

Priceless Baby 61

Chapter 61: A Precedent for the Little One

"Oh? You know who I am?" Jing Huaduo asked with a surprised smile.

"You are mommy's grandpa, my great grandpa!" She laughed. "Grandpa really does have a beard! Just like how Baby imagined! This is great! Baby has a great grandpa who looks like Santa Claus!"

Ying Bao clapped her little hands excitedly. "Grandpa, can Baby touch your beard?"

"Okay!"

Jing Huaduo did not expect his great granddaughter to be so clever. She was more talkative than Xu Xiyan was as a child. He sat down by Ying Bao's bed and leaned over to let the little girl touch his beard.

As Ying Bao reached out to touch it, Jing Huaduo eagerly asked "how is it? What does my beard feel like?"

Ying Bao smiled, two lovely little dimples peeking out on her cheeks.

"Grandpa's beard feels like a big tigger's beard!"

Jing Huaduo was puzzled, uncertain of what the word "tigger" meant.

"Grandfather," said Xu Xiyan. "She means that your beard is like a big tiger's whiskers."

Jing Huaduo laughed out loud in hearing Xu Xiyan's explanation. He turned to his great granddaughter again.

"Oh? Have you touched a big tiger's beard before?"

"Of course! Last year Xi Baby gave me a very big tigger as a birthday present, and it has a long beard. It's a pity that Baby couldn't bring it back."

Thinking about her big tiger, Ying Bao felt a little sad and pouted her lips.

Ying Bao was born in the year of the tiger. Last year, on her birthday, Xu Xiyan had bought her an oversized plush tiger. Ying Bao loved it, and would put the big tiger beside her bed every night so it could protect her mommy.

When they were preparing to return from abroad, Ying Bao wanted to bring the tiger back with her. But it was too big, so she couldn't. She cried when they had to leave it behind.

"Since you can't touch the big tiger's beard anymore, then I'll let you touch mine, okay?"

Jing Huaduo's beard was precious to him, and he normally wouldn't let anyone touch it. But now that he'd set a precedent for Ying Bao, and made an exception, it showed that the old man really liked her.

"Yay! Okay! You're too kind great grandpa! Ying Bao is so blessed to have such a good great grandpa like you. It must be my reward for saving the planet in my previous life!" Ying Bao smiled.

"Ha ha ha..."

Ying Bao was still a young child but she talked like an adult. She was so amusing. The three adults in the ward laughed delightfully at her antics.

Jing Huaduo spent a few hours in the hospital. He had a long conversation with Xu Xiyan and played with Ying Bao for a while before leaving with Uncle Li.

Before he left, Jing Huaduo told them that he would get a driver to come pick up Ying Bao on Tuesday morning.

On the third day of Ying Bao's hospitalization, she was looking more spirited and could eat normally. The doctor gave her one last examination, then told Xu Xiyan that she could go ahead and settle the discharge procedure.

Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi came to the hospital to pick up Ying Bao. When no one was looking, Fang Xiaocheng pulled Xu Xiyan aside, a newspaper in hand.

"Yanyan, what's going on?"

"What?" Xu Xiyan took the newspaper from Fang Xiaocheng. When she read it, she realized that when she'd stood up for Huo Yunshen at the hospital entrance, it had quickly become a scandal.

The news reported that Huo Yunshen had married secretly, and that he had accompanied his wife to the hospital for a pregnancy exam. There, in the photo on the page, was Xu Xiyan, facing away from the camera.

Chapter 62: Let's Make a Baby Too

"Is it just me or does the girl in the picture look like you?" asked Fang Xiaocheng. "Isn't that the shirt you were wearing the day before yesterday?"

"Are you serious?! That doesn't look like me! Although shirt is almost the same...I knew I should've thrown that shirt away, it's probably everywhere."

Fang Xiaocheng believed Xu Xiyan. Maybe it really was just the same shirt. And Xu Xiyan wouldn't want it to appear that she had anything to do with Huo Yunshen.

Huo Yunshen was on good terms with Xu Jingshan and Chu Yuhe, so Xu Xiyan should definitely hate him.

The next day, Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dahi stayed with Ying Bao while Xu Xiyan went to take care of Ying Bao's discharge procedure. After everything was settled, the three of them took Ying Bao out of the hospital.

When Fang Xiaocheng was about to leave, she hugged Ying Bao and said, "Little Cherry, have a fun time at your great-grandpa's place. When you come back, we'll continue livestreaming together."

Ying Bao threw her arms around Fang Xiaocheng's neck, hugging her and kissing her face.

"Of course, Aunt Orange. You take care of yourself, too. Eat well and sleep well."

Fang Xiaocheng was melted by the cuteness of Ying Bao. She was not only adorable, but caring, too.

Even after Ying Bao had left in the taxi, Fang Xiaocheng kept staring at it. Wang Dazhi pulled her close.

"Chengcheng, stop staring. They've already left."

Fang Xiaocheng looked at Wang Dazhi.

"Dazhi, I want a girl like Ying Bao. Let's make a baby of our own."

"..." Wang Dazhi was stunned, but also touched by what she had just said. He pulled her close as they walked out.

"Of course. Let's go. Let's go back and make a baby."

Even though they have been dating for seven years, they'd never once had sex. This was because Fang Xiaocheng wanted to wait until marriage, and Wang Dazhi respected her beliefs

Now that he'd heard that his girlfriend wanted to make babies, he almost fainted from happiness.

The mansion where Xu Xiyan's grandfather lived was called Peijing Jingyuan Siheyuan.

It had been a long time since the Jing family home was so noisy. Jing Huaduo had ordered the servants to clean the whole house and had bought a lot of supplies in preparation. He'd even prepared rooms for Xu Xiyan and Ying Bao, as he expected them to be staying for quite a while.

Xu Xiyan led Ying Bao into her grandfather's house. The mansion was just as she remembered it: spotless.

The mansion's garden was filled with all sorts of herbs, giving the place a feeling of lushness and vibrancy. The place had a unique, almost antique aroma, brought on by the Chinese herbs that perfumed the garden.

The butler, Uncle Li, emerged and greeted them. He took them to the master room where Jing Huaduo was waiting.

"We're here, grandpa," said Xu Xiyan.

Unlike other kids who would be nervous when they arrived at a new place, Ying Bao kept looking left and right as they made their way to the main room. As they entered the room, she saw her great-grandfather, and ran up and hugged him.

"Great-grandpa, I've missed you."

"I've missed you too, little one." Jing Huaduo picked her up. "My little great-granddaughter is like a strong tiger now."

"Look at my arms great-grandpa, they're strong, aren't they?"

Ying Bao stretched out her arm for Jing Huaduo to check.

Jing Huaduo pinched her arm and commended her. "It sure is."

A row of white teeth appeared as Ying Bao smiled at her great-grandfather's praise.

Jing Huaduo led her through the house. "Come little one. Guess what I've prepared for you?"

Chapter 63: The Next Plan

Ying Bao pondered and pondered. She could not guess what her great grandpa had gotten for her. "Baby can't guess. Baby is not a tapeworm who lives in great grandpa's belly. Baby wouldn't know what is in great grandpa's head."

"Ha ha ha..."

What a delightful little child!

Jing Huaduo's had no words to describe his mood, but as long there was Cherry Baby, there wouldn't be any more dull days.

Next, Jing Huaduo took them to see their room. He had arranged for both mother and daughter to stay in one room, which was specially decorated and quite cozy.

When Ying Bao entered the room, she was pleasantly surprised to find an oversized tiger plush on her bed. It was about the same size as the one Xu Xiyan had bought for her last year.

"Wow wow wow...it's a big tigger!" Ying Bao jumped up and down on her little feet excitedly. "Great grandpa, is the big tigger the present you bought for Baby?"

"Yes! It's for my lovely little great granddaughter!" Jing Huaduo smiled at her.

"Woow! Great grandpa, you're too kind! Long live great grandpa!"

Ying Bao took Jing Huaduo's arm and pulled him towards her. When he bent down, she planted a grateful kiss onto his cheek.

Great, I can now be friends with big tigger again.

After kissing her grand grandfather, Ying Bao released his hand and happily toddled off to hug the tiger plush. The tiger was really big, taller than Xu Xiyan. Ying Bao's petite body could only cling to it, hugging and rolling with it on the ground.

Xu Xiyan and her grandfather saw how happy Ying Bao was, and they felt very happy, themselves. Jing Huaduo turned to her and said, "Yanyan, from now on you will live here in my house. This will be Ying Bao's and your home. Just tell me if you need anything else, and I'll arrange the servants to prepare it for you."

"Thank you, grandfather." Xu Xiyan gave Jing Huaduo a thankful hug. "But I may not be able to live here often in the future, as I'm going to start filming soon. I won't have time to come back once I get busy, and I'll most likely live somewhere else."

Xu Xiyan was going to move in next door to Huo Yunshen's house, and it would be impossible for her to stay at the Jing residence. She wanted to explain this clearly in advance.

"Will you be all right if you live elsewhere? What about the child? After you've started filming, how are you going to take care of her?"

"I'll see how it goes for a while, and wait until September when school starts. Then I'll find a kindergarten for Ying Bao. When the time comes, Ying Bao will be at school during the day and I'll only need to take her to school in the morning and pick her up in the evening."

However, this was only her plan. If that accident hadn't happened back then when they were in Estan, then Ying Bao wouldn't be afraid of going to school.

"All right!" said Jing Huaduo. "Just leave the child to me, and you can go film with some peace of mind. My bones are still tough and I have more than enough energy to take care of her."

"I will be very relieved with Ying Bao in your care. I won't have to worry anymore whenever I go out filming, no matter how far away."

Xu Xiyan was very grateful to her grandfather for the support and care he'd provided for so many years.

When her mother had died, her grandfather had been very heartbroken to have lost his only beloved daughter, and it was Xu Xiyan who had accompanied him through those difficult times.

Therefore the bond between Xu Xiyan and her grandfather was strong...much stronger than the bond she had with the Xu family.

Jing Huaduo took Ying Bao to the garden to play. Xu Xiyan went into her mother's former bedroom to see if she could find some valuable clues.

The room was very clean and was kept the same way as it'd been before. Jing Huaduo would regularly let the servants clean the room, and everything was well-maintained.

Xu Xiyan's eyes lingered over every item in the room, familiar memories emerging from the depths of her mind.

Priceless Baby's Super Daddy Chapter 64

The image of Xu Xiyan's mother as she looked when she lived at the mansion was clearly etched into Xu Xiyan's mind . Her mother had stayed there before she died, alone and helpless .

The darkness and scandals from the entertainment industry had swallowed her like a raging beast .

She could've been successful in her music career, but to help Xu Jingshan achieve his dream of being a movie director, she gave up on her dreams and entered showbiz .

She'd worked hard to earn money, helping to form Xu Jingshan's directing career, introducing him to many actors and producers .

And yet how did Xu Jingshan repay her?

If Jing Ruyue refused to give him money, he would beat her .

If Jing Ruyue was accused of a scandal with another man, Xu Jingshan would beat her .

Just when Xu Jingshan achieved a little success, he went behind her and had an affair with Su Lei . They even had a kid together .

He would turn to any means necessary to get rid of Jing Ruyue .

When Xu Xiyan was still little, she often watched her mother hide in a corner, hugging her legs and crying alone, every night until she died .

Her mother was diagnosed with depression, and lived out her remaining days, nearly paralyzed by alcoholism . In the end, death found its way to her doorstep .

Xu Xiyan closed her eyes and tears started to fall .

During her short life, Jing Ruyue was only truly happy when she was pursuing her music career . Tragedy began after she met Xu Jingshan .

Xu Xiyan wanted to know how her mother's love life was before she was married to Xu Jingshan .

Who was the one who gave her the precious sungrass brooch?

With these question in mind, Xu Xiyan opened her mother's closet . But she only found old clothes, nothing fancy .

She opened the crate that was filled with books and music scores . But something was lying at the bottom of the container: a photo frame .

The frame was bizarre, only a pair of ruby-made cufflinks could be found in the middle of it .

Why are there cufflinks here?

Xu Xiyan opened the frame from the back .

She took it apart and found something stuck in the center of it .

It was an ultrasound scan of an unborn infant, a type-B image .

When Xu Xiyan was pregnant with Ying Bao, she had taken type-B ultrasound scans, so she knew what the picture was .

She looked at the photo and realized it was taken a long time ago, 23 years ago to be exact . A few months before Xu Xiyan was born .

Then... Could it be that the baby in the picture is me?

She turned to the back and noticed a bit of text that was fading .

F, You're-the-best-I've-ever-met!

F seemed like a codename to Xu Xiyan .

But why would mum write such a sentence behind this ultrasound?

Who is F?

Was he a guy that mum once loved?

Chapter 65: The Best Daddy In The World

Xu Xiyan examined the cufflinks. They were exquisitely crafted, with the emblem of a leaf ring carved onto them. There was nothing to indicate where they had been manufactured.

Xu Xiyan couldn't figure out the connection of the photo and the cufflinks, so she returned the photo and the cufflinks back into the photo frame and put it in her bag.

She continued to rummage through the bookshelves and the drawers, but did not find anything else of value.

Xu Xiyan was beginning to feel some regret. When she had left the Xu family five years ago, she hadn't thought about looking into her mother's belongings. Maybe there was something of value back at the Xu family residence.

But how could she go back now?

That night, Xu Xiyan and Ying Bao stayed in the Jing family house. Xu Xiyan chatted with her daughter, asking if she liked her great grandfather's house.

The answer was clear on Ying Bao's face.

"I like it! It's so nice to stay at grandfather's house. It's much better than the place we used to live in Estan. Baby likes the flowers and the fishes in great grandpa's garden. Great grandpa's house is so beautiful and I get to be friends with big tigger."

Back when they lived Estan for a few years, Xu Xiyan and her daughter had lived with her uncle Jing Zhannan at Base One of the JS Mercenary Group, where there were no beautiful gardens.

"Are you willing to stay with great grandpa from tomorrow onwards?"

"I'm willing!" Ying Bao thought for a while. "But what about Auntie Orange?" she asked. "She's still waiting for me at home. We promised that we would do livestreams together!"

"Well... I'll tell Auntie Orange that if you want to do a livestream, she can come over here. You both can still do livestreams here in great grandpa's house!"

"Then, what about Xi Baby? Will you also live with Baby in great grandpa's house?"

Ying Bao was worried. She had grown up with Xu Xiyan since she was born, and they had never been separated before.

Xu Xiyan hugged Ying Bao and gently patted her arm.

"Listen, Xi Baby cannot live in great grandpa's house. From tomorrow onwards, Xi Baby is going to be very, very busy, because Xi Baby has to start filming to earn some money."

"And besides," she continued. "I still have to find the best daddy in the world for Ying Bao. So that's why I can't stay with Ying Bao at great grandpa's house!"

Ying Bao listened and understood her mother's words. She thought about it carefully. "Baby understands now. Don't worry, Xi Baby! Baby will take care of herself and Baby will live happily in great grandpa's house. When Xi Baby is filming, please do not get hurt, or else Baby will feel bad."

"Okay, I will take care of myself and I promise that I will not get hurt."

"Mmm. Baby wants to close her eyes and go to sleep now. Goodnight, Xi Baby."

Ying Bao was relieved. She held onto her mother tightly and buried her little face into Xu Xiyan's chest. She closed her eyes, her face full of love for her mother.

"Good night, Baby."

Once Ying Bao was asleep, Xu Xiyan lowered her head and gently planted a kiss on her daughter's forehead. Xu Xiyan's heart was so full of love and tenderness as she watched her daughter's small, delicate face.

It was said that children raised by single parents were more precocious than other children of the same age. This had turned out to be true. Ying Bao was as precocious as they came.

She was only 4 years old, and for such a young child, she understood a lot of things. She knew her mother's hardships and she would feel bad and worry about her like an adult.

In fact, Xu Xiyan understood her daughter and knew that she was just like other children, longing for fatherly love, longing to have a happy and stable family, and longing to sleep every night in bed between mom and dad, listening to their bedtime stories.

Sigh...

Sometimes Xu Xiyan would wonder to herself: Should I tell Ying Bao? Should I tell her that I've found her daddy?

Should I let her know that her father is in Peijing, right next to us?

Chapter 66: Is He Fond of Kids?

After a few moments of pondering, Xu Xiyan gave up on the idea of introducing Ying Bao to her father.

She was afraid that people from the Huo family would take Ying Bao away from her and that this would be traumatic for Ying Bao.

And she was not sure what Huo Yunshen would think and whether he was fond of kids or not.

Huo Yunshen had his own problems to worried about, so she didn't want to add more fuel to the fire.

Just as Xu Xiyan was thinking about Huo Yunshen, he sent her a text with a sun smiling emoji.

It's already so late...is he still up?

"Haven't slept yet?" Xu Xiyan replied.

"No. Did you see the news?"

"Yes, I did. Sorry for causing you all these troubles."

Xu Xiyan really felt bad for what she did. Huo Yunshen used to have zero scandals during his career. Then she came and had sex with him five years ago. Now, there were rumors spreading about him because of her.

"It's nothing, really," he typed. "I'm more worried that it will affect you."

"I'm fine. Just think of this as me climbing up the ladder through the movie-king," Xu Xiyan typed jokingly.

"Haha. Stop with the movie-king thing. It was a long time ago."

Xu Xiyan noticed he was in a depressed mood again, and decided she had to scold him. "Please don't say something that depressing. Even if it was 50 years later, you and your movies will always be in the spotlight. You're one of the classics in my book."

"Thank you. You sound like my sister with that kind of scolding. Haha." Huo Yunshen felt a surge of warmth in his heart.

"Which one? You have three sisters, right?"

"Yup, I'm the youngest of the four..."

The night continued with Huo Yunshen and Xu Xiyan messaging back and forth. Huo Yunshen talked about all the weird things that his sisters had done.

They even talked about music and literature.

They were like two long lost friends catching up, sharing all of their stories.

Wednesday, the skies were clear. After her breakfast, Xu Xiyan changed into a set of tidier clothes and went to the shooting scene for "Red Sleeved Beauty."

The crew for the movie was shooting in the eastern suburb of Peijing, a place with which Xu Xiyan was familiar.

The opening ceremony for the movie had been two days ago, which was Monday.

The hero of the movie was played by the new Zstan movie-king, Lin Huaijin, while the heroine was being played by Julia, and the second female lead was taken by Xu Xinrou. They were all superstars.

Just from the line-up, one could guess that the show would pull in a hefty revenue.

Xu Xiyan rushed to the scene and found Stage-Manager Xiao Long through the contact that Director Huang had left for her.

Since Xu Xiyan didn't have a manager, and wasn't signed to any company, she was required to sign an Acting Agreement between her and the crew.

After she'd signed the agreement, she got her script and waited for the make-up artist. She was there early, so she had to wait for the artist to arrive in the make-up studio.

Using the spare time she had, she studied the script and found a major issue.

The character she was supposed to play was Yao Yue. She was the servant for the second female lead. At first, she'd thought that Xu Xinrou would land the heroine spot, never expecting that she would become the second female lead.

This meant that Xu Xiyan had to work by Xu Xinrou's side as her servant.

Even more importantly, the character Xu Xinrou would be playing was arrogant and temperamental, and would do anything to get what she wanted. She would even hit the people that were serving her.

Xu Xiyan clicked her tongue.

Why do I have the feeling that I'm already standing in front of hell's gate...the shoot has yet to begin?

What could she do if Xu Xinrou tried to hurt her during the course of their acting?

Chapter 67: No Hurry

Xu Xiyan was still thinking about it when she heard someone enter the dressing room. She assumed it was her make-up artist from the sound of high heels clacking against the floor. She looked up, but it turned out to be Xu Xinrou and her assistant, Wen Li.

Xu Xinrou was shocked to see Xu Xiyan. The expression on her face quickly turned from surprise to hatred.

Since the unpleasant incident at the hospital a few days ago, Xu Xinrou could no longer be bothered to keep up her goody-two-shoes act in front of Xu Xiyan.

She said bluntly, "Xu Xiyan, what are you doing here?"

Xu Xiyan guessed that Xu Xinrou was shocked to see her. She answered calmly, "I'm here for the shoot, of course!"

"Weren't you removed from the list?" Xu Xinrou cried out.

Xu Xiyan smiled coolly. "How would you know if my name was removed?"

"But I ordered them to..." Xu Xinrou realized that she had almost revealed the truth, and quickly covered her tracks. "Of course I know about it. Anyone with half a brain would know. You have no acting experience and you're not even a graduate from an acting school. Why would they cast you?"

"Yes! You're right! I majored in Chinese in college, and I didn't go to acting school, nor do I have any acting experience, but so what? Even if you secretly tried to get rid of me, I am still standing here in the end." Xu Xiyan was mercilessly revealing Xu Xinrou's intentions.

"I'm impressed, Xu Xiyan."

Xu Xinrou was baffled. She was sure that she had asked someone to remove Xu Xiyan's name from the list, and yet she was still standing here. Why?

Could it be that Xu Xiyan had her own connections?

Had she hooked up with someone in the film crew?

Xu Xiyan put on a cynical look and said carelessly, "I'm still leagues below you. I don't know how you do it: you seduce and manipulate the people around you like a pro."

Xu Xinrou: "..."

She felt as if she might vomit blood.

Xu Xinrou was impressed with Xu Xiyan. She hadn't expected the naïve little rabbit to turn into a cunning fox.

Xu Xiyan was obviously not afraid to escalate matters further. If Xu Xinrou continued to argue with her, she would only end up hurting her reputation.

Xu Xinrou wanted to put Xu Xiyan in place, but there was no hurry. They were both in the same shoot. There would be plenty of opportunities to do so in the future.

She reined in her temper and forced a smile. "Fine, you win. Since you're already here, you better make sure you deserve the role. But let me say something: don't tell anyone else that you are my sister. And don't even think about exploiting my popularity. I don't want to hear any rumors about you being my sister among the production crew."

Xu Xiyan crossed her legs and sat back comfortably. Her eyes were glued to her script as she replied.

"Don't worry! My surname is now Jing and I have nothing to do with your family. And please do not interfere with my business. The same goes for you, I don't want to hear you talking about me behind my back."

Xu Xinrou was speechless.

She had to admit that Xu Xiyan always got the upper hand when they talked.

She tried to think of ways that Xu Xiyan could have joined the shoot, but all she could think of were shady, underhanded means. Xu Xinrou had been in the entertainment industry for many years; she knew the rules of the game.

It should be easy enough to destroy Xu Xiyan...

If she could dig up blackmail material on her and send it to the media, Xu Xiyan would be finished.

Just you wait, Xu Xiyan. Your days are numbered.,,

Chapter 68

When the makeup artist, Linda, arrived, she started to help the actors and actresses to do their makeup for each role .

Because Xu Xiyan's character was a minor one, she'd have to wait until the end for Linda to apply her makeup . Unlike the leading actor and actress, who had their own make-up artist and studio, she'd have to wait outside, sitting on a cold stool .

After Linda had applied makeup to Xu Xinrou, she looked much sexier, like a concubine from the past, wearing a long, elegant dress .

Xu Xiyan nodded and acknowledged Linda's make-up skills . Even though Xu Xiyan thought that her own skills were better, reaching Linda's level was no easy feat .

Xu Xinrou dragged her long dress out of the room after she had her make-up applied, and Linda started to work on the minor characters .

Luckily, Xu Xiyan was the first on the list . Linda asked her to sit in front of the mirror and began to help her put on her make-up .

After half an hour, Linda had finished, and she asked for the stylist's assistance . Her name was Tina, and she helped Xu Xiyan choose her clothes .

After she came out of the changing room, Xu Xiyan stood in front of the mirror . She had a weird feeling about her clothes .

I should be playing a servant for the second female lead...so why am I wearing the clothes of a concubine?

Just as Xu Xiyan was about to ask Linda about her clothes, Xu Xinrou finished shooting her photos and approached Xu Xiyan with the Executive Director and a few others supervisors .

Xu Xinrou looked at Xu Xiyan's clothes and asked the Executive Director Yang Yong, "Director Yang, what is the meaning of this? Why is she wearing clothes that were meant for me?"

As soon as Xu Xiyan heard Xu Xinrou's complaint, everything became clear . Someone was pulling some tricks .

Xu Xiyan had been with Xu Xinrou in the make-up studio the whole time, yet she never noticed Xu Xinrou buying off the make-up artist .

Xu Xiyan tried to explain . "Director Yang, Senior Xu, these were chosen for me by the make-up artist and stylist . I had no idea that these were the clothes intended to be worn by second female lead . "

Director Yang began questioning her .

"Are you sure? So you're blaming the make-up artist and the stylist for this mistake?" They would've never given you these clothes unless you pressured them to . Are you...are you trying to make me look bad?"

Xu Xiyan was impressed with Xu Xinrou's capability of faking a story .

"That's not what I'm trying to do!" said Xu Xiyan . "Why would I want to make anyone look bad? This is my first time meeting you, we've never had any conflicts in the past..."

Xu Xinrou stared at Xu Xiyan, and then turned to Director Yang .

"Director Yang, if you're trying to use the new girl instead of me, then I'll be taking my leave . "

Director Yang was actually stunned by the beautiful Xu Xiyan, but he quickly recovered .

"Why would I? Direct Huang personally wanted you to play the second female lead . I'm not sure who the girl in front of us is . Let's call the make-up artist here and ask her . Who knows, maybe it was just a mistake?"

That said, they quickly called in Linda and Tina to question them about the matter .

Chapter 69: Standing Up For Her

When the Director asked Linda what was going on, Linda blinked, glancing briefly at Xu Xinrou. Then she spoke.

"Mr. Yang, it was Jing Xi who wanted me to give her the makeup of the second female lead. She said that she was very close to the director, and that the director had promised to give her that role, so that's why I gave her the makeup."

Xu Xiyan pointed a finger at Linda. "You're a liar! I never said that!"

Linda was so solemn she looked as if she was about to swear an oath to god. "I am telling the truth. You can ask Tina if you don't believe me."

Tina nodded. "Yes, Mr. Yang. It was Jing Xi who insisted on wearing that costume."

Xu Xiyan: "..."

It seemed pointless to deny their claims. No matter how she argued, the blame would always fall on her.

What she didn't know was that Xu Xinrou, Linda and Tina had worked together before, and they were quite close.

The two of them had readily helped Xu Xinrou to lie, and they were able to push all the blame onto Xu Xiyan.

Xu Xiyan sighed. She hadn't expected Xu Xinrou to go this far.

She was suitable for the role of the second female lead. She was calculative, manipulative and vicious.

The Director coughed dryly after listening to their explanations. He had probably suspected something. As far as he knew, this pretty lady in front of him could've also been very "close" with their big director Huang Guoqiang!

Whether it was the truth or not, Director Yang's priority was to placate Xu Xinrou. He ordered his staff to take Jing Xi away and change her out of her costume, while he stayed behind to pacify Xu Xinrou.

She was the star actress of Ju Xing after all, second only to Qi Liya. It hadn't been easy to get her to play the second female lead. If she decided to leave, the production would suffer a great loss.

Since the makeup switching incident, some of the crew members had changed their opinion on Xu Xiyan. It now seemed obvious to them that she had joined the cast by exploiting her connections. Xu Xiyan had been cast as a palace maiden, and yet she was shameless enough to try to steal the second female lead role from Xu Xinrou.

Many were now saying that she was a shameless, scheming woman.

Xu Xiyan didn't try to argue or defend herself. She knew that she could not clear all their suspicions, even if she tried to explain herself.

No one would believe her, and she would rather not waste her breath.

Even after being framed by Linda, Xu Xiyan's misfortunes continued. She waited for Linda to redo her makeup but Linda had no intentions of doing so.

Linda kept her waiting for so long that her butt went numb from sitting. Xu Xiyan decided to go off to look for her.

When she found her, she asked, "Why aren't you redoing my makeup?"

Linda crossed her arms and said haughtily, "Sorry, but I'm really picky. Everyone in the industry knows about it. If you don't have a good character, I won't do your makeup. If I find you disagreeable, I won't do your makeup. If I'm not in a good mood, I won't do your makeup. Understand?"

"Your attitude sucks," she continued. "You've upset me, and I don't like looking at your face. Do you think I'd still be willing to do your makeup?"

"Wow, you really are picky."

Xu Xiyan's clenched her fists, and she was almost ready to throw a punch. Luckily, someone stopped her from behind.

Xu Xiyan turned, and saw that the person who had stopped her was the lead female actress, Qi Liya.

Qi Liya was known as a "classical beauty." Her hair was coiled in a traditional Chinese half-bun hairstyle, her skin was fairer than snow, and her eyes were bright and lively. Her long hair hung down the back of her long white dress. She looked as beautiful as a fairy and exuded a calm and dignified aura.

Xu Xiyan's eyes widened in surprise. "Miss Qi Liya?"

Linda became polite and respectful when she saw Qi Liya. She nodded at her in greeting. "Hello, Miss Qi."

Qi Liya smiled, but a touch of irony appeared in her eyes as soon as her gaze reached Linda.

"This is the first time I've heard about your makeup rules, Linda. Now I know why you said you didn't have the time to help me do my makeup back then. It was probably because my character wasn't good enough for you..."

Xu Xiyan was surprised. Was Qi Liya standing up for her?

Chapter 70: Beauty Will Always Win

Xu Xiyan had heard that Qi Liya was a bit of a loner, and that she'd never make much contact with anyone from the crew. For Qi Liya to come out and help her touched Xu Xiyan deeply.

What a goddess! She really deserves my respect!

As soon as Qi Liya finished her sentence, Linda became timid. "No, no! It's all a mistake, Sis Qi. I...I was just busy that time, that was the reason I didn't help you do your makeup. I've always dreamt of doing your make-up one day. But since you have your own personal make-up artist now, it looks like I'll never get the chance."

But in truth, when Qi Liya was still a rookie, Linda had treated her the same way she was treating Xu Xiyuan now.

But after a few years, Qi Liya had risen to the top through her own strength. She was at a height where someone like Linda couldn't touch her.

"Then you better treat this little sister here right. Maybe one day she'll be even more famous than me. You might regret ignoring her when that time comes."

"Of course. You're right, Sis Qi."

Qi Liya left after that, glancing at Xu Xiyuan and smiling briefly before she left.

Even though Linda was furious, she was still afraid of getting on Qi Liya's bad side.

"Come over here, Jing Xi. I'll help you redo your makeup."

Xu Xiyuan sat down, and Linda began to help her apply her makeup.

What happened a few moments ago was deeply etched into Xu Xiyuan's heart. A few simple words from Qi Liya had helped Xu Xiyuan change her fate.

Xu Xiyuan was still a nobody at that time, and no one imagined that what Qi Liya had said would come to pass, that Xu Xiyuan would be famous in the future.

After Xu Xiyuan had her makeup on, she waited for one of her scenes to be shot. She was just supposed to play one of the servants, and she wasn't needed for the time being.

That's right, she was just a nobody in a group of nobodies.

Yet this gave her the opportunity to learn how the mainstream actors and actresses performed.

"Red Sleeved Beauty" told the story of a dancer named Wei Pingting and how she became the queen through the power of her beauty and sleeve dancing.

When Wei Pingting was first brought into the palace, she was still pure and kind. But throughout the story, she was set up over and over by all the other girls in the palace.

The first scene was where Wei Pingting, played by Qi Liya, was scouted out for her talent as a lead dancer and brought to the palace during a royal banquet.

In the series, one of the dancers was jealous of Wei Pingting's talent and wanted her to fail terribly in front of the emperor Zhao He, played by Lin Jinhua. So she stepped on Wei Pingting's dress during their dance.

Yet the dancer never knew that this would be the bridge that linked Wei Pingting and Zhao He together.

Wei Pingting was thrown off the stage, and the young Zhao He stood up and caught her.

Lin Jinhua was a perfect fit to play the young emperor, and his handsome face was enough to capture anyone's heart just by smiling from the emperor's chair.

Xu Xiyuan felt that they were living in an age where beauty beat everything.

Qi Liya definitely deserved to be regarded as one of the best actresses. Each and every expression was on point. There were even rumors that Qi Liya had been practicing her dancing non-stop since she received the role, and that she'd lost quite a few pounds.

After they'd finished shooting the scene, Xu Xiyao went to look for Qi Liya. She wanted to catch her before she left for the day.