

Secret Love 1731

Chapter 1731: The empire that Brother Ye conquered

For the next few days, the quartet secretly watched and stalked Liang Meixuan and Steward Huang during the day and returned to the mansion to rest during the night without any problems.

As for Ye Wanwan, after she temporarily settled her mother down, she naturally had to visit Han Xianyu and the others.

At the same time, at Han Xianyu's mansion in the suburbs of Beijing:

In the living room, Han Xianyu and Luo Chen sat on the sofa, exhausted, while Jiang Yanran stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling window with a lost expression. As for Gong Xu, he was anxiously pacing back and forth in the room without a second's pause.

Fei Yang, who was sitting in front of a desk and looking at his laptop, finally lost his patience and pinched his eyebrows while looking at Gong Xu. "Little ancestor, can't you sit down peacefully for a moment and stop wandering in front of me?"

Gong Xu exploded like a lit firecracker, his birdnest of hair swaying to and fro with his shouting. "D*mn! Your young master is about to be abducted by a group of bandits and hoodlums to shoot a porno! So what if I'm pacing? Have I even lost the right to pace? Huh?"

Fei Yang pushed his glasses up with an exasperated expression. What did Gong Xu having to shoot a porno have to do with him wildly pacing back and forth like a perpetually bouncing spring?

However, Fei Yang knew Gong Xu was in a bad mood, so he swallowed his words, unable to reproach him. "Fine, fine, fine, keep pacing if you can strip less for every circle you pace..."

Xiao Qing, who was helping Luo Chen organize his clothes, feebly interjected, "Compared to Brother Xu, Brother Xianyu and Brother Chen are more tragic..."

Dong Zai nodded in agreement. "Right! Brother Xianyu was forced to give up his role in that Hollywood Blockbuster and keeps having to surrender all his hard work to that Ling Shaozhe from Emperor Sky. And Brother Chen has to keep that awful princess company every day! Brother Chen, that harpy didn't do anything to you, right?"

Luo Chen's expression stiffened a little, and he aloofly responded with a grim expression, "I'm fine. Don't worry about me; you just need to take good care of the company."

Xiao Qing's face was brimming with indignation. "Is there really no one who will prevent Emperor Sky Entertainment from relying on their gangster background to tyrannize everyone like that?!"

Next to the window, Jiang Yanran calmly replied, "Their background is too complicated, and they are all extremely malicious and savage people. Who would dare to control them?"

Dong Zai mumbled, "Why don't we all leave the Age of Immortals together then..."

As soon as Dong Zai said that, Luo Chen, Gong Xu, Jiang Yanran, and the silent Han Xianyu all simultaneously said, "No."

The four of them met each other's gazes and turned quiet.

Gong Xu hmped furiously. "Leave? No way! The Age of Immortals is Brother Ye's life and blood! It's the empire Brother Ye conquered for us! How could we possibly yield it to someone else? If we left, we would let Brother Ye down!"

Jiang Yanran's lost expression solidified into determination. "Anyway, I will never leave."

Luo Chen also inputted, "I'll stay behind and wait for Brother Ye to return."

Han Xianyu's gentle and comforting voice rang out, "The situation isn't that serious. After all, our influence is still here, so they wouldn't dare to go too far."

Although Han Xianyu said that, none of their expressions eased up. They knew that gangsters were a troublesome problem for them.

Gong Xu acted like an abandoned pet and withering plant and plunked his head on the coffee table with a whimper. "Ah... I miss Brother Ye a lot..."

Chapter 1732: Got a dog outside

An oppressive silence enveloped the room following Gong Xu's listless grumbling.

That's right...

How could they not miss her...

That girl who was brilliant like the blazing sun.

It was as though she could accomplish anything she wanted and create miracles at any desired moment. It was as though they were invincible and every inch of darkness could be dispersed as long as she was there.

There was no doubt that she was the soul of the Age of Immortals in everyone's hearts.

Fei Yang recalled that brilliant girl in his mind and sighed. "I'm afraid that this time... the Ye brother and sister are in a great mess... and are head over heels in their own troubles..."

Luo Chen asked, "Has Brother Ye contacted any of you recently?"

The people in the room all shook their heads.

Jiang Yanran looked grim. "I hope Wanwan is okay."

No matter how fearsome and capable she was, she was just a girl inside. Her father and brother were both imprisoned, while her second uncle's family developed a relationship with the mafia. It was uneasy enough for her to manage to protect herself. Having a lack of news was actually the best news possible.

Ye Wanwan had been missing for several months now. She disappeared into thin air without a trace, and they couldn't contact her regardless of the method.

Some people said she embezzled funds and fled the country while others claimed she died...

Gong Xu suppressed the panic and worry in his eyes and furiously shouted, "That's the person I took a liking to! There's no way something bad would happen to her that easily! One day, my Brother Ye will come and pick me up while riding a trail of rainbow-colored auspicious clouds!!!"

Ding dong!

At that moment, the doorbell suddenly rang.

"I'll open the door!" Xiao Qing hastily put down the clothes in her hands and dashed toward the front door.

"Who is it?" Xiao Qing opened the door and carelessly looked up. When she saw who it was, she became dumbstruck on the spot. "Brother... Brother... AHHH!!!"

Xiao Qing's screeching successfully attracted everyone's attention.

They all swiftly stood up and sprinted to the door, thinking it was those people coming to make trouble again.

"Xiao Wei! What happened?" Han Xianyu looked serious.

"B-brother Ye! Brother! It's Brother Ye, ahhh!!!" Xiao Qing's joyous screams nearly shattered the windows.

At the same time, the other occupants also reached the door and saw a girl in a casual black outfit standing at the entrance, looking like she had just returned from a journey.

"Ahem, baby~ I'm glad you're so enthusiastic about seeing me~" The girl chuckled softly upon seeing Xiao Qing about to faint from her excitement.

A second later, she looked up and saw the dumbfounded and astonished people standing by the hallway. "Hey, long time no see!"

It was still that stunning and gorgeous face, but someone seemed to have changed a little. She gave off an unfamiliarity at first, but a sense of familiarity returned to them full blast the second the girl opened her mouth with a faint smile. So familiar... that tears rushed to their eyes...

"Brother Ye!"

"Wanwan!!!"

"Wahhhh!!! Brother Ye!!! I swear my mouth is freaking blessed! You really came to pick me up riding a trail of rainbow-colored auspicious clouds!" Gong Xu shoved Jiang Yanran and Luo Chen to the side and pounced on Ye Wanwan like a husky stripped free of his leash.

However, before Gong Xu could throw himself into Ye Wanwan's arms, an apathetic youth swiftly stepped forward from behind her and blocked Gong Xu from approaching like a door guardian deity.

Gong Xu was taken aback at first before shock shattered him like he was struck by lightning. His face looked like he was a tragic wife who discovered her husband had an affair on the outside and looked like he was about to faint from heartache. "Brother Ye! You! You actually got a dog outside behind my back!!!"

Chapter 1733: What blanks are you blindly filling?

"You actually got a dog outside behind my back!!!"

Ye Wanwan's eardrums were nearly pierced from the enormous sound wave that slammed into her face.

In the midst of Gong Xu's breakdown, a head popped up from behind Ye Wanwan's shoulder. Big Dipper blinked. "Eh? Dog? Where, where???"

Gong Xu blankly stared at Big Dipper's face for a second before exploding on the spot. "You actually got two!!!"

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Enough already...

Seven Star was afraid of people in China hurting Ye Wanwan, so he didn't want her going out by herself and followed her. As for Big Dipper, he heard he would be able to see his goddess and doggedly insisted on coming along.

If she knew it would turn into such a ruckus... she would've come on her own.

Even Luo Chen and the others were shocked at the sight of the two unfamiliar, eye-catching youths standing next to Ye Wanwan, let alone Gong Xu.

"Brother Ye, these two are...?" Luo Chen hesitantly asked.

Could they be artists newly taken in by Brother Ye?

This was everyone's first thought.

After returning to China, Ye Wanwan fussed with even First Elder and Third Elder, let alone two excellent potentials, Big Dipper and Seven Star.

Out of habit, Ye Wanwan gave the duo a giant makeover, so their appearances could hold a candle to a celebrity's and they emitted a very unique and distinctive aura. Their looks could easily cause misunderstandings.

Fei Yang's eyes were shining as he inspected the two youths. "Director Ye, are they artists you picked up outside?"

Gong Xu still looked like a girl betrayed by her partner. "Brother Ye, you promised that you wouldn't accept anyone aside from blockhead and me! Yet, you picked up two at once!"

Ye Wanwan exasperatedly said, “What blanks are you blindly filling?! These two are my friends, not artists I signed.”

“Friends...” Gong Xu’s eyes darted between Big Dipper and Seven Star, and he examined their faces for half a day before decisively announcing, “Their faces aren’t convincing at all!”

Ye Wanwan tousled Gong Xu’s birdnest hair with a dark expression. “It’s been a while since I’ve seen you, but why haven’t you aged at all?”

Still so... childish...

When Gong Xu heard this, he got hooked onto a random point. His previous fury abruptly switched to happiness. “Of course! I take good care of myself!”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

After a round of chaos, Ye Wanwan led Big Dipper and Seven Star inside the house.

“Wanwan...” Jiang Yanran hugged her with reddened eyes. “It’s great... I’m glad you’re fine, I’m glad you’re fine! We were all worried to death when you disappeared for so long!”

“Sorry, I ran into a problem and couldn’t contact you guys.”

“No worries, no worries. It’s good that you’re back.”

“Oh right, allow me to introduce you. These two are friends I met overseas, Big Dipper and Seven Star,” Ye Wanwan introduced simply.

“What unique names... Hello!” Jiang Yanran and the others all greeted them and introduced themselves. Only Gong Xu remained on high alert and looked at them from the corners of his eyes, displeased.

Big Dipper excitedly looked at Jiang Yanran. “Hello, goddess! I really met you in person! I’m your fanboy, goddess! Are you... are you really an artist under Sis F—Sis Ye?”

Seven Star merely nodded in greeting and relaxed when he saw Ye Wanwan’s familiar attitude toward these people. Big Dipper was a particular social butterfly and didn’t take long to familiarize himself with everyone.

Chapter 1734: About to curl into a ball from my mistreatment

“No! I’m jealous! Brother Ye, the first person you sought out when you returned from abroad was actually Brother Xianyu!” Gong Xu complained, brimming with jealousy.

Ye Wanwan raised her eyebrows and spoke matter-of-factly, “Isn’t that natural?”

“You’re awful, Brother Ye!” Gong Xu wanted to scratch her in anger but couldn’t find anything to retaliate. First come, first serve. There was nothing he could do about the fact that Brother Ye knew Brother Xianyu the longest and had the best relationship with him.

Ye Wanwan’s joking expression slipped off her face. “Was everyone fine while I was gone?”

In truth, she visited Han Xianyu first because she wanted to understand the company's situation as fast as possible, so Han Xianyu was the most suitable option. She didn't expect everyone to also be there, which was perfect.

As soon as Ye Wanwan asked that, Gong Xu's grievances were about to erupt, and he wanted to unleash all of his bitterness.

Before Gong Xu could respond though, Luo Chen suddenly pinched his waist, eliciting a yelp of pain.

*Sh*t! Blockhead! Why did you pinch me?*

Gong Xu angrily glared at him.

Luo Chen didn't even look at Gong Xu as though he wasn't the one who pinched the man. Without revealing anything in his expression, Luo Chen answered, "Brother Ye, don't worry. We're all fine."

*Gong Xu thought: ?D*mn! What do you mean fine?! How am I fine?! I'm about to curl into a ball from my mistreatment!*

Before the Age of Immortals was acquired, who in the company would dare to mistreat him? He was the king of the mountain, the beloved pet of the group, the guardian treasure of the house!

Now? He was about to become a doormat!

Gong Xu was about to speak when he got pinched by Luo Chen again.

Ye Wanwan recalled the broadcast she saw when she was in the Independent State. "Emperor Sky Entertainment acquired the Age of Immortals?"

Luo Chen and the others' expressions dimmed. It was Han Xianyu who answered. "I'm very sorry, Ye Bai. I wasn't able to protect the company, but this was the best option under our circumstances."

"The company suffered a great impact due to CEO Ye's charge of homicide. Our chain of funds was broken and we faced bankruptcy. Although Emperor Sky's acquisition was the same as looting a burning house, at least it saved the company and the company's operations are rather stable with Yao Jiawen standing in for CEO Ye's position."

Han Xianyu's expression turned calm toward the end of his explanation, his eyes carrying an innately soothing quality. It was as though the dust really settled and nothing bad happened.

It was as though this matter was peacefully resolved and they didn't suffer any tyrannical and unfair treatment.

Ye Wanwan looked at Han Xianyu and the others with turmoil in her eyes. "Did Emperor Sky make things difficult for you?"

Jiang Yanran hastily replied, "Although the company was acquired, our status is undeniable, so they didn't dare to do anything much to us."

Based on Han Xianyu and Jiang Yanran's explanation, allowing Emperor Sky to acquire the company was their own choice and the most suitable option at that time.

However... the reality was completely different.

How could they hand over the company they created with their own hands to their archenemy?

Back then, all of them resisted it to their deaths and tried to protect the company with everything they had. If they took a gamble, they might have been able to overcome this challenge since the company's foundation was well built before Ye Wanwan left and they had amicable relations with people in the entertainment industry.

They watched as the company slowly improved, until... the power behind Emperor Sky Entertainment interfered!

The Hongxing Gang was the biggest mafia gang with the longest history in Harbor City with branches all over Asia; they had an unfathomable background. They only started stepping into the entertainment industry in recent years and used the industry to launder their money in large quantities.

Chapter 1735: Best Actor and Best Actress hurling their acting skills

Emperor Sky Entertainment somehow hooked onto this connection, using the mafia's status in the entertainment industry along with the Hongxing Gang's power to force the sale of the Age of Immortals at a remarkably cheap price.

Their methods were extremely nauseating...

They bribed Yao Jiawen and used trust for Yao Jiawen to abduct Jiang Yanran and force Han Xianyu, who was managing the company in trust at that time, to sign an immensely unequal contract.

If Ye Wanwan knew the truth...

He couldn't imagine what she'd do, considering her personality!

It would be too dangerous for Ye Wanwan to rashly involve herself in this tricky situation.

Those people had no concept of morals and ethics and completely disregarded the law.

Ye Wanwan's circumstances were precarious enough already. Her father and brother were imprisoned still, and she was being targeted by the Ye family; they absolutely couldn't allow her to endanger herself further due to the company.

No matter how fearsome she was, she was still a normal girl whose family was struck by disaster...

Han Xianyu, Luo Chen, and Jiang Yanran agreed on this point without any hesitation.

Gong Xu, who was too excited at the sight of Ye Wanwan, also swiftly understood.

His rage dissipated as he blinked and looked at Luo Chen, Jiang Yanran, and then Han Xianyu.

They stopped him from informing Brother Ye because they didn't want her to risk herself...

Gong Xu pursed his lips and suddenly realized he was too impulsive earlier...

Gong Xu's Best Actor skills were awoken instantly, and he cooperated with Golden Orchid Awards' Best Actor Luo Chen, Golden Orchid Awards' Best Actress Jiang Yanran, and international Best Actor Han Xianyu. He arrogantly exclaimed, "D*mn! Who am I? Who'd dare to make things difficult for us?! I'm the number one popular artist in the entertainment industry right now! They're more likely to elevate me to an altar and burn incense for me every day!"

Han Xianyu glanced at Gong Xu, surprised at how cooperative he was.

However, Han Xianyu didn't only have good acting skills—he also knew Ye Wanwan well and thought further. He knew she wouldn't believe it if they sounded too fake.

Hence, he mixed some truth into the story. "Wanwan, I won't lie to you. Yao Jiawen is now under Ye Yiyi's control... People want to ascend higher, and people with different goals go their separate ways. We can't fault her for that."

"Thankfully, in consideration of our previous friendship, she treats us veterans passably, so we're all doing relatively fine."

Gong Xu's intelligence also went online and matched Han Xianyu's story. "That woman is too terrible! She actually splashed dirty water onto you to advance herself! But don't worry, Brother Ye! We personally went to battle and dispersed the rumors and supported you fully. Plus, they don't have proof, so it won't impact you too much! The fans still believe in you!"

"That's right, Wanwan, focus on handling Uncle Ye and your brother's matter. Don't worry about us," Jiang Yanran comforted her.

The four of them cooperated with each other flawlessly like a well-oiled machine, and Fei Yang, Xiao-Qing, and Dong-Zai all stayed silent.

An imperceptible glint flickered through Ye Wanwan's eyes as she listened to them. She laughed and said, "Then I'm reassured. I'm glad you're fine. In truth, I'm the one who should apologize since it was my family's mess that dragged the company down. Since the company has been acquired, focus on advancing your careers and try your best to erase your ties with my family..."

Chapter 1736: Gentler method

Before Ye Wanwan finished speaking, Han Xianyu gently interrupted, "Ye Bai, you're being too much of a stranger in saying this kind of thing. I don't want to discuss words of gratitude considering our relationship, but I wouldn't be here if it weren't for you, and Age of Immortals wouldn't exist. We'll stand together with you through thick and thin; this won't change no matter what."

Luo Chen immediately nodded, displaying the same expression as Han Xianyu.

Jiang Yanran hugged Ye Wanwan. "Wanwan, you aren't allowed to say anything related to dragging us down again or else I'll get angry. We've been in contact with lawyers regarding your brother and Uncle Ye's situation and are brainstorming a solution, so don't worry too much."

Warmth flowed through Ye Wanwan's heart as she looked at her companions. "Thank you!"

Because Han Xianyu and the others still had jobs and assignments, Ye Wanwan didn't linger and left after chatting a little longer.

As soon as Ye Wanwan left, Gong Xu plopped down on the carpet. "D*mn... We managed to keep her in the dark..."

Then he swiftly jumped up and pulled up his shirt, pointing at his waist. "D*mn! Blockhead, don't you know to use a gentler method to remind me?! You've bruised my precious waist!"

Luo Chen didn't say anything and merely looked at him with his typical "Are you an idiot?" look, disinclined to talk to him at all.

Gong Xu knew he nearly exposed them and was in the wrong but still gloatingly said, "How about it? This young master's adaptive abilities and acting skills are decent, right?"

Luo Chen expressionlessly replied, "Too exaggerated."

Gong Xu shot him a glare instantly. "Bullsh*t! It was clearly perfection! This young master has a Best Actor!"

Jiang Yanran turned to Han Xianyu with concern and asked, "We probably fooled her, right?"

Han Xianyu also wasn't certain and wryly chuckled. "Probably?"

Fei Yang, who watched the Best Actors and Best Actress flinging their acting skills around, asked, "What are you all worried about? There are three Best Actors and one Best Actress here—how could Ye Bai possibly have seen through you?! Moreover, she's preoccupied with her brother and father's issues right now, so she probably can't keep up on our end!"

Jiang Yanran sighed with relief. "I hope so..."

Luo Chen glanced at Gong Xu and hesitantly warned, "You... be careful tomorrow."

Gong Xu raised his eyebrows in surprise, not expecting Luo Chen to show concern for him. He instantly tilted his head and said, "Who am I? There's no one who can make this young master suffer a loss! You should worry about yourself instead!"

...

Inside the car:

After Ye Wanwan led Big Dipper and Seven Star out of Han Xianyu's mansion and entered the car, the faint and warm smile disappeared from her face without a trace.

"Heh..." Ye Wanwan chuckled softly a moment later, her eyes cast down.

Big Dipper scratched his head in incomprehension. "Why are you laughing, Sis Feng?"

Ye Wanwan softly laughed, her expression exasperated. "I'm pleased... The Best Actors and Best Actress that I personally taught... their acting skills are quite decent..."

"Huh? What do you mean?" Big Dipper was baffled.

Seven Star, on the other hand, glanced at her pensively.

Ye Wanwan didn't respond, her smile receding as she said, "Big Dipper, continue to track the Ye family. Seven Star, immediately help me uncover everything that happened these past few months between the Age of Immortals and Emperor Sky Entertainment, including every detail and process of Emperor Sky Entertainment's acquisition of the company half a month ago."

Seven Star nodded. "Okay."

Chapter 1737: Want them to sleep together once

The Independent State:

A certain simple European style manor was under tight security.

If someone knew who was meeting inside this manor today, they would be ashen from terror.

It was the organization Prison, which had receded after many years of seclusion. Its core members; the three leaders of Asura, Heavenly Hatred, and Slaughter's Gate; were meeting for the first time since they disbanded many years ago.

Jiang Yan and Lin Que silently stood guard outside the door.

As the sky dimmed and dusk settled upon them, Jiang Yan's phone suddenly started ringing.

Jiang Yan slowly walked to the side to accept the call.

"What did you say?"

The person on the other end said something, causing Jiang Yan's expression to darken with a swish.

"Keep watching carefully!"

After placing that order, Jiang Yan hung up.

Lin Que, who had kept himself disguised ever since he learned Ye Wanwan came to the Independent State, glanced at Jiang Yan. "What is it? Why do you look like you ate sh*t?"

Jiang Yan furiously responded, "Bai Feng left the Independent State!"

Lin Que raised his eyebrows. *?Ehhh? Ye Wanwan left the Independent State?*

Wasn't that girl recently racking her brain to uncover Si Yehan's little alias? Why did she suddenly leave the Independent State?

"Where did she go?" Lin Que asked reflexively.

Jiang Yan angrily answered, "China! She accepted that trashy mission regarding the elimination of defected mercenaries! It will take at least a month or two to complete it, but it might take three to five months! That mission is nowhere as simple as she imagined, and she might even lose her life. The ignorant are seriously fearless!"

“Heh? Don’t you rather dislike her? What, wouldn’t it be good if she lost her life?” Lin Que asked with a snicker.

“I don’t care if she lives or dies, but my Lord is poisoned by the love gu and will definitely die in three months without an antidote! The antidote hasn’t been discovered yet, so if she dies before that, my Lord...”

Lin Que nodded in understanding. “So you want her to sleep with him once to cure the poison?”

Jiang Yan’s expression stiffened, and a suspicious flush crawled up his neck. “You’re dreaming!!!”

Lin Que clicked his tongue while shaking his head. Look at how Jiang Yan treated Ye Wanwan like a ferocious beast and was afraid she’d tarnish his Lord. If he discovered she’d corrupted and slept with his Lord already, Lin Que wondered how he’d react...

However, that girl actually returned to China? Did that mean...

Lin Que’s eyes glinted, but his contemplation was disrupted by the door finally opening.

A slender male figure wearing a vintage Victorian-style suit as black as the night slowly walked out, his stunning face covered in frost.

“My Lord!” Jiang Yan and Lin Que immediately went up to receive him.

Jiang Yan appeared as if he wanted to say something as he looked at his Lord.

Lin Que didn’t have any scruples though and frankly said with a smile, “Good timing. I have good news for you.”

Good news?

Lord Asura glanced at Lin Que aloofly.

Lin Que grinned. “That girl accepted Scarlet Flames Academy’s A-rank mission to capture defected mercenaries and ran back to China.”

The man’s pupils contracted, and he spoke without thinking a second later. “Arrange a trip to China.”

Jiang Yan’s eyes shot open in disbelief when he heard that.

What?

My Lord actually wants to go to China the second he hears that woman’s in China?! What does this mean?

Is my Lord truly going to surrender and use that degrading method to cure the gu poison?

Chapter 1738: Because of trust

Jiang Yan nearly wanted to commit suicide from intense self-reproach. If he protected his Lord better, that vixen wouldn’t have been able to exploit his weakness!

Lin Que looked like he expected it though. "OK! Understood. I'll arrange it immediately!"

Si Yehan was at his wits' end due to that girl pressing closer and closer and almost couldn't conceal his identity anymore, but that girl just happened to return to China at this time. He merely needed to arrange for someone to pretend to be Lord Asura in the Independent State and return to China to recover his identity as Si Yehan, and he could dispel her suspicions...

...

The next morning:

Seven Star delved into everything that happened at the Age of Immortals after Ye Wanwan left that very night before giving the report to Ye Wanwan.

"Sis Feng, I've finished looking into the matter concerning the acquisition; it's not that simple. Although the Age of Immortals' situation wasn't optimistic, it wasn't at the point of needing to sell the company. Even when Emperor Sky gave a fairly high purchase price and exerted both gentle and forceful methods, Han Xianyu and the others didn't acquiesce."

Ye Wanwan kept tapping the glass surface of the side table with her finger. "Continue."

In truth, Han Xianyu, Luo Chen, Gong Xu, and Jiang Yanran's acting skills were superb, and Ye Wanwan didn't catch anything amiss due to flaws in their acting skills.

It was because of trust.

She trusted that they wouldn't sell the company and trusted that they would have the capability.

However, the result didn't match her expectations at all, so something else had to have gone wrong.

Hence, she ordered Seven Star to investigate the matter.

Seven Star continued, "According to my investigation, your cousin and second aunt had secret intimate contact with people from the Hongxing Gang these past few months. After you left, Yao Jiawen acted as the manager of Jiang Yanran, Gong Xu, and Luo Chen and was rather trusted.

"Hence, they bribed Yao Jiawen and made her cooperate with people from the Hongxing Gang from the inside to avoid the bodyguards and kidnap Jiang Yanran. Then they threatened the others using Jiang Yanran, and they had no choice but to comply with Emperor Sky's acquisition."

Ye Wanwan's expression darkened instantly.

Never would she have expected that she would still underestimate the shamelessness of Huang Mingkun and the mother-daughter duo in the end.

She didn't expect them to use such a vulgar method!

What chilled her heart more was Yao Jiawen's betrayal...

Yao Jiawen was someone she unearthed and taught hand over hand. She passed her knowledge to Yao Jiawen without holding back and even entrusted her with her most important artists before leaving.

To her surprise...

Big Dipper sprang up with righteous indignation. “D*mn! Hongxing Gang what? I’ve never heard of them! They dared to kidnap my goddess?! F*ck their a**!”

“They’re an organization that originated from Harbor City and currently has influence in China and the Asia region,” Seven Star expressionlessly explained.

Ye Wanwan had naturally heard of the Hongxing Gang before. They were rather powerful indeed and had a deep background.

However, if an underground syndicate like Hongxing Gang was thrown into the Independent State, they would basically be no different from children playing house. Let’s not even compare them to the Fearless Alliance, which struck terror into everyone in the Independent State.

“Give me the upcoming schedules of those four,” Ye Wanwan requested.

Seven Star conducted his assignment to satisfaction and looked into that already, so he quickly sent a document to Ye Wanwan’s phone.

Ye Wanwan skimmed through the schedules before focusing on Gong Xu’s schedule that day.

The name of the film that Gong Xu was going to shoot today looked familiar. It seemed to be the film claimed to use explicit scenes to catch viewers’ attention...

Chapter 1739: Isn’t worthy of being mentioned in the same breath

Currently, the set of the film?A *Carnal Night*?had a tense atmosphere, and the scent of gunpowder permeated the air.

Next to Gong Xu were a tipped chair and the shattered pieces of a cup he knocked over. “Yao Jiawen! This isn’t what you said when you coaxed me into signing the contract for this film! I can tolerate you using those crude methods for publicity, but now, you actually want me to strip and shoot that kind of thing? Just to support a nobody?! Who do you think I am?”

The female lead of this film was the lover of some leader in Hongxing Gang and a minor, unpopular artist. She was currently signed to the Age of Immortals and personally managed by Yao Jiawen.

If this was before, Gong Xu wouldn’t mind acting in this kind of film.

But now, Brother Ye exerted so much effort just to lift him into this position and help him change his genre, so how could he tolerate this kind of vulgar and low-quality film and ruin their efforts?

Yao Jiawen was sitting in a leather chair with a cup of coffee in hand, unconcerned about Gong Xu’s rage. “You’re too naive, Gong Xu. Which high-earning person in the industry doesn’t do this?

“You wasted so much time and energy shooting a film without a market. So what if you used it to win Best Actor? The profit that it brought is far inferior to you stripping your clothes and revealing some skin!

“Ye Bai’s self-righteous method of blindly pursuing expertise and acting skills doesn’t suit this industry at all and she should’ve been eliminated ages ago.”

It had only been a few mere months, but all traces of Yao Jiawen's original simple and frugal appearance had disappeared from her body.

Her outfit could hold a candle to the outfits of some artists and celebrities—there was a luxurious bracelet around her wrist and a Chanel couture outfit enveloping her body. There was also a personal assistant waiting on her tail, and she completely resembled a golden manager, confidence leaking through her every word.

The director and producers next to her all bobbed their heads zealously and fell over themselves to lick her boots. "CEO Yao is brilliant!"

"CEO Yao's words are incredibly insightful! Ah, Gong Xu, didn't we all enter this industry to earn money? Why must you jeopardize your earnings? CEO Yao is doing this for your own good!"

Immense satisfaction filled Yao Jiawen as she listened to these renowned producers and director, who she wasn't even qualified to look at before, all eagerly parroting her.

She might've felt a little guilty allying with Ye Yiyi before, but after being a golden manager and the company's CEO for several months, that tinge of guilt had been stomped to nothing underneath her feet.

Both she and Ye Bai were managers, so why should Ye Bai thrive while she could only act as a lackey?

In this industry, you had to be unscrupulous to rise above everyone else anyway! She couldn't be faulted!

She absolutely didn't want to return to her original groveling and currying life...

Now, even the arrogant and bossy Gong Xu was a puppet to her wishes!

Gong Xu stared at the woman before him and sneered. "Yao Jiawen, stop freaking dirtying this young master's ears! Who the heck do you think you are? Do you really think you're my manager? Who gave you the nerve to think you're worthy of being mentioned in the same breath as my Brother Ye?"

When Yao Jiawen heard that, her calm and graceful mask instantly shattered, a storm rolling into her eyes.

After gaining control of the company, her biggest taboo was being compared to Ye Bai!

What she loathed the most was these people mentioning Ye Bai at every twist and turn!

When clearly the Age of Immortals belonged to her now and she was their manager now!

Chapter 1740: Gong Xu's manager

Yao Jiawen snorted with ridicule. "Heh, Best Actor Gong seriously keeps Director Ye in mind constantly? May I ask where your precious Director Ye went when the company was backed into a wall? Where was she when the company was acquired?"

“You’re right—I don’t need to be mentioned in the same breath as her because she’s nothing but a stray dog! What right does she have to be compared to me? If she returned to the company now, she wouldn’t even be worthy of holding my shoes for me!”

Gong Xu felt a ball of rage and frost engulfing his eyes, and he stressed every word carefully: “Yao Jiawen, I dare you to say that again! Did your f*cking conscience get eaten by a dog? If it weren’t for Brother Ye back then, you would’ve already packed up your bags and returned to the fields to be a farmer! Now, you’re actually paying a favor back with revenge? You can’t even measure up to a f*cking dog!”

Yao Jiawen’s eyes darkened. “Heh? I’m paying back a favor with revenge? Back then, Ye Wanwan merely gave me an assistant position like she was dismissing a beggar! Everything I possess today, I worked for myself! I have a clear conscience!

“You, however, wake up! Do you think the Age of Immortals is a place you can throw a tantrum however you want? You have to shoot today’s scene whether you want to or not!”

Yao Jiawen then shot a look at the side.

Several burly men emitting a conspicuous savage aura promptly entered the hall.

Yao Jiawen snorted. “Would you rather start shooting obediently or have someone lend you a helping hand? It’s your choice, but I’m advising you to obey me nicely. Don’t do things the hard way!”

Gong Xu’s entire body was drowning in a violent fury, and he shoved the video camera over. “Scram! Shoot it yourself if you want to!”

Yao Jiawen nonchalantly said, “You won’t shoot it? Sure! If you won’t, I can find someone else! How about I add a scene for Jiang Yanran? After all, the effects of a female artist shooting this are much better than a male artist!”

“Yao Jiawen, f*ck your grandfather!” Gong Xu charged up to punch her but was pulled back by Dong Zai.

He could disregard his own wellbeing and shatter the fish tank, but these people had no bottom line and were willing to do anything.

He previously heard that a celebrity accidentally verbally offended a boss from Hongxing Gang and their corpse was discovered by the riverside in the suburbs the next day.

And last time Jiang Yanran was kidnapped, she would’ve nearly gotten bullied if they hadn’t arrived in time...

Yao Jiawen naturally detected Gong Xu’s apprehension and ordered with a smile, “Alright then, let’s stop wasting time. Begin!”

Gong Xu’s eyes were like that of an enraged bull as he icily glared at Yao Jiawen. He lay his fingers over the collar of his dress shirt before ripping it, sending buttons flying everywhere. He forcefully yanked off his shirt onto the floor.

The director excitedly ordered the lights and camera crew to make preparations, and they started shooting.

“Continue, continue! Strip everything and lie down in the bathtub! Then Jingjing will sit on top of Gong Xu...” the director instructed.

Gong Xu’s face froze as he stared at the eager nobody, his expression black as tar.

When he met Yao Jiawen’s threatening gaze, he took a deep breath and continued to strip.

Just as Gong Xu placed his fingers over his icy belt buckle and loosened it, a loud “BANG!” rang.

The large iron doors of the set suddenly collapsed from a kick.

Everyone jumped in fright and turned to look at the entrance.

There was a tall and slender figure standing in the doorway, light radiating from behind them with their leg still in a kicking position. When the person saw everyone looking over, they slapped off the nonexistent dust from their shoulders and retracted their leg.

“Who are you? What are you doing?!” the director shouted furiously.

Since the girl was standing with the light behind her, her face was hazy. All that was heard was an icy but languid and clear voice reverberating in the set, “Apologies for disturbing everyone. I am... yes... I am Gong Xu’s manager.”