

Chapter 681: The Lu Family Did Not Have Decision-Making Rights

In regards to this matter, he knew that the Su Family had compensated Yan Huan with a piece of land which was thought worthless by everyone. However, who knew that at the end of the day, that piece of land would actually be incorporated into the new metropolitan area of Sea City; hence, it was presently undergoing rapid development. Although initial evaluations had shown that the land would not be of much use, its value had actually increased day by day to the point that it had turned into a gold mine.

“Oh, so you really do want that company?” Old Master Lu asked relentlessly.

Lu Qin’s eyes glimmered with hope before he nodded solemnly, “Yes, grandfather. I want it.”

Old Master Lu reached out and patted Lu Qin’s hair, “Are you certain that you want it, that you want Linlang?” Old Master Lu repeated his question yet another time.

“Absolutely yes,” Lu Qin felt extremely nervous at that moment, to the point that both of his hands were clenched tightly, released, then clenched again from time to time. He felt that there was a 70% chance of him securing Linlang; no, it was an 80% chance of him securing Linlang since he was the only heir left to succeed the Lu Family’s fortune. In the future, all of the Lu Family’s assets would be his anyway; it was just a matter of time. Moreover, Old Master Lu was not foolish. He obviously knew that if Linlang could be further improved in the new owner’s hands, then it would bring more profit to the Lu Family.

“Oh...” Old Master Lu’s fingers gently brushed the surface of the cup in his hands. He did not intend to smash it anymore.

“Lu Qin, why are you so certain that I have the right to decide the affairs of Linlang?”

Lu Qin lifted his head up without any hesitation, “As long as it is grandfather’s wishes, it will always come true.”

Old Master Lu patted Lu Qin’s head, “You are all grown up now, and you’re truly getting bolder. Obviously, even your heart is becoming twisted.”

Although the former sentence might not seem to mean anything as it was the honest observation of an old man to his grandson, but the latter sounded rather offensive.

“Grandfather...”

Before Lu Qin could utter another word, Old Master Lu cut him off, “You do not have to say anything else. I completely understand what is on your mind.” His age was nearing 90 and he had been through thick and thin throughout all these years. There was a saying which aptly described this situation: ‘wisdom comes with age’.

Lu Qin intended to use him as a tool for whatever selfish plan he had concocted.

Did he really think that his grandfather’s old age had rendered him stupid?

“Oh, Lu Qin...” he sighed. “Why would you think that I have the same authority as your brother does over Linlang’s affairs?”

“Is that not the case?” Lu Qin had never considered the possibility that Old Master Lu did not have the final say in such matters.

Old Master Lu started to admire Yan Huan’s foresight. She was indeed a cunning one and understood Lu Qin’s temperament enough to use it to manipulate him into a dead end. Well, he should have known that Lu Qin had his eyes on Linlang. It was expected as Linlang was a goldmine. Irrespective of its other existing assets, the building itself was one of a kind in Sea City and the company’s registered capital went up to the billions. It was not unreasonable for Lu Qin to be envious.

However, he had made the wrong move.

“Do you know who is the legal representative of Linlang? Do you truly know who owns Linlang?” asked Old Master Lu.

“Does it not belong to the Lu Family?” Lu Qin’s statement seemed sound. Regardless of whether it was under Lu Jin or Lu Yi’s name; or even Yan Huan or Ye Shuyun, those assets still belonged to the Lu Family as they shared the surname Lu.

“Who told you that it belongs to the Lu Family?”

Lu Qin felt nonplussed by the bizarre question thrown his way. He was stunned. Could it be that he might have missed out something?

Old Master Lu accepted his tea from the guard’s hands and took a sip. From the corner of his eye, he noticed that a poisonous fury had started to spread over Lu Qin’s face. This grandson was indeed an immature and heartless b*stard. His dislike for Lu Qin intensified.

Old Master Lu took another sip before passing the cup to his personal guard. “I really cannot help you in this matter,” he said with finality as he rested his hand on Lu Qin’s shoulder. “Whatever Linlang is, it has nothing to do with the Lu Family. It has nothing to do with you, with me, or with our family. The legal owner of that company is the daughter-in-law of the Lei Family. Therefore, no matter who else you try to beg for it, your efforts will be rendered useless as it does not belong to the Lu Family.”

“Also, I’m tired,” he no longer wanted to continue this conversation. He felt that it would be fruitless to reason with this boy. His attendant quickly came over and wheeled him away in his wheelchair.

Meanwhile, Lu Qin felt helpless and dejected as he fell to the floor. Even at this point, he was still unwilling to believe that he was tricked right from the start. He had done his own research. Linlang should belong to the Lu Family; but why was it now owned by the Lei Family?

“Lu Yi, is this your doing?” Suddenly, he punched the ground forcefully. He realized why his investigation results did not coincide with the truth. Everything about this situation reeked of Lu Yi’s involvement, he must be the one who had intentionally spread the news that Linlang was under the Lu Family’s name. He knew that Lu Qin would be envious of it. Did he intend to put him in a position whereby he will never be able to obtain it no matter how hard he tried?

Is that right, is that right?

Such nonsensical thoughts caused thick veins to pop out of his forehead.

The guard turned around and glimpsed Lu Qin's ferocious expression, which gave him the shock of his life. That guy was already filthy rich yet he still yearned for more. Unlike him, as long as he was given a salary, he would be content. In comparison to Lu Qin's grand ambitions, he seemed to be rather incompetent.

"Xiao Song, tell me what you think. Do you see any difference between my grandchildren?" Old Master Lu asked his guard.

"Personality." Xiao Song was an honest man. He would have answered candidly no matter what the old chairman asked.

"You're honest," Old Master Lu remarked. Obviously, he did not get angry as he respected honest people. However, there were too few honest people in the world. Hence, one must get along with people with good personalities. Those with bad personalities were best to be avoided; or else, you would never know when they would backstab you. By then, you might still innocently believe that they were trying to help you when they were merely using you as another chess piece in their game.

"But Chairman, he is your grandson."

"So what if he's my grandson?" Old Master Lu had a calm smile on his face. He was also very wise and farsighted. "In the face of personal gain, he would abandon even his biological mother. What is his own grandfather to him? In fact, I'd bet that this immature brat will definitely turn his back against the entire Lu Family who raised him if it is beneficial to him."

The guard did not dare to be a part of this bet. However, he felt that Lu Qin might not turn his back on his family.

After all, a person who betrayed and dishonored his own parents could no longer be considered human, but a mere brute.

"Let's go." Old Master Lu pointed at the door, "Push me out of here."

"Why do you want to go out?" The guard started to turn the wheelchair toward the door. "Do you want to sunbathe?"

"Let's go to Lu Jin's."

The corner of his eye twitched. "Chairman, can you not go? You may end up in a fight with Miss Yan if you see her. Both of you kept squabbling like children, and nothing good will ever come out from your mouth when you meet her."

"You idiot, I was just being sarcastic. When will you ever be able to comprehend these jokes?"

Chapter 682: The Soup For Women

"Why wouldn't I go?"

Old Master Lu placed his hands on the wheelchair and continued, "I am an old and lonely man. Among the younger ones, Lu Yi was the only one who had the audacity to challenge me. But now that he is gone, he left behind a granddaughter-in-law whom I dislike the most, the lady he insisted to marry in spite of my disapproval."

Perhaps he was unaware that he was addressing Yan Huan as his granddaughter-in-law, which meant that he was indirectly acknowledging Yan Huan's status.

When Old Master Lu arrived at the Lu family's residence, he was welcomed by a merry scene, where the family members were gathered around to eat dumplings.

"Hey, dad. Why are you here?" Ye Shuyun exclaimed when she noticed Old Master Lu's arrival, as she brought the dumplings out from the kitchen. In the past, Old Master Lu would never step foot in here. However, he somehow visited the residence relatively often these days.

"Am I not allowed to be here?" Old Master Lu asked Ye Shuyun with a sour expression. Are you getting tired of me because of my old age?

"That's certainly not what I meant." Ye Shuyun would never dare to irk her father-in-law. She placed the bowl on the table and continued, "You're here just in time. We made dumplings. Dad, come and join us."

Old Master Lu was more than happy to join them. "Sure, since I haven't had anything yet."

"Neither have I," the guard chimed in.

Old Master Lu glared at him. "Are you trying to leech off of us?"

The guard chuckled nervously as he scratched his head. But that's what I always do.

"Dad, have a seat first. I will bring the food to you." Ye Shuyun went into the kitchen hurriedly to bring out the dumplings prepared by the nanny. Fortunately, they had made extra dumplings. Otherwise, there would not be enough servings for two additional guests.

At this moment, Yan Huan came down the stairs. Old Master Lu loathed the sight of her, so he rolled his eyes at her.

"You are not crippled. Why must you move around in a wheelchair?"

"Because I like to!" Old Master Lu yelled at Yan Huan angrily.

Ye Shuyun, who was at the kitchen, jumped with fright and almost broke a plate.

Old Master Lu and Yan Huan would quarrel whenever they met. However, Lu Jin considered it as a good sign, because he had missed the chatty Old Master Lu for a very long time. Lu Jin reckoned that it would be better for the old man's health to provide him with a channel to vent his emotions.

Yan Huan walked past Old Master Lu without batting an eye. She had spent two lifetimes with Old Master Lu. His attitude toward her had changed from completely ignoring her presence to reprimanding her every action. She had gotten used to Old Master Lu's way of treating her. All in all, she had remained passive to the mistreatment because she wanted to avoid making things worse.

She entered the kitchen right when the soup was done.

"Miss Yan, the soup is ready," the nanny said.

“Thanks, ma’am.” Yan Huan took the bowl of soup and left the kitchen. She always finished her soup despite the pungent taste. She was determined to keep the promises she made to Lu Yi.

She placed the bowl on the table, took a seat and drank the soup one spoonful after another.

She had to finish this bowl of soup before her meal. There was yet another bowl of soup waiting for her after her meal.

She had gotten accustomed to the soup’s flavor. Although it was not delicious, it did not taste too awful either.

“Has your mom never taught you to respect your elders?”

Noticing that Yan Huan was drinking the soup without paying any attention to him, Old Master Lu was displeased.

Yan Huan lifted her gaze to look at him as she replied, “I’m sorry. Indeed, my mom taught me to be respectful. But why should I respect the people who dislike me?”

She casually spooned the soup from the bowl as she spoke and continued to drink the soup, completely disregarding Old Master Lu who was glaring at her.

When Ye Shuyun arrived at the scene, she saw that Old Master Lu was fuming.

He stretched out his finger and pointed at the bowl of soup before Yan Huan. He demanded, “Serve me a bowl of that. No, I want two bowls.”

Ye Shuyun took a look at the soup that Yan Huan was drinking and replied in an awkward tone, “Dad, I don’t think you should drink that.”

“Why not? Is it poisonous?” Old Master Lu stood up abruptly and supported himself by pressing both his hands on the edge of the table. “I want to drink that soup. Bring it to me.”

Initially, Ye Shuyun intended to reason with him. But, she eventually gave up the thought. She shook her head before she went off to reheat the soup. She understood the old man’s temper. He was a wilful man who would not back down until he got everything he wanted, including the soup.

“Give me another bowl of soup,” Ye Shuyun told Yan Huan’s nanny.

“Madam, one bowl is more than enough. This soup carries similar effects as pure medicine. It’s not going to be more useful when you consume it excessively, as your body is not capable of absorbing it.”

“The old man of the family insisted on drinking it anyway,” Ye Shuyun felt embarrassed as she explained.

“Huh?” The nanny could not believe her ears. “This soup is meant for women. Why would a man drink this? He shouldn’t drink this. It’s going to ruin his health if he drinks this soup, which is supposed to be drunk only by women.”

“He’s going to drink this only once. I guess that should be fine?” Ye Shuyun felt even more ashamed as the conversation went on.

Flustered, the nanny was at a loss for words. Of course drinking the soup once will not kill him. He'll also undoubtedly be fine. But, why is this old man trying to snatch a lady's soup? Such callous actions will only mess himself up.

Outside the kitchen, Old Master Lu's cheeks were flushed. Although their voices were considerably muffled, he overheard their conversation.

He felt as though his pride had been trampled on completely. He glared at Yan Huan. Is she trying to embarrass me in public?

Yan Huan continued to drink her soup. She could not be bothered when someone else wanted to try her soup. After all, she was never a meddling person who would poke her nose into matters that did not concern her.

Before long, Ye Shuyun brought Old Master Lu the soup. However, Old Master Lu had changed his mind and refused to drink it anymore. Instead, he ate plenty of dumplings. Similarly, the guard got to savor them and fill himself with the free food, owed to Old Master Lu.

"Push the wheelchair over." Old Master Lu had had his fill, and was about to leave in his wheelchair.

Yan Huan lifted her eyes and cast a glance at the wheelchair indifferently. "You're sitting down right after having a meal? Are you a pig?"

Old Master Lu stood up abruptly and hastened to the exit.

Still pushing the wheelchair, the guard quickly followed behind Old Master Lu. He wiped off the sweat on his forehead. Luckily, Boss isn't sitting in the wheelchair anymore.

"This girl." Ye Shuyun reached out to ruffle Yan Huan's hair before she continued, "You're the only person who can influence the old man's decision. He is as stubborn as a mule and will never listen to others' advice."

Yan Huan lifted the bowl to gulp down the soup.

Her usually clear eyes were coated with a hint of distress. The worry that was buried deep inside her heart had never subsided.

"Mom, new year is just around the corner."

"Yes." Ye Shuyun calculated the days before she agreed, "Indeed, another new year is coming. We've almost forgotten about it. Sigh, we haven't done our shopping yet. I'll invite your aunt along to do some shopping later."

Chapter 683: Three Years Of Preparation

"How about you?" Ye Shuyun asked Yan Huan. "Do you want to continue to stay at home?"

"Yes, I'm not going out anymore, Luo Lin is coming over in a bit," Yan Huan lowered her head and took another sip of the soup. She wanted to discuss with Luo Lin about the film she was going to produce for the following new year special. Since she decided to continue living, she had to live a good life. She wanted Lu Yi to see her success and watch as she created miracle after miracle. By then, he would

definitely be proud of her. She would leave more photos on his desktop for him to witness her proudest moments.

Ye Shuyun had no intention to force Yan Huan into anything. After all, Yan Huan had only recovered and it was best for her to recuperate at home. Moreover, the weather nowadays was rather chilly. It would be bad if she came down with a cold. Besides, Madam Lei would constantly stay by her side.

Not long after Ye Shuyun left, Luo Lin arrived as Yan Huan expected.

She was carrying a large load of items in her arms as she entered the house.

“This is the script that you wanted,” she announced as she placed it in front of Yan Huan.

“I’ve hired an excellent screenwriter to revise the script. You can take a look and let me know if you want to amend anything else.”

Yan Huan flipped through the script. He’s indeed a good scriptwriter. She was very satisfied with the script. She expected that they would take a longer time to produce this movie compared to White Fox as she intended to make her debut in Hollywood with this movie. Even if it did not win an award, it had to be nominated for some of the categories.

She closed the script and said, “Yes, this is fine. How about the things I told you to prepare?” In fact, she had been formulating and refining this plan for the past few years. Now, she was merely curious about the progress.

“It has been three years. What do you think?” Luo Lin sat down as she continued, “We hired the best people to form the post-production team. From early designing until now, we’ve spent an enormous amount of manpower, materials and time. I reckon that the result would be evident soon. Before this, I thought that you were just going with the flow, but it seems that you have every detail hammered out perfectly.”

“Yes, I’ve planned everything accordingly,” Yan Huan nodded as she picked up the script again. “I have always wanted to produce this film. I want the best of everything for this movie, including the graphics, the plot and the cast.”

“I think I can truly make this one count.” Yan Huan smiled.

This was her boldest attempt ever at a large-scale production. Moreover, this was not her forte during her past life. Hence, she had to pick up the reins and explore during the process. She stumbled upon this script by chance and she was immediately intrigued. Her heart was captivated by the story. Back then, Lu Yi had once expressed his anticipation toward this movie. According to him, this was the movie that he was the most excited for in the few years to come.

Hopefully, it will premiere next year. Yan Huan made a promise to herself. She believed that Lu Yi would be able to see this. She wanted to be his eyes and witness all the beautiful things in this world on Lu Yi’s behalf.

Nevertheless, she was very pleased with the script and she did not think that it needed any other amendments.

“When do you plan to appear in public again? Everyone might forget about you if you refuse to make your presence known for any longer.”

“Just a while more,” Yan Huan assured as she stood up and walked to the window. Then, she drew the curtains, letting the warm sunlight shine into the room that was initially blanketed in darkness. She had not left her home for a long time. Besides, she no longer had the desire to go out.

“I don’t want anyone to mention his name. I don’t want any sympathy because of him. To me, he is still alive, safe and sound and always by my side.”

“Let’s wait until the buzz of that incident dies down, and when his death is forgotten about. Then, I’ll make my appearance.”

She took a step forward and pressed her face onto the cold glass window. It was colder on the outside and the atmosphere was depressing due to the dark and gloomy sky, to the extent that it felt as though she was almost suffocated.

“Is it going to snow?” she asked. “I want to see him now.”

Luo Lin shook her head as she slowly packed up the items on the table, planning to leave soon.

“Up to you. You’re too skinny, please eat more and gain some weight before we discuss this any further.”

“Sure,” Yan Huan smiled. However, deep within her gaze was a heart-wrenching sorrow that might just last forever.

Yan Huan placed a bouquet of flowers before Lu Yi’s tomb. Then, she gently wiped off the dust on the headstone with her fingers. There was a picture adorning the tombstone that represented the final year of a person’s life. It might be a picture of a young boy or an old man. Regardless, their time had come to an end and their lives had passed on. The only thing that was left behind was this picture that stayed forever in their kin’s heart.

“Just as we expected, Lu Qin wanted to lay his dirty hands on Linlang. You made the right choice to place Linlang under Lei Qingyi and Yi Ling’s name. Now that you’re away and I’m sick and locked at home, Lu Qin had thought that there was no one left to contest him for Linlang’s ownership rights. Even Su Muran believed that to be true. Do you think that she is regretting now? She has entrusted her entire life to a man like Lu Qin. They had been together for a long time in their past lives, yet they were never really a true couple. Lu Qin and Su Muran both had their own agendas. It’ll sound like a joke to me if someone claims that there’s true love between them.”

“However, their love lives have nothing to do with me,” she sighed as she leaned her face on the gravestone. “I miss you. It’ll be nice to have you here now. Then, you can witness how the villainous couple execute their evil schemes together. Don’t worry, I’ll be fine. I’ve grown stronger and I’ll break free. I’ll take good care of myself and will not be bothered and disturbed by that hideous couple anymore.”

“Yet, I really wish to know how Lu Qin is going to find another Yan Huan now that Su Muran is sick?”

“Where do you think I should go then? Lu Qin is a relentless and persistent man when he wants to achieve his goal. Therefore, you have nothing to worry about. To ensure the success of my plan, I’ll lay low for at least one year. When I return in the future, I reckon everything will already be finalized.”

She closed her eyes, but her face remained on the cold and icy tombstone. Her Lu Yi was a lot warmer and softer than this headstone. Yet, she refused to leave.

She would turn 26 years old next year. Su Muran would be severely affected by the disease by then. Before that happened, they would have to face against each other. That would be the real beginning of their rivalry. A fight between Su Muran and Yan Huan, determining who was the best international actress.

In this lifetime, I will take back what I lost in my previous life, including the grand prize that I owe myself. In order to achieve her goal, she had a plan to premiere her movie, that took three years of production, on an international movie festival.

Chapter 684

: The Silly Fox

She felt coldness on her face all of a sudden. When she reopened her eyes, she saw snowflakes spiralling down from the sky. This was not the first snow of the year, but the first snow that she witnessed.

She reached out her hand, and a snowflake fell onto her palm. It was chilly and cold, but comfortable.

The snow is clean, right?

Without knowing how long she had been standing here, there blankets of snow had accumulated on her shoulders, her body and her hair. She sat up straight and cleaned off the snow on the gravestone. Then, she pondered over something before taking her cloak off.

She was shivering in the cold wind.

Under the fluttering of the snow, there was only her thin silhouette.

The wind almost blew into her bones, bringing her a bone-chilling kind of pain.

She covered the gravestone with her cloak. Tomorrow I’ll bring you dumplings, okay? She smiled, stroking the picture that was frozen in time.

“You will remain young forever, but what about me? I will grow old. Can you still recognize me when I’m all wrinkled and grizzled? But that would only happen after a very long time. I promise you that I will become the international best actress, then I will stop filming and come over to accompany you with single-hearted devotion, okay?”

The snowflakes fell on her, bit by bit. As if she did not feel any coldness that she could keep on soliloquizing. She was talking to the air and to herself, although nobody would reply to her.

When she got back, the housekeeper was shocked to see her like this. The housekeeper took over a woolen blanket promptly and covered her with it.

“Ahchoo...” Yan Huan sneezed. It seemed like she had caught a cold.

"It's okay," she smiled at both of the housekeepers. She really felt that she was okay, but her pale snow-covered face and her body that was as thin as paper made the housekeepers worry about whether she was really fit enough to get through this winter.

Yan Huan went into her bedroom. In a flash, the warmth in her room opened the pores throughout her skin. It was comfortable, but she was suffering at the same time.

Perhaps I'm sick. She forced a smile. Seemed like she really had to nurse her body and maintain healthy, or else she would not be able to continue filming.

Soon, the housekeeper brought up a bowl of ginger soup for Yan Huan.

Yan Huan took over the ginger soup and drank it sip by sip. Then, she laid down and drifted off groggily. But she slept lightly. Sometimes she felt as if her body was burned by fire, and sometimes she felt as if she was in the world of ice and snow, making her suffer a lot.

When she reopened her eyes, she noticed that Ye Shuyun was back without her noticing.

"Are you awake?" Ye Shuyun put her hand on her forehead, "You've perspired. You will recover after sweating it out."

"Mom," she called as she sat up and hugged Ye Shuyun, just like her mother who had taken care of her when she was sick during childhood.

"Hmm, no worries. It's okay. Everything is going to be alright," Ye Shuyun patted Yan Huan's shoulder gently. She and Lu Jin had nothing but Yan Huan now. This was their last gratifying thing.

It was not long after that when He Yibin arrived.

"She's fine," he declared as he put down his stethoscope. "It's just a cold. Don't go out these days as it is freezing outside."

"You have to gain more weight. Or else, you might have insufficient muscles and fatty tissue to retain heat."

Yan Huan pinched her arm. Yeah, I should gain weight. I will not look good in the film like this.

After taking the medication, again she laid down and fell asleep. She felt much better now, perhaps it was because of the perspiration earlier.

Besides, Chinese New Year was just around the corner. This was their first new year without Lu Yi, and also their first lonely New Year. Anyway, Yan Huan still received a lot of red envelopes. She carried around a tall stack of red envelopes given by a lot of people, but none of them were from Lu Yi. Lu Yi used to pass her all of his red envelopes, and let her keep them because he knew that she had a habit of hoarding red envelopes. In fact, nobody knew that she kept those red envelopes because she was too lonely.

She put her red envelopes in the drawer and stayed indoors. It was freezing outside, and she was too thin to retain her heat.

She tapped her fingers at the edge of the table while drinking a glass of milk. Right now, she was sitting at the bay window and looking outside. The highest level of the Lu family's house was the fourth floor, so it was considered as a high-rise building here. Such a height would be enough to get a clear picture of the scenery, but the courtyard outside the Lu family's house was spacious and empty. There were only a few people and few cars. If it snowed, you could see an endless clean snowfield and some twigs that were bent as they could not sustain the weight of the snow.

It was rare to see people passing by, so it was another beautiful scenery here. Even if it was an empty space-time, it could become the scenery in one's eyes.

If one's mind was here, he or she should enjoy the view here.

Su Muran's new year film was known as Legend of the Fox. They had only achieved 80 million box office on the release day, it was basically a flop.

Yan Huan was not surprised by it. There were a total of six new year films this year, and all of them were of high quality. Since Su Muran wanted to force herself in at this time, she could not gain much as there were too many contenders for the limited slots. The 80 million box office was already the highest in the month.

Su Muran was not a professional actress, as she required a stuntwoman for all her action scenes. She just appeared in the film without expressing her sincerity. How would the audience offer you box office then? A predictable plot, a familiar paralyzed face which showed no difference whether she was smiling or not. Although their publicity was so good that they had almost 100 million box office sales on the release day, but the box office did not rise further. The guaranteed box office was ten billion, but this film had just gained approximately three billion. And this still was not the revenue sharing of the box office. In fact, this film was the film that had lost the most money for the year.

This film was said to be able to shatter the box office record of the White Fox back then. But eventually, it turned out to be a joke.

The record of the box office income of White Fox was unbreakable.

Although Yan Huan was going to break her own record, she would not be silly as to shoot another fox movie. But what Su Muran and Lu Qin wanted was to catch up with the trend last year. Perhaps everyone would think that another fox-themed movie could be successful and ranked as the movie with the highest box office. But unfortunately, they failed. Not all of the foxes in this world could become a fox deity. There were silly foxes who did not turn into a deity as well.

Yan Huan turned on Lu Yi's laptop and set aside the bowl of soup that she was carrying. Then, she browsed through the records of the box office of the New Year films this year.

There were really a lot of qualified films. It was a highly competitive market for New Year films this year, and the row piece rate of Su Muran's fox movie had started to decrease already. The graphics were alright but the word-of-mouth was so bad.

Chapter 685: Easy To Ask, Hard To Survive

The audiences who had watched the movie felt like they were cheated.

They expected it to be a sequel of White Fox, as the ending for that movie felt too vague, so they hoped that the movie could be concluded with a better ending this time. However, they were disappointed to find out that this movie was completely unrelated to White Fox. Despite the presence of a little fox in this movie, it was the most hideous fox the audiences had ever seen as it did not wear any expression but merely acted like a robot.

It's not ugly. It's only fat from eating too much.

They are right. Goddess Su, your fans are telling you to lose weight.

Yan Huan lifted the cup as she scrolled through the accumulated comments. She was rather amused. No one was discussing the quality of the movie and she reckoned that the plot was not interesting enough. Instead, the comments were mainly focused on how much weight a certain Su goddess had gained.

Yes, your goddess has gained a great amount of weight and is now fat like never before. She should definitely try to lose weight.

On the second day, the box office of the movie, Legend of the Fox, was less than 50 million and the showtimes available were decreasing rapidly.

At that time, box offices for the other new year movies had achieved 1.5 billion whilst Legend of the Fox was only able to hit 300 million. There were people who expected Legend of the Fox to top the movie chart. Yet, it was proven impossible.

The audiences who had watched the Legend of the Fox felt as though they were scammed. At the same time, they understood that White Fox no longer needed a sequel as it would never be the same as the original movie.

What they were obsessed with was just a beautiful yet flawed memory.

For now, Yan Huan was not interested to know Su Muran's current thoughts about the situation because it was completely irrelevant to her. Recently, her health had recovered well and she had gained some weight as well. Although she looked beautiful in her skinny body, she was still as attractive as ever even after gaining weight. In fact, her current body weight was perfect and she might still be as lithe as a swallow.

She lifted her cup, sipped the milk and closed her laptop. Then, she walked to the bay window and sat down beside the window. The snow had stopped and the surrounding temperature was rising. The weather was going to turn warmer soon.

She placed the cup on her thigh as a smile appeared on her beautiful red lips. She might still carry a hint of sorrow with her, but she was still alive and living well.

She ought to take good care of herself and Lu Yi's parents.

After new year, every corner of the earth began to warm up. If it were not for her ambitions regarding the entertainment industry, Yan Huan would choose to live a peaceful and ordinary life, eating and resting according to a regular daily schedule. That would definitely help to speed up her recovery.

Spring had arrived and flowers were blooming everywhere. It was another new season that initiated another new year. The seasons were constantly changing and time was constantly moving forward.

“Sister Liang, do you have any free slots?” Yan Huan asked Liang Chen through the phone.

“Yes, I do! I was waiting for you to call,” Liang Chen answered as she covered her mouth and chuckled. “Anyway, I don’t want to be involved in any other projects. Both Haolin and I can spend all our time with you. In short, we are all yours.”

“That’s great!” Yan Huan heaved a sigh of relief as she had managed to secure two important actors.

Next, she looked for Zhou Zizhe, asking if he and Fang Ying were available. As for Zhou Zizhe, he was occupied for now but that would only last until the end of this month. Unfortunately, Fang Ying’s time was fully booked.

Yan Huan counted the number of people that Linlang recruited recently. There was a sufficient number of them. As for the casting process, Yan Huan believed that her insight was still incomparable to those of the professional producers and directors. Hence, she completely trusted them to assemble the lineup of actors and actresses.

The only thing she ought to do now was to recuperate her health. After all, filming a movie was always exhausting, not to mention a movie like this which involved rigging and survival in the wilderness. These were all common stunts in a movie and no one could shy away from them.

If she was unfit during the shooting, then she would be irresponsible to the entire team and ruin the whole movie production.

“You’re almost as fit as before,” He Yibin declared after the latest check-up. He was finally at ease after he made sure of her recovery progress.

“Can I start filming now?” asked Yan Huan. She, too, noticed that she felt much better than before. However, she was afraid that she would inconvenience the others as she was not in good shape.

“Don’t worry. It shouldn’t be a problem,” said He Yibin with a grin on his face. “You are healing well. If you continue to follow my advice, there shouldn’t be any further issues.”

“Thanks,” Yan Huan expressed her sincere gratitude. She would not have recovered so smoothly and speedily without He Yibin’s help.

“You fought for yourself,” He Yibin was relieved to know that she was getting better. “As long as you are healthy and promise that you would never do anything foolish again. The most important thing is always to live your life to the fullest.”

“Yes, I know,” said Yan Huan. She stood up with the cup in her hand. Her vision was blurry but she felt as though she was seeing a galaxy full of shining stars.

It was easy to ask for help, but it was difficult to survive.

After half a month, the production crew embarked on their journey. This time, the filming venue was a studio, but at a real primeval forest. Yan Huan and Zhou Zizhe had participated in a survival reality show beforehand. Therefore, it was easier for them to adapt to the environment.

The beginning of the movie was about an ordinary girl in a modern era who was accidentally transported back to 10 thousand years ago where dinosaurs, active volcanoes and various species of bizarre yet beautiful flora and fauna still existed.

The post-production process to spice up the movie's graphics with special effects would take about three years' time. The filming process would last for half a year whereas the editing needed another three years, while the post-production might need at least another half a year to complete. Luckily, Yan Huan had prepared in advance. Otherwise, merely dealing with these computer graphics might take nearly four years or more to complete.

Yan Huan estimated that the total investment made in this movie was approximately 300 million as she had never calculated it in detail. Fortunately, Linlang was a profitable company. Otherwise, Linlang would not be able to afford such big investment.

Yan Huan preferred to invest in the production of computer graphics, clothing and an interesting plot. The remuneration of the cast was the least important. The money saved from the actors' pay would contribute to improving the quality of the entire film.

Firstly, Yan Huan, Liang Chen and Qi Haolin participated in the movie without getting paid, whereas Zhou Zizhe was appearing as a cameo in the movie, thus his pay was considerably low. As for the others, they were only minor actors in the company and they would not be paid any extravagant sum either.

They made an effort not to destroy the ecosystem of the primeval forest. They built some tents as they intended to live in the forest along the terrain. The entire crew was going to spend the next few months to half a year's time in this natural habitat.

Chapter 686: Before The Beginning

There were doctors, essential medications, food, wireless phones, large-scale dynamo facilities and sophisticated computers here. They were all prepared in advance and delivered by helicopters.

However, it was impossible to deliver box lunches to them everyday, so the place was equipped with a canteen. Even so, Yan Huan still brought Aunt Gu with her because she needed to have the soup everyday. Ye Shuyun would be so worried if Aunt Gu did not come along, because Yan Huan would be gone for almost half a year on this journey.

When everything was in their proper places, the filming for Before the Beginning began.

"You would look more like a ghost if you get slimmer," Yue Ran jibed as he fixed Yan Huan's hair with his bare hands before doing her makeup.

"I had just turned back into a human from a ghost," Yan Huan made fun of herself. She looked at herself in the mirror, then slid her eyes to the side to look at Yue Ran, who was standing behind her in a windbreaker, as neat as before, "Will you regret following me here when I asked you to? Life is tough here, you could have rejected."

"Why wouldn't I come?" Yue Ran asked Yan Huan in reply. "I'm honored with a few prestigious makeup awards because of you, which makes me a renowned local makeup artist now, but that only stays within the country. This movie that you are filming now could probably make it into the global market. I would be a fool if I did not make use of this opportunity."

“You really think so?” Yan Huan sat up straight when she heard this. She was surprised that Yue Ran had such thoughts. Does he really trust me so much?

“Certainly,” Yue Ran answered as he concentrated on Yan Huan’s make up. “You have your own purpose for doing everything. You are always planning for things that may happen a few years later. I can’t help but suspect that you’re actually reborn, as what was described in the book, which explains why you knew about a lot of future events that did not happen yet.”

Yan Huan was still laughing, “Since when are you into these melodramatic scenarios too?”

Yue Ran shrugged his shoulders and said, “Just guessing. I don’t mind if that’s the truth, as long as I’m warm and fed. I’m now famous and wealthy already, the only thing that is lacking would be a grand award.”

“Haven’t you gotten the Best Makeup Artist Award in the country?” Yan Huan was referring to the makeup created by Yue Ran in *White Fox*. He had won himself the Best Makeup Artist Award and the Best Style Award with that makeup in *White Fox*.

“I have a bigger appetite than this,” Yue Ran said reproachfully as he threw her a glance. “I want the most reputable and internationally recognized award.”

How ambitious he was.

Nevertheless, Yan Huan was supportive of Yue Ran’s ambition. It was better to have a dream than float around without direction, not to mention that it was obvious that Yue Ran’s talent was compatible with his ambition.

Yue Ran had taken more than a year to come up with this makeup in *Before the Beginning*. He had made hundreds of adjustments and corrections for this. He strived for perfection for each and every style and adornment. If this film was awarded an international award, Yue Ran’s makeup must have played a crucial role in it.

Yan Huan touched her face as she looked into the mirror, thinking that time really flies. “I have been acting for six years already.”

“Six years, is this a lot?”

Yue Ran asked Yan Huan again, “Is that a lot?”

Indeed, it was not. Yan Huan did not dare to say that this is a lot, although she had almost 20 years of experience in acting if two of her lives were added up. But so what? There were plenty of more experienced actors and actresses out there like Liang Chen, who were more experienced than her even with her lives summed up.

“Fortunately, your looks stayed the same. You look as marvellous as you were before.”

Yue Ran packed up his things and said, “You better perform well. My international award is waiting for me.”

“I will,” Yan Huan promised as she turned around. She closed her eyes and breathed in deeply.

“All the best, Yan Huan.”

She used to tell herself this all the time in the past. She wanted to give her best once again with her remaining life, all her passion and determination in acting, as this might be her last film already.

In her remaining days, she just wanted to accompany Lu Yi’s parents, and be with Lu Yi.

She turned around and walked out into a peaceful forest. There were birds chirping and flowers blooming, fully ecological, without any contamination.

I am Yao Xiaoyu, a doctor, a surgeon. My biggest hobby is watching television, fangirling and eating. I am a foodie and I love to eat. Of course, I have another hobby, which is watching some melodramatic dramas. I hardly cry, but I laugh easily. I have quite a bit of a character too.

Others would cry like a fool in the cinema while I would be eating popcorn, wondering what was there to cry for. To me, these people were mental.

Similarly, I would laugh so hard that the others would turn around and give me a gaze that said,
You idiot.

I traveled back in time on a stormy night to a primitive forest, hundred of thousands of years ago with dinosaurs, volcanoes and countless weird plantations in it.

That was where my legendary, primitive life started.

My name is Shi Jia, an easy-to-remember name that sounds like top ten best teenagers or top ten good guy, etc... But I’ve never gotten into any top tens since I was a kid. I was an extremely stupid person, so my father used to say...

“My Jiajia, what are you gonna do in the future if you are so ugly and dumb?”

I grew up with yellowish hair, but I’m not a foreigner nor a banana with yellowish skin. I am 100% a Chinese.

I told my dad that I wanted to be a soldier.

But my dad said, you would get beaten up as a soldier because of your appearance.

I did not care if people are going to beat me up or not, I was determined to join the army. Moreover, I could not think of anything else that a woman who was poor and ugly like me could do except joining the army.

I did become a soldier at last, and certainly, a soldier in the special forces.

A bolt of lightning struck me when I was on a mission. I was cautious and honest all my life, I couldn’t understand what vicious thing I did that made me deserve being struck by lightning.

After that, I traveled back in time. Not to some Tang Dynasty, Qing Dynasty, nor the Republic of China Era or any unfounded place, but the primitive societies which existed hundreds of thousands of years ago.

Under a tree that was as wide as a few armspans, a woman with her hair casually tied up was sewing herself a skirt made out of animal skin with a bone needle. She then wrapped it around her waist.

Then, she raised her head and started rubbing her hands. When she was ready, she started to climb up the tree. However, for every three feet she climbed up, she slipped down even more, and half of the day passed by like this.

Chapter 687: A Complete Take

She flashed her middle finger at the tree.

The scene ended when the camera focused on her skirt that was made with animal skin and her hay-like messy hair.

“Your tree-climbing skills are pretty decent,” Liang Chen complimented as she approached Yan Huan. Liang Chen’s character was Yao Xiaoyu, a rather egoistic surgeon who was also considerably spoiled and willful yet professionally competent.

“You will have to climb the tree too,” Yan Huan replied as she dusted off her outfit. She was always confident in climbing trees. Moreover, she was only acting half-heartedly just now. Very soon, she would show off her true skills.

Liang Chen shrugged. “As you can see, I’m not that young anymore. How can they make me climb the tree?”

“A true actor should always sacrifice for arts.”

Fine. Liang Chen understood that she had no choice but to climb the tree, even if it was her first time ever.

When it was Liang Chen’s turn to climb the tree, she held on to the tree tightly and exerted her utmost strength, attempting to make her way up, but to no avail. She let go of the tree and tried again with her four limbs.

Director Jin was very pleased with the result as they did not fake their actions. They had higher expectations for this movie than White Fox. They screened and assessed each and every scene, repeating every shot that did not meet their standards and made sure that nothing was compromised.

When it was Yan Huan’s turn, she tidied her clothes and scaled the trunk of the tree in the blink of an eye, appearing at the top of the tree.

Director Jin gave Yan Huan a thumbs-up. By then, Yan Huan was already sitting on the branches of the tree and began to stretch her animal-skin skirt like a barbarian.

Doctor Yao, who was still standing on the ground, rolled her eyes at the barbaric girl on the top of the tree. Then, she approached the tree and attempted to climb it again. However, the result was similar to the previous attempt and she failed again. She was so upset to the extent that she left a bite mark on the trunk.

Soon, she spat it out, wondering why the bark was bitter.

In fact, neither of them should have the chance to interact with each other in the entirety of their lives. Unexpectedly, they were brought together. Now, they were sitting side by side, eating tree bark and drinking unfiltered water.

Fortunately, Yao Xiaoyu was a doctor and had learned about botany, albeit very briefly. She could identify many edible plants and organic material. Hence, they would climb up the tree and drink its nectar. The sweet nectar was enough to sustain them.

Of course, they were also bitten occasionally by venomous bugs in the woods and it was Doctor Yao's forte to handle the bug bites.

"Do you think that we will have to stay here for the rest of our lives?" Yao Xiaoyu asked Shi Jia. "Without computers, air-conditioners nor even beds, we will live like savages."

"I don't know," Shi Jia seemed depressed, the hay-like strands on her head drooping. Her shoes were worn out but she had no choice but to endure the discomfort.

Despite not being a fashionista, Shi Jia tried to keep herself looking decent and presentable at all times. Now, she could no longer be fussy about her outfit anymore. She only wished for something to cover herself with and a pair of high heels that would accompany her when her inevitable death comes.

"You should not be wearing heels."

Yao Xiaoyu raised her foot, "You should wear flats instead."

Shi Jia immediately stretched her leg to kick Yao Xiaoyu's leg aside.

Their bickering did not stop as they continued to mock and tease each other until they were tired and fell asleep.

All of a sudden, their ears picked up a strange noise.

"It's a bear!"

Shi Jia exclaimed as she sat upright.

"Can it be a lion?"

Just like Shi Jia, Yao Xiaoyu sat up in alert.

When they turned around, they saw neither a lion nor a bear. Instead, they saw a gigantic and grotesque monster.

"What should we do now?" asked Yao Xiaoyu helplessly.

Shi Jia shook her head and replied in a daze, "I don't know."

"Please figure something out," Yao Xiaoyu's mouth was trembling while her teeth were chattering.

"There is only one way," Shi Jia spoke as she stared unseeingly into the distance, while the wind blew on her solemn face.

"What is it?"

“What else can it be? Run!” Within a fraction of a second, Shi Jia turned around and was ready to sprint away.

“Shi Jia, my knees are weak.”

Shi Jia pulled Yao Xiaoyu by her collar and dragged her forward.

The cameraman followed right behind them as the pair ran forward speedily.

“Speed up! Run faster!” Director Jin reminded them from the back, as though he was going to motivate them with a whip.

Yan Huan and Liang Chen had put in strenuous effort to keep up with the speed. Their thighs had no chance to rest. They had retaken this scene for more than 10 times.

After the tenth time, both of them were exhausted.

“I feel like I’ve just finished a full marathon.” Soaked in sweat, Liang Chen took a gulp of water. Yan Huan leaned on the wall, disregarding her sweat-drenched outfit.

Fortunately, she had joined the army previously and was deemed fit. She was even capable of climbing a tree, unlike Liang Chen, a lady who was forced to carry out such a physically demanding task without prior experience.

Yan Huan took a cup of water and drained it. Although she was worn out, her face appeared to be glowing. Besides, she seemed to have grown more muscular due to the very physically challenging scenes.

Liang Chen walked toward Yan Huan and gently patted her shoulder.

“You’re so fit.”

With a faint grin, Yan Huan replied, “I used to be a soldier.”

Knowing that she was no match for Yan Huan, Liang Chen shook the cup in her hand. She might not even pass the screening test even if she applied to join the military force. Yan Huan has such great stamina because she was once a soldier.

Yan Huan could even climb a tree easily. For Liang Chen, climbing a tree was a nightmare. It was not possible for a gentle lady like her to climb a tree without a stunt double.

Liang Chen rolled her sleeves up. Fine, let’s start climbing now.

She grabbed hold of the grooves in the tree and put in all her efforts to climb upward. Of course, she still had to be supervised by a professional choreographer. Nonetheless, Yan Huan and Liang Chen were both top-notch actresses. They would make sure to complete their filming regardless of the difficulty of the scene, even if it included climbing trees.

Frantically, Liang Chen began to learn how to climb a tree while Yan Huan prepared for her next scene. She was going to act like Tarzan and hang off a vine in midair.

First, the cast helped her up into the air. Then, she had to complete a full set of complicated actions. One of her tasks was to throw herself at a tree.

Furthermore, they required her to present a live action, not a mere act.

A deafening bang resonated as she crashed into the tree mercilessly with her back. Out of extreme agony, her body curled up, as if to protect itself. Cold sweat ran down her forehead and her face turned as pale as paper.

Despite the pain, she stood up and continued to film as this scene was supposed to be done in a single take. She had to fall off this tree and land on another tree.

Then, they would have the complete take.

The scene continued as she spun in the air and finally touched down on the ground. The entire scene took up a span of 50 seconds and was supposed to be one of the hardest scenes to film.

It took them a total of 20 takes to finally get one that met their strident expectations.

Chapter 688: Encountering Fellow Townsmen

“You got hurt to this extent?” Liang Chen was shocked when she saw Yan Huan’s badly mangled back, “You’re a woman, why would you do this so callously?”

“Why can’t I?” Yan Huan lied down on her stomach and let the doctor deal with her wounds. “The one person who would love and care for me no longer exists anymore, so why does it matter anymore how I’d become?”

She was mocking and spurning herself. Acting was the only thing she could do at the moment, even with her life. She would rather be wounded with scars all over her body, so that she would forget another kind of pain while she dealt with this physical pain.

Liang Chen finally learnt how to climb a tree, and Yan Huan had finished filming a long scene too. She starred as a calm soldier in the series, like she was in the army, so it was kind of like her showing her true self in the series

She had gone through countless critical moments in life, putting her life at risk, but things had never really gone wrong. However, the young doctor by her side had been making some minor yet cute mistakes.

They were finally captured by a group of savages after going through several life-threatening situations.

“Hohoho...”

The savages were thumping their chests like a gorilla. They were naked on top, and their lower bodies were covered with animal pelts.

This is a tribe. Shi Jia thought about it and realized that these were all uncivilized ethnicities who had no idea what to do with her and Yao Xiaoyu. Everything was foreign to them, and they started to get nervous under such circumstances, in which both of them couldn’t handle.

Those people were speaking to each other in their own rough-sounding language. Shi Jia and Yao Xiaoyu could not even guess what they were saying, even if they spoke word by word.

“Do you think they are going to treat us like food? Rip us open and...”

She really could not utter the word ‘eat’. She used to love eating meat so much, but she never thought that she would become someone else’s meat on the dining table.

I hope that won’t happen!

“Maybe.” Shi Jia did not know what these people are up to, but Neanderthals were uncivilized, so they might treat both of them as food. Nevertheless, she had heard that a good number of primitive societies were matrilineal, in which women had higher social status than men. So, what she feared was not to be treated as food, but to be regarded as a tool to carry on the ancestral line and that she would have to give birth to babies one after another.

She quickly unleashed herself on the wrist, wondering if she had a chance to escape. It might not be hard for them to survive here, since they had been living here for more than a month. She only needed to find a good place where she could cultivate funguses, hunt and plant edible crops.

But the prerequisite would be that they could survive and get out of here.

At night, these people danced joyfully around a bonfire barefooted.

By that time, Shi Jia had already untied the rope around her wrist.

“You...” Yao Xiaoyu was just about to talk, and Shi Jia put her finger by her mouth to shush her. Yao Xiaoyu wittily shut her mouth and did not dare to speak anymore.

Shi Jia cut off the rope on Yao Xiaoyu with a little knife that she brought along with her. When they were just about to escape, they heard a loud noise.

A savage ran towards them hurriedly, shouting and pointing outside, but they could not understand what he was trying to say.

Shi Jia sensed that something was wrong, so she pulled Yao Xiaoyu aside with her and hid between the crevices of the rocks. There was just enough room for both of them to hide.

She covered Yao Xiaoyu’s mouth tightly to keep her silent.

After a short while, they heard the savages’ shouts, cries and collisions of objects that sounded like sharp weapons from the outside.

Was this a mere skirmish, or an all-out battle to win ownership of territories? The chaos lasted for nearly the whole night. The fire around the tribe was extinguished, but they could still smell blood in the air when daylight came.

“Someone is bleeding?” Yao Xiaoyu asked in a whisper.

“I know, and it’s probably more than one person.” Shi Jia pushed Yao Xiaoyu backwards and said, “You stay here, and I will go out and take a look.”

Yao Xiaoyu pointed at herself and shrunk herself into the crevices obediently.

“Erm, get back as fast as you can, I’m scared,” her lips was trembling and she almost fainted.

Shi Jia remained silent. The only thing she did was taking out her knife and walked out.

There was indeed a fierce battle that had occurred out there, as they expected. There were dead bodies and injured people all around. The food and women were all gone, and only grown up men were left. The savage who brought them back here was dead too.

She kicked the motionless form of the savage who captured them. He was utterly dead.

“Hmm, let’s see. There are still two women here, where were you earlier?”

This voice? Shi Jia’s pupils contracted. She turned around and saw a man wearing an animal leather pelt walk in. The man was tall and dark, but was slightly fairer than the savages here, and certainly more civilized. At the very least, he looked clean, and his hair was tidied. Despite that, he still looked weird because he was not barefooted. Instead, he was wearing a pair of strange-looking shoes that did not look refined at all, but you could still call it a pair of shoes.

The man was examining Shi Jia too, and Shi Jia was staring back at him with the same gaze.

The man’s gaze shifted from Shi Jia’s face to her feet, and noticed her high heels without the heels.

“Where are you from?”

Shi Jia pursed up her red lips and said, “The 21st century.”

All of a sudden, the man smiled, tears welling in his eyes.

“Oh, my fellow townsmen!” He extended his arms, trying to hug her as he uttered.

Yan Huan blocked his arms and hollered for Yao Xiaoyu to come out. Yao Xiaoyu climbed out from the crevice and ran behind Shi Jia, only sticking her head out from behind.

“Another fellow townsmen,” the man said as he smiled happily. He wiped his tears and said, “Excuse me, I am just too excited. I have been here for five years, until I meet both of you today. If you never came, I might even forget how to talk anymore.”

They arrived at a new tribe after a while.

Shi Jia noticed that this place was much better than the normal ones out there, and she supposed that all of this was their new fellow townsman’s effort. The inside of the tribe was built with massive rocks, and they had also cultivated some unused land. Everything in here showed some signs of modern management. The inside of the caves were smooth and flat, with some stone stoves, tables, chairs, etc... in it, looking so much better than the bear men’s tribe.

Chapter 689: She Doesn’t Need Anyone’s Concern

“Please have a seat,” The guy invited Shi Jia and Yao Xiaoyu to sit on the stone chairs, then he took out a bamboo cup with some strange drawings on it.

“Did you draw these?” Shi Jia asked.

“Yeah,” the guy smiled. “I used to be an artist.”

“It must be really hard for you right?” Shi Jia said while turning the cup.

“Pardon?” the guy was confused.

“How were you not starved to death? I mean, no one would want these hideous drawings.”

Embarrassed, the guy replied while rubbing his nose, “Yeah, my drawings are quite abstract and people usually don’t appreciate them. I almost starved to death back then. A bolt of lightning struck me out of nowhere and that’s how I’m here. Although it’s quite backwards here, there are food, drinks, and shelter. Oh look at me, I almost forgot to introduce myself, my name is Zhang Peng.”

“Tent?” Yao Xiaoyu grabbed a cup of water and took a sip. Why would your parents give you such a name? was the only thought running through her mind.

Zhang Peng smiled awkwardly, “Well, Zhang Peng does mean tent in Chinese but Zhang is my family name and Peng is my given name. If you look at each word individually, it’s actually fine. But that’s how it sounds like when it’s combined. Anyway, I’m used to it so it’s fine.”

Shi Jia stood up and walked around the settlement. She was very confused by what was happening, like where they were and whether they would be able to return.

“Where are we?” She turned around and asked Zhang Peng.

“Where?” Zhang Peng shrugged his shoulders. “Although I have been here for more than five years, I still survived this place without knowing where I am.”

“I slowly adapted to this place. A few years have passed now and I have already got used to it. As for where this place is, I have no idea, the only thing that I know is,” Zhang Peng pointed to a direction, “There is an active volcano right there. There are some weird giant monsters as well. And yeah, you can tell that they’re dinosaurs, they are actually dinosaurs.”

“As for the question of how do we get back,” Zhang Peng ponder while touching his chin. “I still haven’t discovered an alternative, maybe you need to get struck by lightning?”

“Have you tried it before?” Shi Jia asked. This was the only way where anybody could have thought of in the beginning, as that was how they were brought here.

Zhang Peng pointed his hair, “Look at my stylish hairstyle, it was caused by a second lightning strike and that nearly got myself killed. After going through all that, I was still here after five years.”

So, staying here was much easier than going back.

“However, there are some benefits to staying here as well. I could relax forever, do not have to work, earn money or running around all the time just to buy a house, a car or taking care of my other half.”

“You got a wife?” Shi Jia questioned Zhang Peng coolly.

“Well...” Zhang Peng laughed awkwardly. “I haven’t got one, but this is a matriarchal society where women are powerful but there are few of them. Instead of taking a wife, the woman here would choose their husbands, and it’s polyandry, which means this is a heaven for women.”

Yao Xiaoyu shrank her shoulder, imagining the men with a robust body. She would prefer to be alone for a lifetime, rather than giving birth for the cavemen, one by one.

“Women were considered assets in all the tribes. The more women they have, the stronger the tribe. Certainly, there were times where war will be initiated by the foreign tribe to snatch women and food from the others,” Zhang Peng continued.

“Just like what happened last night?” Shi Jia asked. This was quite similar to her guess.

“Yeah,” Zhang Peng nodded. “People from that tribe are quite barbaric, it’s better to eliminate them. They consume not only animals but also humans. I’ve wanted to destroy them for more than half a year. There was a chance recently, otherwise, I wouldn’t be able to sleep comfortably with them by my side.”

“By the way, how could you guys get there? Were...” Zhang Peng pointed at the cavemen, “Were you guys caught by them?”

Yao Xiaoyu held her head down, wiping the cold sweat falling from her head, feeling grateful that the cavemen started fighting each other. Otherwise, she would be caught as their woman, or be eaten by them, it was bad either way.

Shi Jia picked up a weed from the floor and bit it gently while looking in the distance. No one could tell what was in her mind. Was it her distant love? Or relatives that she could never meet again?

For her, this might only mean a temporary parting, but for others, she might as well be dead to them.

“Cut.” the director shouted abruptly. The last frame captured was Yan Huan’s flashback in her eyes. Perhaps due to Lu Yi’s death, her acting style had altered slightly. Her acting was once skillful and stunning. But now, it has become low profile and introverted. Nevertheless, people were moved by it.

Yan Huan walked around and found a seat. She came alone without an assistant and worked out everything by herself. She took the meal prepared by the kitchen and started eating alone. She used to be a picky eater as there was a guy who loved to nag about her picky eating, and she was fond of his nagging, enjoying it, actually.

That was the reason why sometimes, she might be quite a pretentious woman. She would do what she had been doing, while desired to listen to his nagging so that she could feel that she was on his mind.

In fact, it was unnecessary to do so. It was clear that she had been always on his mind, she was much more important to him than his own life.

Life was so precious that one could only live once, but he exchanged his own for hers.

She hated herself for not treating him nicely, for being mad at him, for losing temper toward him. They were rarely together because she was filming. If she was given another chance, she would rather stay by his side, like in the past, when he would bring her meals every day, staying together for the afternoon, accompanying each other silently.

However, she clearly understood that all of these were impossible.

God would not grant her a third chance, and she would never have a third chance.

She stuffed the food into her mouth, just like chewing wax, she could not taste any flavor, only eating instinctively, as she swallowed it down.

Liang Chen stood up and wanted to go over to her, but Qi Haolin grabbed Liang Chen's hand, shaking her head at him.

"She doesn't need anyone's concern right now."

"Why?" Liang Chen did not get it.

Chapter 690: Wounded

"To her, your concern will be no different from sympathy and pity. Do you think she needs any of that?" asked Qi Haolin. "You should know her by now. She would rather swallow all the bitterness by herself, rather than have someone pitying her. She doesn't need pity."

Liang Chen could only sit down and continue eating, not tasting anything as she ate.

Yan Huan liked to be alone these days. Sometimes she talked and joked with the others, but there was always an unbreachable wall around her. There was always a hint of aloofness in her eyes, and she had become more distant.

It wasn't her nature to be like this, but the wound in her heart proved too much to recover.

They had a short break after their meal, before rushing to the next set.

Qi Haolin's Zhang Peng was the comedic relief of the show, while Yan Huan had all the action scenes. The explosion and wire scenes were all done by her, and she worked with such reckless abandon that it made everyone worry.

"Are you going to climb it yourself? I say we use a stunt double instead. It's too dangerous," Director Jin advised Yan Huan, his eyes on the natural rock formation looming before them. The next scene required Shi Jia to climb it, but the risk could be reduced if they used a stunt double instead.

"I'll do it," said Yan Huan, rolling her sleeves up. It wasn't her first time, and she was supported by wires too. She would be fine.

"Fine." Director Jin gave in and invited the wire instructor over to help Yan Huan fasten her harness. To be honest, it wasn't easy to find a stunt double for her with her current bony figure either. And Yan Huan's performance spoke for herself too.

Yan Huan had already started making her way up. As she ascended, her air had completely changed. She was no longer Yan Huan, but a savage who thought herself invincible.

She hastened up, the camera following her closely. She was deft and professional, not losing one bit to professional stuntmen.

Then again, she used to be a stuntwoman herself.

Liang Chen shrugged. No one could deny her professionalism, or think that she had spent her one year in the army going through the motions.

“Why push herself this hard?” sighed Zhou Zizhe, shaking his head. “She should just find a good man and settle down.”

“Her husband passed away,” said Liang Chen coolly.

That gave Zhou Zizhe an awkward pause. “I’m sorry. I forgot about that.”

Halfway up the hill, Director Jin waved at Yan Huan.

“Okay, you can start making your way down. Be careful.”

From the middle of the hill, Yan Huan got to take in the breathtaking scenery of the primeval forest for the first time. The place was unpolluted, with fresh air and green vegetation everywhere. Building a house here and watching the sun rise and fall wouldn’t be so bad either. It was a stark contrast from the brick and steel of the cities, a welcome respite from the soulless constructions of civilization.

The higher you stand, the more you could see. That was true, but the wind was so strong at that height it made her face and eyes sting.

She descended slowly. When she was about two meters from the ground, she suddenly felt the wire loosening at her back.

Before she could react, the wire snapped into two, flinging her down.

“Yan Huan...!”

“Watch out!”

She didn’t know who said the words as she came crashing down headfirst into a rock with a loud bang. She felt light-headed, followed by a rush of pain.

The doctor quickly ran over and squatted down beside her.

“Are you alright, Miss Yan? Can you speak?”

“Yes, I can,” said Yan Huan, opening and closing her fingers to check if they were working fine. “I’m fine. My head hurts a little, that’s all.”

The doctor promptly ordered someone to support Yan Huan into a sitting position. The moment she sat up, blood streaked down her face in a terrifying manner. Instinctively, Yan Huan felt the pain intensifying. She reached out to feel the wound, but the doctor stopped her.

“Bring me the first-aid kit,” she thought she heard the doctor say.

A medical gauze was pressed against her head. She shook her head.

“What’s wrong?” asked the doctor cautiously.

“I feel a little dizzy.” And sleepy, as well.

“Hang in there. The helicopter’s coming,” assured the doctor.

“I don’t need a helicopter,” demurred Yan Huan. She didn’t feel like that was necessary. She had hit her head, but she would be fine with a bit of rest. She couldn’t let the injury get in the way of the shooting.

“You do. You have a concussion,” insisted the doctor, in a tone that brooked no arguments. The brain is a delicate organ, and unlike external injuries, there was no way of telling which part had sustained damage at a glance. Medical apparatuses were needed.

Before long, the helicopter arrived. They carried Yan Huan onto it with a stretcher.

“Don’t tell anyone about this,” said Yan Huan, her eyes slightly open. She was still conscious, and she didn’t want her family to worry over such small injuries. They had worried enough.

The doctor could only agree. However, if something did happen to her head, he would still have to inform her family.

When the results came out, everyone heaved a sigh of relief. Her head was fine, apart from the bleeding crack. She had some bruises too, but was otherwise fine.

The helicopter made a turn above the hospital before sending Yan Huan back. In the temporary set, the entire crew was restless. No one was in the mood to film after what happened to Yan Huan. When Yan Huan came out of the helicopter, she was surprised to find everyone doing nothing.

Well, but a break wasn’t such a bad idea either. They had been too busy lately. It had almost been a full month since the shooting began, and everyone deserves a break, even if they were short on time.

Plus, the place was entirely void of entertainment. There was absolutely nothing to do apart from filming and sleeping. Doubtless, the progress was fast, but it wasn’t sustainable.