

Sweet Love 4001

Chapter 4001: A Perfect Match (197)

“Yang Mi had had plastic surgery?” Liang Yin had thought all along that Yang Mi had natural good looks, but it was true that she had disappeared from the scene in recent times.

The actor nodded. “Yes. The vast majority of people in the industry get plastic surgery just to look good on camera.”

“I think her lips look a little unnatural, but unless you look closely, you’d think there’s nothing wrong with them.”

The actor started to spill the beans, “Her lips have been operated on to make them look like she’s pouting, the corners have also been cut to give an impression of a slight smile. Dimples were surgically created.”

Liang Yin fell silent.

“Well then...” She was beginning to dig around for gossip. “Has Yun Shishi had plastic surgery?”

“What do you think?”

“I think she’s very pretty. And her features are very natural. She doesn’t look as if she’s gone under the knife. Most of all, I think she has a really good presence. She’s a goddess!”

“Of course! Shishi is a natural beauty!” For some reason, Hua Jin was especially pleased when Liang Yin praised Yun Shishi. He seemed even happier than if he were the one being praised!

“I’ve seen her in ‘Innocence’. Although at that time, youth films were often criticized. However, this film starring her and Gu Xingze was a supreme youth film. I reckon there’s no parallel!”

...

The actor said, “A good script, a good production crew, good actors, good post-production, good publicity, and the support of the audience—all these factors came together to make this movie what it was.”

“Her acting skills are more natural, she doesn’t come across pretentious at all. It’s easy to be drawn in by her character. When she cries, I can even feel her real heartache. Yang Mi’s crying scene, on the other hand, feels like she’s moaning for no reason. I felt that in many of the scenes, she really had difficulty crying. She forces a few tears just to try to convince the audience.”

“Hahaha!”

The actor couldn’t stop laughing. “Actually, I don’t dislike Yang Mi, but I can’t bring myself to like her, either. Nevertheless, I have to say something on her behalf, in response to your remarks!”

“Like what?”

“In the past, Yang Mi had excellent acting skills. After all, she was a professional stream student and also Xu Ke’s favorite student. When she first debuted, she had good acting skills. Later, perhaps there was

too much fillers in her face, her expression became relatively stiff. Moreover, her facial muscles were filled with hyaluronic acid. When she cried and laughed, it didn't look very natural. It looked very fake, not because of her acting skills."

"I see... In that case, I was wrong about her." She sighed nevertheless. "It's the actresses from the previous generation who are truly exceptional."

"It boils down to the filters from that era. They're relatively blurry, and the facial lines aren't clearly captured. If we use the current high-definition cameras, there's nowhere to hide." Then he added, "But I pay more attention to temperament. I think no one can compare to our Shishi in terms of temperament."

"Fine, fine. Your Shishi is the most beautiful and elegant."

"That's a fact!"

The two of them continued to banter in the room. They had finished memorizing the script. Perhaps feeling rather bored, they gossiped till late at night before they went to bed.

...

Li Changde's class took place once a week.

Qin Zhou had obviously made a huge investment in Liang Yin, with each lesson costing a hundred thousand yuan. It was even said that the price was a special mate's rate for Qin Zhou.

Now that Li Changde was no longer lecturing, he could retire in peace. In order to compel him, Qin Zhou had approached him no less than three times, like how Liu Bei had invited Zhuge Liang.

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Chapter 4002: A Perfect Match (198)

Initially, Li Changde was moved by Qin Zhou's sincerity. Later on, he really felt that Liang Yin was a good seedling and put serious effort into teaching her.

In the fifth class, Liang Yin thought that she would have to spend another class suffering the wrath of Li Changde. Unexpectedly, Li Changde praised her for the first time!

"Pretty good attempt!" Li Changde gave such a comment. Liang Yin was overjoyed!

The remark was not to be underestimated. It was a great compliment coming from Li Changde!

"But don't get cocky!" Li Changde muttered, "Young woman, don't feel smug just because of a little praise. Calm down and settle down. Give more thought to the details!"

"It's rare for you to praise me. Can't I be happy?" Liang Yin half wheedled.

After a few lessons, she had made a good impression on Li Changde. He had gradually grown to like this humble student. He held nothing back and taught her everything.

“The acting profession was actually derived from stage drama. In the old days, when there were no television dramas or movies, there was only a stage. A few people would put on their costumes and sing opera on it. They danced with guns and sticks, and the audience wanted to have a good time. Later on, Chinese film and television developed. The first TV series, ‘A Mouthful of Pancake’, was filmed, and that was the beginning.” After a pause, Li Changde continued, “Life is like a play. A play is like life. A really good actor will bring real life situations onto the stage, and make it convincing. Other than some people being talented, it’s more about learning. Look, there was a painter in the past who carried a chair and sat on the street to paint characters. He observed the expressions of everyone who passed by. Only then could he put the spirit in the characters he drew.”

“First of all, to bring your character to life, you have to know the character. For example, if you’re acting as a police officer, you have to act out that righteous aura! Carefully analyze the characters’ personalities and expressions. Use your everyday observation, life experience is also an important part. Otherwise, why would someone go to a mental hospital to experience it for a few weeks, in order to play the role of a mad person?”

The man added, “Also, the most important thing is that you have to be able to understand the script. You have to carefully understand the psychology of this character and immerse yourself in the role. As an actor, you have to get into character first. Otherwise, it’s impossible to expect the audience to get into character! Also, your lines are a little lacking. Practice them more. You have to know that none of my students use post-production dubbing! Only in China do we have dubbing actors. In the past, foreign dubbing actors were all actors. They dubbed animation and foreign translations. They all recited their own lines. But in this country, look at the young people these days. Some of them can’t even speak Mandarin well before coming to act. What a disgrace!”

...

It was obvious that Old Master Li was very dissatisfied with the current state of the entertainment industry. Liang Yin listened to him grumble for a while before ending the day’s lesson.

It happened that Qin Zhou had some free time, and came to take her back to the hotel.

Along the way, Liang Yin was in high spirits and bragged to Qin Zhou, “Teacher praised me today! He said that I’ve improved a lot!”

The man smiled and said, “That’s a good thing!”

“That’s right. You don’t know how hard it is to get a good word from him!”

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As Liang Yin spoke, she probed, “Say, this lesson costs 100,000 yuan. Are you the one paying for the tuition fees?”

“It’s paid by the company.”

“Well then...”

“It’s paid for by the company.”

“Well then...” Liang Yin was worried. “What if I can’t earn it back?”

Qin Zhou smiled. “The artistes I manage only complain about making too much money. None of them complain about not making enough. Usually, packaging a newcomer from debut to fame costs at least a few million dollars. What we’re spending on you is not a big deal, you don’t have to worry about it.”

Liang Yin vowed, “I will definitely do a good job and not let you down.”

“The most important thing is not to let yourself down.”

“Uh huh!”

...

A week after signing the contract, the signing on bonus was wired into Liang Yin’s bank account.

It was early in the morning, and Liang Yin had just woken up when she heard an alert coming from her cell phone.

She picked up her phone and saw a credit message. She clicked it open and let out an audible gasp. “So ... much ... money ...”

She had once thought that a million dollars was an exorbitant amount. She did not expect Qin Zhou to be so generous. Just the signing fee alone was a hefty five million!

Five million for a newbie!

What was that?!

.....

Hua Jin had only signed a contract for 100,000 yuan back then, and this was clearly because he had good qualifications and would definitely be a good return on investment. Most newcomers would not even be able to sign a contract with a company like Huanyu. To be offered a contract, most of them would have been firmly backed by an investor. Furthermore, they would give Huanyu a huge sum of money to package their artistes.

Liang Yin was the only exception who had debuted with no such conditions and even received a contract fee of five million yuan.

She was stunned. Ecstatic, she called Hua Jin and exclaimed, “Hua Jin! I’ve struck it rich!”

“...”

...

“Five million!?”

When the actor learned that she had received a five-million-yuan signing fee, he was filled with envy and jealousy. He said indignantly, “Why should a newbie like you have a contract fee of five million yuan!”

Ahhhhh! Jealousy makes one ugly!

Liang Yin said with a grin, "Aren't you envious!?"

"It's really strange, though. Qin Zhou didn't open the back door, did he!"

"Why do you say that?"

"Because..." Qin Zhou said incredulously, "Back when Gu Xingze signed with Huanyu, it was only ten million. You've got half of what he had."

"But he was newly-debuted at that time. In that era, ten million yuan was far more valuable than ten million yuan now, right?"

"That's true too." After a pause, Hua Jin continued, "However, in the current market, almost no newcomer will be offered such a sum of signing fee!"

He said with some suspicion, "Don't tell me Qin Zhou slept with..."

"Don't be ridiculous!" Liang Yin snorted. "Is that jealousy you're displaying?"

"Don't tell me, Qin Zhou is interested in you?"

Liang Yin turned red at once. "How is that possible?"

"Why wouldn't it be? Then I can't imagine why Qin Zhou would give you such a hefty contract signing fee."

'Well! Let's stop dwelling on that!'

"I don't care. Witness gets a share. Give me two million."

"No way."

"Petty!"

"Would you have that kind of money if I hadn't brought you into this business?" he argued. "How does it feel to be wealthy overnight?"

Liang Yin held her phone lovingly. "I feel like an instant tycoon!"

"You'll make even more after your debut."

Liang Yin immediately patted her chest and said, "Since I've been paid, how about I treat you to a big meal today?"

Chapter 4004: A Perfect Match (200)

"Who's interested in a treat?!" The actor paused and immediately grinned. "Unless it's a sponsored daily feast for a whole year, that's more reasonable!"

Liang immediately cried out in grievance. "Are you a vampire? A year's worth of meals and, given your appetite, Michelin every day. That would be the end of me!"

“I don’t care!”

“A month!”

“Six months!”

“Two months!”

“Six months!”

“Three months!”

The actor raised his eyebrows and gave the tabletop a firm knock. “Okay, deal!”

Liang Yin was stunned. Eh? Was he not going to continue negotiating his way up? It felt as though... she’d been tricked!

...

However, since she had given her word, she had to stick by it.

The next day, Liang Yin immediately organized a meal with Hua Jin and Qin Zhou and made a restaurant booking. She planned to treat them to a feast as a celebration.

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As soon as he heard that Liang Yin had hired Qin Zhou as her manager, Hua Jin immediately sensed an ulterior motive. Could it be that this woman wanted to get closer to Qin Zhou?

The actor finished his filming early, but Liang Yin had been delayed by the director. A small misunderstanding arose.

It turned out that the actor wanted an early dinner, so he told the director in advance that he had something to do tonight and hoped to finish filming his scenes early. In the production team, this privilege was always there.

Recently, the director had been pleased with the actor’s performance. Coupled with the fact that he was in an excellent mood, he readily agreed.

Unexpectedly...

The director had moved the filming of his scene ahead of the rest of the supporting cast, but alas, Liang Yin’s scene with the female lead was moved to the end. By the time they were done, it was past five in the evening. If Hua hadn’t called the restaurant, they would have lost their reservation.

As it turned out, Qin Zhou was delayed even longer. He was held up in a company meeting, and eventually this took another hour.

Liang Yin and Hua Jin sat in the restaurant waiting, disappointed that Qin Zhou had not arrived.

“When exactly is he coming?”

“Uh...” Liang Yin asked Hua Jin curiously, “Is he always so busy?”

“Uh huh.” The actor nodded. “After all, Qin Zhou is one of Huanyu’s top executives. He handles all of Huanyu’s affairs. He must be very busy.”

“I see...” Liang Yin looked down, but the actor happened to look past her at this point and saw a woman entering the restaurant, then slowly walking towards their booth.

“Isn’t this Li Jing?”

“Li Jing?” Liang Yin frowned. “That name is so familiar! I think I’ve heard it somewhere.”

“Are you stupid or something.” The actor reminded her, “This is the actress who was fired by the director before you joined the cast. She was supposed to play the role of the Kokakuchō!”

“Ah... I remember now! Was it... the woman you said had had an abortion because she’d been knocked up and it delayed filming?”

“Uh huh!”

Liang Yin felt inexplicably guilty and did not dare to look back. “Which way is she coming? Did she see me?”

“Why are you acting so guilty?”

“I don’t know. It feels weird...”

“She’s coming over.”

As soon as he said that, Liang Yin lowered her head in guilt, like an ostrich.

The actor’s gloom deepened. Li Jing walked past the booth. Initially, she did not see Liang Yin, but she recognized Hua Jin at a glance and immediately walked over with a smile to greet him.

Chapter 4005: A Perfect Match (201)

“Oh look, it’s Hua Jin!”

Despite his dislike of her, the actor smiled politely. “How do you do?”

“What brings you here? Are you dining here too?” As Li Jing spoke, she turned her head and glanced at Liang Yin. Her expression changed drastically. She felt that this woman with her head lowered was inexplicably familiar, but she could not remember her name.

After thinking for a long time, she suddenly seemed taken aback. Her frown deepened.

It was her...

Some time ago, a staff member she knew from the production team sent her a stolen shot on WeChat. It was a photograph of Liang Yin, taken secretly on the set. One was a side profile and the other was a frontal shot of her face. Although it was a little blurry, Liang Yin’s facial features were very recognizable. Therefore, Li Jing recognized at once that the woman before her was Liang Yin.

“It’s... it’s you! Liang Yin!”

Li Jing immediately smiled and greeted her warmly. Seeing that she could not avoid it, Liang Yin could only brace herself and raise her head. The corners of her mouth twitched stiffly. "Hello! Senior Li Jing!"

"Hehehe! An address such as Senior is too grand a title for me!"

For some reason, Li Jing felt that the stiff smile on Liang Yin's face was an eyesore. It was a forced half-smile. She even felt that there was a hint of malice and mockery in that smile.

Could it be that she looked down on her?!

...

Or was it...

As to Liang Yin taking over the role of the Kokakuchō, Li Jing already had some groundless guesses. However, her half-smile and her deliberate avoidance now only gave the older actress more reasons to find the situation odd.

"You two ... just the two of you?"

The actor said immediately, "We have an appointment with Qin Zhou! But he'll be a little late. We're waiting for him."

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"Oh I see, CEO Qin! But, Hua Jin, why did you bring Liang Yin to dinner with your manager?"

The actor clarified at once, "Liang Yin is also an artiste under Qin Zhou."

"What?" Li Jing looked surprised. "Didn't Qin Zhou say that he would no longer be managing any artiste personally? Now he's signed on an artiste?"

Hua Jin suddenly sounded neutral. "I have no right to ask about CEO Qin's personal business!"

When Li Jing heard this, she felt awkward as well, and casually said to Liang Yin with a smile, "Aiya, you're lucky to be managed by CEO Qin!"

With that, she left dejectedly.

The actor had said that because he wanted to protect Liang Yin. On the one hand, he was reminding Li Jing that Liang Yin worked for Qin Zhou and that she was not to be disrespectful. On the other hand, he was telling her that she was not welcome.

Li Jing looked embarrassed.

Liang Yin watched as Li Jing took her leave. However she felt a lingering fear. She did not say it, but the way Li Jing glared at her just then was quite frightening. Although the woman was smiling, there was hostility in her eyes, as though she couldn't wait to gouge a piece of flesh from her body.

Too scary.

Li Jing found a seat by the window and sat down. However, she was upset. She had not expected to meet Liang Yin in this restaurant. However, the chance meeting caused a sense of humiliation to well up

inside. She had always suspected that her role had been intercepted. She didn't believe the director had fired her over such a small matter. Someone must have been behind it.

Thus, she began to suspect Liang Yin. She suspected that this unknown newcomer had intercepted her role. The role of Kokakuchō was very important to her.

Chapter 4006: A Perfect Match (202)

What mattered was not how good the movie was. The point was, because this movie was starring Hua Jin, and one of the investors was Huanyu. This meant that the show would definitely occupy the popularity rankings from the moment it was aired. Furthermore, Huanyu would do everything to promote it. That would only mean more exposure and popularity for the show.

What Li Jing lacked the most was popularity and audience. If she could use Hua Jin's current status to gain some popularity for herself, then needless to say, it was to her own advantage.

The role of the Kokakuchō didn't take up much of the show, but it was definitely an important character. Besides, it had a good persona and would certainly attract a lot of fans.

She had hoped that with this role, she would be able to take her career to the next level. However, she did not expect that just as she was about to complete the filming of all her parts in the film... The director had actually fired her. Moreover, all her scenes had been edited and deleted, and the role given to a new actress.

This newcomer was Liang Yin. How could she not hate her?

From where Li Jing sat in the booth, she could see Liang Yin's face. She watched Liang Yin and Hua Jin playing with their phones sitting opposite each other, as if they were very familiar with each other.

Anyone else sitting in front of Hua Jin would have been so nervous that they wouldn't know what to do. Taking herself for example, with her status, she didn't even have the clout to sit at the same table as him. Even if she did, she would be trembling in fear of offending him by making the slightest mistake.

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On the other hand, Liang Yin looked as if she was friends with Hua Jin. Li Jing was even more suspicious of her relationship with Qin Zhou! Could it be that Liang Yin was very close to Qin Zhou, so Hua Jin was naturally also close to her?

After all, Qin Zhou was his superior.

In that case, one could not help but wonder what method Liang Yin had used to get where she was!

Li Jing had been secretly observing them. She saw Hua looking at the time and then he gestured to the waiter. After a few words with the waiter, the latter started to serve the dishes.

It seemed they weren't going to wait.

The two of them talked as they ate. From time to time, Liang Yin looked out of the window, as if waiting for her manager.

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After a while, Li Jing saw Liang Yin standing up and walking towards the restroom. She stood up, followed behind her and entered the restroom.

Liang Yin walked out of the cubicle. Just as she came to the sink, she ran into Li Jing!

She was shocked and immediately reacted. Her lips twitched stiffly. "Why, Senior Li Jing, it's you."

"Spill the beans!" Li Jing spoke without any warning, and looked as though she was announcing a verdict. "How did you get the role of the Kokakuchō?!"

Liang's heart skipped a beat. She said honestly, "I... Hua Jin told me that they were looking for someone to fill the role, and he helped me to secure an audition for the role!"

"Hmph."

Li Jing had no obvious edge, she could only say sarcastically, "And there I was wondering why the director fired me for no reason. So it was you who intercepted me for the role!"

Liang Yin was stunned to hear this. From the sound of it, Li Jing suspected that Liang Yin was the one who had secretly intercepted her, and caused her to be fired from the production team.

Being misunderstood, Liang Yin felt a little aggrieved. But what she didn't understand was, why did Li Jing have to interpret her in this manner?

Chapter 4007: A Perfect Match (203)

But the problem was... Didn't the director fire her in a fit of anger because she had casual relations with someone on the set, gotten herself pregnant and had an abortion? In the process, she kept many of the actors in the production team waiting for days?

The actor had also told her about this. It should be quite credible.

Why was she saying things to pin all the blame on her?

Liang Yin smiled and immediately said, "Senior Li Jing, you're wrong. I didn't intercept you for the role. How would it be possible to snatch the role from you? I didn't use any means to get this role. I fear no guilty conscience as I definitely didn't use improper methods to secure this role."

With that, Liang Yin turned to leave. However, Li Jing stopped her. "Fear no guilty conscience? Isn't that so well-said! Then shouldn't you explain why Huanyu's top manager, Qin Zhou, who has long since stepped back and stopped taking on celebrities, now make a comeback managing an unknown newbie like you?"

The woman maintained a polite attitude. In case this Liang Yin was related to Qin Zhou in some way, she would at least have some space to retreat completely.

Liang pursed her lips and said, "It's not what you think between CEO Qin and I. I don't know why he signed me on, but it's my honor that he's willing to take me! Also, CEO Qin is a very good person. Please

respect him and don't speculate about our relationship!" Besides, why should she need to report the nature of her relationship with Qin Zhou to this woman?

"Something..." Li Jing said coldly, "...happened between the two of you?"

"..."

"You don't have to hide it! Since we're all in the same circle, don't think you can hide these dirty tricks from others! To put it nicely, it's just a fig leaf. Who doesn't know how you got to where you are?! But it's your own fault for having such a pretty face. Otherwise, you wouldn't have been able to charm Qin Zhou. I do envy you, though. Qin Zhou is a powerful man. You're lucky to have hooked him!"

Liang was stunned. She had not expected Li Jing to speculate so maliciously about her relationship with Qin Zhou! She immediately became serious given that Qin Zhou was now implicated.

...

"Please show some respect!" She was extremely protective of Qin Zhou. She didn't want her manager to be thought of in such a negative way because of her.

"Why?!" Li Jing smirked. "Don't think I don't know what kind of person Qin Zhou is. I found out when he signed on Yun Shishi. She's done a lot of dirty things in the past to get to the top. Poor Mu Yazhe of the Shengyu Group. He promised such a dirty woman a grand wedding. He's been made a cuckold!"

Smack!

Liang Yin slapped the woman without thinking. She said angrily, "Don't you dare criticize Yun Shishi like that!"

She had only interacted with Yun Shishi a few times, but she had a wonderful impression of her. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that she was quite a goddess.

She had also seen the truest Mu Yazhe and Yun Shishi. They looked like a loving couple. She would never believe that Yun Shishi was as unscrupulous and promiscuous as Li Jing claimed. Li Jing was so blasphemous that it finally made her explode!

"You know exactly why the director fired you. Everyone knows it. Just because I don't say it doesn't mean I don't!"

Chapter 4008: A Perfect Match (204)

Yun Shishi and Mu Yazhe had taken good care of her during the trip to the Halfway Hot Spring, hence Liang Yin knew what she was like.

She was Mu Yazhe's wife, the wife of the chief of Shengyu Financial Group, and a goddess of the entertainment industry. Her status was unshakable.

Li Jing was so blasphemous that it finally made her explode! She was judging a gentleman by the standard of her own pettiness!

No one would believe that Yun Shishi would betray her husband and get herself entangled with another man. It wasn't that Qin Zhou wasn't as good as Mu Yazhe, but there was no need for Yun Shishi to do that at all.

Moreover, Qin Zhou and Mu Yazhe were very close. Given Mu Yazhe's way of doing things, would anyone be able to hide anything from him, if he wanted to find out something? The fact that he and Qin Zhou were so close only proved that there was nothing between the latter and Yun Shishi.

It was bad enough that Li Jing had criticized her, but now, she'd even humiliated Qin Zhou and Yun Shishi. Liang Yin could not tolerate this!

"Don't you dare insult Qin Zhou and Yun Shishi like that!" Liang Yin said angrily, "Li Jing, I respect you as my senior, so I've always been very polite to you. But don't take my respect for you as nothing! People want face, and trees want skin. Do you think no one knows why you were fired from the production team?"

When Li Jing heard this, her expression changed and she turned ashen. "What do you mean by that?"

Liang Ying snorted and said, "Almost everyone is talking about your promiscuous relationships while you were on the production team. Rumors don't just come from nowhere. You can't deny that!"

Li Jing's face darkened. "What nonsense are you talking about!"

"You know what I'm talking about, you don't need me to spell it out for you."

...

"Who did you hear such a thing from!"

Liang Yin did not betray Hua Jin. She subconsciously felt that Li Jing was a rather sinister woman. She had also heard that anyone who could enter the entertainment industry definitely had some means. Therefore, she did not dare to expose what Hua Jin had said. She only let on, "Many people have said that. It has spread throughout the production team. People don't say it aloud, but they know in their hearts why you were fired by the director! Therefore, don't even go thinking that I was the one who intercepted and stole your role. If you had been acting well and the director was satisfied, would he have fired you?"

"Hmph!" Li Jing immediately calmed down. She mocked, "Do you think I don't know? Director was satisfied? My acting skills are not something a newbie like you can come up against!"

"Ha!" Liang Yin did not want to waste her breath arguing with such a person. She knew that Li Jing was mocking her and implying that she must have been subject to the unspoken rules of the assistant director.

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She wasn't the Liang Yin of the past anymore, who couldn't tell what was going on. She just couldn't be bothered to point it out. There was no benefit in arguing with a narrow-minded person like Li Jing. Hence she brought her manager into the picture. "As you know, I'm an artiste under my manager's personal management. As you said, if I did manage to get to where I am by some means, aren't you afraid of offending me and my manager?"

Qin Zhou had told her previously. If she ran into anything tricky, don't hesitate to use his name to hold the fort. In the entertainment industry, there was nothing that Qin Zhou could not handle.

As expected, Li Jing backed down when she heard Qin Zhou's name. Liang Yin was right that she did not dare offend Qin Zhou. She bit her tongue and finally stopped talking nonsense.

Chapter 4009: A Perfect Match (205)

Without further ado, Liang Yin turned around and returned to her seat. At that point, Qin Zhou had already arrived. Liang Yin sat down slowly. When she saw Qin Zhou, she put aside her unhappiness and asked him, "Why are you so late?"

"You dare criticize Qin Zhou!" Hua Jin grumbled, "I thought you went to the restroom? What took you so long?"

As he spoke, Hua Jin saw from the corner of his eye that Li Jing had also returned to her seat nearby with a gloomy expression. He couldn't help feeling a little suspicious. Seeing that Li Jing had also walked over from the restroom, he asked Liang Yin, "Was she in the restroom too just then?"

"Uh huh."

"She... didn't make things difficult for you or anything, did she?" the actor probed, concerned.

Liang Yin immediately smiled. "She knows that I'm Qin Zhou's artiste and didn't dare to make things too difficult for me."

"Well, well, well, well," the actor replied with a smile.

Hearing this, Qin Zhou figured out what had gone on. Li Jing happened to run into Liang Yin here. She knew about Liang Yin and also knew that Liang Yin had replaced her for the Kokakuchō role.

Having already lost such an important role was enough for Li Jing to feel depressed. It was inevitable that she would suspect the methods Liang Yin had used in order to secure this role.

Qin Zhou made a mental note to deal with this stumbling block later. Although Li Jing was not an important figure, she simply had to push her weight a little.

Liang Yin had yet to officially debut. These thorns in the flesh had to be thoroughly dealt with.

...

"Let's eat!" Qin Zhou said.

Liang Yin and Hua Jin exchanged a glance and dug in.

As he ate, Qin Zhou asked, "The little princess' birthday is just around the corner. Have you decided what to give her?"

Hua Jin slapped his forehead, saying, "I haven't bought anything. I don't know what to buy!"

Soon, it would be Yueyao's third birthday. It was the hardest thing to think of a present for this child.

Giving her jewelry was too tacky. After all, she was a three-year-old child. Gold, silver, and jewelry were more commonly gifts from the older generation. Children liked childish items for sure, but this was the hardest thing to think of.

Building blocks?

The Mu family's nursery room was filled with the most popular toys. One would only have to remember the position held by Yueyao's elder brother. He was the chairman of Lezhi Holdings. It could be said that all of Yueyao's childhood toys were contracted by Youyou. One couldn't possibly give her toys.

"Well then..." Hua Jin probed his agent, "what are you planning to send?"

"I've already ordered a BJD doll a year in advance. It's custom-made according to Yueyao's image."

The actor was speechless.

"But it must be expensive, right?"

"Not really. It's only 300,000."

"..."

And that was considered "inexpensive"? Hua Jin's lips twitched.

This Qin Zhou was too cunning. He had actually started planning this year's birthday gift a year in advance. Now Hua Jin started worrying. For a moment he had no idea what to give her. Liang Yin was even more flustered.

A few hundred thousand was considered inexpensive? Poverty limited her imagination.

The actor said, "Liang Yin, let me ask you something."

"What?"

"What gifts did you hope to receive most when you were a child?"

When Liang Yin heard this, her expression became a little uncomfortable.

"I never celebrated my birthday as a child."

"How so?"

"Because..." Liang Yin laughed dryly. "No one ever remembered my birthday. As time passed, I also felt that there was no need to celebrate my birthday."

So she'd never received any birthday presents.

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She'd grown up in a broken family and never had a complete family, let alone celebrated a birthday. It was as if her arrival was not worth celebrating.

Hua Jin saw the loneliness on her face and thought he had brought up some unhappy memories. "I'm sorry," he said awkwardly.

"Ah, why are you apologizing?" Liang Yin quickly explained, "Actually, I don't think it's a big deal. I don't value birthdays either. However, if it were me, during my childhood..." She tried to imagine it and continued unhurriedly, "Whatever it is, I'll love it as long as it's for my birthday."

"Really?!"

"Well, actually, it doesn't matter what you give as a birthday gift. It's the thought that counts. That sense of anticipation when you're about to unwrap a present is incomparable. It doesn't matter if it's expensive or not. It's mainly the feeling of looking forward to the surprise!"

Qin Zhou gave her a long look but said nothing. "When's your birthday?" he asked, feigning casualness.

"I ... don't think I remember either. I've never really celebrated my birthday..."

The actor pestered Qin Zhou, "Qin Zhou, help me think. What should I get Yueyao for her birthday?"

"Do your own thinking!" The manager snorted. "Too late to buy a birthday present, don't you think? If you'd prepared it earlier, you wouldn't be so flustered now!"

The actor ignored him and said to Liang Yin, "Accompany me to the mall tomorrow!"

Qin Zhou immediately cut him off. "She's got class tomorrow. If you wish to go, you'll have to go by yourself."

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The actor looked hurt.

Seeing Hua Jin's devastated expression, Liang Yin couldn't help laughing. "How about this? I'm free tomorrow night. I can accompany you to the mall!"

"Yay! You're the best."

The actor shot his manager a smug look. Liang Yin smiled, but the corners of her lips suddenly froze. For some odd reason, she envied Yueyao. There was even a hint of jealousy.

Of course, there was no malice in such jealousy. It was just pure envy that Yueyao could grow up in such a wonderful environment, with her mother and father doting on her, and the entire family treating her like a precious pearl.

People were born into different worlds indeed.

...

That evening, after Qin Zhou got home and as he was walking past his study, a sudden thought struck him. He walked into the study. There was a stack of documents on the desk.

He picked it up casually, went through a few pages, and opened one of them. It was Liang Yin's personal particulars. On it was Liang Yin's ID number. With her ID number, Qin Zhou obtained her date of birth.

Generally, on the identification document, one's birthday would be indicated based on the Gregorian calendar. Then, in lunar terms... It would be early next month.

Qin Zhou smiled, snapped the file shut, and left the study.

...

The actor pestered Liang Yin to go to the mall with him to buy a gift. Finally, under her guidance, he selected a princess dress. Liang Yin especially liked it.

Hua Jin did not know how to choose a girl's birthday present, but looking at the dress Liang Yin had chosen, it was the right size and very beautiful. He bought it for 20,000.

Yueyao's birthday fell on the weekend. Hua Jin had wanted to bring Liang Yin along, but she had to stay on set to catch up on filming progress. Hence, she asked Hua Jin to help deliver the gift she had prepared.