

## Sweet Love 1851

### Chapter 1851: Please conduct yourself with dignity.

Reporter: "Xingze, what's your biggest gain from this movie?"

The superstar spoke into the microphone. "My biggest gain from this movie is probably the memories I have from working with such an excellent director and a hard-working crew! Everyone chipped in to complete this movie, which is an adaptation of a novel with lots of following, and in order not to betray the fans' high expectations, we really worked very hard for it."

"You also starred in a youth drama on your debut; a decade later, you're starring in another youth drama. Do you have any thoughts about it?"

He answered, "To be honest, youth dramas don't only encompass feelings. I realized during the filming of this movie that, through my continuous acting for over a decade, my skills have vastly compared to when I just started in showbiz. 'The Green Apple' is a milestone in my acting career, which I've put so much effort into. I hope that the fans will be satisfied with it."

As soon as he finished speaking, he moved the microphone away from him and covered his mouth to cough.

The hoarse coughing distinctively reached Yun Shishi's ears.

She could not help but ball her fists.

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At that moment, the media suddenly posed a tricky question.

"Do you have any expectations for the box-office sales?"

"Director Lin hopes that the ticket sales can break through the two-billion mark, but of course, regardless of the eventual profits, 'The Green Apple' is a good and precious movie to me. I hope that everyone will like it, too."

He casually dealt with that question with just a simple retort.

Everyone from the media stand let out a sigh at the neutral answer. They often could not stand to gain the upper hand when dealing with the superstar.

They, therefore, started to shift their focus onto the female lead and launched their aggressive attacks on her, instead.

Unfortunately for them, after experiencing so many rounds of interviews, her on-the-spot reaction was now almost on par with the superstar. Even the thorniest and trickiest question posed no problem to her, and she could answer each of them easily, sending the reporters into a state of desperation.

Toward the end of the premiere, the two main leads raised a bottle of champagne and poured its content on the ice-sculpted words 'The Green Apple' in celebration of the movie's upcoming release.

After the premiere, when all the guests were dispersing from the venue, she silently trailed after her co-star as they made their exit.

Throughout, she saw and heard him constantly hacking away in fits. His condition frightened and worried her.

There were several times when he coughed so violently that she fearfully thought he would cough up blood.

Right then, he bumped into a staff who was rounding the corner in a rush. With a slight sway of his body, he was on the verge of collapsing to the ground.

She swiftly stepped forward to support him.

“Are you alright?”

That staff received quite a shock, too. He trembled with trepidation upon seeing the superstar, and when he wanted to go and help him up, he met his stern and icy stare, so he tactfully withdrew his hands and just eked out an apology before scurrying away from them.

With a hand on the wall for support, the actor straightened up his body and apathetically pushed her hands away from him.

Her face stiffened at that. Slowly, she said with a frown, “Go to the hospital!”

The man gradually turned to glance at her.

She continued speaking out of concern. “Your body is in a terrible condition. The upcoming twenty-four roadshows will be too tough on you...”

“What do you mean by this?” he challenged.

She looked at him, feeling stumped.

He let out a self-deprecating laugh. “Are you showing concern for me?”

“I...”

“If it’s just a pretentious concern, may I ask you to please conduct yourself with dignity. I don’t wish to hear any of that.”

## **Chapter 1852: Little Yichen’s Good Intentions**

He simply turned his back on her after dropping those cold words.

She thought he would shake her hands off him and leave right away, but instead, he remained rooted to the spot. In an extremely resigned voice, he slowly asked, “Shishi, do you know?”

“...Hm?”

“Out of the countless fantasies I had, I never imagined such an outcome between us.”

He let out a self-deprecating laugh. "I just hope that your choice is right!"

The man then slowly made his leave, dragging his heavy body away from her.

Yun Shishi could sense the heaviness in his cold words as she watched his resolute departure; it was as if a knife had left a deep, bloody mark in his heart.

Hence, it left her feeling soulless and distraught as she sat in the passenger's seat on the way home.

She received a call from her youngest son right then. His mischievous voice rang from the other end when the call connected. "Mommy, I watched the live broadcast of your movie premiere, and you looked ravishing! Your beauty has totally reached a new height!"

"Mhm..."

"Mommy, when are you coming home?"

She forced herself to be enthusiastic. "I'm on my way home already! I'll be there in fifteen minutes tops!"

"Noted! Will you have supper here?"

"No, it's fine."

On the other end, the lad could acutely sense her despondency from her voice and could not help himself from feeling worried about her. "What's the matter? You sound... unhappy. Did someone bully you or give you attitude at work?"

"No... I'm just feeling a little tired!"

He laughed in relief upon hearing that, cooing thereafter, "That's fine! When you're back home, I'll give you a shoulder massage!"

"Okay! Youyou is such a good boy!"

Her hand dropped feebly to the seat when the call ended. As she gazed at the flashing scenery outside the window, Gu Xingze's desolate voice rang in her ears.

'Out of the countless fantasies I had, I never imagined such an outcome between us.

'I just hope that your choice is right!

She shut her eyes tightly at that, forcing herself not to let her thoughts run wild.

Her arrival back home sent the twins dashing to the front porch to welcome her.

Like stars clustering around the moon, the two lads cheerfully busied themselves in collecting her outer coat and carrying her handbag as they welcomed her to the living room before giving her four limbs a massage.

The younger twin suddenly gave her a mischievous smile. "It's been tough on you today, mommy! From what I've watched earlier, mommy is the prettiest-looking star among all those celebrities!"

Little Yichen chimed in brightly, “Yeah! I’ve seen the movie trailer and it looks interesting! I’m gonna head down to the cinema tomorrow with bro and book the entire theater to help mommy boost the ticket sales!”

“Yes, how high-handed of you!” exclaimed his sibling.

Unwilling to back down, he countered, “Of course, I have to support mommy’s movie! What’s wrong with me spending my pocket money to book the entire theater?”

He then added with a grin, “On second thought, with mommy’s good looks, the movie’s ticket sales will surely reach a new height!”

Her older son’s declaration left her flabbergasted. “Are you going to book the entire theater to watch the show?”

“Yup!”

He then thought to himself, With daddy’s help, I already booked the entire theater of several cinemas for the sake of boosting the ticket sales of mommy’s movie at Christmas.

I’ve already checked, and there’ll be ten movies playing in the cinemas during the Christmas holiday. If mommy’s movie can top the bill that day, the movie’s ratings will rise alongside, which, in turn, can be beneficial in boosting the total box-office sales.

### **Chapter 1853: Life is full of sunshine.**

*These are my good intentions!*

*How can this dummy brother of mine understand it?!*

The other boy had truly been unfairly maligned.

Even though he had not explicitly stated it out, he had actually already booked all the theaters under Huanyu, bought several millions’ worth of movie tickets, and had promotional brochures distributed to the public beforehand.

Two free movie tickets for ‘The Green Apple’ would be given to each customer who spent at least five hundred yuan on Lezhi products during Christmas.

How wasteful would it be to give them out for free?

By doing so, not only could he raise his company’s profits, he could also show his support for mommy’s movie. It was indeed marvelous of him to come up with such a trick—truly killing two birds with one stone.

In comparison, the older twin was indeed a tad weaker than he was in that aspect!

Youyou simply snorted coldly before shooting him with a contemptuous look.

The sight of these living treasures would considerably lighten Yun Shishi's mood even at her most desolate state. She scooped these cute, little buns into her arms and smilingly gushed, "Goodness, both of you... I love my boys to death!"

"It's enough for mommy to love me alone; it's best if you don't love this big dummy beside me." The younger one casually threw this derisive remark.

The older boy felt aggrieved. "Bro, you're ostracizing me!"

"Who's ostracizing you?"

His brother proudly snorted at him and then lightly remarked, "I don't wanna be in the same team as you! Hah! You even booked an entire cinema... Mu Yichen, you're all grown up and capable now! It appears that daddy gave you plenty of pocket money this time!"

Feeling wronged, he twiddled his index fingers. "What? Those are my hard-put savings!"

"Have fun feeling smug then! How many kids your age have millions of pocket money to waste?" The other boy yet again threw another sarcastic remark at him.

This got him sullenly pouting his small lips.

*Bro just can't live a day without going against me.*

Even though he had pretty much gotten used to his twin's proud and vicious nature after spending lots of time with him, the other's disses still hurt him at times.

"That's enough! Both of you aren't allowed to quarrel!" chided their mother lightly, shooing them away by patting their little butts thereafter. "Quickly go take a bath!"

"We've already bathed ourselves, mommy! You can take a sniff to check if we smell fragrant!" He hugged the woman tightly as he snuggled in her embrace.

"Then, it's time to go to bed now. It's getting late."

She chased the little ones to bed. "You still have school tomorrow!"

"Stupid mommy, it's Sunday tomorrow!" reminded her younger son in disdain.

Only after she had taken a gander at the calendar did she realize with a start that, due to being crammed with work these past few days, she had lost her sense of time.

It was indeed Sunday the next day.

"Oh! My bad. Shall I read a bedtime story to you then?" she gently coaxed.

As soon as the older twin heard that, he pulled himself away from her and ran to his bedroom, cheering, "Mommy, I'll wait for you in bed!"

The woman burst out chuckling at the boy's goofiness!

*That clown!*

Youyou, too, shyly added, "Mommy, I'll be waiting for you in bed to read us a story as well!"

With that, he pitter-pattered back to his bedroom.

Their sudden obedience surprised her.

Indeed, life was full of sunshine with the two buns around!

Thus, she soon put the gloomy thoughts behind her!

## **Chapter 1854: Too Much Love**

At night, she lay tossing and turning in bed, reflecting on the events that had happened during the day with knitted brows.

Gu Xingze's attitude toward her was a 180-degree change from the past.

He used to be gentle and caring—a man sensitive to her every need.

The present him was cold, impatient, and aloof to her.

Actually, keeping a distance from him was not a bad thing!

She might as well use this opportunity to stay away from him; this would be good for the both of them.

Since she could not return his affection, she should not be close to him.

Yun Shishi did not have any romantic feelings for the man, but was there a chance that she might cause a misunderstanding with her actions?

Pouting her lips, she pondered on. She knew inside her heart that the superstar liked her; hence, she tried her best to keep a distance from him. Whenever he drew close, she would step away, but she could not hold off his pressing affections. She admired and looked up to him as a respectable senior. His action was good, and he took care of every junior on set. He was a caring and understanding actor and senior.

To him, she held a sisterly attachment—someone whom she looked up to and really respected!

Somehow, though, that was not how he felt toward her.

If this was the case...

Thus, she made up her mind. No matter what he felt, she would stay away from him from now on and distance herself from him as much as possible.

Despite feeling guilty, she knew that this did not mean that she could compromise on matters like this.

Perhaps she had not made a clear stance on this issue with him in the past, and that resulted in this current mess.

If so, then she knew what she needed to do to resolve this mess.

Mu Yazhe would be flying off to another city for business soon. The affairs in his office had piled up over the last few days, and before he left, he stayed in bed with her as much as possible. Hugging her in his arms, he refused to let her go for a long time.

While saying goodbye, he kept reminding her. "Be good when I'm away! Don't do anything that'll worry me.

"Apply for leave to rest if your work gets too tiring for you. You needn't worry about what others will say! If any of them has a complaint, tell that person to look for me!

"Just quit if it gets too tiring for you. I can afford a hundred of you!"

...

He could not bear to leave her.

Naturally, it was difficult for him to part with her just after their engagement!

No matter what, leaving his pretty wife alone was something he did not want to do. If not because she had an equally packed schedule, he actually wanted to bring her along with him.

She was greatly amused by his affections and jokingly told him, "Alright, be serious for once! Others may think that you're off to the frontline and won't be coming back!"

The man grabbed her without warning and started kissing her passionately. This was indubitably too much for his two confidantes to bear as they stood at the back.

Once onboard the plane, the two protested loudly to their big boss, complaining that he was trying to choke them with his overt display of loving happiness.

Jiang Shen, especially, slumped against the cabin seat and sighed. "Chief, you're purposely torturing us! Wasn't it enough to endure your excessiveness at your engagement? I can't stomach any of your lovey-dovey acts further!"

When the young man recalled the affectionate display of the couple at their engagement, he felt so sorry for himself.

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### **Chapter 1855: The world is just too mysterious!**

Lu Jinyu also joined in on the clamoring as he rubbed his tummy. "I can't take it as well! Jiang Shen, let's go hunt once we reach Luoyang. We need to find a girlfriend, or else we'll never escape his torture!"

"Well, you can look for one if you like. I'll stick to the chief. No matter how he tries to torture us, he is still my first love." The latter took this chance to lick his boots.

Alas, their boss only returned it with a cold snort.

The other added salt to his wound. "Even if your feelings remain unchanged for the chief, he still won't stop torturing you."

Downcast, he could only lick his wound after hearing that.

His buddy continued to make fun of him. "Haven't you heard what our chief told his fiancée earlier? 'Be good when I'm away! Don't do anything that'll worry me' Oh, my! He may be here with us physically, but his heart is with her!"

Jiang Shen nodded vehemently in absolute agreement.

The man in question rebuffed, "Well, your sister-in-law often gets into trouble. I need to pay more attention to her obviously."

Again, his words, full of excessive indulgence, struck the two mercilessly.

The corner of Lu Jinyu's mouth gave a sudden twitch as his heart was ferociously attacked by fatal blows of love!

"It's so good to be in love!"

Jiang Shen was deeply affected, too, and sighed in agreement. "Speaking of love, mine seems to have been ages ago!"

"Nonsense. I saw you with a lady not too long ago." His buddy saw through his lie straightaway.

He explained, his face deadpan, "That's not my girlfriend, alright? The only time I had a relationship was during university. I was so young then!"

The other lived up to his name as the one with the most vicious mouth in Shengyu Financial Group. "You may look rather young, but in reality, you're already rotting inside."

“ ... ”

...

When she woke up the next day, Yun Shishi realized that the world had changed.

She was not talking about the physical world but, rather, the online world.

The first thing she did after waking up was to check her Weibo. She figured that reading three to five attacking comments from fans would snap her out of her dream, and she would be ready to face the world!

Pessimistic, she was all ready to face the criticisms of the original work's fans, but the moment she switched on her phone, she suddenly thought that the world had turned strange and mysterious!

The latest update on her Weibo was a picture of her, looking tall, elegant, and beautiful in a black dress, with Lin Fengtian after the show's premiere.

Before she turned in last night, there were only about a few hundreds of comments. The next day, she could see her account filled with tens of thousands of comments and countless mentions and tags.

Scrolling through her account, she could see a few tens of thousands newly added comments!

*What's happening?*

Her Weibo followers broke through five million overnight!

Startled, her first thought was that the system had cocked up somehow. After flipping through the message board and seeing the fans' comments refreshing before her eyes, she realized that the application was working well.

*What?!*

Fan A: [Shishi, you are simply too good to be true! As a loyal fan of the original work to 'The Green Apple,' I attended the movie premiere to check out the show. Oh, gosh! It's the first time in my life to see such a beautiful woman! You're simply stunning! I'm your fan now!]

Fan B: [When I saw your movie poster before, I thought that you look too ethereal to be true and reckoned that you have a strong PR team to create such an effect, but it turned out that you're a real beauty! After watching the movie, not just your looks, I also fell in love with your acting skills! Your every expression is so captivating! I support you!]

Fan C: [Now, I finally understand what 'otherworldly beauty' means after watching the movie!]

## **Chapter 1856: Hitting the Hundred-million Mark Box-Office Sales!**

Fan D: [I used to be an anti-fan of yours, and boy, how I hated you! As one of Gu Xingze's diehard fans, I couldn't help wondering where you came from and on what basis did you get to play the role of an

imaginary lover with our superstar, but after watching the movie, I discovered how compatible you two are! Now, I truly hope that you and the superstar end up together in real life! (heart)(heart)(heart)]

Fan E: [Yun Shishi. What a poetic name that is! Despite having a rather deep impression of you, I thought that you're no different from the other actresses—a beauty without substance! It's only after watching the premiere that I realized you're an idol with substance! I wish you success and fame in your acting career!]

...

Yun Shishi scrolled through the comment section over and over again. The comments were mostly left by those who had watched the movie, and though there were also hate comments here and there from those engaged by other actresses and the superstar's diehard fans, she had countless people coming to her defense now.

*This is the first time I've felt the power of fans since my debut!*

*It feels great to have them defending and respecting me!*

*Even more so, it feels awesome to capture the viewers' hearts and turn them into my fans through acting!*

One time, Lin Fengtian privately told her that she was one of the top runners, and possibly the best, in terms of visual appeal among the female celebs in the industry. Her acting skills, on the other hand, were found lacking when compared to seasoned thespians, though she fared way better than many others.

More than once, he said, "Beauty will fade along with time. While no beauty can withstand the cruel test of time, acting can. To be a well-deserved and highly respected actor, one must not only possess outstanding looks but also the dedication to strive for constant improvement in acting. You have a high aptitude for this profession. I'm sure that, if you put in more effort into your acting, you'll have a long future down this path."

As she scanned through the various heartwarming messages from her fans, she suddenly felt her blood burning and coursing with motivation!

This was enough for her.

Receiving acknowledgment from the original novel's fans for her debut piece was the greatest affirmation that she could ever expect to receive!

However, there was more than just surprise waiting to come.

Not long after, the production team received news of successful real-time box office sales; it had shot past the hundred-million mark from just the movie premiere. Even though Christmas was ending in several hours, there was still a continuous increase in ticket sales. The movie became a dark horse among all the movies shown that day, surpassing the achievements of many Hollywood blockbusters to clinch the crown. It could be said that the movie had performed exceedingly well!

The movie had caused quite a stir among film enthusiasts, too. They had nothing but praises and rave reviews for it. Ratings on Douban<sup>1</sup> had also reached as high as 9.2, which was quite an impressive feat considering its harsh and critical rating system!

Not even the star director had expected such outstanding achievement from the movie's first-day release. It had truly gone far beyond his expectations.

Following which, something that the newbie actress dared not even imagine happened!

As the woman held her phone closely and watched the climbing numbers of real-time ticket sales, the movie topped the search rank on Weibo in real time due to the constant stream of fans showing off their ticket stubs and leaving positive reviews for the film on the platform after watching the premiere.

Countless fans of the original novel remarked that the movie was so closely based on the novel that it had gone far beyond their expectations. Even the littlest details of the storyline had been preserved and restored in the best possible manner in the movie.

After all, movie adaptations were the toughest things to please the audience with, and this was especially so since a majority of them came a long way with the original novel and would be most nitpicky about the film plot. There were only so few movie adaptations that fans of original novels would find excellent

### **Chapter 1857: It feels great to be acknowledged!**

Most movie adaptations, therefore, faced the situation of having high box-office sales and poor reviews at the same time.

Oftentimes, they were able to attract many fans of the original work into watching the films, but despite this, they would ultimately find themselves in an awkward situation just because the plots were loosely based on the original works.

The novelist had even posted a tweet, along with an image taken inside a cinema showing the scene of the two main leads locked in a passionate kiss, which stated: [ A huge thank you to these two actors for their outstanding performance! In my heart, you two are the real-life version of Yin Dongyu and Yin Xiachun!]

Feeling utterly flattered by that comment, Yun Shishi proceeded to give it a thumbs-up.

On this carefree morning, she kept scrolling through the endless fans' comments on her phone while lying lazily in bed.

She really wanted to read through all the comments without missing any regardless whether they were compliments or debasement.

This was the sight that greeted Youyou when he entered the bedroom after knocking on the door—his mother, tucked under a blanket, grinning from ear to ear as she stared at the phone in her hand.

His mood involuntarily lifted.

“You’re being a lazy bum today, mommy! It’s already half past nine, yet you’re still lazing around in bed!”

He then ran to the bed and made a feint move of lifting the blanket off his mother.

She hastily wrapped the blanket around herself as she pleaded, “I know my mistake, so don’t pull my blanket away, alright?”

The boy pursed his lips in mocked anger before smiling helplessly at his mother and tucking himself under the blanket as well. As he hugged her, he asked, “What are you looking at?”

“Weibo!”

“Oh?”

His brow lifted when he heard that. He then said with a smile, “According to the morning entertainment news, ‘The Green Apple’ topped the box-office sales in cinemas! It’s a landslide victory to boot! The difference from the second place is about tens of millions in ticket sales!”

“That’s great news!”

The woman placed the phone on her chest as she gushed with much emotion, “I’m feeling that sense of achievement where I finally get acknowledgement for all that hard work! I feel immensely satisfied to gain respect and have my efforts recognized!”

“Ooh. How proud you must be of your success since you’re feeling so pleased right from the start of the day!”

Her good mood naturally placed him in a jovial mood, too.

After all, she had indeed slogged hard for the film, so he was naturally happy about her success.

There was a myriad of emotions surging within the woman.

Initially, when the film was first released, she was overwhelmed with nervousness and inferiority. She could not shake off the feeling that she may be unable to gain recognition and acknowledgement from the fans after all the effort she had put in.

Moreover, ‘The Green Apple’ was competing against several blockbusters on its release date. The actress held no desire for overnight fame but positive feedback in terms of box-office sales and reviews, instead. She did not want to leave behind an impression of being a beauty with no acting skills to the audience at the very least.

After all, she had pursued acting out of passion and interest and was not in the least bit fueled by fame, vanity, and materialism.

It was not until that evening that it was determined, in terms of box-office sales, that ‘The Green Apple’ had hit the 150-million mark on its release date. It was an astounding result which had far surpassed Lin Fengtian’s expectations.

The production team held a sensational celebratory feast that very evening. Although the superstar was absent, all the present main producers and cast alike had high anticipations for the film's final box-office sales.

Everyone unanimously agreed that it would not be tough to hit the two-million mark to exceed the director's expectations again!

There were many reporters attending the celebratory feast that night, and this resulted in many news articles the next day.

Seizing the opportunity to strike while the iron was hot, Huanyu spared no effort in pouring resources to the movie's post-production publicity campaign. It was such a blast that practically everyone knew about the movie after the consecutive barrage on the frontpage of several major, social-media sites, like Weibo and Tieba, as well as the online forums and communities.

What followed after was a nonstop publicity period.

### **Chapter 1858: Box-office War**

The production team, thus, began the nationwide promotional road tour majestically. Their first stop became very successful and sensational, based on the multitude of attendees. From the initial mere thousands of audiences during the premiere, their fanbase grew so large in scale that tens of thousands of fans were present at their chosen venue, Jinghua University.

In addition, with the spontaneous publicity from the netizens and the constant stream of good reviews about the movie, even many of the non-moviegoers had become aware of this high-rated film, dropping by the cinema to check it out eventually.

As the film officially entered the New-Year season's movie battle, the respective production companies started working hard to promote and create hype for their films. It was one hell of a tough fight as everyone wanted to make more than just a share of profits during this golden period.

This resulted in a box-office war to be launched.

Signs of a drop in ticket sales, which Lin Fengtian was concerned about, did not appear in the days to come after the premiere.

Instead, there was a breakthrough to the 500-million mark on day five of its release and even a steady increase toward the one-billion mark, which would probably make the film become the director's best-performing work in his career history!

In the past, teen flicks would usually receive critical acclaim but would do poorly in terms of box-office sales. Given his years of experience in producing films of this genre, box-office sales would usually range from tens to hundreds of millions. Those that could break past the billion-mark were practically hailed as masterpieces.

Nevertheless, he had high hopes for this piece, and as such, he put more effort in its publicity campaign.

It was even more so for the production team who did their best toward the road-tour performance, full of excitement and motivation.

There were new movies released in cinemas after the Christmas period, but most of which were just lousy-made productions that were rushed out by investors to reap profits during the golden period. Regardless of the movie genre—comedy, action, or horror thriller—each film was exaggeratedly advertised as though all had been made painstakingly produced.

In truth?

How could a finished piece possibly be any good when its entire production was wrapped up in just a couple of months?

Without a good script or even the slightest bit of logical flow to the story, those production companies merely roped in several acclaimed actors and worked hard to rush the movies' release just so that they could rake in profits over the New-Year period.

It was a tried-and-tested method that had yet to fail.

This time, however, a few of those commercial films suffered a great defeat under the converging attacks from 'The Green Apple' and the other Hollywood blockbusters.

What was even more interesting was that, among those commercial films, a war was sparked between the fans of 'The Green Apple' and the production team of a comedy film.

It all started from a certain, Hong-Kong male celebrity, who was a cast in the said comedy film. It was unknown whether he was trying to create hype for himself or playing to the gallery, but before the movie's release, he actually created a hashtag on Twitter about supporting Hong Kong's independence, all along insulting mainland China. His tweet went: [The viewers in mainland China are all fools to support artists from Hong Kong and Taiwan who go there to make profits. Even though I support Hong Kong becoming independent, there are still audiences supporting the movies that I'm cast in.]

That scandalous speech sparked an outrage in the entire mainland showbiz arena.

Yun Shishi was no stranger to that male artist, who was previously invited to record a program that she was in as a guest.

While they were backstage, that lecher actually attempted to cop a feel of her, only to receive a slap from her in return.

In his fit of anger, he resorted to using Cantonese to curse and insult her.

In short, the man was a celebrity with a vile character whom she had nothing but repulsive feelings for.

To think that he would actually post such a brainless remark.

It prompted many critically acclaimed directors and actors to step forward and launch tirades at the moronic artist.

## **Chapter 1859: Box-office Fraud**

He was even reviled harshly by Lin Fengtian. [The gall of him to call our audience fools when he's here to earn our profits! Having an artist like him in showbiz is an utter insult to the fans!]

His action had totally rendered the comedy film's investor aghast and dumbfounded!

As it turned out, that male celeb was neither trying to create hype for himself nor playing to the gallery; he was indeed wholly supportive of the cause to the point that he had burned himself in the middle of doing so!

He had not only incurred the hatred of actors and directors alike but also the netizens. A widespread boycott of the movie, 'The Undercover Agent Next Door,' that he was cast in was called.

Feeling enraged and bitter about this, the investor had the production crew work overnight to remove his name from the movie's promotional posters and edit out his scenes as much as possible. Just like that, the main lead was reduced to just an extra in the show.

However, with the male lead edited out of the scenes to such an extent, there was no longer a point in watching the movie.

Not to mention, that person had seriously hurt the feelings of the mainland audience with his post. It was useless no matter how hard the investor tried to salvage the movie's reputation.

With netizens joining forces to boycott the comedy film, its box-office sales suffered dismal results, only managing to make an utterly embarrassing figure of several million in ticket sales on its release date.

Some netizens were even questioning why that movie was still being shown in cinemas when it had an artist supportive of Hong Kong's independence as a cast; this scared many cinemas into discontinuing the airing of it. The viewing rate, therefore, dropped to naught.

This dealt a huge blow to the highly ambitious investor, who was waiting eagerly to reap the profits after months of preparation. Now, all because of that imbecile, the billing for the movie suffered an all-time low. A total ban from showbiz was, thus, placed on that male artist's head under orders from the furious investor.

A few days later, however, the Internet was abuzz with a sensational piece of news.

According to a moviegoer, she was given a handwritten movie ticket instead of an electronically printed one when she went to the theater to watch 'The Green Apple'. When she consulted the cinema's branch manager regarding it, all she received in response was an eye-roll. Suspecting that the ticket sales of 'The Green Apple' were being stolen, she decided to expose this online with a photo as evidence.

That post garnered many comments from netizens, with some saying that they had received movie tickets for 'The Undercover Agent Next Door' instead of 'The Green Apple', of which the latter was what they originally wanted to watch. Many other netizens expressed facing the same problem as well.

It was only later, after a thorough investigation from the media, that people found out that the attendance rate of 'The Undercover Agent Next Door' was dismally low on that particular day, not even reaching a percent despite the reported box-office sales of several millions.



Putting it into figures, it meant that, out of the hundreds of thousands of people who had bought tickets to that movie, only a few hundred audiences actually turned up to watch the show.

How absurd it was for those people to buy tickets for a movie screening that they would not watch!

What did this mean, then?

It meant that, if the allegedly stolen ticket sales were excluded, the movie had likely only sold several tens of thousands of tickets in actuality during its premiere.

Later, the judiciary also stepped forward to look into the matter. According to their investigation, the investor had reached a consensus with a number of cinemas to shift the ticket sales of 'The Green Apple' to 'The Undercover Agent Next Door'. It was all because the investor did not want his movie to be a total flop and, as a corollary, become an utter disgrace in show business.

The production team of 'The Green Apple' then sued the production company of 'The Undercover Agent Next Door' and the cinemas involved in the box-office fraud for compensation of several million yuan.

The entire incident turned out to be a blessing in disguise for 'The Green Apple' as it created lots of buzz for the movie. In turn, it saw a sharp increase in the box-office sales which left people tongue-tied! The movie was well on its way to breaking box-office records!

## **Chapter 1860: The Feeling of Becoming an Overnight Sensation!**

The increasing popularity of the movie allowed Yun Shishi to experience the feeling of becoming an overnight sensation.

She had become a huge hit!

What came along with fame was the skyrocketing of her net worth.

Not only was it different from the times she had experienced fame, the benefits the movie had brought to her could also not be gauged.

When her manager tried creating hype for her awhile back, she was faced with a lot of derision and ridicule together with the exposure and fame that they were aiming at.

Now, however, the artist had proven to those who were skeptical of her that she could possess beauty and acting skills at the same time.

Lin Fengtian was sincerely happy for her, too. After a particular stop during their road tour, the director gave her some well-intended advice. "A big congrats to you, Shishi! You're truly famous now! Many a time, celebrities tend to lose themselves in the game of fame, so I hope that you won't become conceited from your increasing popularity and all the love showered upon you by the audience! Also, I hope that you stay true to your initial resolution and continue honing your acting skills. I'm sure you'll become a great figure in the future! The title of 'Best Actress' belongs to you!"

Apart from being deeply grateful to him, the rookie actress also very much cherished his kindness of recognizing her worth and was naturally flattered by his high appreciation of her.

Nothing would beat having the chance to work with him again.

The man was her mentor, friend, and benefactor.

What was even more touching was that he had made the exception of signing a profit-sharing contract with her. She was the only one in the entire cast who was entitled to that.

Any idea what that meant?

It meant that she would receive a dividend of more than ten million should the box-office sales hit the billion mark, which was quite a tidy sum of money.

Besides, the ticket sales were still shooting up. No one could be sure what the eventual figure would be, though there was a high chance of it breaking the mainland's box-office sales record!

Qin Zhou, however, was quite indifferent about her overnight fame, or more accurately put, this was all within his expectations!

After all, the person he had set his eyes on must be someone outstanding. He had long since seen this coming and was, therefore, unsurprised about it.

"You'll get more popular over time."

That was all he said to her.

The movie's overwhelming popularity also brought the artist an endless stream of commercial endorsements and major motion-picture offers.

Many production teams and advertising companies, who had their eyes on her rising fame, expressed their desire to work with her. She was even offered a jaw-dropping, eight-figure sum as an endorsement fee.

As such, those advertisers who had long signed contracts with the star were secretly gleeful of their foresight.

Just some time ago, she was still considered to be a small fry despite her having a little fame. At that time, her endorsement fees, of course, could not be compared to what the A-listers would receive. It usually ranged from several hundreds of thousands to a couple of millions. Her multi-million contract with Louis Vuitton was already the maximum cap!

It was all on account of Mu Yazhe to boot!

Now, with the accomplishment of hitting the several hundred million in box office sales, she became a hot cake to the advertising companies, which scrambled to flood her with endorsement contracts.

Not only that; many popular TV programs also invited her to make an appearance on their shows. Her limelight was unparalleled at the moment, and her leap to become the hottest starlet drew attention to her from everywhere.

Besides having more audience noticing this rookie actress with decent acting skills, there were plenty of highly acclaimed directors who thought highly of her, too. As such, she received plenty of filming contracts from them.

Her manager became busy as a result, having a hell of a fun time going through the various scripts.

She, too, had to pull all-nighters to read the scripts, though the more she read on, the dizzier and more bedazzled she became.

It was no joke at all since she received so many offers and a dozen or so scripts.

There were network dramas, period dramas, modern dramas, idol dramas, palace dramas, and even an espionage drama for the central broadcasting station.

Being able to shoot a drama for the central broadcasting station meant that she had speedily amassed popularity among the mainland audience in the shortest time.