

## Sweet Love 981

### Chapter 981: 'The Love Diary'

The style of the song was light and brisk, and one could recite it with ease. It was sweet and filled with warmth; thus, it quickly received widespread popularity.

Those who had seen the movie's plot in the music video were all now avidly waiting for the release of the movie.

The movie was set to premiere during the golden primetime at this year's end. As the target audience was mainly students, it would be up during the winter holidays.

Lin Fengtian held high expectations for the movie's revenue. Expected to become a box-office hit, the movie's premiere was estimated to generate over two billion dollars in profits!

These few days were packed with programs. The movie would soon be finalized as its shooting and was nearing completion.

Following that would be the commencement of post-production editing. The production team was already preparing for the promotional period before the eventual release of the movie.

Huanyu had every intention to market Gu Xingze and Yun Shishi as a CP 1 to hype up the movie, as well as to pander to the movie's plot.

Linking the main leads of an upcoming movie was an old and proven marketing strategy in the entertainment industry to garner more attention.

With the imaginative minds of the masses, this tactic was truly well-trying.

Qin Zhou had accepted a few program guestings for his charge. One of them was a reality TV show called 'The Love Diary', which had a heavy manuscript.

It was an authentic reality show of Chengguang Channel, and 'imaginary love' was its selling point.

In the show, celebrities were made to act as lovers as they participated in a series of challenges.

In just a few weeks, this TV show had quickly climbed up to popularity.

Gu Xingze and Yun Shishi were the second pairing for the show.

Because of the superstar, their pairing was given a lot of attention!

Of course, as reality TV shows went, there would always be scripts ready. After all, they needed to make their dialogues and such interesting!

If not, where would the topics and viewer ratings come from?

The recording for the show was set the next month, and the script for it would be sent to her before that. Once it was time, all she had to do was follow the script.

When she heard that her manager had accepted this program for her, she was a little speechless.

Qin Zhou glanced at her. “What? Are you unwilling? Shishi, you need to be more thoughtful! Do you know how many female celebs hope to participate in ‘The Love Diary’ as Gu Xingze’s partner to ride on his coattails?”

“He he! I must be really lucky, then!” She stuck out her tongue.

“It’s good that you know!” He knocked her on the head. “We have a tight schedule this week; in fact, we have another show to participate tonight.”

“What show?”

“It’s ‘Up Close with a Starlight’; make sure to perform well!” answered her manager while handing her some paper. “This is the script for that show; go read through this first.”

All the questions that the TV host would ask, and how she should answer them, were in this script. She just had to memorize everything; that was all.

‘Up Close with a Starlight’ was a famous talk show. The host line-up was made up of big TV personalities. The chief host was Liu Fei, a top entertainer in the field. He had a very profound knowledge for hosting and among other things. Not only did he have a high cultural insight, he was also witty and charming.

Under his leadership, the show’s atmosphere was relaxed and humorous. As he made the audience laugh, he would often share a few wise sayings.

Most people who had been on his show were mainly relaxed and were not forced to crack jokes or act silly.

Usually, a total of ten guests would be invited for one program. They were split into first and second batch.

Yun Shishi and Gu Xingze were part of the first batch.

The show segment that their batch was set to appear in would be aired at primetime; thus, the viewership was the highest.

*Footnotes:*

### **Ch 981 Footnote 1**

CP means ‘character pairing’.

### **Chapter 982: Hying the CP**

The show segment that their batch was set to appear in would be aired at primetime; thus, the viewership was the highest.

Lu Jingtian, Li Jiuxian, and Yang Mi would also make their appearances in the show with them.

Qin Zhou had chosen an elegant dress for his charge. Such gowns were very suitable to Yun Shishi as they made her look classy.

It was apparent that he was purposely pairing her to the superstar as he had also chosen a formal attire with a matching color to hers for the superstar.

When she rushed to the broadcast station's waiting room and saw the superstar's suit, her face turned red.

This was clearly a couple outfit, right?

"So compatible!" praised her manager from the side.

She said miserably, "I'll get trampled on by Xingze's fans on Weibo tonight because of you!"

"Stupid! It's good to get trampled on. This means that you are trending. The scariest thing that can happen to a celebrity is not to be talked about!" barked her agent.

"..."

How could she protest?

This promotional method had only been in motion for a bit, yet her Weibo was already being encircled by the superstar's fans.

Once this program was aired, it would be strange if she was not crushed by them!

"Won't it be fine if you don't look at it?" He laughed.

"I am afraid that people will send me razor blades," she confessed.

He was silent.

In reality, she had already received quite a few threatening letters.

That was why she had lingering fears.

One of the hosts, Lu Fei, met with her specially before the recording.

When they met for the first time, the host gave off a refined and courteous vibe. He had a very good impression of her as well.

Unlike the common newbies, she was especially polite. Her courtesy and respect came from the bottom of her heart. Seeing her for the first time, he felt that this lady was really not bad!

He had seen cuts of the movie, but after seeing her in person, he thought that she was classier than on the screen.

He had a simple interaction with her before they went through their lines. After exchanging a few more words, he left.

They began airing the program. Because the show was live, they could not afford to make any mistakes. The program director went through the script with her before she climbed on stage. He warned

repeatedly, “This is live, so please avoid making mistakes. If anything happens while on air, it can’t be edited out.”

The program started. Once she and the superstar were on stage, Lu Fei focused on asking questions about ‘The Green Apple’. Everything was still progressing smoothly.

Thereafter, the hosts and the guests split into two teams and played a small game, which tested the level of chemistry between the actors and actresses.

A word guessing game.

One person received a card, and they must act out the word shown on it, while another tried guessing the answer.

Within sixty seconds, their pair scored the highest number of points.

Lu Fei laughed and praised them from the side. “Xingze and Shishi really do have a lot of chemistry! They answered eight out of ten questions correctly. I myself couldn’t guess some of them, yet she quickly guessed them correctly. Their chemistry is really something to be envious about!”

The director signaled from below, and the crowd cheered to exaggerate the atmosphere.

She glanced at the superstar bashfully, but her heart disagreed silently. *That’s because I memorized all the answers before coming on stage.*

In the past, when she watched this show, she thought that the games were interesting and it had many funny portions.

In the end... it turned out that they were all scripted.

From the big things like the answers to the questions to the smallest things like facial expressions, everything was scripted.

The host, who had also received the script, purposely shifted the focus from the pair by asking, “Eh? Xingze, did you two have so much chemistry as well during filming?”

### **Chapter 983: Accident in the Show**

“And.” Lu Fei appeared to be every bit of a gossipmonger as he probed further. “How about the kissing scenes? Were they completed in one take?”

Li Jiuxian stood up and chipped in his scripted line. “They had to redo the kissing scenes many times.”

The audience below the stage roared in response.

The host covered his mouth in feigned surprise. His gaze shifted and he gave the superstar an insinuating look while asking smilingly, “Xingze, did you do that on purpose?”

Another host, Xiao Can, put forth the scripted response as well. "I'd retake those scenes, too, if I were her. Ha ha ha!"

"Something's going on here..."

"There must be something going on behind the scenes!"

These few reality talk show hosts exchanged glances, hinting of something hidden beneath their spoken words.

This program's arranged script intentionally made use of those gossips involving the superstar and the newbie actress to hype up their show.

At this juncture, Lu Jingtian blurted out, "Actually, Xingze was in good form during their kissing scenes; Shishi was always the one to cause retakes."

Her words stunned everyone on set.

The superstar knitted his brows momentarily but quickly regained his smile when the camera lens panned out on him. There was faint warning as he glanced at the speaker.

Her words were not part of the pre-arranged script.

Her line was in it. By saying something like this, she was out to put down Yun Shishi.

While the show wanted to sell him and the newbie to the audience as a pair, according to the script, he should be the interested party.

This woman's words hinted at the opposite of this, though, thereby making his pretend partner look cheap!

One could anticipate the stuff the media would cook up the next day if no proper explanation was given today for this remark!

It sounded now as if his partner had shamelessly caused the retakes to get his attention.

If such a rumor spread around, her public image would be greatly discounted.

Accordingly, it was the norm for character pairing tropes to put the female protagonist on the passive side.

Lu Fei broke out in a cold sweat for a brief moment, but thanks to his high adaptability, he quickly regained control of his emotions and responded to Lu Jingtian's insinuation. "Oh? Shishi caused the retakes? There must be a story behind that!"

Everyone looked to the newbie for her reaction, while her assistant fretted anxiously below the stage.

She deftly responded, looking somewhat shy as she bit her lower lip. "Well, that's because I was under immense pressure filming with Xingze."

"Immense pressure?"

“Eh! He’s... just too handsome. It felt so unreal when he stood before me, so I had the tendency to miss my cue.” She clenched her lips nervously. “Moreover, he looks so much better in person than on TV. He had this special aura going for him during our filming. I was so stressed out by the thought that I might underperform before him.”

She skillfully dodged the topic.

Her assistant sighed in relief at this close shave.

At the side, Qin Zhou’s look eased as well, and he gave her an approving glance.

The host came to her rescue, too. “Not only is ‘The Green Apple’ her first movie, it’s also where she had her first on-screen kiss! I heard from Director Lin that she’s a talented actress and a very capable newcomer. This movie is just her starting point, so I truly look forward to more outstanding acting from her in the future!”

There was a round of applause from below.

Yang Mi astutely came to her aid as well. “Their kissing scenes had minimal retakes. Most often than not, both were able to complete them in one take!”

#### **Chapter 984: Losing her following...**

Lu Jingtian added, “I remember this one scene that was retaken a few times because the director was dissatisfied.”

The main host replied seriously, “The director is someone who takes his profession seriously and is especially strict when filming. I heard that he can even be a little short-tempered at work.”

Xiao Can followed through with her line. “He has high filming standards and, as always, strives to outdo his best. This is a rare attitude!”

The topic was, thus, put back on the right track.

Intentionally or unintentionally, the main skipped the actress thereafter and even obfuscated her presence.

There were a few interesting topics surrounding her in the script that he skipped purposely as well.

Naturally, this upset the woman. She tried cutting in to bring back the attention to her but ultimately failed. Her attempts just made her look like a desperate jester.

Her agent was furious with her for this, and only her lofty status stopped him from lashing out at her.

She was truly frustrated. Her words had come tumbling out sans a thought. While she was upset with herself for not keeping her cool, she was also flustered by the newbie’s ability to deflect her sharp taunting.

Qin Zhou walked up to his charge and praised, “Shishi, you did well today!”

“Well, I must thank boss Qin for his wonderful guidance, no?” She smiled humbly in return.

“Little lass, your words sure sound as sweet as honey!” said her agent, apparently taken in by her flattery.

The show expectedly caused an uproar immediately after it was aired.

The topic was not so much about Lu Jingtian’s ‘accidental’ taunting.

Instead, the viewers were debating over the relationship between the two actresses.

‘Lu Jingtian snubs Yun Shishi’ quickly became the hottest trending topic on Weibo.

Even the production team was unhappy with the actress for not following the script; hence, they purposely highlighted the vile look on her face during the show’s rerun.

A majority of the public pointed out that the actress had repeatedly snubbed the newbie during the show.

Her plotting actions differed from her innocent image on screen.

This spiteful manner of hers was vividly revealed in the show.

For the actress’s repeated snubbing of the newcomer, many fans of the latter went to the former’s Weibo in condemnation.

Overnight, she had lost tens of thousands of her Weibo followers.

Her fans, of which the majority were ghost followers, were not that many in the first place, yet the ones she lost were her real followers.

She almost went mad with anger from this.

Her plan was to embarrass the newbie in the show. Who knew that it would backfire and she would suffer a loss, instead?

She was, in fact, just jealous of the newbie as her team wanted to create a CP between her and the superstar, but the man decisively refused.

He readily agreed when it was Yun Shishi, though.

It was no wonder she got mad.

*Why must his abundant resources go to that b\*tch?*

*If those were given to me, I’d be a hotter topic than her!*

How would she not be mad at this?

Of course, this came much later.

Qin Zhou summoned his charge to his office that day.

When she rushed into his office, he had just finished a call. He looked serious, yet at the same time, his eyes flashed with excitement and ambition.

When he saw her, he brought her to a seat. He was about to speak when a recollection made him pause, voicing out thereafter, "Shishi, I have a question."

### **Chapter 985: He is preferential toward you.**

She cocked a brow at him, seemingly surprised by his tact.

"What is it? Just ask away."

He pouted in hesitation. Drumming the tabletop with his fingers, he proceeded cautiously. "This may be a crass question, but I must get the whole picture of the situation, so please pardon my rudeness." He paused for a bit before opening his mouth again. "I'd like to know what's up between you and master Mu."

She was startled. "Why did you ask that?"

"I can tell that he's preferential toward you." He told her truthfully as he fingered his thumb ring.

It was very unusual, indeed.

At least, in his impression, that man was coldhearted.

Why did he have such an impression?

Back when Huanyu was just bought by Disheng, a few star agents put together a list of actresses to present to this powerful and influential CEO in hopes of getting into his good books and acquiring valuable resources for their charges.

Gifting women for the sake of fame and fortune was a common norm in this industry.

Whoever piqued his interest would naturally get better opportunities for her team.

In the end, the man merely threw the list aside after looking at it and was no longer brought up again.

There was never a woman beside him. He never associated himself with any of them despite those ladies flocking to his side.

He held the reins to this entertainment empire yet steered clear of intimate relationship with any actress.

Yun Shishi was the first and the only one.

He tried to know her status to this man before; alas, no one in the office had a clue.

They just knew that she was someone special.

In what way was she special? They could not tell.

She thought for a while. Albeit she could not tell where this question came from, she decided to come clean with him. "We are lovers."



He squinted his eyes. "I heard that you have a child?"

"How did you know that?" She was rather surprised.

"How can I make a living if I don't know the background of the artistes under me?" He was mildly displeased with her comment, which he deemed as an insult. Rapping his knuckles on the tabletop, he pressed on. "Is the child his?"

She clenched her teeth. "Yes!"

"I heard that, seven years ago, a mysterious woman became a surrogate for the Mu family and that young master Yichen didn't come from Mu Wanrou but through a bloodline surrogacy."

He paused and looked at her pensively after saying that.

She looked slightly embarrassed, though she had to sigh in awe inwardly.

The mouths of those who knew about this matter were sealed.

How did he find out?

She added with a sigh, "Actually, they're twins. The older one was taken away upon birth, while the younger one wasn't breathing at first but eventually managed to keep his life. My father had to use his connections to keep this from the Mu family."

The agent seemed to come to a realization. "You can very well marry into that elite family. Progeny is important to people like them, and you bore them two sons; those are valuable assets to them."

She was unfazed. "I don't want."

"Don't want?" He was surprised to hear that. "Why not?"

She kept quiet.

He asked quizzically, "Pardon me for my directness. Being with such a powerful man, you can very well live a prosperous and carefree life; Why come into the entertainment industry still?"

## **Chapter 986: Do you know how ambitious I am?**

One must know how treacherous this industry was. If this were another woman, she would do her utmost best to marry into an elite family instead of continuing in this trade; after all, the elites only looked for women with decent backgrounds.

She narrowed her eyes and took in a cool, deep breath.

His question was so direct that it sounded jarring to her ears.

As a result, she felt rather embarrassed.

She understood, though, that he did not have any ill will and was not out to mock her or make things difficult for her. He just wanted to know her real score with Mu Yazhe.

As her agent, he had an obligation to know everything about her.

She did not intend to hide anything from him as well.

She gazed into his eyes and neutrally said, "I don't like owing anyone."

He was surprised with her answer, yet somehow, it was within his estimation, too.

This reply was very much her style, after all!

She continued simply. "Who doesn't want fame and fortune? But if I rely on a man for a living, how can I preserve my dignity? I don't want that!"

He smiled in contentment, apparently satisfied with her answer. "Very well! I like your strong character a lot."

He suddenly leaned forward slightly with his eyes shining brightly.

"Do you know my ambition?" asked the man, dropping his voice's volume into a magnetic drawl.

She shook her head.

He smiled, leaned against the chair's backrest, and leisurely said, "For the last decade, I've helped Xingze conquer half of the entertainment world. I have greater ambition for you, though."

"Are you willing to work with me?"

"Of course."

"Before this, I need you to understand this very clearly. You can call showbiz as a tigers' den or a cesspool, but over here, the strongest get it all. There's no dignity for the weak! Since you have stepped in here, I hope that you do your utmost best. Don't be half-assed; I don't like it!"

As he said that, he took out a book and placed it before her.

She raised a brow and received it, only to realize that it was a script with a thick volume.

It was twice as thick as the script for 'The Green Apple'.

As she flipped open the first page, she saw the black and white lettering. This was a period drama which was recently preparing for the lead selection. This show, which was also a best-selling novel adaptation, was temporarily named 'Lethal Beauty'. Over three million copies of this popular intellectual property were sold in the country and abroad.

Three million copies!

What did that mean?

Once 30,000 hard copies of this book were sold, the novel would be listed as a best-seller.

Since this novel, which had been released these five years, was able to garner three million sales, that was to say that it had a massive fanbase.

It was said that price for its copyrights was at an astronomical sum of 10 million yuan!

This was the first intellectual property to be bought that much, subsequently setting the highest record to date.

What was more? With only the rights to the novel and without any confirmed cast line-up, the major TV networks fought for its broadcasting rights. One TV station even quoted 800 million yuan for the copyright fees.

“There is one good news and one bad news. Which one d’you want to hear first?” He seemed to be in a good mood and wanted to drag the suspense.

She willingly played along. “I’d like to hear the good news first.”

“The good news is that you have a chance to fight for the female lead role.

“And the bad news...”

### **Chapter 987: A Slim Chance**

“The bad news is that many are vying for it and all are first-tier actresses. Hence, your chance of being selected is slim.” He told her matter-of-factly.

“Slim chance?”

She wondered in shock how slim her chance would be.

“Very slim.”

“Why do you say that?”

“That’s because the list of candidates includes Han Yuyan and Lin Zhi.”

She realized with some alarm how slim her chance was.

There was no need to elaborate further on Han Yuyan’s sky-high status in the industry.

As for Lin Zhi, she had become the most popular and sought-after actress in period drama in these two years; no one could compete with her in this category.

Speaking of her, although she had just debuted three years ago, she had managed to become an award-winning actress with her first movie, ‘Rose Night’. Her status and talent fee rose overnight.

After that, she appeared in many period dramas and was given the title of ‘Imperial Beauty’ in the entertainment industry.

She had a face fit for period dramas. With her gentle and stunning profile, she looked otherworldly.

She acted as Xiaolongnü in the remake of 'The Return of the Condor Heroes', and this increased her popularity immensely and let her join the first-tier actress ranks.

Despite the fierce competition, Qin Zhou had great confidence in her. To him, Yun Shishi had nothing to fear regarding that actress. Her sculpted looks were equally compatible for period dramas; in fact, he believed that she could be better than Lin Zhi.

What he was worried about was the power Lin Zhi and Han Yuyan wielded behind their backs.

Han Yuyan held the position of the number-one actress in Huanyu. Besides, being in the industry for many years, she had a large fanbase. She had the loudest supporters for this role.

In fact, she had postponed her wedding to compete for this role in 'Lethal Beauty'.

Lin Zhi, who was under Chengguang Entertainment, belonged to the young league of up-and-coming actresses. Even though she was relatively new in this industry and her foundation might not be strong, she came with a powerful background.

When it came to backgrounds, Han Yuyan might have a stronger backer.

The real issue here was that the rights for 'Lethal Beauty' had already successfully bought by Chengguang.

Since that company had spent a fortune to buy the copyrights, they would naturally promote their artistes.

The most-renowned artiste in Chengguang was Meng Lan. However, she was partly retired after marrying into a rich family, so she was dropped from the A-list.

Because of that, that entertainment company showed every intention of cultivating Lin Zhi as the next Han Yuyan. This could be seen in the amount of resources they had poured on her in these two years.

They were out to make her the new 'number one'.

When Chengguang successfully bought the copyrights of the novel, Qin Zhou speculated that the female lead might have already been predetermined. It seemed to be likely for that actress to take up the lead role.

Today's TV and filming industry was different from the past.

In the past, directors could decide on their artistes.

Now, artistes were pre-determined by investors. They held the power and directors had no say in it.

This would be the usual case, unless the director had invested in the show or was famous like Lin Fengtian.

Not every director was lucky enough to have the male and female leads of their choice.

Most of the time, investors would arrange for their preferred artistes to appear in the show. It reached a point where the production team had to tailor-make a character for an artiste if there was none.

For a popular original work like 'Lethal Beauty', the roles would likely be populated by connections and networks. Even a first-tier actress might only get a supporting role, whereas a superstar might only make a minor appearance within a few episodes.

### **Chapter 988: Seizing Every Opportunity**

Gu Xiaoyang, the director for 'Lethal Beauty', was an old hand in the acting industry. During the shooting preparations, besides pulling in a few special cases to the team to pander to the investors' whims, he also sent out a notice to those ideal female leads he had in mind.

However, of the five names listed, Yun Shishi was not one of them.

Due to her being a newbie and the movie that she was in not being released yet, the man did not have a strong impression of her.

He only knew that she had a good aptitude, but she was not so special that he would invite her to take part in his drama.

Of these five people, Lin Zhi, together with Han Yuyan, was of course included.

Five female celebrities, and four of them under Huanyu.

As an entertainment empire, Huanyu had many established artistes under it.

Three of the four most popular actresses in showbiz came from it. This clearly illustrated the influence Huanyu had.

Inviting celebrities from Huanyu to take part in the audition was tacitly accepted by Chengguang from an investor's perspective.

It seemed altruistic on the surface, yet Huanyu's head producer, Ji Lin, was furious when he heard of this.

Was this not just downright cheating the fans to increase one's fame?!

First, they boosted the show's supporters by inviting celebrities from Huanyu. Second, after garnering enough hype, they would still choose their people at the final selection.

Stirring enough gossip by using Huanyu to promote their artistes, was this not killing two birds with one stone for them?

This was such an excellent gimmick of Chengguang.

What of them knowing about the gimmick, though?

The show was good. Even if it was only by a slim chance, they must still seize every chance that came their way.

Once Qin Zhou caught wind of this drama being prepared for shooting, he quickly arranged a meeting with Gu Xiaoyang and expressed his desire to work with him. Going straight to the point, he recommended his artiste.

He had a broad network in the circle and had a good relationship with the director.

Because he had sought him in person, the director agreed to giving his charge a spot in the audition.

Even though it was just a spot in the audition and the chances were low, this opportunity was still hard to come by.

Whether she would be chosen or not, her agent did have much faith. Deep down, he sensed that this drama was likely tailor-made to promote Lin Zhi.

After listening to his detailed analysis, Yun Shishi was a little disappointed. “The chance isn’t high; it’s impossible. Lin Zhi is their artiste; how can Chengguang select a celebrity from Huanyu to be the female lead?”

“Just like that, is your morale dampened?” He laughed playfully as he regarded her. “Shishi, boost your fighting spirit! The chance of being chosen may be low, but it isn’t entirely hopeless!”

“I am a little curious.”

“What are you curious about?”

“Since this novel is a popular intellectual property, why didn’t Huanyu buy the adaptation rights for it?” she wondered.

“Shishi, things aren’t as simple as you imagined. The benefits of being involved are great, but Huanyu didn’t buy the intellectual property of this because our company’s present focus is filming, so most of Huanyu’s capital goes to acquiring movie scripts. In fact, our company has just acquired the intellectual property on ‘tomb raiding’. The preparations for its shoot will begin soon. Originally, I wanted you to join that movie’s production team, but after weighing the pros and cons, I decided to have you audition for the female lead role in ‘Lethal Beauty’, instead.”

Actually, he had taken a close look at the script of that movie about tomb raiding.

This script was based on the famous novel, ‘Haunted Tomb’.

‘Tomb raiding’ was a very popular concept at the moment.

However, due to the sensitivity of the concept, many aspects of this film-adaption were fettered. It was obvious that the novel’s original flavor could not be brought into the movie. Thus, even though this movie received heavy funding, it could not escape the fate of being reduced to just a superficial blockbuster.

## **Chapter 989: A Fully Deserving Top Star Manager**

'Lethal Beauty' was different.

The script for was almost ready; the drama had ninety episodes and a primetime time slot during the summer.

Its influence surpassed the 'Haunted Tomb' by a large margin. The reputation it had was not something the other could beat. In addition, with due to its five-year-long exposure and the diversity of its audience, it had a greater chance of garnering large reception from the masses.

After his analysis, she was speechless.

She suddenly got why this man was a top-star manager.

It was fully deserved.

Just from his insight when it came to choosing scripts, he was vicious and had a way of looking into things.

"Even if it turns out to be a wasted effort, we can't let any opportunity slip by. If the quality of your audition stuns Gu Xiaoyang, who knows and he may end up choosing you. You ought to know that he has directed two of the highest-rated dramas, so his voice has a lot of weight in the production."

"Okay, I'll give it a try!"

She got the script from him.

"Actually..." The man raised a brow as if he had something to say but hesitated.

"What?"

"Nothing!" He shook his head and gave a smile but he did not say anything else.

What he wanted to say was that it would be easy to clinch the female lead role if they employed Mu Yazhe's help.

However, knowing her personality, he knew that she would be unwilling.

Strong-willed, she would certainly want to clinch this role with her capability!

She smiled. "Don't worry; I'll give it my all and not let your efforts go to waste."

He smiled sweetly.

When she got home, she began reading the script carefully. After staying up the whole night, she finally finished going through it.

It was a hard-to-come-by script.

Actually, imperial-harem dramas had always been a hot topic in TV shows. In these ten years, the top ten highest-rated dramas had 'imperial harem' as their subject.

Imperial harem dramas catered to many viewers' interest. With its public reputation and high viewership, the female lead was sure to gain nationwide popularity.

The main storyline in the script talked about how Qin Changle, the daughter of a concubine from the chancellor's residence, assisted the prince in ascending the throne. Things had just turned for the better when she got betrayed shortly after being bestowed the queen title. In the end, she was thrown into the cold palace and died of humiliation and hatred. She reincarnated to twenty years earlier and proceeded to take revenge, ultimately gaining a happy ending.

The characterization was clear and the plot was interrelated. With trickery and the imperial harem as the main subject matters, it was indeed fascinating.

If its production was of excellent quality, she was certain that it would be an *avant-garde* in the category of imperial-harem dramas.

What a great script!

She was deeply moved and could not help feeling emotional.

Originally, she held no high hopes for the audition, but after reading the script, her spirit was renewed.

She made use of this rare short vacation after the completion of 'The Green Apple' to read through the script thrice, attentively taking note of the important points.

Very quickly, she received the audition script.

The audition script was Qin Changle's hate- and anguish-filled monologue fifteen years after being thrown into the cold palace when faced with the emperor's edict to commit suicide.

Apparently, the judges wanted to see the actresses' script-reading skills and take of such raw emotions by singling out this part for the audition.

A day before the audition, she felt extremely tense. She tossed and turned restlessly in bed, unable to fall asleep.

Each time she thought of how they might have already internally decided on a female lead, she felt utter regret.

She really hoped that she could snag the female lead role!

Still...

Thinking of Lin Zhi and Han Yuyan's massive fanbases, the competition was really stiff!

She could only sigh helplessly!

## **Chapter 990: The Audition Crisis (1)**

On the day of the audition, she was up really early, and once she was done preparing herself, she rushed to the audition venue.

She was in the second group as Lin Zhi, but the latter was up first, while she was last.



As for Han Yuyan, she was in the first group. Once they were at the scene, Mu Xi went to check the situation with the first group.

It turned out that Han Yuyan had been kicked off.

“She’s been kicked off?!” Yun Shishi looked at the name list. Was the actress not commended by the director for her remarkable performance?

“Yes! The director said that he’s pleased with her performance, but that’s just an empty compliment. If he directly said that she’s out, wouldn’t that be embarrassing for her? He definitely didn’t want to offend anyone. Although he’s rejecting her, he should still ensure that all was well! Anyway, that’s what I heard from the insiders, so it couldn’t be wrong!”

Her assistant was efficient with her work; thus, she trusted her. It was just unexpected for the first-tier actress to be rejected in the first round of auditions.

“Why did she get rejected?”

“She looks mature. After all, her age is already out there. Moreover, in order to advance toward Hollywood, her stylist is instilling the aura of a top actress in her. The director thought that she’s way mature for the role and doesn’t give the feeling he’s after.”

She pursed her lips. Chengguang was indeed very scheming!

The production team had just posted news of Han Yuyan participating in the auditions for the female lead role on Weibo, yet it had already spread everywhere.

Her following should not be underestimated.

The supporters of the actress to be the female lead were the most vocal.

From this, one could see that Chengguang aimed to use the actress as a stepping stone for Lin Zhi.

The starlet must be feeling depressed right now, but there was nothing that she could do. This was truly a great script, and if there was even the slightest chance for her to get the part, she would not let go of it.

Mu Xi brought her charge to the makeup room.

On their way there, Yun Shishi brushed shoulders with a lady wearing a magnificent attire.

She turned for a moment to look but did not pay much mind to it and just kept following her assistant toward the makeup room.

However, someone called out to her from behind.

“Stop right there!”

She stopped walking hesitantly and turned around slowly. She looked at the lady in a glorious wedding attire.

She did not seem familiar yet she was also not foreign.

On normal days, she rarely paid heed to dramas and movies. It was her assistant who had recognized the woman first, and she whispered it to her ear, "That's Lin Zhi..."

*Lin Zhi?!*

Her assistant was clearly a little excited.

It was not surprising. The woman was her goddess. At such a young age, the actress managed to build a name for herself in showbiz with her beautiful looks and superb acting skills!

She looked at the actress, only to find the other sizing her up with a slack but cold look.

"Are you..." the actress muttered, "Yun Shishi?"

She remembered her.

She was that newbie talked about on Weibo.

It seemed that she was a talent Huanyu had been pushing recently.

This woman had just debuted, yet Huanyu had been splurging on her, and most of the resources used were valuable.

Yun Shishi nodded courteously. "Nice to meet you!"

In comparison, Lin Zhi was a little arrogant. "Are you here to audition?"

Mu Xi was sharp enough to sense the hostility in the actress's eyes. Suddenly, she felt a little uncomfortable inside.

She had seen her interviews, and the media had been full of praises for her.

They commented the actress' gentle and pleasant disposition, but this moment had ruined the good impression she had of her.

Her charge replied simply, "Yes."

"I don't recall the director inviting you here." The actress paused for a moment before unexpectedly asking, "You requested for a spot yourself, huh?"