

Sweet Love 3961

Chapter 3961: A Perfect Match (157)

The assistant director looked extremely worried. "We've been hunting high and low and have not found anyone suitable!"

Liang Yin stood aside, feeling bored. She studied the passing crowds. On average, one in five people was a big star. She was fascinated. Usually, there was no such opportunity. The closest she could get to these celebrities would be watching them on television. But here at the studio city, any other person walking around was a celebrity.

Liang Yin was already used to it, unlike the first day when she was surrounded by them and felt a little uneasy. Now, having celebrities around felt normal to her. She felt that these people were just good at acting. Although they were beautiful, they were actually no different from ordinary people. Especially after spending time with Hua Jin, she realized that celebrities were also ordinary people. It was just entertainment that gave them the glorified status of idols.

After chatting for a bit with the assistant director, Hua Jin turned around and called out to Liang Yin. "Liang Yin! Let's go!"

Liang Yin turned around, nodded, and walked towards the actor.

When the assistant director saw Liang Yin beside Hua Jin, his eyes lit up!

"Who is this, Hua Jin?"

"Oh..." The actor introduced, "My assistant."

"Is your assistant that beautiful? I remember you had a different assistant before!"

"You mean Xiaoqi?" The actor bristled at the mention of Xiaoqi. Currently, the girl was undertaking advanced training at the company headquarters. When she returned, he would find a chance to fire her.

Hua Jin was a man who bore grudges. Especially after seeing Xiaoqi's ugly side, he was determined to fire her when he had the chance. However, the assistant director was seriously sizing up Liang Yin. His eyes were filled with admiration as he praised her from time to time. "Your assistant has the makings of a celebrity! What's her name?"

Liang Yin smiled and introduced herself naturally. "Liang Yin."

"Liang Yin... Hmm, that's a good name!"

The assistant director smiled and asked Liang Yin, "Do you... want to come for the audition? There's a role that needs to be filled in the production. I was just getting worried that I wouldn't be able to find a suitable candidate!"

"I..." Liang Yin was surprised to be invited to the audition.

Hua Jin was a little surprised too, but he'd just been thinking that since an opportunity had come up, Liang Yin might as well give it a try. After all, she had a good image and good acting skills. She was considered gifted.

Initially he had intended to ask Liang Yin for her opinion over the meal. Unexpectedly, the assistant director spotted her right away and issued an invitation.

Hua Jin too, thought that Liang Yin could try.

“Would you be willing to?” Because he was Hua Jin’s assistant, the assistant director was mindful and polite.

Liang Yin glanced at the actor as if seeking his opinion.

Hua Jin immediately said, “If you like, you could give it a try.”

“I’d like that.” Liang Yin smiled and said, “My pleasure.”

“Very well then!”

The assistant director nodded. “Tomorrow afternoon, come to the set with Hua Jin and read a few lines. If Director Gu says that there’s no problem, it’ll be considered a success!”

As the Kokakuchō character was not a big role, it was not too demanding in terms of the lines and acting skills. It mainly depended on the state and appearance of the character.

As the assistant director, he had sharp eyes. He felt that Liang Yin was a decent fit at a glance, so he had a reasonable amount of confidence in her and felt that she would pass Director Gu’s scrutiny.

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The assistant director had business to attend to, so he excused himself and hurried off.

Liang Yin watched him leave and then turned to look at Hua Jin. She obviously seemed conflicted. “Audition ... I never thought that I’d be invited to an audition.”

Smiling, Hua Jin pushed open the door and started towards the private box. “Do you like acting?”

“In the past, I wouldn’t say I liked it. But having experienced it, I find it interesting.”

The actor smiled at that. “Filming isn’t that simple! In your eyes, you probably think it’s all about being paid well and having lots of fans. Everyone knows your name. In fact, it’s not that simple! You may be defamed, made a target for rumors, and suffer cyberbullying. People scold you, but you can’t talk back.”

“Why?”

“Because you’re a public figure!” The actor continued, “Even if you’re heavily disguised and you get caught by netizens, you tend to lose a lot.”

“That’s terrible.”

“Still, no one would dare touch you, if you came from a powerful background.”

“I don’t have much of a background to speak of.” Liang Yin felt daunted. After all, she didn’t particularly like acting, and was only interested because it paid well, for one thing, and secondly, because she felt that acting was quite fun.

However, if it was really as horrible as Hua Jin had described, then she would be quite nervous.

“But you could sign a contract with Qin Zhou.” Hua Jin smiled in an evil manner. “If you become his artistes, you’d have many opportunities to interact with each other.”

“... agent?”

“An agent manages the artiste’s career. A good agent has great resources, and will take care of everything outside your job.”

Liang Yin was tempted when she heard this.

She adored Qin Zhou.

She felt that there was an air of maturity about Qin Zhou that men of Tang Yu and Hua Jin’s age did not have.

Many girls like men who are older than themselves. Mature and steady men give girls a greater sense of reliability and security.

She wasn’t a person who would be coy and beat around the bush. She liked him and simply said so.

“Would he be willing to sign me on?”

The actor said, “I’ll find out for you later.”

“Okay.”

Liang Yin said with a smile. “If it all goes successfully, I’ll treat you to a delicious meal!”

“Hmph, I’m not desperate for it! Also, keep some distance from me. Let’s not trigger another soul swap or I’ll jump off a building!”

When Liang Yin heard this, she kept a distance from him as she too, had some lingering fear, especially whenever they passed by the fountain in the courtyard. The two of them were especially vigilant.

As the saying goes: Once bitten, twice shy.

When they had finished lunch, they went back and Liang Yin went through the script with Hua Jin. The latter also gave her the lines for the demon role. She took them back and memorized them.

The next day, Hua Jin brought Liang Yin to the set. While he filmed, the assistant director took her to the audition.

When Hua Jin finished filming, he saw that Liang Yin was already sitting in the waiting area. However, her expression was a little strange.

He walked over to her and asked, “How did the audition go?”

“Mmm... it was alright!”

“Alright?”

The way she said it seemed a little ambiguous.

She looked obviously uncomfortable.

The actor studied her for a moment. It seemed as though she had something to say. He was a little amused but also suspicious. "What's this expression on your face? Was Director Gu not satisfied with your performance?"

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"Director Gu is quite satisfied with me. The assistant director said that the audition was not bad, however, there is another person who wants this role. So if I want it too, I have to go through a second round of auditions."

"Second round of auditions?" The actor wasn't impressed to learn of this. "There's usually only one round of auditions. Why would there be a second round? Is this assistant director trying to deceive you?"

"Deceive me?"

Hua Jin nodded and said, "Yes. After all, the roles in this production team are all in high demand. Basically, you'll be famous once you're on it. Many small-time actors want to be on it, but Director Gu has never been interested. The assistant director has been racking his brains over this matter. He probably wants to take the opportunity to ask you for some benefits."

"Money?"

"Uh huh."

"I also thought he wanted an excuse to request a packaging fee or something, and I did ask him indirectly. He said he didn't want a packaging fee."

The actor was even more baffled. "So when is the second audition taking place?"

Liang Yin answered simply, "Tonight."

"At night?"

"Yes. I am to go to his room. He says he'd like me to read the part again so that he may consider it carefully."

As Liang Yin spoke, her expression grew odd. "But, isn't it too strange to have to go to his room at night? Could he be... playing the unspoken rules!"

The actor's expression darkened at that.

"He asked you to go to his room? At night?"

"Uh huh."

"Then it goes without saying!" Infuriated by what he's been told, the actor sat down beside her. "You're not to go. He's obviously trying to make a pass at you! By the time you get into his room, there'll be no telling how many people will be in there and whether you'll be able to back out. Nothing is certain!"

This assistant director also had “a criminal record.” Or perhaps, it might be more accurate to say, it takes two hands to clap.

As the assistant director, he was in charge of casting. Aside from the management and the director-appointed roles, he had the last say on all the other roles.

Naturally, there were people who wanted to climb the ladder. And there were many of them.

Except, this assistant director was notoriously ugly in the industry.

He was pretty ruthless when it came to women. Especially one time, he had used the excuse of discussing the script to bed two up-and-rising young actresses. This in itself was bad enough, but he’d actually informed the paparazzi in advance, so that they managed to film the two young actresses accompanying him into the hotel.

Then, he held on to these photographs till filming was completed and they were entering the publicity period. He then released these photographs, and for a time, they caused a big commotion.

Actually, no one cared about these two young actresses. All they cared about was the dark side of the entertainment industry. The show went viral because of this and was bought out by a media website at a high price. The ratings also broke records.

However, the reputation of these two young actresses was completely ruined. They were being made use of and had nowhere to turn to for help.

Later on, they had plastic surgery and changed their names. They managed to win a few roles, but their careers never took off. As for this assistant director, because the publicity campaign went so successfully, he continued to do very well.

The entertainment industry is like that. It’s hard to avoid an open attack. Whether one rises or falls depends on how ruthless one can be. Often, those at the top can afford to risk it. The more resourceful they were, the more willing they were to risk everything. By and by, they make their way up.

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Liang Yin only half-understood these things told to her.

Fortunately, she’d “reported” this matter to Hua Jin in advance because she’d also found it suspicious. She hadn’t expected there was so much more to it than what was immediately apparent.

“I won’t go then, in this case.” Liang Yin knew this opportunity was precious. Perhaps if she didn’t turn up, she might offend the assistant director. However, she was really reluctant to get involved in these things. If fame was going to cost her this much, she would rather not have it. “Sigh.” Liang Yin had underestimated her own experience.

Noticing how disappointed she look, Hua Jin consoled her. “It’s fine. It’s not like this is the only role there is. I’ll ask Qin Zhou later if the production team is still short of people.”

“It’s alright, don’t bother.” Liang Yin smiled and said, “Actually, I think it’s good to be an assistant. I can help you rehearse your scenes and even be a part of the audience.”

In this circle, one could often hear about certain gossips and shocking things by mingling around. Although it was quite morally destructive, Liang Yin was used to it, and even took it in with relish. The actor did not take it to heart. After all, Liang Yin didn’t seem to be taking it too affected.

That night, the actor was reading a script when his phone rang. He looked at the screen on his cell phone. It was the assistant director.

There were two assistant directors in this production team. One was a nominal director, and the other was Meng Hao, who was in charge of casting and management affairs. The actor did not make a special note against the man’s ID, but the crew all had organization codes. The actor recognized this code as belonging to Meng Hao.

Meng Hao would not normally call him unless there were important matters. Presumably, this must be related to Liang Yin.

As soon as he answered the call, the other party asked, “Hua Jin, what’s wrong with that assistant of yours? I told her there’s an audition tonight. Why isn’t she here? Besides, I can’t get through to her cell phone.”

“Director Meng, I heard about what happened today! I was the one who told Liang Yin not to go. Liang Yin is innocent. You may be able to deceive her but do you think you are able to deceive me? Do you think I don’t know what you’re up to? In this circle, if you want a role, you have to go all out. However, Liang Yin is my assistant after all. Even on my account, you shouldn’t do this, right? And now you’re even coming to me to ask her whereabouts?”

There was dead silence. After a long while, Meng Hao laughed. Of course. Liang Yin must have told Hua Jin about this. Then he had nothing to hide. After all, she was only an assistant. Hua Jin would probably turn a blind eye at best and not bother.

Meng Hao was interested in Liang Yin. Her beauty is rare even in the entertainment industry. Many celebrities in the entertainment industry had undergone the plastic surgeon’s knife and looked like products manufactured out of the same production line. This applied to even the newcomers, who often style themselves after the latest up and coming young actresses. Previously, Yun Shishi’s pure and innocent look was all the rage and the trend was now suffering fatigue. There were not many natural beauties like Liang Yin. She was definitely a treasure.

The more Meng Hao looked at her, the more he found her appealing. “Aiya, this is an inevitable process. You should know it! Who doesn’t get there by this method? If she can’t even accept this, why be in the entertainment industry!”

The actor said rather flatly, “Director Meng, although you hold a great deal of authority, it’s better not to make yourself look this bad!”

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As soon as he said this, Meng Hao was immediately dissatisfied. Even his tone became indifferent.

“You’re different now, Hua Jin. Now you’re famous. But don’t forget how you got here! You despise the unspoken rules, but don’t you think your unbearable past is a stain that you’ll never be able to erase? Do you think your past doesn’t count now that you’re famous? Ha! Hua Jin, she’s just an assistant. Do you have to be so protective?”

The actor’s face paled at that, and then he shot back, “Director Meng, let’s stick to the facts. If you want to take advantage of my assistant, then you might as well get it out in the open. I won’t oppose a consensual relationship between a man and a woman, but don’t you think it’s disgusting if you have to lie and use deception?”

Perhaps the use of the word “disgusting” infuriated Meng Hao. “Who’s calling who disgusting! Who knows what kind of person your assistant is, pretending to be innocent? Since she wants to be part of this scene, doesn’t she know how complicated it is? Why is she pretending to be innocent with me? Stop acting and get lost!”

The actor was thoroughly incensed by this. “If it weren’t for people like you making up these rules of the industry, you think actors would want to be subjected to unspoken rules?”

One becomes too helpless in this circle. The hierarchy among actors and actresses and the newbies gradually breed a foul atmosphere. And it is these directors and capitalists who allow this ethos, leading to the widespread practice of unspoken rules by many, to make a name for themselves. And those who are truly capable but have principles are buried.

“Heh, don’t make it sound so good! Aren’t people like you just after fame and fortune? Isn’t that what you want? To take advantage of others?”

“How pompous!”

“Okay, you’ve said enough!” Meng Hao interrupted him impatiently. “Hehe, people like you are at the bottom of this industry. People like you deserve to please us! Heh, no matter how glorious you are, you will be suppressed by us for the rest of your lives.”

Then the line was disconnected. Clutching the phone, Hua Jin stood by the French window, shaking with rage.

Damn it!

People like you, no matter how glorious, will be suppressed by us for the rest of your lives.

Those words cut like a knife.

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The actor clenched his fists. The old scars in his heart had been ripped open, along with scabs and skin. He was a bloody mess.

“Hua Jin...” Liang Yin’s weak voice suddenly came from behind.

The actor didn’t dare turn around lest she saw him in such a sorry state.

Liang Yin was here to return the script when she heard Hua Jin arguing with someone through the door. Worried, she swiped the room key and heard him arguing with Meng Hao.

She felt especially upset when she heard that. For some reason, she felt her heart ache as she looked at Hua Jin's solitary silhouette. She walked over to him and carefully gripped his shoulder. "Hua Jin... are you all right?"

The actor shook his head. "I'm fine."

Liang Yin looked at him quietly, feeling a little uncomfortable. She recalled Qin Zhou's apparent heartache when he talked about the actor at breakfast that morning.

"Actually, I'm no longer taking on artistes, but Hua Jin is the only exception I make."

It was also from Qin Zhou that Liang Yin more or less understood Hua Jin's past.

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She hadn't liked Hua Jin in the past because rumors had it that he behaved like a big shot who bullied newbies and fellow actors on the crew.

That was just a show of his rebellion, his way of standing up to the rules of the entertainment industry. Defiance against those who suppress him. Unlike many celebrities, Hua Jin was forced into the entertainment industry. He was tossed about in the rough waters of the entertainment industry, but he maintained the innocence of a child.

In the context of his past, Liang Yin understood why he had reacted so violently when he found out that the director had asked her to discuss the script that night.

"Liang Yin, I regret it." As he spoke, he turned to face her. There was a certain intensity in his expression. "You'd better never set foot in this circle. You can't afford to lose." He was a victim in the first place. Why would he drag Liang Yin down with him? There was too much darkness and injustice in the circle to begin with. Liang Yin should not have stepped in.

She was stunned for a moment, and smiled. "I used to think you were a perverse and rebellious idol. Actually, Hua Jin... don't you realize that you're a very gentle person?"

The actor was puzzled by her words. "Gentle?"

"Although you have a vicious tongue, the fact is, you always care for others. Thank you. Thank you for being so concerned about me."

They exchanged a glance and smiled at each other.

Liang Yin said with a giggle, "Besides, if I were to really enter the industry, many actresses would be out of a job."

Hua Jin couldn't help challenging her. "What do you mean by that?"

“Look, I’m good at acting, and I’m pretty, and my fee is so affordable. Isn’t it obvious that I’m a lean, mean competitor for a job?”

The actor burst out laughing at that. “Pfft...”

“That’s right!” Liang Yin subconsciously reached out and rubbed his face as if she were coaxing a child. “Oh, why are you so cute when you smile!”

The man slapped her hand away in anger and amusement. “Stop it.”

“I mean it!” Liang Yin pouted and said, “You should smile more!”

The actor gave a crooked smile, reached up and pinched her cheek as well.

The next day.

Liang Yin had gone to attend to some matters and was not at the hotel. Hua Jin had a shoot hence he went on set. There, he ran into the assistant director.

It was rather strange.

He and Meng Hao had a huge argument on the phone just the night before. When they ran into each other, Meng Hao smiled brightly at Hua Jin in the presence of Director Gu. However, Hua Jin did not give him much face and threw him a dirty look. Meng Hao was infuriated by the actor’s reaction, but could only swallow his anger.

Just as Meng Hao was about to have a “talk” with Hua Jin after filming, Qin Zhou unexpectedly dropped in for a site visit. It was a rare occasion that Qin Zhou would pay a visit to the set. This unprecedented move caught the actor off guard.

“What brings you here?”

Qin Zhou didn’t have a real reason for visiting the set, he simply felt like doing so. Instead of answering the actor’s question directly, he sat down in the waiting area like a big shot. The actor immediately served tea to the big boss.

Big Boss Qin spoke. “I don’t think I’ve visited your set since you started filming. Since I’m free today. I’m here to check on you so that you don’t start feeling as though you’ve been orphaned.”

The actor was dumbfounded.

Struck by a sudden thought, Qin Zhou smiled as he recalled the actor’s reaction to seeing him. “You seem to know that I already know about that matter.”

“What matter?”

“That you two have already swapped back into your own bodies.”

The actor chuckled at that.

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“How could someone as astute as you fail to notice something amiss?”

That made sense to the manager.

“Your words really came true. When I woke up this morning, I realized that we have swapped back!” The actor was still shaken. “I guess thanks to your words coming true.”

“So,” Qin Zhou said, his lips suddenly curving into a sinister smile, “does your word count?”

“What exactly?”

“What you promised me. Does that count?”

The actor didn’t react at first. He nodded, taking it for granted. “I do. Of course... wait...”

His eyes widened in alarm. “What do you mean?”

The agent reminded him, “As I recall, you said that if the swap back really happened, you’d streak...”

“...” The actor froze! He frowned and said guiltily, “That was just a joke... a joke. How can you take it seriously!”

“Are you a man?”

“Of course!”

Qin Zhou scoffed at him. “A man’s word is worth its weight in gold. You have to honor even a fart.”

“...” Hua Jin was silent for a moment, then said, “If you say so. What else can I say? We’ll talk about this when we get back to the hotel.”

“What’s the point of waiting till then?” The manager shot him a meaningful glance. “Look, there’s a huge audience here. You might as well show off your body. There might even be reporters around. You’ll get all the headlines tomorrow.”

“...” Hua Jin shuddered involuntarily. He could almost see those headlines.

“Popular young actor goes crazy, strips and streaks on set...”

“No way!” Hua Jin stood firm. “I was only joking. I didn’t mean that for real!”

Qin Zhou said sagely, “Maybe if you streak, Huanyu’s stock price will double tomorrow.”

The actor clenched his fists in accusation. “What a terrible capitalist you are!”

The agent urged, “All right, cut the crap and get on with it.”

“Not happening!”

“Strip!”

“No!”

“Strip!” Qin Zhou seemed to be taking it seriously. He stood up immediately and seemed to loom over the actor.

The actor was instantly terrified. He clasped his fists and begged, "Boss, don't do this. I can even perform a striptease for you in the hotel. But this... Are you serious or are you joking?"

"Do I look like I'm joking with you?"

The actor immediately backed away from him. "Stop it."

"Alright, I'll stop fooling around." Qin Zhou added, "I'm really not interested in your body."

The actor was dumbfounded.

"Where's that little assistant of yours?" Qin Zhou sat back in his seat and asked, "Why haven't I seen her today?"

"She has something to attend to and has made a trip home."

"What's the matter?"

The actor frowned at that, and cast a suspicious glance at him, sniffing.

Qin Zhou saw him sniffing like a puppy and said in disgust, "What are you sniffing for?"

"I smell an affair!" The actor winked. "Why are you so concerned about her today?"

"Is it strange that I care about my employees?"

The actor said seriously, "It's rare for you to ask questions about your personal staff even."

Qin Zhou did not respond.

"Could it be... you're interested in her?"

Before the manager could say anything, the actor continued, "I suppose you're right. After all, you shared a bed. Strictly speaking, it's a love affair."

"If you keep talking nonsense, I'll lop your tongue off."

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"Yesterday, Meng Hao arranged an audition with Liang Yin. Director Gu was quite satisfied with it."

"Meng Hao?" Qin Zhou recognized the name. "Meng Hao is notorious for his ugly behavior in the industry. Why did Liang Yin audition? Is she interested in acting?"

"She seems rather interested in acting."

Qin Zhou thought for a moment. "Since she had passed the audition and Director Gu was very satisfied, what happened after that?"

The actor replied, "Meng Hao invited her to his hotel room that night to discuss the script."

The script...

The manager knitted his brow upon hearing this. This phrase held a deeper meaning in the circle. There were often directors and producers who used the excuse of “discussing the script”, as a lure for those new actors or celebrities who wanted a particular role, to their hotel room to perform indecent deeds.

Of course, this practice was not only limited to male directors. Some of the veteran artistes who were well-resourced were also open to men and women. In particular, many male directors had different tastes. The orientation of many of these directors is a mystery.

Qin Zhou knew that Meng Hao liked to play with women. Sometimes, he would also play with tender young male actors. He was pretty disgusting.

It wasn't as if Qin Zhou had never been tempted by all the willing parties that presented themselves to him over the years of his career, but from his perspective, it was dirty. It was not that he found those actors who fought to become famous to be dirty. Rather, he found such transactions too dirty and didn't want to touch them.

Although, there is a saying that, if one walks by the river often, how can he not wet his shoes?

But who knew what Qin Zhou was made of? It was as if the man was made of steel. His willpower was terrifying.

One thing, though, was tacitly acknowledged by the community. Qin Zhou's people were the untouchables. No matter how insignificant their status, as long as they were under Qin Zhou, no matter how frantic one was, one would not dare trifle with them.

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Therefore, many newcomers who signed up with Huanyu dreamed of being managed by Qin Zhou. This was because becoming Qin Zhou's artiste not only gave them access to fantastic resources, they also did not have to be subject to those ugly unspoken deals.

Those in this circle, even if they didn't take the initiative to offer themselves, sometimes they would be tapped on the shoulder by one of these vile bosses. They could do nothing about it, and had no choice but to oblige. If they did not offer themselves up, the boss would not give them face. At best, the actor may be axed from the partnership, at worst, his online presence might be wiped out.

However, Qin Zhou had the confidence and ability. No one dared to mess with his artistes. Even if there were some who were insensible enough to trifle with him, they would be beaten back in a few moves.

“Meng Hao is too bold. Doesn't he know who Liang Yin works for?”

Although Liang Yin appeared to be only an assistant, she was Hua Jin's assistant. Hua Jin's people were also his people. Meng Hao actually dared to have such designs on her. It was no wonder he saw Meng Hao walking towards Hua Jin when he arrived.

“I had an argument with Meng Hao yesterday.”

“Why?”

“He called me undiscerning.”

Like a schoolboy complaining to his teacher, the actor recounted his argument with Meng Hao the night before.

Qin Zhou's expression remained impassive, but his anger was evident.

"I understand." He said, "I'll take care of it. Just focus on filming."

The actor nodded silently.

In the afternoon, Qin Zhou arranged to meet Meng Hao. When Meng Hao learned that he had been summoned by Qin Zhou, he felt a little guilty.

After his phone call with the actor yesterday, he felt rather remorseful. After all, the man worked for Qin Zhou. It was a little offensive to argue with him like this.

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If Hua Jin didn't take it to heart, that would be fine. If he had taken it to heart and word got back to Qin Zhou, Meng Hao would not be able to bear the consequences.

After all, who was Qin Zhou? The boss of Huanyu. Although Huanyu was a branch of the Shengyu Group and Mu Yazhe was the main legal person of Huanyu, in reality, the real power of Huanyu was already in the hands of Qin Zhou.

The man had already handed over the authority of Huanyu to Qin Zhou. If not for their strong friendship, a huge organization like Huanyu would never have been ceded to him. This meant that Qin Zhou and Mu Yazhe were very close. Most importantly, everyone knew that Mu Yazhe's wife, Yun Shishi, was an artiste managed by Qin Zhou.

Although Yun Shishi hadn't retired after giving birth to a little princess, she wasn't very active anymore. Occasionally, she would take on a high-quality female lead role or attend some charity gala. She had basically refused participation in variety shows, and had pretty much disappeared from the scene.

However, under Qin Zhou's management, as long as Yun Shishi acted in a television drama or movie, its popularity would definitely rise to the top. Whether it was the ratings or the box office, it would be second to none. It would have taken a formidable operation to create such a phenomenon.

Qin Zhou was now mainly in charge of the operations of Huanyu. Hua Jin was about the only active artiste in his charge.

It could be said that all of Qin Zhou's focus was on Hua Jin. Meng Hao was also certain that offending Hua Jin like this would indirectly offend Qin Zhou. Therefore, the next day, he pondered and tried to apologize to Hua Jin. In the end, Hua Jin did not pay attention to him, even in the presence of Director Gu. Meng Hao was utterly embarrassed.

Director Gu also realized that something was amiss. He was compelled to ask Meng Hao what was going on and if he had offended Hua Jin.

How would Meng Hao possibly admit to that? He was still angry. He'd obviously humbled himself, but the actor hadn't even given him so much as a glance. It was embarrassing.

Director Gu even added, "Fortunately, you didn't offend Hua Jin. If you had offended Hua Jin, it would be equivalent to offending Qin Zhou."

The consequences of offending Qin Zhou went without saying.

Meng Hao could no longer sit back and do nothing. Hence, he thought of an opportunity to have a good chat with Hua Jin and get closer to him. In the end, as he was heading to the rest area, he ran into Qin Zhou, who was visiting the set. He quickly left with his tail between his legs. It wasn't long before he received a call from the manager.

On the phone, Qin Zhou's tone was calm. He said he needed to discuss a matter with him.

Meng Hao had a bad feeling. He felt that the meeting with Qin Zhou was more like a trap. Although Meng Hao felt guilty, he mustered his courage and brushed it off. No matter what, since Qin Zhou had asked him out, he had to go.

Qin Zhou had already made the trip anyway..

The two of them had arranged to meet at a café near the film set. As soon as Qin Zhou sat down, Meng Hao's nerves tensed up!

The man before him was clearly in his thirties, but he still had the appearance of a man in his twenties, even more so than Hua Jin.

Except that, even though he looked young, he had a dignified presence. Even though he was smiling, he instilled a sense of fear in others.

Meng Hao first respectfully offered a cigarette.

Qin Zhou took it from him and set it aside. He then took out his own cigarette case and offered Meng Hao one. The latter took it with trepidation. By the time he had it in his hand, he was drenched in cold sweat. He smiled. "CEO Qin, haha! What did you want to see me regarding?"

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Meng Hao made an attempt to light the cigarette for him.

Qin Zhou did not respond to the offer but instead, lit his own cigarette, took a drag, and wedged it gently in the ashtray. "I hear you've had an audition with Liang Yin, is that right?" he asked, his eyes narrowing.

Qin Zhou had indeed asked him out to pursue this matter. He began to feel restless and uneasy. "That's right..."

The manager blew out a puff of smoke, then said casually, "I also heard that you had invited her to your hotel room at night, for a second round of interview?"

"Yes, yes... She's not very familiar with the lines, so I wanted to take a closer look." Meng Hao made up an excuse. However, this excuse was obvious to Qin Zhou.

“Take a closer look?” Qin Zhou was intrigued by those words. “How would you do that? I’ve heard some of Director Meng’s rules. Apparently, the actual auditions are mostly carried out in bed?”

Meng Hao’s posture stiffened. He quickly changed the topic. “Could this Liang Yin be CEO Qin’s staff?”

The manager knocked on the tabletop, reminding the man not to play games. “I’ve asked you a question. You haven’t answered.”

Meng Hao immediately laughed in embarrassment. “CEO Qin, please don’t say that. What do you mean by auditioning in bed? CEO Qin should also know the ways of this industry! In our industry, we face great pressure everyday when casting for roles! Moreover, woman after woman would present themselves to us in succession...”

In other words, Meng Hao pushed the blame to Liang Yin, implying that she had presented herself to him.

Qin Zhou listened with growing displeasure. “You mean my staff had presented herself to you to be taken advantage of, is that it?”

Meng Hao was a little agitated now. “Well... I didn’t touch her at all, did I!” He frowned and decided to be honest. “CEO Qin, I understand why you’ve asked to see me! You’re here to seek justice for Liang Yin, right?! Since that’s the case, I think you’re making a mountain out of a molehill. This matter didn’t even happen! But after what you’ve said, I also know that in the future, I won’t lay a finger on your staff, even if they’re just a lowly assistant! You have my word on it, alright!”

He felt rather aggrieved. If he had slept with this person and taken advantage of her, he would have felt somewhat guilty being approached this way. However, he had not even taken a bite of the fatty meat before him yet he was now being interrogated by Qin Zhou. He could not help feeling annoyed.

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Qin Zhou noticed the change in the man’s expression. He raised an eyebrow, then casually picked up his coffee cup and took a sip. There was a long, dead silence.

Meng Hao couldn’t take it anymore. He stood up and bowed to Qin Zhou. “I have some work to do in the production team and need to get back in a hurry! Hehe, CEO Qin, please allow me to take my leave first!” He made a move to leave.

Qin Zhou, however, seemed to take his time. He didn’t even look up. “Did I say you may leave?” he asked.

“...”

“I remember when we first met, you were a small-time producer. Now that you’ve been promoted to assistant director and are more experienced, you don’t think much of others? Hmm?”

Of course Meng Hao did not dare to leave upon hearing this. He could only sit down again obediently and didn’t dare to move.