans. If photos of water being spilled on me were leaked, my fans would surely defend me against this injustice. The investors will surely get even with you guys when news of the event is all filled with bad reviews!"

"So what? You would still have to compensate us with the penalty fee before that happens!" Nian Xiaomu replied in a manner that was neither haughty nor humble.

"You..." Zhang Qi instantly flew into a shameful rage as she raised her hand up and waved it at Nian Xiaomu.

Nian Xiaomu had already grabbed ahold of Zhang Qi's hand before it even touched her face.

Turning the tables around, she relentlessly landed a slap right on Zhang Qi's face!

"This slap is on behalf on Xiaoxiao!"

With a wave of Nian Xiaomu's hand, Zhang Qi lost her balance and fell backward. She landed on the floor, butt first.

Reaching out, she covered her face and looked at Nian Xiaomu with a look of disbelief.

"How dare you hit me? Nian Xiaomu, let me tell you this, I will not attend today's event. You can prepare to publish a blank page in the newspaper!"

Chapter 420: If she won't do it, I'll do it!

As soon as Zhang Qi finished speaking, the emcee of the event entered the room hurriedly.

"The event is about to start. We won't make it in time if we don't go down now!"

Hearing the emcee's words, Zhang Qi's irate face broke into a cold sneer.

She pushed herself up from the floor and shot a smug glare at Nian Xiaomu.

"Weren't you very high and mighty before? Why aren't you saying a word now? Let me tell you this, I'm curious to see how you will explain this to the investors and the reporters if I don't go up onstage today!"

The problem was that distant waters were powerless against fires nearby.

For the event to run smoothly, someone had to appear right now.

Acting as if she were wielding the imperial sword in her hand, Zhang Qi strutted over to Nian Xiaomu with her arms akimbo.

"Beg me. If you kneel down and beg me, maybe I would consider being kind and letting you guys off..."

Before Nian Xiaomu could react to her words, the emcee had already nudged his way forward.

"As the person in charge of the event, you'll have to resolve this matter immediately, Manager Nian. If the investors take actions against us to shoulder the blame, we will have to pay the penalty for breaking the contract. What you need to do now is to get her on the stage!"

"Did you hear that? He asked you to beg me!" Zhang Qi added. Scoffing in delight, she taunted, "Do you think that you have any other options besides me right now? Let me teach you the rules of the industry today!"

Zhang Qi walked back to the sofa and crossed her legs as she sat down.

She placed both of her hands on the armrests and arrogantly raised her eyebrows.

There was little time left.

Even if they were to replace Zhang Qi, it was impossible to find a suitable person on such short notice.

After all, Zhang Qi was a B-grade celebrity. To satisfy the investors, they had to replace her with someone who was more popular.

It wouldn't be easy to enlist an A-grade celebrity in the first place. It would be even tougher to find one who was willing to act as a substitute...

Although Xiaoxiao was young, she was well-aware of the consequences.

She walked over to Nian Xiaomu's side with her eyes still red and swollen and said, "Manager Nian, I know that you were trying to help me. I did not handle this matter well today, and it was my fault that I implicated you as well. Let me apologize to Miss Zhang..."

Nian Xiaomu reached out to hold her back. Tilting her head up, Nian Xiaomu exclaimed, "You did nothing wrong! You don't have to apologize!"

"It seems like you guys don't intend to go on with the event. That's fine. I won't go onstage. Let's see what you can do about it!" Zhang Qi threatened as gritted her teeth.

The emcee's face changed.

There were less than 10 minutes left before the start of the event.

If they were to give up on Zhang Qi, where could they find a celebrity to replace her who had a similar status?

"If she won't do it, I'll do it!" a crisp voice said from outside.

Startled, everyone took a second to react and look over at the door.

When they saw who was standing at the door, they froze in shock before shrieking in alarm, "Shang, Shangxin...!"

Ignoring the other people, Shangxin took off her baseball cap and strutted over to Nian Xiaomu.

Smiling as she looked over at her, Shangxin greeted Nian Xiaomu affectionately before throwing a side glance at Zhang Qi, who was sitting in a daze on the sofa.

Shangxin didn't have to do anything special. Just by standing there, her outstanding appearance and natural aura of celebrity was enough to make Zhang Qi feel ashamed of herself.

Compared to a top celebrity like Shangxin, Zhang Qi was hardly worth any mention!

However, everyone knew that Shangxin was not easy to book for events.

Not to mention that this was a small-scale event, even if it were a huge event, it would be almost impossible to get Shangxin to agree to it.

Why would she help Nian Xiaomu?!