

Sweet Love 1871

Chapter 1871: What a filthy industry!

Hua Jin's tone was very strange and held the vague feeling that he was jealous.

Apparently, his co-actress did not understand the reason for him saying such strange words, for she gave him a frigid smile and a bland reply. "Everyone here wants to end the filming early to go home and accompany their family."

Desolation flashed past his eyes, and in the end, he let out a self-deprecating laugh. "How nice it is that someone is waiting for you at home. I have no one, though."

In his eyes were traces of envy and loss.

Yun Shishi: "..."

His head hung low as he finally compromised. "Alright. I'll do it properly and strive to clear it in one take. I won't waste any more of your time."

The rest of the filming proceeded surprisingly smoothly, and their scenes were mostly cleared in just one take.

His ability in acting was truly an eye-opener when he put all his concentration on it. Not only did he portray the right emotions, his expression was just right, too. His acting was, all in all, flawless.

It had everyone predicting that he would become the second Gu Xingze in showbiz.

The rising idol had the potential and talent to do so.

After the two were done clearing their scenes together, he remained on set to rush out his parts through the night, while she rushed home as all her parts for the day were done.

On the journey home, Mu Xi carefully asked as she drove the car, "Shishi, don't you feel that Hua Jin is somewhat dependent on you?"

"?"

"He seems... to be very fond of you. Of course, it's not the kind of fondness between men and women! It's just that he appears to be very lonely, so what he feels about you is like the reliance a younger brother has to his older sister!" She went on explaining.

The mention of the young man caused the actress to have quite a headache, however.

"Let's not talk about him."

"Why?"

"He's a complete weirdo! Not only has he a queer temperament, his personality is odd, too."

The assistant was surprised to hear that, though she quickly recovered from her shock and smilingly remarked, "Truth be told, I find the idol to be quite a nice person!"

“Why do you say that?”

“I used to find him quite intimidating before I came into contact with him as there are rumors of his backing not being a mere figure but a powerful and influential individual, instead. You have no idea how tough the competition was for the male lead role of ‘Lethal Beauty’ among the young artists! First off, original works, such as it, are bound to get really high ratings once they are aired. Second, the male lead’s persona is rather audience-pleasing and has a bunch of loyal fans. It basically means that getting this role will guarantee one’s path to stardom! While others were competing furiously with one another, all it took Hua Jin was a word in passing for him to clinch that role! Say; don’t you find it scary?”

She fell silent.

“Oh, and I heard an inside story about him!”

Her assistant suddenly asked her a question in a mysterious manner. “Do you know who Li Jiuxian is?”

“Yes.”

“He actually slept with a producer to get the main-lead role for this movie! Alas, it was eventually given to Hua Jin. The other actor almost vomited blood from anger when he found out!”

The actress was astounded by that piece of news. “If I recall correctly... the producer of ‘Lethal Beauty’ is a middle-aged man...”

“What about that?” Mu Xi thought nothing of it since it was a common occurrence in showbiz. “There are many sorts of sexual relationships in this industry. Li Jiuxian might not be a homosexual, but for the sake of getting that role, he went all out to please that gay producer. After all, what’s the big deal about giving sexual favors when he can get such a good role?”

This came as a rude shock to her. In a hushed voice, she spat, “What a filthy industry.”

“Exactly. How many people in it do you think are sincerely passionate about acting?”

Chapter 1872: It is not a joke.

“Actually, that producer has a hankering for Hua Jin, but due to the latter’s strong backer, he can only see and not touch him! That horny producer lacks the guts to fornicate with him!”

“Was he so popular right from his debut?”

Mu Xi shook her head in response and replied a ‘no’ before continuing. “He only started gaining popularity a few years back; that, coupled with his backing’s support, caused his net worth to rise exponentially. Honestly though, he was a rent boy before this.”

The term sounded foreign and baffling to the actress. “What is a rent boy?”

The assistant’s lips twitched hard when she heard that question. “You don’t even know what ‘rent boy’ means?”

“Yes, I have no idea what it means.”

The vehicle came to a stop as the traffic light at the intersection turned red. That was when she turned to shoot her charge, who wore a confused expression under the dim street lights, a look of incredulity.

“Rent boy, in the old and modern context, means... erm... just take it that they are the playthings of the rich.”

Yun Shishi was thunderstruck.

A memory struck her right then, and she recalled what Hua Jin had told her.

‘ I was sold by my father to work here!’

What he told me... Was that all real and not a joke?

While she was still in a daze, the other woman continued explaining to her. “He used to be a boytoy, a male host, in nightclubs. He was later bought and kept as a lover by a boss of a brokerage firm for several years! He was still a nobody back then, but he was quite sought-after despite his young age. Many bosses like his handsome and tender looks, so they kept him as their lover. Acknowledging his pretty face, the brokerage firm’s boss later gave him a stage name and tried pushing him to the road of stardom. Who knew that he would become insanely popular after filming a period drama? His shoot-to-fame made him become the primetime prince. What happened after... was him acquiring a richer and more powerful backer.”

“How degrading he is,” commented the actress in disgust.

Her assistant shook her head and let out a sigh. “You’re wrong to say that. Many a time, it isn’t out of one’s volition when working in this industry! Being a plaything doesn’t equate to degrading one’s self! Sometimes, one has no choice but to yield to this dog-eat-dog society despite being reluctant. Who would willingly sell their body if given a choice, anyway? Hua Jin must’ve led a tough life those years! Hm... There’re also rumors of him having attempted to commit suicide by slitting his wrist while soaking in a bathtub. It was lucky that he was discovered and saved in time.”

“...”

The artist was stunned beyond her words.

“Things changed for the better after he got a new backer, though. That person is really impressive, even helping the idol deal with those who toyed and abused him in the past.”

“They’ve been dealt with?” she asked with puzzlement. “How so?”

Mu Xi cleared her throat and whispered, “You know...” She then mimed the action of slitting her throat.

This vivid visualization turned the artist pale with fright.

“H-How could such a thing happen?”

It turns out that showbiz is much darker than I thought!

To think such tyrannical things are happening all over it!

Chapter 1873: How am I to have a sound sleep when you are not back yet?

“Why do you think the entire crew is afraid to go against him? Have you seen anyone gutsy enough to step forward and say something about his arrogant and tyrannical behavior?”

Mu Xi added with a shake of her head, “You’re the only one who does that!”

“...”

“It explains why I was so terrified of him. When we first joined this production, I didn’t dare to meet his eyes. I practically avoided him as best as I could. What if he’s a pretty boy? He’s just like a poppy flower—beautiful but deadly.”

After a brief pause, she continued speaking. “My impression of him has changed, though! You’re unaware of this, but during your absence, the crew often gossiped about you, and he would stand up for you whenever someone badmouthed you in his presence. With him coming to your defense, no one, even those who abhor you, dares to speak ill of you again. Look; Lin Zhi’s assistant doesn’t dare to spin stories about you anymore!”

Her charge fell silent at that.

Upon sending the artist home and before she drove off, she did not forget to drop a reminder. “I’ll pick you up tomorrow at eight in the morning! Be sure to get up on time!”

Yun Shishi waved goodbye to her assistant and dragged her tired body into the house.

What greeted her, upon opening the door, was the warm lights in the living room.

Mu Yazhe, who was reading a newspaper on the sofa, lifted his head and gave her a faint smile upon hearing noise from the front porch. “You’re back!”

“You haven’t gone to bed!”

She thought that he was fast asleep at this point since it was very late already.

It’s 1 AM, but he’s still in the living room waiting for me?

Her heart warmed at the thought of it.

She had expected to be greeted by a dark room, so it was surprising to find him still waiting for her when she opened the door.

“How am I to have a sound sleep when you are not back yet?” replied the man as he patted the sofa.

“Come over!”

The way he beckoned her made her feel as though she were a summoned beast; this amused her greatly.

After closing the door, stripping her coat, and placing it on the clothes rack, the woman made a beeline for the sofa. She had just taken her seat beside him when the man extended a strong arm toward her and wrapped it around her waist to scoop her in his embrace.

There was hardly any time for her to react before he leaned over, sealed her lips in an exorable manner, and tasted her wonder!

It was one wolfish kiss that he had been yearning for far too long!

Day and night, he longed for the scent of this woman in his arms now!

Being away on a business trip for fourteen days or so nearly drove him insane with longing!

Upon touching down at L.A., his buddies, Jiang Shen and Lu Jinyu, ran off to find themselves some hot dates to fill the emptiness in them after getting force-fed with mushiness by him.

He, on the other hand, turned his focus on work.

It was bearable not seeing his woman for the first few days, but it eventually became so torturous that he did even not know how he managed to go through that half-a-month period!

No more going on business trips.

I don't want to ever be apart from her that long again!

Mu Yazhe was reluctant to let her go as he wrapped her tightly in his arms. From the time he alighted from the plane to now, he had been missing her so much that sleep was far from him at all. He truly felt restless when she had yet to return home.

As the saying went, 'absence makes the heart grow fonder.' Even being apart for a week would make a passionate couple grow listless with longing, let alone the long, torturous period of half a month!

Likewise, Yun Shishi had missed her man badly.

If not for her hectic schedule during this period, she did not even know how she was going to face those long nights without him.

Only by working nonstop and keeping herself busy to the point of exhaustion could she get through those lonesome nights.

Chapter 1874: Another Encounter

The woman returned the man's hug by coiling her arms around his waist and passionately responding to him. She even took the initiative to pry his lips apart and caress his tongue with hers in a lingering kiss.

Oh, how she missed him and how she pined for the warmth of his body, as well as the mesmerizing arch of his lips.

Thus, she turned that longing into action and decorated his lips with tiny pecks. After several smooching sessions, she lazily studied his devilishly handsome face through hooded lids and delicate panting.

"Why are you back so late?" questioned the man in a tone which was filled with indulgence. It seemed that he had no intention of blaming her for tardiness!

Yun Shishi answered, "The filming got dragged because of the cold weather, resulting in it progressing late into the night!"

"Drop your acting career, then." He whispered this into her ear, his breath tickling and caressing it.

It was already not his first time requesting this of her.

Filming had taken up far too much of the precious time that they could have otherwise spent together, which was why he was greatly displeased with her holding such a job.

Guilt clouded the woman's eyes as she held his face in her hands and coaxed, "Aren't I back home now?"

"What's with that righteous tone when you came back so late?"

His tone was curt. Without giving her a notice, Mu Yazhe slipped a hand under her blouse and, through the thick layer of cotton undergarment, easily got hold of her soft, supple bosom. He then pushed his lips against her ear and whispered in a somewhat threatening and ambiguous manner, "Tell me: How should I punish you?"

"Hey!"

Feeling lost on whether to get angry with him or just laugh it off, she shoved him in the shoulder. "Need I be punished for just being a little late?"

"Uh-huh. Don't you think you deserve punishment for making me wait five whole hours?"

Her smile grew deeper upon hearing the petulance in his voice, and so, the sweetly-smiling woman wrapped her arms around his shoulders and gave him a peck. "My dear hubby, is this enough to make up for your wait?"

"Nope!"

She dropped another kiss on his lips. "How about this?"

"Nope!"

"What will be enough, then?"

In response, he sucked her lips hard and deepened the kiss, not at all willing to part from her. Just as he was relentlessly exploring and tasting the sweetness of her oral cavity, a clicking sound was heard, followed by the opening of the door to the children's bedroom.

The man was the first one to recover. His eyes lifted at once, just in time to see the sudden appearance of his youngest son in pajamas along the corridor.

Youyou was stupefied to find a passionate scene between his parents playing out in the living room.

His face revealed a hint of fluster as he stood rather uneasily with his legs rooted to the spot. His plan to make a silent retreat was foiled the moment he sensed his father's piercing gaze on him.

Uh...

Oops!

His hands flew to cover his face at once, which appeared to be rather helpless and dumbfounded.

Out of all things to bump into, I just had to encounter daddy and mummy being intimate with each other again!

How embarrassing!

This doesn't seem to be the first time, either!

Do we have telepathy?

Why am I somehow always miraculously walking in on them?

I really have no intention of seeing this!

The boy only wanted to drink a cup of hot tea to quench his thirst after waking up in the middle of the night, but he, unfortunately, encountered this scene, instead.

Would daddy think that it's premeditated and that I did it on purpose?

No way am I taking the blame on this when I'm an innocent party, too!

Embarrassment was written all over his face.

The woman, who had belatedly shifted her gaze, spotted her sleepy yet sheepish-looking son standing at a corner just then. She immediately made a move to stand up as she shoved the man aside, only to be pulled back into his arms in a tyrannical move the next second.

To his son who had accidentally stumbled into this scene, a certain man very calmly posed a question. "Why are you awake?"

Chapter 1875: Fond of Your Proactiveness

Youyou's Adam apple bobbed for a bit before he cleared his throat, rubbed his bleary eyes in feigned innocence, and righteously explained, "I'm feeling thirsty, so I want to pour myself some hot tea to drink!"

"Oh! Drinking hot tea is a good habit; keep it up!" replied his father in a composed manner.

Thus, he politely responded with: "Thank you for your graciousness, daddy!"

Yun Shishi: "..."

His father shot him another deep, meaningful gaze. "Quickly go back to bed once you're done drinking, understand?"

The father-son pair exchanged a look.

During their brief exchange, they were connected at a deep level.

One said through his eyes: 'Your mommy and I are busy right now.'

The other sent an eye signal. 'I know that! I'll take my leave now, alright?'

On the surface, the boy nodded and flashed his father a knowing smile. "Understood!"

Following which, he plodded straight to the kitchen without letting his gaze roam about, and in just half a minute, he came back out with a cup of hot tea and turned to walk in the direction of his bedroom.

"..." Their antics left the woman gaping and at a loss for words.

Mu Yazhe then gave the woman a kiss, which was his way of comforting and easing her. "Let's continue with where we left off."

Just as his words dropped, he heard a cough from nearby.

The two turned their heads over to see their youngest son popping his head out from behind the wall. The boy very kindly reminded them, "It's cold at night, so daddy and mommy should turn in early as well! You need to strike a balance between work and rest!"

With that, the little bun turned around, ran back to his room, and shut the door with a *slam*.

Mu Yazhe: "..."

Yun Shishi: "..."

That rascal!

A grin was hanging on the man's face as he mumbled softly to himself. Thereafter, he lifted the woman and carried her to their bedroom, where there was no longer a need for him to hide his ambitions once inside. Thus, as he held her in his arms, he directed her hand to below his waist.

What came into contact with the woman's hand caused her face to burn immediately!

His urgent actions revealed that he no longer had any patience and was unwilling to spend time on unnecessary talk. He intended to dive straight into his course of action!

Knowing this, she wanted to hide from him, but alas, his strength overpowered hers and he was reluctant to let go of his grip on her hand.

The ostentatious, bulging tent in his pants caused her heart to race and her face to redden as though they had been stained with a high-quality blush, adding allure and charm to the woman.

"Why this reaction? You ought to be very fond of it!"

In his excitement, he said such racy words while nibbling her earlobe.

Her face turned increasingly red in embarrassment as she stammered, "D-Don't talk nonsense!"

"Am I wrong?"

A devilish smirk spread across his face. The more shy the woman was, the stronger his desire to claim her, deeper and harder. He, therefore, pushed her down on the bed and climbed on top of her. With

their noses touching each other, he nibbled her lip flap while unbuttoning her blouse with practiced familiarity.

“You looked so eager and impatient earlier, so why are you being reserved now? I’d like it very much if you take the initiative sometimes.” He told her with a smirk.

His cold lips, which now seeped of warmth after all that kissing, seized hold of her beautiful neck and marked it with fresh, bright-red hickeys.

Despite her best efforts, Yun Shishi could hardly spit anything coherent as she gazed straight at the man’s alluring eyes!

After all, she was lusting for him, too!

However, women were different from men in the aspect of sex as they often appeared to be passive and shy. The sweet nothings he had crooned were simply too embarrassing for words, and they left her entire face blushing profusely and her lips tightening into a pout. She became as meek, and docile, as a cat and dared not move the slightest bit.

Chapter 1876: So sweet!

He said that he liked her taking the initiative...

When she recalled his mischievous flirting, Yun Shishi became shy and uneasy, and the man captured all of it in his eyes!

He grabbed her lower jaw and hugged her waist, forcing her body against his.

“Do you know? The shyer you are, the more I want to see that deadly attractive look of yours when you are under me!”

The woman was terribly bashful. She grabbed his clothes and reached out, hoping to cover that mouth of his which was constantly spouting embarrassing words!

“Mu Yazhe!”

Why was this man so different from how he usually was when it came to intimacy?!

Normally, he would be dressed neatly in a suit with an air of elegance surrounding him. He gave off a refined and courteous aura like a graceful king, yet when he was immersed in intimacy, he would say words that made her face burn!

“Don’t say anymore!”

“Alright. I’ll stop. Let’s get down to business.”

He immediately covered her small lips that would not stop talking as his scorching hot breath brushed against her cheek and neck. Finally, he conquered and invaded her lips and had a taste of her sweet and entrancing flavor!

She was forced under him as he began to invade her roughly. She felt like a small boat out at sea, floating up and down in the middle of violent waves.

“So sweet!”

He bit her ear and said that wickedly before grabbing her resisting hands and becoming increasingly violent with his intrusion...

...

The night was long and enchanting.

Amid the man’s panting, he had finally vented and indulged in everything.

He conquered her until she could no longer take it. He was only willing to cease and hugged her waist after she had shouted that she did not want it anymore.

During their act of intimacy, there was even a moment when the thought of just giving himself all to her had flashed across his mind!

This girl was like poison. Despite that, he still could not resist quenching his thirst with it.

After a wanton night, Yun Shishi, who was snuggled in his embrace, was exhausted to the point that she found it hard to open her eyes.

Her waist made a sickening sound just by moving a little.

She seemed to have just fought a battle as the lower half of her body felt as if it were falling apart!

What a good-for-nothing!

She really tried her best to train herself but still could not curb this man’s excessive physical strength!

He supported her waist and looked down at her beautiful and seductive appearance!

If this were ancient times, she would be a kingdom-toppling, wicked concubine. Even the most clear-minded ruler would be unable to control himself in front of such a rare beauty!

With such a rare beauty, where would he have the mind to worry about politics?

When he thought about it this way, he suddenly found himself similar to those rulers who had lost themselves to beauties!

Mu Yazhe smiled playfully and hugged her tightly, eliciting a grunt from the woman.

“What’s the matter?”

“My waist... is a little sore!”

“Why is it sore?”

Yun Shishi’s anger quickly turned into laughter. “Are you really still asking me why?”

“So disappointing!”

Despite mumbling such a comment, he still gently began massaging her.

As if she was shocked by electricity, she avoided his touch. "Hey! Why... are you being like this?"

"Alright. I'll stop teasing you."

The man smiled before returning to his serious expression. He began to massage her properly.

Chapter 1877: Such a Huge Resentment

Although he was no professional, his technique was especially gentle. Under his ministrations, his wife let out a comfortable and contented hum as her entire body relaxed.

The man was upset yet also found her hilarious.

Why was she so delicate?

Nonetheless, the more delicate she was, the more doting he became to her.

After massaging her for a while, he carried her to the bathroom and cleaned their sweaty selves.

Completely relaxed, he tucked her in and turned on the heater. As he hugged her, they fell asleep peacefully.

It was a dreamless night until the sun began to rise.

It was her assistant's call that woke the woman up.

When she rose from bed, the sky was still dark. In winter, the sun rose at a later time. When it was 7 AM, only a few streaks of light made their appearance in the sky.

The weather in the morning was very cool.

She struggled for a long time before she was willing to leave the warm covers!

At this time, the man was still deep in sleep. He hugged her in a domineering manner, his strong arms acting like chains that were hard to break free from. She was in a hurry to get out of bed and wash up, but she still needed to make sure not to wake him up. After a great deal of effort, she carefully liberated herself from his embrace!

The woman changed her clothes and entered the bathroom. After taking a shower, she was ready to head out. However, just as she opened the bedroom door, the sensitive man was startled awake.

Yun Shishi turned around, only to see his eyes open into slits.

"Where are you going?"

His exceptionally hoarse voice posed that question softly.

She let out a gentle smile as she walked to the bed and bent down, caressing his forehead gently. "Your wife here is going to work! Sleep some more, darling husband."

“So early?”

Mu Yazhe was quite upset. After being a bit more clear-headed, he held her arm as he looked at her with a slightly dangerous gaze. “Why go to work this early?”

“There’s a program that we need to rush, so today’s schedule is rather packed. I’ll probably be back quite late.”

The man squinted his eyes.

*Qin Zhou, that d*mn vampire!*

This small thing had such a fragile body. He did not even dare to torment her, yet that ace manager of his wife gutsily filled her schedule to the brim?

*D*mn it!*

“I heard that the movie you acted as the lead is doing well in the theaters!”

“Yes! That’s why we received so many programs in a short time.”

In fact, they had already signed quite a few.

His gaze became even more dangerous.

That agent really deserves to die! Did my words fall on deaf ears? Planning a packed schedule for my woman when I wasn’t around?!

His wife did not know what he was thinking of, and she left the house in a hurry after an affectionate conversation with him.

The moment she was gone, he picked up his phone and gave her manager a call.

The guy had just gotten out of bed. The moment he picked up the call, Mu Yazhe’s angry voice was heard from the other end. “You planned so many programs for my wife, causing her to come back late at night and making her so busy; have you ever considered my feelings?”

Qin Zhou was instantly awake.

Ah.

The big boss was holding such a huge resentment early in the morning!

Snorting coldly, the said big boss continued. “It seems that you’ve completely ignored my words!”

“I’ve planned it thoroughly. Although Shishi is busy now, her production team knows the drill. She can leave once she’s done with her shoot, and there’s no need for her to linger on set.”

“It was almost 1 AM when she came back last night.”

The manager smiled. “Boss, calm down; though she returns late, isn’t that a fast progress? It’s not like she’s making you stay home alone!”

Chapter 1878: Wife-protecting Maniac

His tone was infuriating. As a person without a wife, talking was cheap for him.

Mu Yazhe was even more unhappy, saying in a displeased manner, "I don't like that my wife's always on the go, leaving early and coming home late. She's working too hard! As for the rest, you can settle it yourself. I'm going to see how you will perform!"

Not letting him explain further, the man hung up.

Qin Zhou stared at his phone screen in disbelief. He was in complete disarray now!

What was that?!

What a tyrannical director!

He grumbled before looking at the time. It was 8 AM, which was indeed rather early.

At this time, the weather was still very cold.

No wonder the big boss was angry.

His heart must have ached seeing his pretty wife rushing for a program so early in the morning.

He sighed and held his forehead.

It seemed that he had to re-adjust the programs!

...

Yun Shishi had two shows in the afternoon. She rushed through them like a trapeze and struggled to devour a bento before dashing to the broadcast station to participate in another program recording.

On the road, they were coincidentally caught in a traffic jam. The jam on the highway was out of hand. She picked up her phone and was prepared to watch the entire movie of 'The Green Apple'.

When the post-production of it was completed, she did not have the chance to check it out. She had no clue on how the overall effect of the film had turned out after the post-production, either.

Mu Xi had copied it to her phone. Taking this chance of being stuck in this traffic congestion, she began to watch it with relish.

The romantic music, elegant color schemes from post-production, and moving plot had sadomasochism which could induce tears in the audience...

The actress raptly watched it, captivated by the show.

One must say that the special effects she had expected were so different from how everything turned out.

When they were on set, the actual filming was dry and dull. They read the lines according to the script and walked to their positions, but she could not see her facial expressions, so the frames were boring.

Lin Fengtian was extremely harsh in that aspect. He was on point with his control over the movie; therefore, when it came to the script, the actions and lines had to be acted out according to his design. He was like a worker as well, finishing all the tasks in an assembly line and completing the job.

After filming, her heart drummed against her chest.

The real acting was vastly different from what was in the movie.

In the past, when she watched the touching moments in a movie, she would be easily immersed, with tears in her eyes in the next moment.

However, when she was acting, no matter how heart-wrenching the scene was, it was hard to immerse herself in it. She had to mull over those sorrowful emotions repeatedly. When she was unable to squeeze out any more tears, she would shut herself in a small, dark room and imagine sad things continuously, accompanied by sorrowful music. Only then could she grab hold of the right emotions and return to the set to continue the shoot.

However, after the excellent post-production effects, the movie became very different.

When the scene was filmed, it was obvious that it had been a joyous one, but when the scene was played in the movie and accompanied by the sad and emotional background music, sorrow instantly filled her heart to the brim.

Especially during the ending, the actress was unable to control the sorrow in her heart as tears fell from her eyes.

Mu Xi, who was sitting by her side, saw this and did not know whether to laugh or cry!

“Shishi, why are you so weak? You can cry from watching the movie you acted in? I really admire you.”

“...” she haltingly said, “because it’s touching!”

“It seems that our actress is a rather sensitive person.”

Chapter 1879: Attracting Jealousy

That made Yun Shishi burst out laughing despite her tears. “I didn’t notice it while I was acting, but now that I’m watching the post-edited show, that sorrowful emotion just burst forth from within me without even needing to try.”

“Others tend to find it embarrassing and will crack up when watching the shows that they’re in, yet you actually cried while watching yours!”

The topic then changed as Mu Xi paid sincere yet generous compliments to her charge. “Your acting there is superb, though! Do you remember how, before your movie’s launching, people were questioning, insulting, and looking down on you? You’ve proven them wrong now with your marvelous acting! Your portrayal of Yin Xiachun is splendidly vivid and thorough!”

“Stop flattering me.”

“How is that flattery? I’m only speaking the truth!”

A mirthful laughter escaped her throat before she returned her attention to the road.

Finally, the artist arrived at the TV station. She was almost late due to getting stuck in traffic for so long, which made the assistant broke in a cold sweat, for this particular program recording was very important to the former.

After all, with it being this TV station’s top-rated variety show, it was star-studded with all sorts of big-name celebrities. Her artist’s late arrival to the filming would inevitably irk the other invited celebs, which would only spur gossip about the artist throwing her weight around.

Gu Xingze was supposed to guest in the show as well, but due to reasons that could not be announced in public, the superstar could only be absent. Therefore, the production team could only rope in someone else at the last minute as a replacement. That guest was no stranger to the female artist: Li Jiuxian.

The sight of him, however, reminded the actress of the gossip her assistant had told her the day prior.

She could not help thinking that he had cheapened himself by willingly offering his body to the producer of ‘Lethal Beauty’ in exchange for the main-lead role.

To think that she thought well of him before given his decent acting skills, as well as his gentle and cultivated disposition, on top of his outstanding looks.

Never had she expected him to be a debauchee in private.

She could hardly believe it.

...

All that gossip she had heard from her assistant about threesomes and other sick, twisted games was really eye-opening to her.

As such, her freshly low impression of showbiz being a dirty and obscene place had the actress keeping her distance from the other celebs.

When her assistant left the makeup room, the actress heard several senior artists gossiping.

“Sis Meng, the newbies of these days seem to be very cocky! Look; that woman has just debuted and only starred in one movie, yet she’s already acting high and mighty!”

“She’s handpicked by Director Lin, after all. How could she be on par with us when she’s already at a higher level upon her debut compared to us?”

“What about it, huh? Fancy her getting so smug after playing the role of the main lead on her debut piece! It’s obvious that she despises us; these C-listers!”

“...”

“Hah! People who gain overnight success are different, indeed! Nevertheless, who knows how her role came about? Not anyone can be the ‘Phoenix Lady.’ What’s more, she debuted with such good resources...”

The gossipmongers then deliberately lowered their voices, so she could no longer hear what they were saying.

Nevertheless, it was not hard to imagine the sort of nasty things they were saying about her.

Regardless, she paid no attention to them.

Mu Xi had just brewed her artist a cup of hot tea and entered the makeup room when she heard a singer muttering, “Nowadays, which celebrity doesn’t have a rich backer? I don’t even know for whom they are putting up that pure and chaste façade! Leading the life of a wh*r* but still wanting to maintain a chaste reputation—what the hell does she want to achieve by putting air here?!”

Chapter 1880: Where there are women, there is war.

Without even needing to think about it, the assistant could tell who these people were referring to the moment she heard part of their conversation.

With a snort, she coldly retorted, “What’s the issue here? Are you guys jealous of Shishi?”

The gossiping people turned their heads over at once. When they realized that it was Mu Xi speaking, they snorted at her before someone spoke. “What do you want and how is it your business? You’re just shedding crocodile tears.”

“The artist you’re deriding is under my care. How is it not my business when you lot talk sh*t behind her back?”

“Crazy!”

“Forget it! Let’s ignore the pair of them, Sis Meng! They’re just riled up from embarrassment after our words hit home!”

The assistant rolled her eyes as she walked over and forcefully put down the cup of hot tea on the table in a furious move, startling the rest with the banging sound.

“What are you doing?!”

“Green with envy, aren’t you? You’re just plain jealous that a rookie artist could clinch the main-lead role upon her debut, prove her abilities through her acting, and hit the hundred-million mark in box-office sales on her first major movie appearance! I should be asking you this: Who are you irking with your speech inflection? Aren’t you just bullying my good-natured charge because you think her a pushover? He he! Let me tell you guys; it’s all based on abilities that Shishi could star in Director Lin’s movie! Dreaming of becoming a cast in his movies and becoming a ‘Phoenix Lady’? Can you hustlers even cross the threshold? Come on; don’t disgrace yourselves here with that limited outlook of yours!”

The stars’ faces were instantly lost with that one caustic remark.

“What’re you doing? You must be sick in the head! Fancy you getting all fired up like a cannon! Are you seeking trouble with us?”

“Who wants to find trouble with some has-been actresses?” she countered, sneering. “I pity the lot of you, though. Take a look at each of your faces now; you’re all wearing the same jealous expression! Trust you to accuse my artist of wearing a pure and chaste façade with your mugs! Your hyaluronic-acid-filled faces are just like the fruits of the same production line—of having undergone cosmetic surgery in South Korea. Could you really act as well as my artist if you were given the chance? Drop the thought that you can become famous by finding yourselves a sugar daddy, getting a reconstruction surgery, and spreading your legs! Acting calls for true potential!”

Mu Xi’s savageness was practically on par with Qin Zhou.

Her critical and vicious words made the others’ faces turn red in embarrassment.

Among them, a celebrity of high seniority suddenly sprang up from her seat and arrogantly walked toward her. The way the former was staring at the latter with her exquisitely painted, doll-like face suggested that she wanted to tear the latter apart.

“Whoa! Even a low-ranking assistant can speak so arrogantly now! Who do you think you are, huh? The gall of you to criticize us! Are you looking for a beating?”

The threat was written all over her face.

The assistant was not cowed, though; instead, she frigidly replied, “I may only be a low-ranking employee, but given today’s society, everyone is equal! What? Just because you’re an actress, you think you’re a cut above the rest? Where did you get that absurd idea? Does being a celebrity give you a sense of superiority? Do you think of yourself as a rich madam? Rumors have it that you used to be a bar hostess and that you managed to worm your way into showbiz because of your sugar daddy’s support! If you’re just gonna have average popularity despite having already changed to a few sugar daddies, it’s better for you to stop working in this industry!”