

Sweet Love 2641

Chapter 2641: Sudden Wedding Announcement (2)

“Is that even possible?” she asked. “How do you plan to get her there?”

Her manager, however, merely winked his eye at her. “Just do as I say.”

“Yes, sir.”

...

Two days later, ten major media organizations received invitations from Qin Zhou, who acted at the behest of Mu Yazhe, to a press conference, where his charge would be making a formal apology to Ji Yan.

Days after that, Huanyu’s official Weibo page finally had a new update. [Huanyu will be holding a press conference to clarify the rumors regarding our artist, Yun Shishi, and offer an apology to the public.]

This post caused an uproar all across the Internet as soon as it was posted.

What was the meaning of this?

Could the company notice actually be a silent acknowledgment of the matter?

Some social-media influencers also uploaded pictures of their invitations online, saying that they had received them from Yun Shishi’s agency for a grand press conference, which would be held a week later. They also stated that the actress would be offering an in-person apology to Ji Yan and clarify the matter on that day.

This piece of news caused a great stir among the restless netizens.

[Yun Shishi has finally come clean about her being a third party!]

[She’s going to apologize to Ji Yan!]

Many enthusiastic netizens proceeded to leave comments on Ji Yan’s Weibo page, encouraging her to attend the press conference and receive the apology. Others, however, commented that she needed not be civil with a shameless hussy and told her to humiliate the other actress by giving a tight slap across the face right in front of all the cameras as soon as she arrived at the venue.

There were even netizens clamoring that they would push Yun Shishi to the ground and trample on her body if they were members of the press invited to attend the conference.

Despite her reluctance to show up at the press conference, Ji Yan eventually agreed to attend it. This was in response to the mounting pressure and the high expectations from the public and her enthusiastic fans. She posted: [I’ll magnanimously forgive her if she offers me a sincere apology.]

Fans, who felt indignant on her behalf, immediately commented, [Why would you forgive her? She doesn’t deserve any pity! Even if she tearfully expresses her remorse during the presscon, she doesn’t deserve any forgiveness at all!]

[Forgive whom? Don't do that! Yanyan, I used to be a fan of that sl*t, but now, I'm standing firmly on your side and supporting you in your cause to preserve your relationship and pride!]

[Be tough! You're the best! Go defeat that shameless hussy!]

...

The public had a surprisingly high resentment toward the third party of a relationship.

Meanwhile, Ji Yan was caught off guard by the announcement of the press conference.

"Offer an apology? Is that even possible? Someone as proud as Yun Shishi would eat the humble pie and apologize to me only if she's gone mad!"

"You have to attend the presscon, though." The head of the PR team told her. "Huanyu sure played a good game here. Your absence from the presscon will only cause the public to have veiled criticisms about you. What's more; they've informed all the media about the press meeting. The reporters now must be eagerly waiting to publish unfavorable articles about you should you not turn up on that day."

"But—"

"It won't hurt for you to attend the presscon. Anyway, no matter what tricks that woman has up her sleeves, all you need to do is insist that she's the detestable third party in your relationship. If necessary, you can use the usual ruse of injuring yourself to gain the public's sympathy. It's a good trick that the public always falls for and the reporters look favorably on. The more shocking the matter is, the more interested the reporters will be."

She nodded reluctantly. "Fine. I'm left with no choice in any case."

Chapter 2642: Sudden Wedding Announcement (3)

A week passed soon enough.

The press conference was arranged at Huanyu Tower for, one, Yun Shishi's personal safety and, two, the security to be under their control as the event commenced.

The press conference was set at seven o'clock in the evening.

However, the media people were already streaming into the venue by 6 PM. All were on the edge of their seats as they set up their cameras and equipment, while Huanyu staff prepared the venue ahead of schedule.

The press reception was a grand affair this time.

How grand was the affair?

In fact, many reporters and journalists found it extremely puzzling why more than a hundred seats were set up for a single press conference. In addition to the ten invited authoritative media houses, there were also dozens of seats for special correspondents of various large and small media outlets and online portals. More surprisingly, many foreign media were also invited.

The crowd looked at one another and wondered what was going on.

The purpose of this press conference was for Yun Shishi to make a public apology in her role as a third party, right?

Why, then, was there a need to invite the foreign media?

Had this scandal spread overseas?

Everyone was clearly puzzled.

Mu Xi also arrived early at the venue. When she saw how crowded the place was, with media seats clearly demarcated, and the various logos and brands placed in front of the reception table, she started to fret.

She did not know if the event would proceed smoothly as planned. The manager did not tell her much, except that she should not make any comments and just do as instructed.

This lady assistant, however, had made her inquiries to a reporter friend and found out that this reception's theme was Yun Shishi making a public apology to Ji Yan.

She nearly hit the roof.

How could Qin Zhou do this to her charge?

Shishi obviously did nothing wrong; why should she apologize to that woman?

The one who should apologize was Ji Yan, was she not?

Still, the young lady had been with the manager long enough to consider the man's words more deeply. She knew that this would not be a simple PR case of making a public apology. Who knew if there may be a reversal during the event?

As such, she held down her anxiety and waited silently.

Yun Shishi had arrived at the company long ago, but she was arranged to wait in the lounge by her agent. She must appear last, or else the situation may be difficult to control.

Twenty minutes before the launching, Ji Yan appeared at the venue. The reporters scrambled to swarm around the actress as soon as they saw her, with countless microphones of various logos and brands shoved near her face. "Ji Yan, Yun Shishi said that she wants to make a solemn apology to you in public today; can you tell us what you think of it?"

"Are you planning to quit the entertainment industry?"

"What do you think of her lukewarm reaction to this matter all this while?"

The newbie entertainer held her head low throughout the media frenzy and ignored the questions thrown at her. Her manager at one side shielded her from their pestering, constantly resisting the microphones extended to the actress by the reports while exclaiming, "Please don't crowd around, okay? It's dangerous!"

"You can raise your hand to ask questions once the conference starts."

"Can you please return to the press box?"

Security guards immediately came over to maintain order.

The scene got out of control at one point as the crowd surged forward anew.

The assistant became even more fretful after witnessing that scene. She was worried that her charge would be unable to manage the news-hungry members of the media, who might overpower her artist once her turn came.

Chapter 2643: Sudden Wedding Announcement (4)

Inside an office.

When Qin Zhou walked in, Yun Shishi was still memorizing the script, which was filled with the questions the media would raise and the drafted answers by the manager for her. The actress wanted her responses to be freestyle due to the gravity of this issue, but her preparation could not be sloppy and she must not make even the slightest error, so the manager had specifically tasked the Huanyu's PR team to draft the lines for his charge overnight.

The woman had a hard time memorizing the script.

These were all formalities; despite the grandeur attached to the event, that just made it harder for her to chew on this script.

She had been memorizing it for a good half a day that her head had started to buzz by then.

"How is it? Have you memorized everything yet?" asked her manager.

The woman looked troubled as she rubbed her glabella. "The responses are too official, which make it hard for me to remember them all."

Qin Zhou threw her a rueful and disappointed glance before he commented after a sigh, "It doesn't matter if you can't memorize everything. No matter what, you just have to deal with the first part of the session; someone will deal with the situation for you in the second half."

"What do you mean?" Yun Shishi looked up at her agent in surprise, obviously confused by his words.

"You don't have to ask too many questions; doing so will only mess you up. Just remember this: Rebut Ji Yan fiercely no matter what she says and don't show any mercy. We've already won half the battle by her turning up; get it?"

"Hmm..." She nodded her head, still looking rather lost.

...

The traffic was congested at the overpass.

This was the evening rush hour.

Youyou looked outside the window curiously, listening to the blaring of horns on the road before he asked rather anxiously, "Daddy, are we stuck in a traffic jam?"

Mu Yazhe held to the steering wheel with tightly drawn brows; he was obviously frustrated over the same thing.

The traffic today was especially congested.

He had purposely left the company early, yet he was still caught in a jam.

Supposedly, they should have arrived early at the press conference, but the traffic had delayed them a lot of time.

The older boy, also, was incomparably nervous. He looked at the congestion and grunted in exasperation. "Looking at the state of congestion, we would've been delayed even if we had set off two hours in advance."

"It's only ten minutes until the launching." The younger twin looked at his watch worriedly. "I don't know if mommy can handle it. The media will definitely ask many tricky questions with plenty of them around today, and she may lose her cool because of it. I'm afraid that we'll arrive too late to help her."

"That's not gonna happen." The man could not help hooking his lips up. "She won't have an issue dealing with the media."

...

The presscon started on the dot at 7 PM.

The door was flung open; Yun Shishi, Qin Zhou, and several senior executives of Huanyu slowly walked into the venue under the escort of bodyguards.

The moment she walked into the venue, the reporters stationed inside went frantic and started raising their cameras. At once, the large hall went as bright as daylight under the constant flashing of magnesium lights.

The reporters scrambled and fought to get to the actress, and disregarding the bulky bodyguards around her, they all stretched their microphones into her face.

"Shishi, look over here! I'm a reporter from Phoenix Media; may I ask what is your real intention for holding this conference?"

"I heard that, at tonight's conference, you are going to apologize to Ji Yan; is that right? Does this mean that you acquiesce to her accusations?"

Amid the commotion, Yun Shishi heard that question and paused inexplicably. She glanced at the reporter, who had thrown that query, sans expression, and her lips gave a sudden, unfriendly twitch.

"What made you think that I would apologize to her?"

Chapter 2644: Sudden Wedding Announcement (5)

The reporter's jaw dropped. "Then..."

Qin Zhou immediately stepped in and said sternly, “As per the original statement on the invitation, our artist is going to apologize publicly for this incident. Please don’t confuse the masses!”

Thereafter, he held and escorted his charge to the reception area, leaving the reporters gawking behind them.

The bodyguards got all the media personnel back to the press box. Meanwhile, the cameraman turned on the equipment and started the official live telecast of the event on all livestream platforms.

Huanyu’s top executives also took their seats one after another, while Yun Shishi and Qin Zhou sat close to Ji Yan at the centerstage.

At a distance not far from her, the actress’s rival had been measuring her with unblinking eyes as she walked up the stage.

Yun Shishi, in a white chiffon blouse and black three-quarter pants, which greatly complemented her long and slender legs, looked elegant and proper.

Her celebrity style was clean-cut, simple, and modest, very much reflecting her namesake, whereas her rival was loud and gaudy in her outfit.

The protagonist looked calm and composed.

She looked up slightly after she had taken her seat, displaying a clear, strong, and even aloof visage, much like a plum blossom in winter. She had an arrogant temperament, which allowed no profanity. Sitting next to her was Ji Yan, and despite her rival’s exquisite features, the latter’s presence could not hold a candle to her. Her rival kept sneaking a look at her when the gaze suddenly fell on her slender fingers.

There was a big diamond ring on it, which she had never seen before.

Since she started filming the new show, Yun Shishi had always taken the ring off in advance and kept it aside for safety reasons. Therefore, this was the first time Ji Yan had seen the ring.

Is she engaged?

Feeling quite unsure, she scanned the other’s profile again and started to feel uneasy when she saw how calm and collected the lady was.

Instantly, she realized that she should not have come here tonight!

The actress seemed to notice her opponent checking her out and reciprocated without warning. Ji Yan was startled but turned her head away with forced composure almost immediately when she heard the other whispering, “If you are starting to get fearful, it’s still not too late for you to express your regret now.”

“What!” She burst into a bout of angry laughter. “What am I afraid of, and what is there to regret?”

“Okay, then. We’ll see.”

The press conference finally commenced.

After the order was maintained and the hall went quiet, those sitting onstage finally turned on the microphones.

The first to speak was Qin Zhou. He delivered a simple speech, nothing more than to thank the various media for taking the time to attend the launch and those fans camping outside the venue for their patience and interest. After that, he invited Ji Lin, the Huanyu's head producer, to deliver a speech.

"Some time ago, there were some people who published inaccurate information about our artist, Ms. Yun Shishi, on the Internet, particularly on Weibo and Tieba. This had not only caused great distress to the public but, even more so, unbearable damage to our artist's reputation. First of all, as the head producer of Huanyu, I would like to announce solemnly that the implication of Ms. Yun in the romance between Ms. Ji Yan and Mr. Gao Nan is untrue."

Almost instantly, there was an uproar below the stage.

The atmosphere turned agitated, with doubts written all over everyone's face.

Chapter 2645: Sudden Wedding Announcement (6)

Sitting at one side, Ji Yan's face turned pale and she looked incredulously at Ji Lin. She initially reckoned that the conference was Huanyu's way of bending over backward—apologizing to her—to minimize their artist's loss of reputation and popularity.

She also thought that the company would compromise with her.

Instead, her anticipation was dashed!

She was at a loss for a brief moment, but it was inaccurate to say that she had wholly been caught off guard. What of Yun Shishi not admitting her involvement? Everybody, including the press and fans, had long formed a preconceived notion that the actress was a mistress. On top of this, Huanyu's nonchalance over this matter had been interpreted by the public as a silent admission; hence, it did not really matter whether the actress admitted to anything or not.

The public was already gnashing their teeth over her 'mistress' image; there was no way for her to shed that negative reputation.

Ji Yan machinated maliciously inside her head while she tried to maintain calmness composure. Concurrently, before the cameras, she put on a look of incomparable aggravation as if she were a victim and had been gravely wronged.

The head producer added, "Tonight, in this conference, Huanyu and Ms. Yun Shishi will fully clarify the matter. In addition, we sincerely apologize to the public and fans for the negative influence brought upon by this personal affair."

The press people exchanged dumbfounded looks, then questions started rolling in one after another. The journalists sitting in the front row could not hold back their surprise and hurriedly scrambled to pitch in their questions. The scene became rowdy in a split second.

These media personnel had been to many celebrity's press conferences. Stars getting embroiled in scandals was a common occurrence in the industry of entertainment, so such conferences to clarify the truth were held every now and then. In reality, were the reporters after the truth?

The truth was not important to them at all; they did not care about the facts of a matter. What they actually wanted was exploitative topics, which would draw the public's interest and generate traffic to their news portals.

Ji Lin quickly tried to take control of the situation by saying in a serious tone, "Everyone, please maintain order, alright? We'll go into the Q&A portion soon, so please stick to the rules and raise your hands if you want to ask questions."

Some reporters immediately raised their hands high.

"Okay, the reporter from Phoenix Media can pose his question."

The reporter jumped up from his seat, and after pointing the microphone to his target, he asked, "Miss Ji Yan, putting aside what Huanyu has just said, do you agree that the news surrounding Miss Yun Shishi is untrue?"

As soon as he finished posing that query, the actress pursed her lips and a crystal-clear tear immediately fell from her eye and formed a line down her cheek. She covered her mouth for a while, looking choked. It was not until she got a hang of her emotions that she picked up the microphone and spoke to the press, with red, moist eyes. "Thank you to the reporter for the friendly question. What can I say except that it's okay to be ignorant but definitely not shameless! The reason I showed up for this conference is that I thought Huanyu would issue a formal apology for the bad behavior of their artists, but I didn't expect that they'd be shameless to the point of ignoring their conscience just to cover up for their artists! They claimed that all those rumors are false, so isn't that accusing me of fabricating these reports? I originally intended to be magnanimous and extend Yun Shishi an olive branch if she's sincere enough with her apology and in asking for my forgiveness, but with her accusing me of rumor-mongering, I'd rather fight back!"

After her long speech, she put down the microphone and wiped her now tear-soaked face with great disappointment. She truly looked pitiful!

Chapter 2646: Sudden Wedding Announcement (7)

When Mu Xi, who was standing in a corner of the room, heard those words, she nearly exploded in anger!

This Ji Yan is truly shameless!

In her fury, she felt this strong desire to go up the stage and give the shameless woman a good thrashing!

Qin Zhou also could not help frowning. He did not expect the actress to have excellent pretentious skills, where she managed to portray the role of a damsel in distress fully. If he did not know the truth, he would really be wholly deceived by this docile- and aggrieved-looking woman.

Sure enough, when the media saw her crying-in-grief appearance as she dried her face of tears, they raised their cameras in unison to capture the moment.

The head producer was unaffected by it all and just said, "Let's move on to the next question. Reporter from Global Times, please ask your question."

"Miss Yun Shishi, since Ji Yan's accusation of you being a third party is allegedly false, what is your version of the truth? Can you tell it to the public?"

"Yes." She nodded and picked up the microphone.

"Okay, please do."

"I met Gao Nan a few months ago. At that time, he was in a relationship with my best friend. The two haven't been dating for long. During our brief interaction, though, I noticed him paying special attention to me, which was an unusual behavior for someone already in a romantic relationship, so I didn't form a good impression of him then. When we met again at a class reunion, I witnessed him being protective of my best friend, so I assumed that the two had become serious in their relationship. Unfortunately, just a few days ago, Ji Yan invited everyone in our production team to a bar for her birthday celebration. There, she introduced her boyfriend, whom she claimed to have been dating for two months, to us. To my surprise, the man turned out to be Gao Nan. I quickly asked my dear friend and she told me that she's still dating him, so I deduced that he had cheated on my best friend with my colleague and became very upset..."

The press people were stunned. All of them were dumbfounded to hear that Ji Yan, who had constantly accused the other of meddling in her love affair, was actually the mistress.

Ji Yan's face turned ash-white as well.

Yun Shishi continued speaking calmly. "At that time, my assistant drank too much alcohol and became unwell; I sent her to the bathroom, and Gao Nan followed me. He then became verbally abusive toward me and even tried molesting me. Hua Jin, my co-star, got worried and went looking for me. When he saw what Gao Nan was doing, he got into a fight with him. The party ended on a bad note. After that incident, I informed my friend of everything and she chose to end her relationship with him. I didn't expect to learn that Ji Yan had openly spread malicious rumors about me and Gao Nan among the crew when I went to work. I don't know what her intentions are for stirring this gossip about me going after that man's resources, nor do I know why he chose to go against his conscience and be in cahoots with her to damage my reputation. In the meantime, the gossip about me has become more and more rampant online, causing a considerable impact on me and my agency. As such, I've chosen to stand up for my rights now, and if necessary, I will take legal actions to defend my integrity."

She skipped the part on how Gao Nan had tried to blackmail her into being his mistress.

That matter was a great shame for her.

"Impossible! You're lying!" Ji Yan quickly denied the other's words. "Gao Nan was single when we started dating; he didn't have a girlfriend then. Don't you dare to lie!"

Chapter 2647: Sudden Wedding Announcement (8)

Yun Shishi countered with a sneer, "Just who's the one telling lies here? Everyone knows what sort of person Gao Nan is and the sort of reputation he has in the industry; it's clear that you're the actual third party!"

"I'm not!" Another tear streaked down the actress's cheek as she cried in exasperation, "Stop vilifying me!"

A reporter spoke then. "Yun Shishi, are you aware that Gao Nan's mother is among Chengguang Entertainment's senior management?"

"No."

"How could you possibly not know this, though?" The reporter challenged. "The man has a prominent status. Not only is he the heir of Gao Group, his mother holds a high position in a major entertainment company, too. Did you intentionally get close to him because you're eyeing the connections and resources of his?"

She calmly answered, "No, I've got no designs on him."

"Where there's smoke, there's fire."

She shot back. "You can't make a conclusion just based on groundless accusations. Even during a trial, the words of a few people aren't enough to deem a person guilty. The judge has to consider if there's any suspicion of perjury and study the witnesses' statements carefully. In fact, a lot more evidence is needed to convict someone. The law is created to protect the legal rights and interests of individuals, so how can you deem me guilty just based on Ji Yan's and Gao Nan's words alone? Isn't it too unfair to me? I don't like making excuses; I'll own up to whatever I do and apologize for my mistakes, but I won't admit, much less apologize, for things I haven't done. The pair's words have swayed the public's opinion of me and caused damage to my reputation; is it fair to me? If I were really a third party, I would've nothing to say of the media making this a talking point, but I'm not, so all I can do is leave everything to my lawyers and get them to help me recover my rights and interests. Those who continue to slander me can prepare to face the consequences of their actions."

Silence descended upon the crowd.

For a moment, no one knew whose words they should believe, for one spoke confidently, clearly, and logically, while another was revealed to have attempted suicide because she got betrayed by her love. It was even verified by the hospital. According to the medical staff, the woman in question had indeed been rushed to the emergency room due to excessive blood loss after she had slit her wrist.

All that was solid evidence; one would not go that far if they were just trying to create a buzz, would they? Her life would have been in grave danger had she not been rushed to the hospital in time. Besides, who would take their life as a joke? The slightest delay might even cost the woman her life, which would not be worthwhile at all.

All the presspeople then shifted their focus onto Ji Yan and proceeded to bombard her with questions.

"Did you slit your wrist because of this matter?"

“Yes, I am deeply in love with Gao Nan, so his betrayal was like a bolt out of the blue. It caused me to lose my senses momentarily and do something foolish.”

“Do you acknowledge what your co-actress said?”

“She’s lying!”

“How can you prove to us that she’s lying?”

“Well, she’s just trying to salvage her reputation.”

“Silence!” Ji Lin raised his voice at the crowd. “Ji Yan, Shishi is one of the artists directly under my watch, so I know her character and integrity the best. She’ll never do such a thing to jeopardize her future.”

Chapter 2648: Sudden Wedding Announcement (9)

“You’re Huanyu’s head producer and her superior. Of course, you’ll speak up for her!” She snapped back at him rather agitatedly. “However, it’s an undeniable truth that Yun Shishi indeed went to seduce my boyfriend for the sake of resources. Not only did she manage to act as the main lead in her debut film, she’s also been receiving golden resources all this while! No one knows better than her where those resources are coming from.”

The man countered her argument in his domineering way. “Huanyu’s artists are never lacking in resources, and all the more so for Shishi since the company is promoting her!”

“Are you saying that Ji Yan’s accusation of your artist seducing her boyfriend is groundless?”

“I did no such thing. I sincerely request all our media friends here not to spread misinformation and stick to reporting facts to ensure credibility.”

The audience fell silent once more, and an awkward tension hung in the air.

Ji Yan could not help feeling flustered upon noticing a turn of the tide. She was unafraid of the actress seeking legal help since she would be facing nothing more than a civil lawsuit; rather, she was worried that all her efforts would be wasted should this situation develop in an unfavorable direction to her.

“Why are you still trying to argue your way out of this?” She agitatedly rose to her feet and glared at the woman next to her before launching into another tirade. “It’s useless for you to threaten me with a lawsuit. Sue me for slander all you want; I’m not afraid because you’re truly a third party in my relationship with Gao Nan!”

“You’re the real third party,” countered Yun Shishi calmly, which got the other scoffing.

“What evidence do you have to back your claim and who can prove that?”

“...”

“I can!”

A voice suddenly broke through the reigning silence, and out came walking a person toward the stage.

The actress looked over, only to meet the determined gaze of her best friend. She stared at the new arrival in surprise, not at all expecting to see her here.

God knew how much courage Xiao Xue had mustered before she finally resolved to reveal her past relationship before the public for it to serve as evidence. She had come to this press conference just for that purpose.

“You,” her bestie uttered in shock, “why are you here?”

“If Gao Nan’s words can serve as evidence, then I’ve got something to say as well.”

Ignoring the surprised look of her friend, she clenched her teeth and then turned around to introduce herself to everyone. “My name is Xiao Xue. I am a close friend of Shishi and her former classmate. Gao Nan’s my boyfriend—no, more accurately put, he’s my ex-boyfriend. I officially broke up with him upon learning about his moral misconduct.”

“Xiao Xue...”

She felt a tug at her sleeve but decidedly ignored it as she continued speaking through gnashed teeth. “What Shishi said is true. July last year was when I first met Gao Nan and got in a relationship with him. I was immersed in love bubbles then and had no idea that he’s been secretly dating other women despite being romantically involved with me, but when he admitted to having cheated on me, I ended things between us right away.”

It got Ji Yan sneering. “Your words alone can’t prove anything!”

“Oh, what about you and Gao Nan? What evidence do you have to prove that Shishi is a third party of your relationship!” she retorted.

The two women’s gazes clashed in a hostile confrontation as people below the stage started whispering to one another and casting dubious glances at them.

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“I don’t know how you two hooked up, nor do I know whether you’re truly clueless about Gao Nan already having a girlfriend when you started dating him or deliberately kept in the dark by that two-timing jerk. What I’m sure of is that Shishi would never betray our friendship.”

“Don’t be quick to judge one by their appearance. No one knows what really lies beneath your friend’s pure and harmless exterior.”

“The same can be said about you; in fact, it’s more appropriate for you!”

“Your words aren’t valid!”

“Why not?” Xiao Xue demanded. “Why would Shishi do such a thing when she’s already married!”

A deafening silence ensued following her words, for the audience was utterly flabbergasted. The actress being married already was a piece of Earth-shattering information, which soon got them all in a frenzy.

At this moment, no one was concerned about the love triangle between Ji Yan, Gao Nan, and Yun Shishi; their focus was entirely on this unknown marriage of the last one among the three who were just mentioned.

Realizing her slip of the tongue, Xiao Xue's eyes widened. She then frowned and bit her lip in regret.

From behind, Qin Zhou looked at his charge's best friend with shock.

This Xiao Xue is a tad too rash!

How could she let this news slip just like that?

The woman whipped her head back at once and gave her friend a remorseful yet helpless look. Her eyes seemed to be saying that the purpose of her appearing here was to prove the latter's innocence, not to create trouble for her!

Unfortunately, she had done the exact opposite of that by putting her foot in her mouth!

What should I do now?

Is it too late to correct my words?

Retracting my words in front of so many reporters will only put Shishi in a more difficult and passive position.

"I'm sorry..." Her lips quivered in misery. "I didn't do it on purpose. I didn't mean to cause you trouble... I-I just got too worked up..."

"It's fine."

Meanwhile, there was a growing commotion below the stage.

It was too shocking!

The rising starlet had apparently gotten hitched secretly at her young age of twenty-four!

It was almost unheard of in showbiz, for celebrities relied pretty much on their looks and youth to succeed in their acting career. Because of their short-lived youth, most female celebs were quite opposed to getting married early and would rather spend their precious time climbing up the social ladder.

Of course, it was another matter if they managed to marry into a prestigious family, becoming rich madams and ultimately bidding showbiz goodbye. Only a handful—those who suffered grievances at home—would continue taking on acting jobs to earn a living and maintain their onscreen presence.

Yun Shishi, however, had a promising future on this path right from her debut, and she even had the potential to replace Han Yuyan in the time to come. Everyone had high hopes for her, yet now, it was accidentally revealed that she had already tied the knot.

It was unbelievable.

"Are you really married?"

"Why didn't you announce it?"

"Can you reveal who your marriage partner is?"

...

Yun Shishi stood up with a sigh and walked to the front of the stage. There, she flashed a calm smile as she looked at the sea of presspeople with bright, unflinching eyes.

Chapter 2650: What explanation do you have for giving birth out of wedlock?

She then raised her hand and smiled warmly with bliss shining in her eyes; the diamond band on her ring finger sparkled luminously under the lights.

“She’s right; I’m already married.”

Her words sparked an instant uproar among the audience.

The woman continued speaking. “Though my partner and I haven’t gotten a chance to hold a wedding due to our busy schedules, we’ve already registered our marriage. I have a husband and a family whom I love and loves me back dearly, so I’ll never do anything to betray them, much less become a third party in someone else’s relationship. The reason I didn’t announce my marriage is that I’m only an actress, who’s responsible for presenting quality work to the public. I didn’t see the need to expose my private life before the camera.”

“What explanation do you have for participating in the reality dating show, ‘The Love Diary’, and acting as an imaginary couple with Gu Xingze?”

“Like you said, we were just acting as an imaginary couple. There’s no real element of love between us.”

“Since you’re already married, how will you explain the scandal you’ve had with the superstar previously?”

The actress suddenly felt conflicted.

Can I actually reveal in front of Huanyu’s senior management that it’s just the company’s marketing strategy?

Can I say that the company, in order to promote me, tied us under the name of ‘The Lucky Couple’?

Can I also reveal that the production team deliberately fueled the speculations and gossip?

Not expecting things to veer off her plans, Ji Yan trembled in fury and bewilderment as she watched this scene unfold!

She had managed to get her hand on some inside information about Yun Shishi’s past by getting someone to investigate her background and sending a reporter to stalk her; thus, she thought that the woman would not be bold enough to expose her marriage!

Nevertheless, even though the other woman had taken the initiative to reveal her marriage, she still had an ace up her sleeve.

At the thought of this, her ashen face regained some color. She even felt calm enough to curl the corners of her lips into a cold smirk.

Back when she was still using the name 'Yan Bingqing', she had accidentally found out that Yun Shishi had a pair of twins and was on intimate terms with Mu Yazhe. They were not married at that time, however, which meant that there was an interesting story behind how the twins came about.

Therefore, she secretly did a background check on the woman. It turned out that the latter had once entered surrogacy for the Mu family and given birth to twin sons when she was eighteen. The younger of the twins, due to his frail condition, stopped breathing at one point after his birth. She somehow managed to keep that baby boy and later gave him the name Yun Tianyou.

That time could be said to be her darkest period, yet now she dared to announce her wedding so calmly? She sure had got some guts!

Ji Yan's gaze went to a certain corner of the venue and she secretly made a gesture. Before coming to this press conference, she had bribed a reporter into exposing her enemy's dirty past and had given him the relevant information and photos.

She had gone all out this time!

Upon receiving her signal, the reporter stood up and started asking, "May I then ask what explanation you have for giving birth out of wedlock? How come the industry's most prominent and promising starlet already has two children?"