

Sweet Love 2611

Chapter 2611: Shocking News

She flashed him a smile. "When did you come over, anyway? I thought you're in your waiting room."

"Shishi!" The sight of the actress pulled him out of his distraction. He walked up to her right away, clutched her shoulders, and asked gravely, "Do you have some sort of feud with Yan Bingqing?"

"..."

"I don't usually pay much attention to the gossip circulating in showbiz, but I have a vague impression of a slapping incident occurring during the filming of 'The Green Apple'. Even though Huanyu took measures to make that scandal die down quickly... Anyway, does her disappearance from the industry have something to do with you?"

She stared at him with puzzlement.

"Why did you suddenly mention her?"

"I suspect that Ji Yan is Yan Bingqing. She might've returned to get back at you." He revealed his worries to her. "I'm worried for you."

Ji Yan is Yan Bingqing?

The woman could not help but be surprised by this.

"Are you sure about that?" she questioned.

Hua Jin shook his head. "I don't have any evidence to prove it, but my sixth sense is telling me that she's planning to do something to you."

"What do you mean?"

"I'm no longer my past self. After ending things with Lin Xueya, I don't have anyone to back me up. I want to protect you, but... I'm afraid that I'm unable to do so. You have to keep your distance from Ji Yan. I'm really worried that she'll harm you."

Despite feeling somewhat surprised by how worried he was, she told him in a soothing voice, "Fret not. Even if she has the intention to harm me, she won't have the chance to do so."

The idol was baffled by her reply.

"That's because I'm planning to quit showbiz." She calmly explained. "Once I settle the work at hand, I'll announce my retirement from the industry and stay at home to look after my husband and children."

Nevertheless, a trace of concern still showed on his face. "That... doesn't assuage my worries, though..."

"Don't worry; I'll keep my distance from her." She smiled. "Besides, we only meet on set and I have you by my side even on the days you don't have a filming schedule. What's there to be afraid of when I have you around?"

He felt much at ease upon hearing that, and he told her with great determination, “Rest assured; I’ll protect you closely at all times!”

“Pfft!” It got her chuckling in amusement. “You make it sound as if Ji Yan’s a demon who will charge in here and stab me with a knife at the next second!”

“There’s no harm in being cautious. If she really turns out to be Yan Bingqing, I’m afraid that she’ll try to do you in.”

“Okay, chill. I’ll keep my guards up around her.”

Only then did the idol feel slightly relieved.

Things were peaceful as usual in the production team over the following days with the idol following Yun Shishi around closely. It was just that, after that spat with Ji Yan, she had not once appeared on set.

According to the director, she had applied for medical leave and, since she did not have any filming scheduled for these few days, she was allowed to rest at home.

During the days of her absence, things had pretty much settled down within the production team. The idol no longer heard the crew discussing those absurd rumors, so he thought that that was the end to the matter.

However, one day, a piece of shocking news was published online, and it instantly sparked a wave of sensation in the entertainment industry.

Chapter 2612: A Thunderstorm Out of Nowhere

On Monday night, a renowned paparazzo, by the name of Zhuo Ke, posted something shocking on Weibo.

Zhuo Ke, a writer at Fengxing Studio who was hailed as the top paparazzo in the entertainment industry with tens of millions of followers on Weibo, specialized in writing scandalous exposés regarding the inner workings of showbiz.

Stalking celebrities for a scoop was his usual *modus operandi*. Upon obtaining several proofs of some tidbits, he would email photos to the involved celebrity and openly state his price for the deletion of them. If the celebrity was willing to pay, he would delete them, but if they were reluctant to fork out money, he would expose that scandal; the recent exposé of a certain starlet’s nude photos was his doing.

Of course, not all scandals could be bought off with money. After all, he needed fame and, in particular, gossip to prove his *high* reputation as a paparazzo.

That evening, he posted a piece of doggerel on Weibo, which went:

[The oath of eternal love is broken,

A happy union ends in a dream.

The poetic Mount Nan is high above the clouds,

Leaving behind a crushed face.]

Toward the end of his post, he even lamented. [Sometimes, things are not as beautiful as what their pure exterior suggests. What lies beneath their charming appearance may be foul and ugly.]

That was his usual style of doing things; he would publish a piece of doggerel as a preview of what was to come, which had the protagonist's name hidden in his writing as a small form of protest. As for who exactly it was, netizens would have to rack their brains and figure it out themselves.

It did not take long for the shrewd netizens to guess who it was, though.

Yun Shishi!

That was a subtle reference to the actress, was it not?

The moment the post was published, it sent shockwaves across the Internet.

Many netizens surmised that the famous paparazzo had gotten his hands on some scandalous gossip again. Some even joked around. [Did Zhuo Ke discover something earth-shattering again? Yun Shishi has been really popular lately; looks like he's out to destroy her!]

[Don't tell me he's going to expose some sort of a scandal of hers? I like her acting in 'The Green Apple'; it's marvelous! Here I thought she's the only starlet in showbiz whose background is clean.]

[She's indeed rather suspicious. She debuted with so many golden resources and has received so many good scripts. Somehow, I got this feeling that she's no simple woman despite what her ethereal appearance suggests. I bet that she's a scheming and manipulative woman in private.]

For a while, there were a lot of discussions and speculations about the actress with everyone having their view. There were people who stood on her side, while others believed that she was exactly how the paparazzo described her, which was the opposite of her pure appearance, and might have even engaged in all sorts of debauchery, just like some other wanton celebrities.

Everyone was very interested in seeing how things would play out, so they were looking forward to Friday's arrival to find out more!

...

Qin Zhou's office.

The ace manager slammed a folder on his desk in anger.

"That b*st*rd's got some nerve! He's keeping a lid on whatever he has until Friday."

Meanwhile, Yun Shishi was frowning in perplexity throughout her manager's outburst as she sat at the side.

As the core figure of the matter, she was, in fact, skeptical of whether that piece of doggerel was referring to her or not.

I haven't done anything wrong, have I?

What exactly is that notorious paparazzo up to this time?

Chapter 2613: I have the intention to quit showbiz.

Over the past few days, Yun Shishi, being the core figure of this matter, had countless netizens criticizing her when they did not even know the truth; in addition, some of her fans left comments on her Weibo page, asking her to come forward to clear things up.

Her manager had already contacted Fengxing Studio, stating his intention to buy whatever scandalous photos or intel they had of her even at a high price, but the other party had remained mum on the matter, only replying, "We can't reveal it now; you'll know on Friday." They then hung up the call on him.

"To hell with that!" Qin Zhou let out an expletive, then he turned to face his artist. "Do you know what's going on here?" To which, the actress shook her head in confusion.

"Really?" He was getting increasingly anxious.

She said, "I've been on set, filming for these past few days. You know what my character is like; I truly have no clue on what's going on. Was Zhuo Ke truly referring to me in his post?"

She was behaving as though this matter had nothing to do with her, and she truly believed so. She had nothing to fear since she committed no wrongdoing.

"Who else could it be but you? That doggerel has the words 'poetic' and 'clouds' in it. No one else in showbiz has such characters in their name besides you," answered her agent.

That got her creasing her brows in confusion. "Could there be some sort of misunderstanding?"

He fumed. "That's what I suspect, too, but Fengxing Studio refused to disclose or explain anything. All I got for a reply is a 'see you on Friday'. Do you know what that means? They're challenging us and Huanyu!"

"Either way, I didn't do anything against my conscience. Even if they expose anything, we can explain our way out."

"To whom? The fans who are misled by public opinion? The intel Zhuo Ke will expose is mostly accurate. The public will believe him unconditionally. By then, the masses will have been against you. Who else will listen to your explanation?"

The helpless actress replied, "I've never gone anywhere except the filming set, so it's pointless of you to ask me what's going on."

Only then did the manager realize his gaffe. He frowned and then massaged his brows with his fingers as he uttered resignedly, "I'm sorry; I shouldn't have flared up at you."

"It's fine."

“You may go back first; I’ll think of a way to settle this.”

She spoke all of a sudden. “Actually, no matter what he exposes, I can handle it. You don’t have to fret much over it.”

“How are you going to handle it?” asked her manager.

“If it’s a defamation, I can sue him, can’t I?”

“I’m not worried about that. What I’m afraid of is him trying to discredit you.”

“Don’t worry; I’ll deal with it accordingly when the time comes.” She stood up and smiled at him.

“Actually, I’ve got something to discuss with you today, but seeing that you’re already so troubled, let’s leave the talk for another day.”

“What is it? Just tell me.”

The man disliked being kept in suspense.

Thus, she decided to be frank with him by going straight to the point. “To be honest, I have the intention to quit showbiz. I want to return to my family and spend more quality time with them. It’s true that I may miss acting, but showbiz is a lot dirtier and more toxic than I expected. I don’t seem to fit into this circle, and I’m getting quite tired of it.”

Chapter 2614: The Brewing of Public Opinion

The manager was shocked to hear that.

She continued. “I don’t like fights, especially ones involving schemes and manipulation. I can’t handle them, so I’ve decided to strive to win the Best Actress award before leaving the industry.”

“...”

The news came so abruptly that he had a hard time processing it.

“You’re quitting showbiz?”

“Yes.”

“Are you sure about this?” He found it a pity. “Shishi, you have a bright future ahead of you. As long as I continue to manage you, you’ll definitely shine brightly in the time to come!”

“You know how I’m like. I don’t really care about fame and achievements. Perhaps I just don’t have the ambitions?” The woman laughed at her expense. “I prefer to safeguard my little family. I was forced by circumstances to enter the entertainment industry back then, but now, compared to the audience, my family needs me more.”

“Will you not regret your decision?”

She gave him a firm answer. “Never!”

“Hm...” He frowned helplessly. “Give me a little time to digest this information, alright?”

“Sure.”

“You may go back first.” He told her.

Thus, she picked up her bag and left the company.

As she was currently at the eye of the storm, her manager instructed her to leave from the company’s back door. He even arranged bodyguards to tail her around so he could ensure her safety.

The company also arranged an inconspicuous vehicle to take her around. The moment she got in it, she closed the curtains to keep herself hidden from view, lest photos of her get secretly taken.

News regarding Zhuo Ke’s Weibo post continued to ferment over the past few days, with the netizens getting increasingly restless and eager to hear the latest gossip. Speculations about the actress were rife at the moment, and more and more netizens were leaving comments on her page. Some wanted to get to the bottom of the matter, while others stated their guesses. The rest, however, criticized her fiercely...

She chose not to log into her account because of this, for seeing those comments only made her feel frustrated.

When Thursday came around, Zhuo Ke struck yet again. This time, he uploaded a series of photos in a nine-grid format. When put together, they showed a frail and sickly Ji Yan, a newbie actress who resembled Yan Bingqing, lying on a sickbed with a respirator on her.

[Depression makes one frail and haggard. Troubled by love, but has no regrets.]

He then posted a short poem, seemingly hinting the rookie actress had gotten ill because of love troubles, but other than that, he did not disclose more.

An hour after that, a netizen, who claimed to be working at a certain hospital, commented on Weibo. [The picture Zhuo Ke uploaded yesterday is real. One week ago, Ji Yan was rushed to the hospital after being found to have attempted to commit suicide by slitting her wrist. I heard that it’s her close friend who discovered her. After losing contact for several days, the concerned friend went to her apartment to find the actress, but no one answered the door even after a long time. She then broke the door to enter the house, only to be greeted with the horrifying sight of Ji Yan lying in a bathtub filled with bloodied water! Word has it that the actress committed such a foolish act because she’s been hurt by love after her steady boyfriend cheated on her.]

Hurt by love and got cheated on?

The netizens’ imagination ran wild at that.

Was there not the word ‘face’ in Zhuo Ke’s doggerel? ‘Leaving behind a crushed face’; could it be referring to the newbie actress?

Chapter 2615: Making Use of Public Opinion to Destroy Her

By connecting everything together, was he saying that there was a third party in her relationship, so she was heartbroken now?

Good gracious!

Could he be insinuating that Yun Shishi was the third party in her relationship?

He had this line, 'Sometimes, things are not as beautiful as what their pure exterior suggests. What lies beneath their charming appearance may be foul and ugly', included in his post.

Was it not hinting that Yun Shishi had maintained her clean and pure image very well when, in fact, she was downright foul on the inside?

The netizens were flabbergasted, and their anticipation for the big reveal of the truth on Friday night grew exponentially.

...

"This is absurd!"

On that day, Yun Shishi received a call from her best friend, asking about her wellbeing. The latter was worried that the former might feel very lost at times like this, but when she heard the indifferent and unruffled voice of her friend, her heart was put at ease slightly.

"Shishi, have you seen the comments left by the netizens? They're being too much! How could they make their speculations about you when there's no conclusive evidence? It's so infuriating!" she rumbled. "Is that doggerel also referring to Gao Nan?"

The frowning woman had her suspicions too, but instead, she told her friend, "Don't get so worked up."

"How couldn't I? You got implicated because of me! If I hadn't been so stupid to date a scumbag, I wouldn't have caused you so much trouble!"

Xiao Xue really regretted dating that playboy, especially when she realized that her failed relationship had caused her closest friend to be caught in a whirlwind of public opinion. She was utterly consumed by self-remorse.

"What happened has already happened, so let's just think of a way to deal with it. It's pointless to keep worrying."

She asked nervously, "Will it help if you clear things up with the public?"

However, the actress herself was also unsure of this, for she did not know if her explanation would be persuasive enough.

She had strangely calmed down, though, after roughly figuring out what Zhuo Ke was after, having no sense of guilt or prick in conscience regarding the affair. She was, after all, neither a third party nor did she try to get between the couple.

"What exactly is Zhuo Ke after? Why did he write such a thing?"

"He's probably been put up by someone."

Based on what she had heard, the paparazzo's exposés were not a hundred percent true. If someone were to reward him greatly, he would publish even a false scandal about a certain person. Should the subject not have a powerful enough background, they would be crushed by the heavy weight of public opinion.

To the netizens, however, most of his exposés were true. Even if the protagonist chose to ignore the matter and not clarify things, there was evidence to prove it. As such, Zhuo Ke became a 'justice warrior', who exposed the dirty side of showbiz to the viewers. They, thus, believed his words.

That was what made things so tricky.

Meanwhile, her friend was baffled by her words. "What do you mean by that?"

She hesitantly explained, "I suspect that someone is deliberately smearing my reputation and making use of public opinion to destroy me."

"...That's terrible! Who would do such a thing to you?"

The actress had had someone in mind since long ago.

Chapter 2616: It is all a setup.

Who would benefit most from the exposure of this scandal?

Ji Yan.

Thus, it was not hard to guess who the mastermind behind everything was.

The only thing was that she could not fathom why that woman would do this to her.

The latter had only just made her debut. Apart from the issue regarding her boyfriend, she had no existing feuds with her. Was there a need for her to commit suicide over this?

Unless the so-called suicide attempt was nothing but a gimmick to blow up the matter and win public sympathy. In that case, it was undoubtedly a success.

The public opinion was now in that woman's favor, with most of the ignorant citizens starting to defend, pity, and express support for the newbie actress. She, on the other hand, after being branded as a third party, had devolved to an anathema that everyone abhorred.

This affirmed something, though.

Ji Yan's love for Gao Nan was not real. What they had between them was nothing but a fling. She had long laid a trap and was just patiently waiting for her clueless prey to fall into it; that prey happened to be Yun Shishi.

Even the man was just a pawn in her game. Simply put, he was just a smokescreen.

She had painstakingly set up her plans a long time ago, and it was officially executed on that night at the birthday party. She then purposely told the production team about it the next day to paint her colleague as a third party in her relationship and get everyone's pity.

There were many small cliques within the production team. Some staff members, upon hearing of an inside info, would reveal the unverified details to the press in exchange for handsome rewards.

With these tip-offs, the press would then start stalking the celebrities and lie in wait for their next scoop.

Yun Shishi reckoned that Zhuo Ke was likely about to expose some photos, which would turn the public against her, on Friday. The photos probably featured her being intimate with Gao Nan.

It was chaotic at the bar that night. If the rookie actress truly had such intentions, she would have bought off the paparazzi and made them lie in waiting in advance.

They probably managed to capture photos of them outside the bathroom. Even though she was having a heated argument with that playboy then, no one could tell from the photos. By making use of the angles, one could make the photos look steamy when, in fact, the two people were arguing fiercely with each other.

She calmly analyzed this part, her thoughts becoming crystal clear once she was all calm and composed. Things would probably develop the way she expected, and while there might be some deviations, they would not stray too far from her expectation.

Ji Yan has really worked hard to plan all this.

The reason for her doing this must be that she has a deep grudge against me.

This further confirmed her suspicion of that woman's true identity being Yan Bingqing!

She, thus, shared her thoughts with Xiao Xue, who was stunned by her analysis.

Things went silent on the other end for a while before the latter finally broke into an exasperated laughter. "Goodness, are you guys shooting an imperial harem drama in real life? All this scheming and fighting in showbiz—are things really that bad?"

"Things like that happen every day. I'm not even surprised anymore."

She was subdued once more and then let out a heavy sigh. "Shishi, leaving showbiz is a wise decision. That place just doesn't suit you."

Chapter 2617: Who started these rumors?

After ending the call, Yun Shishi wrinkled her brows. She then headed for the study, where she turned on the computer and logged into her Weibo account. Sure enough, rumors about her being a third party were everywhere.

The netizens seemed to be certain that she was the anonymous person Zhuo Ke was talking about and had no doubts of her getting between Ji Yan and her boyfriend.

She took a look at the calendar. It would be Friday the next day—the day the paparazzo promised to reveal everything. She would be placed in a very passive position when that time came, for giving any form of explanation would only make the public think that she was trying to cover it up.

She had once suggested filing a defamation lawsuit against the paparazzo, but according to her manager, the litigation process would take a long time. With Fengxing Studio still in operation, her reputation would be so badly smeared that it would affect her in many ways.

Take her dream of winning the Best Actress award with ‘Lethal Beauty’ for example. With rumors surrounding her, she would surely be boycotted by the public. The jury would of course comply with the public’s wishes to exclude her name from the nomination list. She could only kiss goodbye any chances of her winning that prestigious award.

Worse, still. If things blew out of proportions, her endorsements and commercials might be taken down as well. She would then have to pay the penalty, amounting to an astronomical sum.

Commanding a sky-high remuneration meant that one had to maintain a good and clean image at all times. The artist’s morals and integrity were important aspects to advertisers when considering their endorsers, and these were even stated in the contracts.

At the thought of this, the actress could not help but feel increasingly irritated.

When Mu Yazhe returned home, he found his wife slumped on the table in the study, looking all depressed. He walked up to her, only to see Weibo’s interface on the computer screen.

Someone had published a lengthy post about her, which included a detailed analysis of Zhuo Ke’s several verses of doggerel. They even managed to guess that the rumored boyfriend was Gao Nan, the son of one of Chengguang Entertainment’s senior management.

It stated that the line, ‘The poetic Mount Nan is high above the clouds’, referred to Yun Shishi and that Casanova, which was conclusive evidence of the latter having cheated on his girlfriend with the former.

This sparked an uproar among the masses, for many of them were familiar with the man.

Because of the Internet, many things had become transparent in showbiz. That guy was no public figure, but because his mother was among Chengguang’s senior management, his past girlfriends were all related to the industry. Just some time ago, there was a scandal between him and Lin Zhi. A paparazzo had captured photos of them entering a hotel. Even though that matter was quickly suppressed by the company, news still leaked out.

Besides, he had a dashing appearance, which many male stars could not hold a candle to.

Mu Yazhe knitted his brows, his breathing becoming heavy and fast due to anger.

Sensing the presence of someone near her, the woman looked up to see him standing right next to her.

“Y-You’re back...” she mumbled, only to notice that his stern gaze was on the screen. She began to feel panicky and uneasy.

“I...”

Even though she wanted to explain things out of worry that he would misunderstand her, she did not know how to go about doing it.

The man suddenly turned his gaze on her. “Who started these rumors?!”

He was so furious that he spoke sternly with a strong, nasal tone.

His question surprised the woman, for anger was evident in his voice.

Chapter 2618: I will take care of everything.

She thought that, when he saw these scandals, he would demand to know the root of the matter. It did not cross her mind that the man would think of this as a smear campaign straightaway.

In other words, he did not doubt her at all and believed right away that she was innocent.

She was moved, somewhat, and her stubborn face finally showed a hint of crack, revealing her helplessness.

“I’m really not a third party. I don’t know exactly what their intentions are in doing this to me; I guess that they’re trying to dirty my reputation and destroy my career...”

“Who released these rumors?”

“It’s Fengxing Studio.”

“Fengxing Studio?”

The man knitted his brows; he was obviously not unfamiliar with the name.

“Zhuo Ke said that a shocking revelation will be released tomorrow night; I suspect that someone paid Fengxing Studio to tarnish my reputation...”

He saw how upset and helpless she looked and could bear it no longer. After embracing her tightly, he sighed. “Don’t be afraid; I won’t let that happen.”

“What should I do?” The actress was at a loss for words. “I really don’t know what I should do. It’s my first time encountering this kind of thing, and for now, I can only tell myself that the worse the situation becomes, the more I have to respond calmly.”

“Fengxing Studio, is it?”

Mu Yazhe slightly narrowed his eyes, where a frigid glint flashed across.

“Don’t worry; I’ll take care of everything.”

The woman closed her eyes, feeling reassured. “Mm.”

...

On Friday night, Fengxing Studio, which had showcased a preview in advance, did not release the news as promised amid the public's eager anticipation. Be it the studio's official Weibo or Zhuo Ke's, there was no inkling of news or updates; everything was quiet.

No matter how much clamor the netizens made, wanting the entertainment reporter to hurry up and break the news, several hours passed without a word from him.

Many netizens were greatly disappointed; this gossip about the love triangle between Yun Shishi, Ji Yan, and Gao Nan had been brewing for days, and they had made wild speculations in the meantime, just waiting for Friday night to have the truth unveiled.

For the first time in his life, the reporter failed to show up.

This was the same for Fengxing Studio; there was no news coming from it, either.

As the central figure in the gossip, Yun Shishi, instead, made a Weibo post on Friday night; it was an image with hidden meaning. In the picture, a sweet and innocent-looking girl, holding a stalk of a small flower, could be seen by a clear, flowing stream. A caption, which read, 'The innocent self-vindicates', accompanied the image.

The Weibosphere exploded instantly.

What?

The innocent self-vindicates?

Does this mean that Zhuo Ke made a blunder with his teaser?

Did this mean that there was no third party, love triangle, or gossip in the first place, and everything that surrounded this tabloid event was just a blunder by Fengxing Studio?

This caused another storm in a teacup on the Internet again.

One by one, the netizens became disappointed. They were prepared to watch the biggest news of the year unfold, but, instead, it turned cold after brewing for a mere few days.

Some of them, though, were thrilled that the name of their beloved idol was finally cleared. Hence, they started to criticize the reporter as loathsome on his Weibo account.

"What the hell is going on?!"

Chapter 2619: Organize a Press Conference in Person

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“What the hell is going on?!”

Ji Yan threw the fax she had received from Zhuo Ke on the table after reading it. In the fax, the reporter informed her that he had met with an unexpected turn of events, which would likely put an end to their agreement.

Yun Shishi’s guess was correct. This series of rumors was Ji Yan’s doing.

Her rival had meticulously plotted against her since that night at the party, just for a chance to kick the protagonist into the abyss with this series of bad publicity.

If there were no unexpected turn of events, Zhuo Ke would, according to their plan, publish a long post on Weibo, with some photos taken surreptitiously on that night at the bar.

The photos were of Yun Shishi and Gao Nan arguing outside the bathroom, but the images were taken at an angle meant to mislead the viewers’ perception into taking them as intimate shots. There was one where the protagonist was talking to him through gritted teeth, yet from the picture, it looked as though she were whispering sweet-nothings to him.

The photos alone would be enough to prove a strong connection between the two persons, who would have been thought to share a superficial relationship, otherwise.

In addition, the reporter would also reveal that Ji Yan was so troubled by the third party she attempted to commit suicide by slitting her wrist. It was a ploy to win the public’s sympathy.

The public would generally be empathetic to the meek, unconsciously supporting and protecting the underdog.

By exposing the ‘slutty’ personality of a popular actress with an innocent and naïve image on-screen, she would come across as repulsive—even more so when she was depicted as a third party, who drove a frail, helpless newbie to suicide!

In fact, the woman felt schadenfreude, knowing that her nemesis’s Weibo account would be overrun by angry netizens in no time following Zhuo Ke’s post.

However, there was no further action on Fengxing Studio’s part at the most critical moment.

She was, thus, floored.

“D*mn it! What the hell is going on?”

“Sister Ji Yan, could it be that Yun Shishi’s side had taken a tactical move against Fengxing Studio and used their resources to suppress the news?”

She wrinkled her brows without saying a word, then she suddenly ordered, “Xiao Jing, contact the reporters for me: I’ll hold a press conference the day after tomorrow, which is the weekend.”

“A press conference?”

The actress snorted and said with menacing eyes, “There’s probably nothing more powerful than to have the victim voicing out her grievance personally before the camera lenses!”

...

By the evening of the weekend, an unpredictable media reception had suddenly become the focus of the entire Internet-sphere.

Several first-tier mainstream media rapidly made this event the highlight of their livestream online.

When Ji Yan appeared in front of the camera, she was in an outfit with a muted tone, looking haggard and pale. There were no colors on her cheeks, and the slightest radiance could not be found on her.

Sitting before a long table, she looked at the press vacuously as her dry lips trembled slightly for a moment.

Chapter 2620: Please give me back my love.

She finally made a soft sound upon facing the many mics aimed at her by the various media orgs.

“Since that incident, I’ve maintained my silence all along. I admit that I was weak. I didn’t think of myself as a strong person, so I chose to retreat when bullied by the higher orders and to leave this world without hesitation... but I’ve woken up now. I want to fight for my right without fear: Please return my love to me!”

‘Please return my love to me!’

[Newcomer, Ji Yan, faces the media for the first time, accusing the entertainment industry of shady practices.]

“I’ve always loved acting since I was a child, and I love to try out different roles, so when I was in college, I made the serious decision to major in acting. I wanted to achieve my goal of entering the glittering entertainment field one day, where I could display my passion as well as dedicate my life to my career. I sincerely hoped then to grow into a professional actor, who did well in every role before the audience. Unfortunately, reality threw me a wet blanket at my very first production even as I commenced my career with great anticipation. I was shocked to realize that the entertainment industry isn’t the holy land I imagined it to be. The more radiant a place, the more profound the hidden shadows. Sometimes, things that look beautiful on the surface are never known for what they truly are. Before this incident, Yun Shishi was my idol and a senior that I respected immensely. I was uplifted and happy when I found out that I would be working with her in the first drama of my acting career. She was that excellent in my eyes, but only later did I comprehend the harsh reality of how she used dirty tricks, step by step, to get on top!”

The audience was in an uproar.

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Everywhere—the Internet, TVs, jumbotrons, mall atriums, and streaming platforms, the actress's heartbreaking words echoed, stunning the viewers of the live presscon.

Before the eyes of the media, Ji Yan's tears rolled down her face as she painfully outlined her rival's wrongdoings.

It turned out that, before joining the cast of 'Extreme Youth', she had started a formal relationship with Gao Nan, the heir of the Gao Corporation.

The two were deeply in love, and their relationship was very strong and stable.

Alas, something happened at the last party they attended.

That day was her birthday, and for her birthday celebration, she invited the whole crew to a bar. She vaguely noticed Yun Shishi looking at her boyfriend in a strange way, and after that, the two of them made their way to the bathroom one after the other. Hua Jin then followed suit. Before long, shouts could be heard from the bathroom entrance. The crew rushed over to find both men engaged in a brawl.

The actor claimed that the man had made a move on the actress, but that was not the case.

After the incident, Gao Nan told her that, during the party, Yun Shishi had slipped him a note with a few words handwritten using a brow pencil: I'll wait for you at the bathroom.

Her boyfriend was bewildered by the note and decided to do as told out of curiosity. At the bathroom, the actress, unexpectedly, shed her reserved and cool image as she took the initiative to seduce him. She claimed that, as long as she was given a lead role, she would be willing to be his mistress.

The man's mother was the top executive of Chengguang Entertainment; thus, he had extraordinary resources at his disposal.