

Rebirth Of The Villainess: Young Master Lu's Wicked Wife -
Chapter 251 : Bai Qingyue (3)

Su Xiaofei didn't expect that the director would notice her and invite her to join the cast, playing the younger version of Bai Qingyue's character. She wanted to laugh, amused at the situation she was currently in. Knowing Bai Qingyue's personality, she would surely not allow Su Xiaofei to join their production.

This made Su Xiaofei wonder if Bai Qingyue had recognized her as her daughter as soon as she had seen her.

'Director Yan is too kind, but I regret that I would have to turn down your invitation. I'm afraid to put everyone down as I'm not an actress nor do I have prior experience in acting.' She told the director, aware that people had come to stop what they were doing and currently giving them an odd look.

'You need not to worry about that, Miss Su. The lines for the younger female lead are few, and you only need to act comfortably throughout the scenes. As for the producer, I'm sure he'll agree with me once he sees you.' Director Yan tried to convince her.

They had already selected an actress that could play the role, but upon seeing Su Xiaofei, how can he not try to convince her to join the cast instead? Su Xiaofei would surely attract a lot of attention and this could be her stepping stone to enter show business.

Su Xiaofei's looks were almost similar to Bai Qingyue and those who had been an avid follower of the multi awarded actress would easily think that they were looking at the younger Bai Qingyue when she was still new in the industry.

This wasn't the first time that Director Yan had worked with Bai Qingyue, so he was also familiar with her. He could tell that some of Su Xiaofei's facial features were almost identical to Bai Qingyue, which made the young woman suitable to play the younger version of the female lead.

However, he had no way to know that this young woman would be the main reason why his current project would flop in rating. Su Xiaofei might not be actively involved with the production of 'The Poisonous Concubine', but she surely had a hand when Bluemedia declined Bai Qingyue's demand and chose to hold an audition instead.

'I'm really sorry, Director Yan, but I can't. It's an honor to be acknowledged by someone like you, but I really can't accept it.' She politely declined.

The director's face fell and he could only sigh dejectedly. Since Su Xiaofei had already decided, there was nothing more he could say to change her mind.

She didn't seem like someone who was worried about money, so he couldn't offer her any financial gains that could entice her.

'Director Yan, Miss Bai is here to see you.' His assistant came, informing him of Bai Qingyue's presence.

Director Yan lifted his head and smiled when he spotted Bai Qingyue. He and Bai Qingyue had a good working relationship and wasn't surprised that she sought him for some advice.

'Hello, Director Yan. Do you have some time to spare me? I have a question about the next scene we're about to take.' Bai Qingyue's voice was gentle as she spoke with him.

She then glanced at Su Xiaofei and Lu Qingfeng's direction, giving an impression that she was curious

about them to Director Yan. She was expecting him to introduce them to her.

'Oh? And this is...' She regarded Su Xiaofei. It was obvious that she was more interested in the young woman as she had blatantly ignored Lu Qingfeng's presence.

'This is Miss Su. She and her companion are also guests in this inn. They stumbled upon us when they were taking a stroll.'

Su Xiaofei gave Bai Qingyue a slight bow and introduced herself. She didn't show any impression of being starstruck meeting Bai Qingyue for the first time.

'Hello, Miss Bai. I'm a fan of yours. I look forward to seeing you in your next series.'

'I invited her to join our cast as the younger version of your character, but unfortunately she's not available.' Director Yan explained.

Bai Qingyue was surprised at that. She thought that this woman was sensible enough to know what it meant to be part of their production. Considering she was able to attract Director Yan's attention, it only meant that the man was able to see some potential in this young woman.

'It's a pity then. I'm sure you'll be able to gain a lot of valuable experience filming with us.' She told Su Xiaofei. 'How old are you anyway? The younger version of the female lead is around fifteen.'

'I'm already eighteen, Miss Bai. However, regardless of the age requirement, I won't be able to accept Director Yan's request. We need to be on our way back home this afternoon.'

Su Xiaofei gave her a smile that caused Bai Qingyue to turn stiff. Even if this young woman wasn't her daughter, there's definitely something different with her.

The way Su Xiaofei looked at her felt like she could see way past Bai Qingyue's facade, which made the latter uncomfortable.

Bai Qingyue could only keep the smile on her face, not wanting to show her hesitation and suspicion towards this Young Miss Su. There was certainly another reason why this young woman came here.

Su Xiaofei inwardly scoffed. She was aware why Bai Qingyue mentioned and probed about her age. This woman was no doubt having suspicion about her identity.

She had already changed her hair and fashion style lately, but it didn't seem like it had an effect since many could still see some resemblance between her and Bai Qingyue.

‘Then I won't keep you here any longer. I'm sorry that I had disturb you and your companion.’ Director Yan told Su Xiaofei and gave Lu Qingfeng a curt nod.

‘It's nothing, Director Yan. I should be the one apologizing for declining your invitation, but I do hope we'll be able to get a chance to work with each other in the future.’

The two left the filming site, leaving Bai Qingyue both a little flustered and confused at the same time. In contrast to her, Su Xiaofei hooked her arm with Lu Qingfeng and resumed their stroll that was interrupted earlier.

Su Xiaofei's mood was obviously good after that, and Lu Qingfeng wondered what made her smile like this.

‘What are you smiling for?’ He couldn't help but ask curiously.

Su Xiaofei was enjoying a snack while watching the scenery out the window.

They were seated in the backseat of Lu Qingfeng's car, with Nine driving, as they made their way back to Qiying City.

As usual, Nine's focus was on the road with ear pieces on to tune out the conversation between his young master and future madam.

Another car transporting the Zhang siblings was following behind them.

Lu Qingfeng had been paying more attention to Su Xiaofei's expressions lately and he could tell that meeting Bai Qingyue today had some effect on her.

Was she happy meeting Bai Qingyue this early or was it something else? He wondered.

Su Xiaofei wasn't the only one thinking about their imminent separation, but Lu Qingfeng knew that this temporary separation was needed for them to understand themselves better.

'Well, I was able to have you to myself, even if it's just for two days. How can I not be happy?' She grinned at him. 'Thanks, Xiao Feng. I know it's not easy for you, but I appreciate that you are here with me.'

Oddly, she wasn't worried too much about his impending departure, unlike the past weeks when she had been constantly thinking about it. The time she had spent with him over the two days made her feel more at ease about their relationship.

Although Su Xiaofei admits that she wasn't ready to commit to a relationship, she does acknowledge her growing feelings for Lu Qingfeng.

Maybe it's fine for them to be intimate friends for now, until they are both ready to be lovers in the future. Su Xiaofei hoped that by talking it slowly, she and Lu Qingfeng would be able to cultivate an environment where they could be more honest with each other and what they were looking for.

‘Then I’m glad. In the future, when we have spare time, we should travel and take a short vacation together.’

‘Fine with me, but let’s not visit the same place again. We should make more happy memories in different places.’ Su Xiaofei easily agreed with him.

‘We should also invite Qian, Mama and your Grandpa so they may also enjoy and take a break once in a while’ She added with eagerness. She certainly wouldn’t allow her best friend and her mother to miss such a chance to relax.

Lu Qingfeng could only smile at her, watching her devour the snacks he bought from the inn before leaving.. Seeing her smile like this reminded him of the days he had spent with her in his first life, when they were both living in the countryside, content with being with each other without worrying about anything else.

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As soon as Su Xiaofei came back to Qiyang City with Lu Qingfeng, she didn’t immediately go to see Si Yixian. She needed to take her own college admission exam before anything else. This was why most of her plans had to be paused for the meantime, and everything was left to the Zhang siblings to make sure that Qin Muyao and Tang Liyan wouldn’t encounter problems while she was gone.

With Xi Qian and Lu Qingfeng’s assistance, Su Xiaofei wasn’t worried that she would fail her admission exam. If in her past life she disregarded her studies, this time she didn’t want others to

use her educational attainment against her. She wanted to prove that she wasn't just someone with a beautiful face!

After her return, she went straight into an intensive studying mode with Xi Qian and Lu Qingfeng's help. Combined with the stressful remaining weeks before the school year ended, Su Xiaofei's days in QCA had been peaceful without worrying about Ye Mingyu nor Feng Xue'er coming after her.

The day of the exam finally came and Su Xiaofei woke up unusually early and was ready to face the day. How can she not be up so early when she'd been tossing in her bed last night, unable to fall asleep, feeling so anxious for the exam?

As for the changes that took place since her rebirth, Su Xiaofei had already expected a butterfly effect that would be enough to cause so many unforeseen events in the future. No matter what, she was different from the foolish Su Xiaofei who not only ruined herself, but also dragged her loved ones down with her.

'Xiao Feng, what are you doing here?' She asked when she reached the foot of the stairs, finding Lu Qingfeng speaking in a low voice with her mother.

'I came to accompany you to the university.' Lu Qingfeng said in a matter-of-fact tone.

'Feifei, I won't be able to accompany you today. I'm sorry.' Yun Qingrong apologized to her daughter. As much as she wanted to cancel her appointment for today, it couldn't be delayed anymore as Bluemedia finally found an actress that could play the lead role for 'The Poisonous Concubine' after declining Bai Qingyue's demands.

‘Oh, no. Mama. Don’t worry about me. I understand. Xiao Feng will be going with me today anyway, and we’ll bring Qian with us, but you can’t certainly miss our celebration party later when the result is out!’

Yun Qingrong’s lips twitched slightly as she looked at her daughter. She then thought that having a sensible daughter was way better than keeping her treacherous ex-husband. Unlike before, when her daughter was always finding a reason to argue with her, Su Xiaofei was becoming a daughter she could truly be proud of.

‘Of course. I’ll be sure not to miss it. I’m sure my Feifei will ace her exams.’ She said with confidence.

Just as Su Xiaofei said, Lu Qingfeng and Xi Qian accompanied her to the university where she would take the admission exam. Upon arrival, they immediately saw a horde of parents accompanying their children. They were all nagging to their children to do their best and not to dilly dally when they answered their exams.

As Su Xiaofei looked at the small

crowd, she wondered how it felt having such supportive parents on such an important event in a person’s life. However, as she thought about it, Qiao Fengying might be the one who would try to encourage her to do her best, and she couldn’t expect anything from Bai Qingyue’s part.

‘I’m heading in! Don’t fight while waiting for me, okay?’ She told the two before adjusting the small purse she brought with her and

was about to turn to leave when Xi Qian and Lu Qingfeng stopped her at the same time.

‘Wait!’ They both exclaimed as both of their hands extended in a gesture to stop Su Xiaofei from leaving before they could say their piece.

Xi Qian and Lu Qingfeng glanced at each other and realized that they both wanted to cheer Su Xiaofei on.

‘Feifei, don’t hand in your papers early and check it thoroughly, okay? Don’t worry too much and just focus on your paper.’ Xi Qian reminded her best friend once she noticed that Lu Qingfeng had once again given way for her to speak with Su Xiaofei first.

Meanwhile, Lu Qingfeng handed her his lucky pen, much to Su Xiaofei’s amusement. She was aware that this same pen was the one she gifted him when they were younger and the one he’d been using whenever he had to take exams.

‘I’ll lend this to you for the meantime.’ He told her. ‘You can skip the hard questions and answer the easy ones. By doing this, you won’t spend too much time stuck on a hard question, and you’ll be able to answer as many questions as possible.’

Su Xiaofei let out a laugh and took the pen from his hand. As soon as she took it, her eyes slightly widened when Lu Qingfeng placed a gentle kiss on her forehead. It was brief and before she knew it, Lu Qingfeng had already pulled away from her.

Xi Qian was just as surprised as Su Xiaofei. She was stunned upon witnessing such an intimate scene between her best friend and Lu

Qingfeng, which only proved her assumptions that these two were starting to see each other in a different light.

Now that Su Xiaofei was aware of the little tyrant's intention, Xi Qian knew that she also needed to step back and allow her best friend to decide for herself whether Lu Qingfeng was a better man for her than Mo Yuchen. She could only hope that this little tyrant won't make their Feifei cry like Mo Yuchen did in the past.

After Lu Qingfeng kissed Su Xiaofei, he stepped back and looked at her as if he hadn't done anything earlier.

'Now, you are ready. Make us and Aunty Qing proud of you, Feifei.' He said calmly.

Su Xiaofei gaped at him, but decided not to question him for the meantime, as her exam was about to start.

'Thanks! With you two here to cheer for me, I'm not so nervous anymore.' She said before bidding goodbye to them again and hurried to the assigned room where she would take her exam, leaving Xi Qian and Lu Qingfeng together.

'What now?' Xi Qian asked him. She wanted to interrogate him about the real score between him and Su Xiaofei, but she supposed she would wait for her best friend to come clean herself, rather than questioning this little tyrant.

'You want to know if Feifei and I are together?' Lu Qingfeng voiced her curiosity once they walked out of the premises of the university, much to Xi Qian's shock.

However, since he had willingly raised the issue, Xi Qian supposed that it wouldn't hurt to probe him for some answers. She stopped in her tracks and stared at him with hawk eyes.

'En. I want to know if you and Feifei are together now.' She replied, deciding not to hide her curiosity.

'Not yet, but we'll get there eventually.' Lu Qingfeng replied nonchalantly, as if he was certain that no other man could pass through him and sweep Su Xiaofei away from under his nose.

Xi Qian scoffed at that, thinking about how this young man was so arrogant, in her opinion. At least now, his presence was now more tolerable compared to before, where they would start a silent war against each other whenever Su Xiaofei wasn't paying attention.

'Aren't you leaving soon? How sure are you that Feifei won't meet another man that can make her fall in love?' She retorted with a huff. Just because Mo Yuchen was out of the scene, it didn't mean that Su Xiaofei would like him.

Lu Qingfeng gave her a confident smile, his eyes showing that he wasn't bothered with Xi Qian's words. In his previous life, he always worried about Su Xiaofei because of her infatuation with Mo Yuchen. However, in this lifetime, he was lucky that she was able to see the kind of man Mo Yuchen really was and wouldn't fall for his charms a second time.

Moreover, Su Xiaofei was someone who once she made a decision, it would be hard to sway her to change her mind. Since she had decided to cut ties with Mo Yuchen, Lu Qingfeng now only

needed to work hard so that he would be a better man and husband for her in the future.

‘Feifei and I trust each other. Before anything else, we must establish trust and respect for each other to be together, don’t you think? I trust Feifei’s judgment now. I’m sure she won’t be easily swayed by another man while I’m not around.’

Xi Qian remained silent and looked at him with a straight face. She knew that her arguments and differences with Lu Qingfeng needed to be settled sooner or later for Su Xiaofei’s sake, but she hadn’t expected that this little tyrant would change his tactics too soon on pursuing her best friend.

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Although she and Su Xiaofei treated each other like real sisters, Xi Qian knew that she really had no say if her best friend wanted to date someone, whether it was Mo Yuchen or Lu Qingfeng. However, Xi Qian could only hope that whoever Su Xiaofei decided to be with, he would treat her with the respect and love that she deserved.

‘Whatever.’ Xi Qian huffed, ‘but if you hurt Feifei, you better know that I won’t let you off, no matter what happens.’ She threatened him, knowing fully well that she really wouldn’t be able to touch or offend Lu Qingfeng, given the difference between their statuses.

‘I understand your worries, Miss Xi, but you should know by now that I would rather hurt myself than harm her.’ Lu Qingfeng

replied. As he looked at Xi Qian's eyes, he could see that the young woman was truly concerned about Su Xiaofei.

'I just don't want Feifei to make a mistake that she would regret in the future. Furthermore, you and she have known each other before I met her, and I'm sure that you are important to her, even if she doesn't say it.' Xi Qian continued walking with a safe distance from Lu Qingfeng. She also feared that Su Xiaofei would get swept up in the love, and would no longer be in her life in the blink of an eye.

When your friend starts dating someone you don't like, things can get very real, very fast. No doubt, this would put their friendship to the test, but it definitely didn't have to spell the end of her relationship with Su Xiaofei, just because the latter was with Lu Qingfeng.

If Xi Qian was going to tackle this potentially major issue, she was going to need to be able to keep level-headed. She had to remind herself that she couldn't control Su Xiaofei and could only accept that she had made a choice and that Su Xiaofei had to live with the outcome of her choices.

'I know that. This is why it's alright to take things slowly for the meantime.' Lu Qingfeng agreed with her. As long as Su Xiaofei didn't shut him down and disregard him, he was willing to give her all the time she needed to sort things out on her end.

Xi Qian fell silent as she remembered the day she befriended Su Xiaofei. Su Xiaofei was perceived as arrogant by others, but Xi Qian knew that it was her way of protecting herself from others, because in truth, she was lonely.

‘I don’t want her to fall in love just because she’s lonely, but instead fall in love when she’s ready. Fall in love when you’re confident in yourself, when you’re feeling complete on your own, when you know what you want.’ She told Lu Qingfeng, making the latter wonder what she was even thinking at that moment.

If Xi Qian knew what had happened to Su Xiaofei in her previous life, he was sure that Xi Qian would be heartbroken, and she would hate Mo Yuchen even more than she already had now. Xi Qian and Yun Qingrong had lost their lives even before Su Xiaofei

died, and Lu Qingfeng could only imagine what they would feel if they witnessed what he had seen in their past life as Su Xiaofei spent the rest of her remaining days alone.

As for Xi Qian, she didn’t want to see her best friend questioning her worth again. She had witnessed Su Xiaofei trying to force herself into relationships with a person she had no business pursuing before, but she did it because she was convinced it was better to be with someone, anyone, than it was to be alone.

All it did was leave her feeling trapped and empty. The feelings Su Xiaofei was trying so hard to force weren’t really there. She had begun questioning herself and trying to find an escape for the life she actually wanted to be living.

Xi Qian used to object to Su Xiaofei’s decision to pursue Mo Yuchen before, and had tried to persuade her to see how the man was treating her like she was a nuisance in her life. The man was the personification of smug and pretentious and Xi Qian could tell that Mo Yuchen was bad news.

She wanted Su Xiaofei to have some self awareness and self-respect to see that the man she thought she was in love with didn't care about her at all.

'That's true.' Lu Qingfeng nodded. 'A love that is born in loneliness is not a love that is destined for growth – the roots are weak and longevity is hopeless. When you don't have a strong, sturdy foundation, you don't have anything.'

Xi Qian took a quick glance at him, thinking that Lu Qingfeng was really mature compared to his peers. Perhaps, she was worrying too much. Still, she didn't want Lu Qingfeng and Su Xiaofei to end up hating each other just because their relationship didn't work out.

'Thanks, Miss Xi. I know that you are concerned about Feifei. I cannot promise that Feifei and I won't encounter problems in the future, but I'll do my best to protect her heart.' Lu Qingfeng wouldn't be able to move heaven and earth for her and promise to her the stars in the sky, but he would make sure that she won't be lacking anything.

Xi Qian was sure that he would be able to fulfill his promise. Su Xiaofei didn't need to worry about material things as it could easily be provided by her Aunty Qing and with Lu Qingfeng. Her future would be secured and she wouldn't need to suffer any bitterness, unlike Xi Qian who could only rely on herself.

Not that Xi Qian was envious of her best friend, but she would rather see Su Xiaofei happy and content than to see her experience hardships in life.

Xi Qian hadn't experienced falling in love, but observing people around her taught her a lot of things on how to pick an ideal partner. From her parents' failed marriage to Su Xiaofei's parent's divorce, she could tell that these couples weren't compatible to begin with.

One should date someone who was happy to share a forever with them, because really, what's the point of dating someone if they didn't see marriage in the future? Or at least think they would one day.

'It's enough that you take care of her. I won't cause trouble between the two of you as long as you treat Feifei right.' Xi Qian decided that they should grow up and consider calling a truce now. They shouldn't argue and fight whenever they see each other, and would need to tolerate each other for Su Xiaofei's sake.

She couldn't deny that this little tyrant was really into her best friend, but she feared that his feelings would eventually turn into an obsession that could hurt Su Xiaofei in the future.

As long as her best friend wasn't in a toxic or abusive relationship, Xi Qian was willing to try and give Lu Qingfeng the benefit of the doubt. Once she had identified some good qualities in him, perhaps she would be able to see if she could truly accept him. If she could find at least one thing she genuinely appreciated about them, there's no doubt that the whole situation would get a bit easier.

'We might not get along since we've met, but now, I appreciate what you have done for Feifei all this while. I hope Miss Xi can give me a chance to prove myself this time.'

Lu Qingfeng used to be annoyed whenever Xi Qian was with Su Xiaofei in the past. However, after living three lifetimes, he realized how selfish and shallow he had been, wanting to keep Su Xiaofei to himself.

‘Then I don’t mind being your friend too. At least we can have a decent friendship that won’t need to rely on Feifei. Don’t you think it would be better if we truly get along than pretend to like each other?’ Xi Qian answered him, much to Lu Qingfeng’s shock.

The young man hadn’t expected that Xi Qian would say such a thing now, considering how they treated each other in the past.

‘You want us to be friends?’ He furrowed his brows in disbelief. Was he hearing things, or did Xi Qian just say she wanted to be friends with him?

‘Why not?’ Xi Qian shrugged. ‘Since you and Feifei are considering a possible relationship in the future, wouldn’t it be better if we could settle our differences and be friends?’

Lu Qingfeng didn’t have anything in response to that. The only one he considered as a friend was Su Xiaofei, and even though he was friendly with his basketball teammates, he never attempted to build a deeper friendship with anyone else.

‘I suppose you are right..’ He said after a long silence between them and realized that they had arrived at the front gates of the university.

In the afternoon, once her exam was over, Su Xiaofei walked out of the university grounds and found Xi Qian and Lu Qingfeng waiting for her. Along with her, the other examinees ran towards their parents, who had been patiently waiting for them.

Su Xiaofei looked at the crowd and her sight stopped at a spot for a moment, where she thought that she had seen Bai Qingyue, but the next second, the figure disappeared in the blink of an eye.

She shook her head and sighed to herself. She must've been confused with a figment of her imagination. There was no way that woman would be here to see her. She supposed it was also because of their sudden meeting earlier that her mind was tricking her now.

'Feifei!'

Su Xiaofei saw Xi Qian waving her hand, trying to get her attention, but it really wasn't needed as many people had been eyeing Lu Qingfeng, wondering if he was a celebrity or sorts because of his appearance.

'How was it? Do you think you can pass the exam?' Xi Qian asked her as soon as she hooked her arm with Su Xiaofei.

Su Xiaofei smiled, with Xi Qian's help, she was able to remember the principles of their lessons while Lu Qingfeng's hard as hell's questionnaires before had made it easy for her to answer the math questions on her paper.

‘It’s not that difficult, but I would rather wait and see the results later.’ She admitted.

‘The hardest part is over. We just need to wait and see if Feifei will be admitted here.’ Lu Qingfeng nodded. ‘Hungry?’ He asked Su Xiaofei.

The moment he asked that question, Su Xiaofei’s eyes immediately lit up. It had only been a few hours since the moment she sat in that room, taking that exam, but she felt like time was passing by too slowly for her liking.

‘Yes, please! I know a place where we can eat!’ She clapped her hands together, unconsciously dragging Xi Qian closer to her.

Su Xiaofei spent the rest of her afternoon with them, before her attention was taken when she received a report from Zhang Lan that Tang Liyan was requesting to meet her

before she would sign a contract with Bluemedia.

‘What’s wrong Feifei?’ Xi Qian asked when she noticed that Su Xiaofei looked preoccupied and hadn’t finished her dessert.

‘Nothing serious. It’s work related.’ Su Xiaofei replied when she snapped out from her daze.

‘How could you say that? Feifei, you shouldn’t cultivate this irresponsible trait, else you would have a hard time adjusting once you start working full time at Bluemedia.’ Xi Qian retorted.

‘Xi Qian is right, Feifei. While you don’t need to micromanage everything, you still need to recognize your priorities.’ Lu Qing backed Xi Qian’s words, which made Su Xiaofei look at them curiously.

Lu Qingfeng agreeing with Xi Qian? Was she hearing things, or did the two finally manage to settle their differences and grow up?

‘Qian, aren’t you supposed to take my side than help Xiao Feng turn me into a working zombie?’ She laughed, clearly teasing her best friend.

Xi Qian looked away and huffed. It would still take some time before she gets used to being Lu Qingfeng’s friend, but it was enough that this little tyrant was willing to compromise with her now, unlike before.

‘I’ll drop you off at Bluemedia then.’ Lu Qingfeng decided.

‘Okay. You better make sure to send Xi Qian home. I know she’s been trying to find a new part-time job lately, although I specifically told her that she didn’t need to worry about her rent at all.’ Su Xiaofei easily agreed with him, while giving Xi Qian a knowing look.

‘You don’t understand, Feifei. I just don’t want to be a freeloader to you and Aunty Qing.’ Her best friend frowned. Xi Qian didn’t think that Su Xiaofei would be able to discover her ‘discreet’ job hunting.

‘You are wasting your time worrying about how others perceive you, Qian. Mama and I understand your predicament and are willingly extending our help. Whether we choose to make the wrong decision or not, it totally depends on you.’

‘I suppose you are right.’ Xi Qian replied after considering what Su Xiaofei just said. Although she received a huge sum of money from the sale of her home, she still needed to be wary of her expenses.

Su Xiaofei then replied to Zhang Lan’s message, asking her to set a meeting with her and Tang Liyan, and that she expected to meet the ‘has been actress’ in an hour.

Since the university was near Bluemedia in Guangshang, Su Xiaofei arrived a little earlier than expected. Once she bid goodbye to her friends, she took the VIP elevator that led to her mother’s office.

While waiting for Tang Liyan’s arrival, the Zhang siblings prepared the private conference room near Yun Qingrong’s office. While doing so, Su Xiaofei took the time to review the contract she was about to present to her second talent after securing Qin Muyao.

The actress came in a hurry and looked a little dazed when she found a young woman waiting for her instead of the president of Bluemedia. However, it seemed that Tang Liyan was different from the rest because she didn’t use Su Xiaofei’s age to question her motives.

‘Miss Tang, it’s nice to meet you. I’m Su Xiaofei.’ Su Xiaofei stood up and extended a hand towards the older woman for a handshake.

Tang Liyan extended her right hand and gave her a firm shake.

‘So you are to be my manager now?’ She asked as soon as she had taken a seat across from Su Xiaofei. ‘But why are you helping me?’

Su Xiaofei smiled at Tang Liyan. In her memory, Bai Qingyue and Tang Liyan had started their careers at the same time.. Like her birth mother, Tang Liyan’s name had become popular until she gave up her career when she got married, saying that she wanted to focus on raising her children from then on.

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However, things immediately spiraled downhill as Tang Liyan’s husband cheated on her, and she couldn’t ask for divorce as she had nothing left to her name now.

Before her marriage, Tang Liyan was one of the most bankable actresses of her generation. Ever since her debut, everything went smoothly for her, and she became a big hit in a few short years. She was even repeatedly compared to Bai Qingyue, as their prominent looks and their age were close to each other.

Not long ago, before the biggest project she received in her long career, promising to push her to the pinnacle of success, surpassing Bai Qingyue in terms of popularity, Tang Liyan fell in

love with a businessman and tied the knot with him in less than three months after meeting him.

Tang Liyan had made the same mistakes many actresses did in this industry. They all had a promising future, but because of a moment, blinded by love, they were willing to throw everything away for that happiness they had in their minds.

There were many actresses that plummeted down, the moment their heart overcame their logical mind, only to lose their good fortune. If they were happy living away from the limelight, it would have been fine. However, most of them couldn't stay happy for too long and could only regret their decision in the end.

‘Don't you think you have wasted enough time trying to patch up your failing marriage, Miss Tang? Don't you think that you and your daughter deserve better than how your abusive husband and in-laws are treating you now?’

In her past life, Tang Liyan's end was a tragic one. In a fit of rage, she confronted her husband, which led to a nasty fight. Months from now, Tang Liyan's patience towards her husband would snap, and it would lead to her sudden death after falling from the balcony of their home, leaving her young daughter with a deep trauma as the child had witnessed her terrifying death.

Did Su Xiaofei take pity on Tang Liyan? Certainly not. But because Su Xiaofei couldn't forget the look of the child as she

was abandoned in a mental facility by her father, it made her blood boil in anger. Su Xiaofei hated how adults didn't care about

committing sins, ignoring how their children would suffer from it in the future.

Tang Liyan was obviously taken aback by this young woman's words. It seemed like Su Xiaofei had done her homework and knew her secrets. She wasn't surprised at all, as she had already encountered conniving people who knew how to use other people's weaknesses to get a hold on them. However, she just didn't expect that a young woman like Su Xiaofei was aware of the dark ways of the industry.

'What if I don't agree with you?' She asked Su Xiaofei.

Su Xiaofei shrugged and leaned comfortably on her seat, the Zhang siblings standing a couple of feet away from her, waiting for her next order.

'I don't know, but maybe be happy and content with the life you and your daughter have right now? Miss Tang should understand that the moment a woman becomes a mother, her life isn't hers alone. Bluemedia and I are willing to give you a chance for a comeback, but it's up to you to overcome the pressure and prove that you are still that superstar Tang Liyan everyone was praising for her acting.'

Tang Liyan couldn't find any words to refute what Su Xiaofei had just said, not when this young woman was using her precious daughter, who was only five at the moment. Indeed, she regretted being blinded out of love and married a man whom she thought had loved her unconditionally on impulse. Had she given it a good thought and considered the red flags she blatantly ignored in the past, none of these would happen to her.

She had been aware of her husband's several extramarital affairs, but she could only suck it up and feign innocence about it, as she thought if they were to divorce, the custody of her daughter would immediately fall into her scumbag husband's hand. Tang Liyan certainly wouldn't allow another woman of his to raise her daughter and teach her bad things.

'How confident are you that I will be able to play the role of the female lead well?' Tang Liyan asked Su Xiaofei.

When the Zhang siblings came to her, extending a card with the information regarding the audition, Tang Liyan had been confused. She had left the industry for seven years and accepted that there was no chance she could step back into the limelight.

As for the millions of money she earned from her long years as an actress, Tang Liyan never had a chance to enjoy the fruit of her hard work since her mother had taken it upon herself to manage her finances. It was also her mother who had forced her to marry the wealthy businessman that was now her husband, convincing her that she won't have to work hard acting in front of the camera anymore, considering her age.

'Miss Tang is being humble now. I've seen your audition video and I could say that the board and the producer are pleased with your performance. Acting is deeply ingrained in your bones. It is a craft you have cultivated for so many years before, and I bet it's hard for you not to notice the rising stars in the industry while you do your household chores, waiting for your cheating husband to return home late at night.'

That hit the spot for Tang Liyan.

How did she know? Tang Liyan thought. Was she really this clear and predictable in front of this young woman? So many nights, she wondered what kind of life she would have if she didn't listen to her greedy mother and chose her flourishing career over a man.. Furthermore, she was aware that she was the one responsible to what happen to her and it was too later to regret now.

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Even if Tang Liyan wanted to reason out, she already knew that Su Xiaofei could see past her facade. She couldn't really deny what this young woman had just said, and there was no doubt that Su Xiaofei was taking advantage of her by using her young daughter.

It would have been easy for her to ignore this young woman's words had Su Xiaofei not dragged her daughter's welfare into this issue. Surely, Su Xiaofei knew that a mother's greatest weakness was their own child.

The more she thought about it, the more Tang Liyan felt conflicted. Su Xiaofei's words were like a demon's sweet whispering right in her ears, so tempting that she couldn't help getting swayed.

'Miss Tang, you can't force someone to respect you, but you certainly can refuse to be respected as a person. You now have a daughter that relies on you. Is this what you want to teach her? That it's alright to be neglected and treated with disrespect by others?' Su Xiaofei continued.

‘Then what do you want me to do? I have no resources I could use to divorce my husband. If he were to contest the custody of my daughter, I’m sure I would lose.’

‘I have ways to make sure your husband wouldn’t be able to touch you, but you would have to cooperate with me and not listen to his nonsense. From now on, every time you hesitate, you must remember that you have chosen to retrieve what you’ve lost and to protect your daughter’s future.’

Obviously, when Tang Liyan got married, most of her projects fell into Bai Qingyue’s hands, which only made the latter more popular than any other actresses of their generation. Su Xiaofei had no chance of winning against her birth mother in her past life as an actress, but it was different now that she had people to utilize to achieve her goals.

‘Miss Su, you do know that by helping me, you are making my husband’s family your enemy, don’t you?’ Tang Liyan reminded her. Su Xiaofei should know the kind of enemy she would make if she dared to help her, but this young woman didn’t seem to be bothered by it at all.

‘Just as I said earlier, I have my ways. He won’t know what hit him until it’s already too late for him to do anything. However, I assure you, Miss Tang, the start would be a messy one, and you need to muster all the courage you have to stay strong.’ Su Xiaofei said before handing the contract they prepared earlier.

‘Before anything else, you should read this. Of course, the success of ‘The Poisonous Concubine’ and your freedom from your

husband depends on your performance. However, I also expect that you would fulfill your part of the deal.'

Tang Liyan picked up the document and slowly took her time to read the contents. Her eyes went wide as saucers when she saw that she needed to pay back Su Xiaofei exactly one hundred million before she could free herself from their contract.

However, just the thought that she would be able to reclaim her freedom from everyone and start a new

life with her daughter, Tang Liyan thought that this one hundred million was nothing. If she was able to work hard and regain the popularity she used to have, she supposed that she would be able to repay her debt to Su Xiaofei in seven to ten years.

Unlike Qin Muyao who had some reservations before signing his contract, Tang Liyan didn't hesitate and signed her contract on the spot, surprising not only Su Xiaofei, but also the Zhang siblings who were silently listening to their conversation.

'It's a pleasure to work with you, Miss Tang.' Su Xiaofei rose from her seat and shook Tang Liyan's hand for the second time with a wicked smile on her face.

'I just hope that Miss Su won't disappoint me and make me regret signing with you.' Tang Liyan's words sounded bland and weren't very hopeful. It was as if she was gambling by giving her trust to Su Xiaofei.

‘Everything depends on you, Miss Tang. Don’t forget what I said before.’ Su Xiaofei reminded her.

As Tang Liyan left, Su Xiaofei handed the signed contract to Zhang Ling to keep it safe. She had expected that Tang Liyan would yield to her, but not this fast.

‘Miss, I’ve been wondering. Do you have bad blood with Bai Qingyue? It doesn’t seem like you are fond of her at all.’ Zhang Ling asked her, while Su Xiaofei scrolled on her phone, checking the unread messages she received.

Su Xiaofei hummed but didn’t break her gaze from her screen. She was aware why Zhang Ling was asking her this question.

‘You can say that.’ She replied nonchalantly, clearly not bothered by Zhang Ling’s question.

The Zhang siblings had been accompanying her for weeks now, and Su Xiaofei wouldn’t be surprised if the two had done a background check on her. Obviously, their loyalty was still to Lu Qingfeng as he was their real master, not her. They were strictly professional and never acted excessively in front of her.

Zhang Ling furrowed her brows but didn’t say more. She and her elder sister had been aware that Miss Su had only recently met the popular actress with their young master. However, Su Xiaofei’s actions prior to her meeting with Bai Qingyue indicated that she didn’t want the woman to be part of Yun Qingrong’s latest project.

Meanwhile, Zhang Lan remained silent. Although she was also curious about Su Xiaofei's motives, as long as her orders didn't implicate Lu Qingfeng in a bad way, then she had no problem with it.

Three days later, Tang Liyan officially signed her contract to play the role of the female lead for 'The Poisonous Concubine'. She had also left her husband's home and stayed with her daughter in a temporary lodging Su Xiaofei had prepared for them as soon as she signed their 100 million contract.

With Su Xiaofei's help, her husband wasn't able to locate her whereabouts. She also managed to cut off all the connections they had. Tang Liyan had also forwarded the evidence of his extramarital affairs to Su Xiaofei, in case the young woman needed it in the future.

On Su Xiaofei's part, things became better once her admission exam was over. She was able to enjoy a carefree life as she waited for the results of her exam.

As she and Xi Qian went to the library to return the books they borrowed, her brow rose when they met Ye Mingyu in the hallway leading to the library, while Xi Qian furrowed her brows together as soon as she saw Ye Mingyu in front of them.

It was obvious that Ye Mingyu hadn't expected to run into Su Xiaofei today, as she looked like a cornered rat, trying to find a way to escape from Su Xiaofei. Still, seeing her presence didn't make Su Xiaofei's steps falter as she continued to walk past Ye Mingyu, ignoring her presence.

Ye Mingyu froze in her spot, not expecting that Su Xiaofei would blatantly ignore her this time. When they brushed past each other, she couldn't help but feel like she wasn't part of Su Xiaofei's world, and that she was nothing but a stranger.

Once Su Xiaofei and Xi Qian were at a good distance away, Ye Mingyu turned her head to look at them merrily talking to each other like very good friends. Seeing Su Xiaofei happy like this blossomed an uncomfortable feeling in her heart.

Ye Mingyu realized that from the moment she was reborn, she had no person to rely on but herself. Her mother was from a poor family, while her father was nothing but a greedy bastard who wouldn't hesitate to turn his back on his own family.

Ye Mingyu clenched her fists on her sides, thinking about how Su Xiaofei remained happy and content despite her parents' divorce. She had thought that Su Xiaofei would have at least some attachments towards her father that Ye Mingyu could take advantage of, but who would have thought that it was Su Xiaofei herself who would convince Yun Qingrong to get rid of him instead?

Everything that Ye Mingyu had done so far had no effect on Su Xiaofei at all. Everytime she thought that she had cornered Su Xiaofei, Su Xiaofei would strike back, leaving her with a great loss instead.

Because of Su Xiaofei, she now had the reputation of being the mistress's daughter in QCA, which their schoolmates had used to ridicule her behind her back. She hated Su Xiaofei more because of it.

It wasn't her fault that she was born from her mother and that she was a mistress's daughter.. It wasn't supposed to turn out like this. If anything, everything was that mother and daughter's fault, forcing her to live a pitiful life!

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While Ye Mingyu still couldn't get over her hatred towards Su Xiaofei, Su Xiaofei hadn't paid much attention towards her and pushed her out of her mind. With the school year approaching its end fast, she was now spending most of her time helping her mother with the preparation for the filming of the 'The Poisonous Concubine', and resuming her attendance in the new recruits classes.

However, it was clear to these recruits that she wasn't just merely someone the VP tried to poach to join Bluemedia. Even Li Jing and Fan Jian were starting to doubt Su Xiaofei's identity, as the young woman was frequently seen leaving the executives' offices lately.

'There's no doubt that she has a strong backing. If not, she wouldn't be so confident to miss so many of our classes and only attend whenever she wants to.' One of the new recruits named Yan Fanxing commented, before shooting Xiao Rufeng a glance.

'And Xiao Rufeng looks close to her. She must be thinking that she could also receive similar perks because she's friends with Xiao Fei.'

Her companion scoffed next to her and gave Xiao Rufeng a nasty look. Xiao Rufeng was talking with Su Xiaofei and was ignoring the others who were obviously looking their way. While it's true that Su Xiaofei's face was enough to make them her backdrop, Xiao Rufeng's looks weren't falling far behind her.

Seeing them getting along with each other had made the others despise Xiao Rufeng because of it. The more they saw them together, the more they were reminded that they couldn't outshine them.

As Yan Fanxing and her friend talked about them, Su Xiaofei suddenly snapped her head and looked straight towards their direction with a meaningful look. Both girls stiffened and were forced to lower their heads, not understanding why they suddenly felt shivers run down their spine.

They couldn't believe that Xiao Fei was able to intimidate them with a mere look. Her age was almost the same as theirs, but she already had this maturity, as if she had experienced more in life than they ever had.

'Xiao Fei, what's wrong?' Xiao Rufeng asked when she noticed that Su Xiaofei was distracted and was looking somewhere else.

Su Xiaofei snapped out of her daze and turned her head to face Xiao Rufeng. She was aware that she couldn't hide her identity for too long, now that Qin Muyao and Tang Liyan were already signed with her.

'Nothing that you should worry about. How's your injury?' She asked in return, not wanting Xiao Rufeng to know that she was already aware of the conflict among the new recruits.

‘I feel better now. Please extend my thanks to Miss Xi.’ Xiao Rufeng replied. She still felt indebted to Su Xiaofei and Xi Qian that day. However, she also didn’t want to involve Xiao Fei in her problem with the other recruits, not knowing her real identity.

As the class reached its end, Fan Jian left the room, leaving the rest of the artists behind. The other recruits took this time to corner Su Xiaofei to question her about her absence for the past weeks.

Su Xiaofei remained calm, while Xiao Rufeng gritted her teeth behind her. She knew that these people

had been speaking nonsense about Xiao Fei whenever she wasn’t around, and she hated them for it. She had once gotten into an argument because of it, but didn’t inform Su Xiaofei.

‘I’ve been busy preparing for my entrance exam.’ Su Xiaofei replied with a smile, pretending that she wasn’t aware of their intention with this probing.

‘Aren’t you planning to become a celebrity?’ Another one asked.

‘That’s something I have no interest in. Is there a reason why you are asking me this?’ She raised a slender brow, catching them off guard. They didn’t expect that Su Xiaofei would dare to question them back.

‘Ah! We are just wondering what has been keeping you busy these past weeks. We haven’t seen you in a while.’

‘Then wouldn’t it be a waste of your time to attend classes if you aren’t planning to become a celebrity?’ Yan Fanxing mustered courage and voiced her curiosity.

Su Xiaofei smirked and looked at her and her companion, which made Yan Fanxing uncomfortable under her gaze.

‘Miss Yan, must be curious why I’m still here. Like I said, I’m not interested in becoming a star, instead, I’m planning to cultivate one. The reason I participated in these classes is to make an observation.’

Her words shocked everyone, especially Xiao Rufeng, who had been spending time with her for weeks since they met.

‘Allow me to re-introduce myself. My name is Su Xiaofei, the newest talent manager of Bluemedia.’ Su Xiaofei continued.

‘Regardless if I’m here or not, I have eyes everywhere and have been aware of the recent events while I’m gone.’ She said with a smirk. Obviously, she was trying to warn them that their deeds weren’t left unnoticed.

‘Xiaofei...’ Xiao Rufeng stared at her in disbelief.

No wonder Xiao Fei had been so confident since the first day of their meeting. Did she also intend for others to misunderstand her, to filter who was worthy of her time and effort in the future?

Su Xiaofei? Not many were aware of the president’s daughter’s name, but if Xiaofei was a Su and had a freedom to meet the VP

and had been frequently seen at the president's office, one didn't need half a brain to realize that she was the president's daughter.

'Y-you... Are you the President's daughter?' Yan Fanxing asked in shock.

'So what if I am? It's normal for children like us to succeed our parents in a family business, right? Obviously since I'm now at the right age, it's also time for me to lessen my mother's burdens.' Su Xiaofei said nonchalantly, as if she couldn't be bothered by what these youngsters think of her now.

Su Xiaofei left the small crowd and excused herself as she received a message from her mother. She left the new recruits gaping at her in shock, with their minds all over the place, thinking if they had somewhat offended her during the days she was in their class.

Some heaved a sigh of relief, while the others blanched in fear. However, amongst them, the one who couldn't recover from her shock was none other than Xiao Rufeng instead.

When she noticed that Su Xiaofei had already left, Xiao Rufeng decided to chase after her in the hallway. She rushed and ran outside, looking around, trying to find Su Xiaofei. She then spotted the person she was looking for waiting in front of the elevator. It wasn't hard for her to spot Su Xiaofei even in a crowded place such as the main lobby because Su Xiaofei had striking features that made her prominent even as she was among the crowd.

'Xiao Fei!' She called out, and Su Xiaofei turned her head to look at her.

Xiao Rufeng hurriedly ran towards her and tried to catch her breath. She rested her palms on her knees once she reached Su Xiaofei.

‘Miss Xiao, is there something I could do for you?’ Su Xiaofei asked calmly.

‘Is it true? You are the president’s daughter and a talent manager now?’ Xiao Rufeng asked once she was able to stabilize her breath.

‘I am, but why are you asking me this?’

‘I want to know... why are you helping me?’

‘Why am I helping you?’ Su Xiaofei chuckled as she crossed her arms over her chest after brushing her long locks over her shoulder.

‘It seems that Miss Xiao has misunderstood my intentions and still hasn’t realized the reason for my actions. As I said earlier, I’m a talent manager, and I’m looking for valuable talents with potential, and I found you. I’m pretty sure the other talent managers would have done the same thing I did if they were made aware of your potential.’

Su Xiaofei said this without batting an eyelid, but Xiao Rufeng couldn’t force herself to believe her claims.

Su Xiaofei had helped her improve her posture and taught her how to improve her singing, even for just a bit. She had also constantly reminded her to be aware of her temper and not get involved in any arguments with anyone.

These were beyond the things a normal talent manager would do for a prospective talent. For Xiao Rufeng, it seemed like Su Xiaofei was interested in taking her under her wing, but was waiting for her to prove her worth.

Xiao Rufeng met Su Xiaofei's eyes and there were no words needed to convey each other's thoughts.

Xiao Rufeng didn't push her luck and question Su Xiaofei anymore, but instead, stepped back and gave her a polite bow. She cannot ignore the fact that Su Xiaofei had done things to help her.

'Then I thank Miss Su for looking after me for these past weeks.. Your input has been a great help to me.'

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The two garnered some attention from the passersby, curious about what was happening between the two young women, but they didn't dare to stay for too long and walked away.

Su Xiaofei stepped forward, invading Xiao Rufeng's private space, forcing the latter to stand straight. Xiao Rufeng had never met a person so confident, despite being as young as Su Xiaofei was. Even her temper towards the other recruits that had been talking behind her back was admirable.

'If Miss Xiao really wanted to thank me, why don't you repay me instead?' She said with an amused smile gracing her lips as she

looked at Xiao Rufeng. Although she was smiling, one could easily see the arrogance in it.

Xiao Rufeng's face fell and lowered her head. She might be from the prestigious Xiao family, but she didn't even have a single cent to her name. How was she supposed to repay Su Xiaofei?

Since they were blocking the elevator, Su Xiaofei motioned for Xiao Rufeng to follow her, and they went to occupy the vacant seats at the main lobby. From where they were seated, Su Xiaofei was able to clearly see who came and went through the front doors.

'You don't have to pay me now, but why don't we continue what we have started instead? Treat it like a student debt. Once you made your debut, a portion of your salary would be mine. What do you think, Miss Xiao?'

Xiao Rufeng gripped the hem of her skirt, then glanced at Su Xiaofei's face. She couldn't understand why Su Xiaofei was certain she would be able to debut. She claimed that she had seen potential in her, but wasn't she also the same age as her?

'You don't need to overthink, Miss Xiao. As long as you are here in Bluemedia and cooperate with me, I'll make sure that no one would be able to look down on you ever again. Regardless of what your own family or other people think of you, your future is in your own hands. There's a saying; 'A good bird chooses the tree upon which to perch, the talented subject chooses the lord that he shall serve.' So I hope that Miss Xiao will consider my offer.'

Su Xiaofei then checked the time on her watch and sighed. She had already said her piece to Xiao Rufeng, and it's up to her whether she wanted to ruin her life by still sticking with the Xiao family, or be on her own and pursue the path to stardom.

‘Sorry, Miss Xiao. I have to go now. My mother is expecting my arrival. I’ll see you around.’ She said before leaving the young woman on her own.

Xiao Rufeng could only look at Su Xiaofei’s retreating figure, her thoughts in a mess. It seemed that Su Xiaofei knew things about her that she hadn’t told anyone. However, what Su Xiaofei had a point. Since she couldn’t rely on her family, she could only rely on herself.

She rubbed her temple and sighed. Su Xiaofei’s offer was not a small matter to her. She couldn’t make a rash decision.

Meanwhile, Su Xiaofei arrived at her mother’s office and found Tang Liyan, who was dressed up today compared to the first time she had seen her. The

actress was conversing with the director, the scriptwriter and the original author of the TV drama they were about to film.

Seeing her daughter arrive with one of her assistants, Yun Qingrong rose to her feet and welcomed Su Xiaofei. Her arrival immediately took everyone’s attention, with Tang Liyan suddenly rising to her feet, surprising the others.

‘Sorry I’m late, Mama. I have a friend who needs a word with me.’ Su Xiaofei murmured, before glancing at Tang Liyan’s direction.

‘Miss Tang, it’s a pleasure to see you again.’ She told Tang Liyan.

‘Manager Su, thanks again for your assistance. I’m forever indebted to you.’

The people around them, except for Yun Qingrong, were baffled by Tang Liyan’s words. A recent scandal about her and her husband had been exposed online. It was said that the couple were planning to divorce and Tang Liyan and her daughter had already moved out from her husband’s home.

Yun Qingrong was yet again caught by surprise by her daughter when Tang Liyan verbally requested, upon accepting the role, that she also wanted to sign as a talent with Bluemedia, under Su Xiaofei’s management.

It was already hard for a newbie talent manager to handle a popular actor like Qin Muyao, but to add a former queen under her daughter’s talents, Yun Qingrong feared that it might overwhelm her Feifei, who was also going to pursue a degree in university. However, Su Xiaofei assured her that she had the Zhang siblings on her side, which made it easier for her to keep up with her schedule.

Yun Qingrong then proceeded to introduce her young daughter to the director and the core people who would be working on ‘The Poisonous Concubine’.

Now that they had found the perfect actor to portray the lead, it was time for them to proceed with their next stage of their plans. The other actors, including Qin Muyao, were now scheduled to participate in training, while the script was being prepared.

The meeting lasted for hours. Su Xiaofei listened intently to the discussion and pitched in her comments based on her previous experience as an actress in her past life. Fortunately, the others didn't treat her as a kid and took her suggestions and words seriously, much to her relief.

'Feifei, are you tired? Do you want me to ask someone to take you home?' Yun Qingrong asked when she saw her daughter reading the initial scripts the screenwriter and author had presented to them during the meeting. It was already past eight and Yun Qingrong wouldn't be going home anytime soon, considering that she had yet to finish the work on her table.

Everyone from the meeting earlier had already left with smiles on their faces. Although this was just the beginning, they were eager to see the result of their hard work.

Su Xiaofei shook her head and cupped her chin, before giving her mother an assuring smile.

'It's okay, Mama. I will wait for you to be done. It's just that Miss Lin's writing is really impeccable. I haven't read such an interesting story for some time now.' She replied, returning her attention to the page she was reading.

The protagonist of 'The Poisonous Concubine' was the Di daughter¹ of the prime minister of the kingdom. Her mother died

during childbirth and when she was four, her father remarried. Her stepmother treated her well initially, however, when she got pregnant, the young protagonist had been abandoned, leaving her to fend for herself.

As she and her half-sister grew up, her younger sister repeatedly threatened her to be scolded and disowned by her parents. The protagonist's patience was repeatedly tested by her younger sister until she finally snapped at her.

At such a young age, her younger sister already had the mind of a monster, wanting to take her life. The young protagonist set up a scene where her sister would be lost in a big crowd, forcing her stepmother to insanity.

No one was able to find her missing sister, and the stepmother mistook the young protagonist as her biological daughter. In order for him to not lose his beloved wife as well, the father of the sisters forced the protagonist to pretend as her younger sister.

Since then, the protagonist lived using her younger sister's name until she reached her teenage years. When she had taken the attention of the young general, the missing sister appeared as the fourth prince's consort. One was filled with fury, knowing that her identity and life had been snatched by her older sister, while the other wanted nothing but to experience being loved and having a family that she longed to have.

As Su Xiaofei continued to read the internal monolog of the protagonist, she couldn't help feeling sympathy for her. She was the unwanted one. One of her parents loved her to the core, while the other easily dismissed her.

Perhaps it was because it reminded her of her birth parents, but really, if the stepmother didn't mistreat the young protagonist, her biological daughter wouldn't turn into a monster.

Su Xiaofei was also reminded that 'Every child deserves a parent, but not every parent deserves a child'.

'Mama, have you ever regretted adopting me rather than finding another way to get pregnant? Wouldn't it be better if you had a real daughter?' Her sudden question made Yun Qingrong blink twice, not sure if she heard her right, but seeing Feifei waiting for her answer, she knew that she need to say something.

'No. I knew from the moment I held you, that you are my daughter, Feifei. You might not come from my womb, but you came from my heart and that's more than enough for me.'

All the kids that the legitimate wife gives birth to are considered as Di children (Di sons or Di daughter).. They would be higher social status of that to other kids in the household.

Su Xiaofei only asked her mother about it out of curiosity, but she still couldn't help but feel moved hearing that Yun Qingrong hadn't treated her lesser, despite her not being her mother's biological child.

She briefly wondered if Yun Qinrong wasn't the one who adopted her, and if she was taken in by another family, there was a chance

that she would also experience the same despair the female protagonist had.

Maybe she would be hated by the biological children of her adoptive parents too and they might even abuse her behind their parents' backs. It was a common thing that could happen with adoptive children that were treated well by their foster parents anyway.

'Why did you ask, Feifei? Are you perhaps interested in meeting your real parents?' Yun Qingrong treaded carefully, wanting to know what made her daughter ask her such a question out of the blue.

If ever her Feifei's parents decide to come forward and reveal themselves, Yun Qingrong would take the chance to thank them for giving birth to her daughter. No matter what the circumstances that led them to abandon Feifei in that orphanage were all those years ago, the mere fact that they didn't abort her was enough to give Yun Qingrong a chance to become a mother.

Su Xiaofei smiled and shook her head. She knew what her mother was thinking right now, but there was no need for her mother to find her real parents as she had already met both of them, albeit, without them knowing of her identity.

Bai Qingyue might have some suspicion by now, but Qiao Fengying was still oblivious about her being his real daughter. Su Xiaofei had been pondering if she should reveal the truth to him and end his long search and wait. A part of her wanted Qiao Fengying to acknowledge her, to know that she's still alive, just as he had believed for a long time.

If Yun Qingrong could love her like this, what's more if it was her own father? Now that they are acquainted with each other, Qiao Fengying might also suspect her identity, so why can't she just come clean and reveal herself to

him?

'Mama, do you think I should meet them?' She asked her mother's opinion. 'What if they don't like me?'

She already knew the answers to this question. Bai Qingyue despised her very existence, while her father had died with a broken heart, trying to locate her for years. The only difference now was that she was aware of her identity.

Yun Qingrong dropped the papers she was reading earlier, in favor of joining her daughter on the couch. She took Su Xiaofei's hand, then rested her head on her daughter's shoulder.

'How can that be? If they know how outstanding and kind their daughter is, I'm sure that they would regret leaving you behind.' She replied.

'But if you really want to meet them, I will help you. Knowing who your parents are could complete you.' Yun Qingrong pulled away and gently brushed Su Xiaofei's stray locks.

'It's okay, Mama. It's enough that I have you.' Su Xiaofei leaned on her mother's touch, reveling in it.

In her past life, she had constantly argued with Yun Qingrong and defied her wishes. When she married Mo Yuchen, it only worsened as she allowed her husband to be involved in Bluemedia.

‘Alright. I’ll respect your wish then, but if you change your mind, I’ll be able to ask your uncles’ help to find them. Who knows, maybe they are also looking for you.’

‘But wouldn’t that mean that they love me? If they love me, they shouldn’t have abandoned me in the first place.’ Su Xiaofei frowned with displeasure. If Bai Qingyue had even a hint of maternal love towards her, she wouldn’t have abandoned her, and made her father’s life miserable.

‘Feifei, there are so many instances that are out of our hands. Ones that we cannot control. I want to believe that there’s a reason why you ended up there. A beautiful baby like you wouldn’t have simply been left to die by her parents. Even a tiger won’t dare to eat her cubs.’ Her mother reminded her.

Su Xiaofei could only sigh inwardly. This only meant that she needed to think of a way to reintroduce herself to Qiao Fengying. She didn’t want to compete for Qiao Yuhan’s inheritance, but she wanted to experience having a father figure in her life, at least once.

‘Thanks, Mama. You are the best.’ She said, wrapping her arms around her mother. ‘I’m sorry for making you worry.’

She heard Yun Qingrong chuckle at that.

‘It’s a parent’s job to constantly worry about their child, regardless of their age or where they are. As for you, Mama will be here to help as long as you need me.’

‘Then Mama is bound to stay with me for a long time.’ Su Xiaofei laughed.

As Yun Qingrong continued to listen to her daughter, she was reminded of how fast time had passed since the first time she held Feifei in her arms. She then thought about Lu Qingfeng’s marriage proposal, and an indescribable feeling overcame her.

The young man had decided to take Feifei as his wife in the future, but Yun Qingrong was subtly worried that her daughter would be dragged into an internal family feud among the Lu Clan. In such a powerful and giant clan as the Lu family, it would be hard for Yun Qingrong not to worry about her daughter’s future, not when Lu Qingfeng had yet to get absolute control over their massive family.

However, who was she to stop her daughter from seeing Xiao Feng? Truth to be told, Yun Qingrong favored the young man more than she ever did Mo Yuchen. If her Feifei chose to be with Xiao Feng in the future, then she could only give them her blessings and hope that they could be truly happy together.

‘Don’t grow up too fast, Feifei.’ Yun Qingrong thought.. ‘Allow me to enjoy more time with you before he takes you away.’

The day Su Xiaofei dreaded finally arrived.

It was the last day for her and Xi Qian at QCA. It was also Lu Qingfeng's graduation from middle school that afternoon and she and her mother would be there to show their support for him.

She and Xi Qian's graduation had taken place three days ago, and unlike her previous life, Ye Mingyu somehow lost her honors to someone from their class and wasn't named as the class valedictorian. Su Xiaofei paid no heed to it, because her thoughts had been filled with Lu Qingfeng recently.

Lu Qingfeng was also scheduled to leave with his grandfather to Shenjing the next day, which meant that Su Xiaofei needed to bid goodbye to him soon, but her heart suddenly felt that it wasn't willing to part with him.

Su Xiaofei remained next to her mother and waited for the graduation ceremony to start. Grandpa Lu was busy conversing with her mother, while Xi Qian was seated on her left, busy scanning the crowd with her eyes.

'I see that we aren't the only ones here to attend Lu Qingfeng's graduation.' She chuckled, watching so many young girls vying for the little tyrant's attention.

What they didn't know was, no matter how beautiful they were, Lu Qingfeng wouldn't give them a second look. Moreover, it was obvious that in his eyes, there would be no other woman prettier than Su Xiaofei. Xi Qian thought.

It wasn't surprising that Lu Qingfeng had become his class's valedictorian. He was the one assigned to give a farewell speech that was not only proper, but also moving for the young men and women graduating with him.

Su Xiaofei watched without a word, her eyes zeroing on Lu Qingfeng. Up on the stage, Lu Qingfeng was still delivering his speech and his eyes swept over the crowd, meeting hers.

Su Xiaofei immediately lowered her eyes and pretended to ask something to Xi Qian, but she was aware that Lu Qingfeng's eyes were still on her.

Once the graduation ceremony was over, they took several photos with Lu Qingfeng. His grandfather decided to host a special dinner

to celebrate and invited them to come.

Yun Qingrong could sense that her daughter was distracted about Xiao Feng's imminent departure, but she couldn't say anything to comfort her. This would be the first time her Feifei and Xiao Feng would be parted for a long time ever since they met each other when they were younger.

'Feifei...' She called her daughter's name with a worried tone as Su Xiaofei rose from her seat at the dining table after finishing their meal.

'I just need a little walk, Mama. I think I ate a lot tonight.' She smiled and excused herself from the dining area.

Lu Qingfeng stared at her for a moment and excused himself as well.

‘I’ll accompany Feifei outside, Grandpa.’ He said, but the old man already waved his hand away, aware that his grandson had a thing for the Young Miss Su whom he grew up with.

‘Go and comfort, Feifei. She must be upset about us leaving tomorrow.’ The old man said.

Lu Qingfeng thanked his grandfather and chased Su Xiaofei outside their home, his steps hurried as he followed her trail, leading to the backyard of their home. He then found her standing near the huge tree they used to play at when they were younger.

The garden was modestly lit up, and it was safe for Su Xiaofei to roam around, given that there were guards at every turn. Upon Lu Qingfeng’s arrival, these guards created a safe distance from them to give them some privacy.

‘Feifei. Are you still upset with my decision?’ He asked, announcing his presence to her.

Su Xiaofei looked at him over her shoulder, before returning her gaze to the tree.

‘So many years have passed, and it remains the same. The only difference is that it looks taller and stronger now, as if it had endured so many storms and cold winters like any other.’ She replied.

Lu Qingfeng remained silent and stood next to her. He waited for her to continue.

‘Just like your love, strong and unwavering. Maybe that’s the reason I could confidently rely on you for so many years.’ She chuckled.

‘You can continue doing so in the future. You only need to call my name, and I’ll come rushing to your side.’ Lu Qingfeng answered her.

‘No. I can’t do that.’ She shook her head. ‘If I want to be with you in the future, I need to eliminate every reason why I couldn’t.’

Su Xiaofei knew the extent of Lu Qingfeng’s love for her, to the point that he even allowed himself to become a tyrant for her sake. She didn’t want it to happen again because of her. If she hadn’t been such a colossal idiot in her past life, Lu Qingfeng wouldn’t have to suffer after her death.

‘This is just temporary, Feifei. Once I’m back, I will never leave you alone.’ Lu Qingfeng promised her.

He needed to eliminate all threats within the Lu family first before he took her as his wife. He was also aware that this was the reason why Yun Qingrong was a little hesitant to give her approval to him for now.

‘Heh, how sure are you that you wouldn’t fall in love with another woman? Lu Qingfeng, don’t underestimate a woman who is blinded by love.’

‘That’s fine. I only have you in my eyes. You don’t need to worry about such trivial matters.’ Lu Qingfeng shrugged, as if Su Xiaofei’s words were nothing but silly gibberish.

As they looked at the huge tree, the two couldn’t help but replay the memories they had in this place.

‘Feifei, don’t forget about me, okay? I will work hard, and once I come back, I will surely make you my bride.’ Lu Qingfeng declared.. He had lost her twice before, but he wouldn’t let it happen in this lifetime. She would definitely become his wife!