

Work Hard 541

Chapter 541: All I Have To Do Is Cancel My Vote ?

Tangning was the chairwoman of Tang Corps. Even if she was no longer an actress, it wouldn't effect her too harshly. But, when dealing with someone like Xu Qingyan's stepmother, even if Xu Qingyan was in Tangning's position, she too would fight for the Fei Tian Award with all her might.

Xu Qingyan's stepmother was the female lead in 'Survive'; a woman that was half a year younger than her, who she had to call stepmother; a woman named Ye Lan.

"Xu Qingyan, don't forget that I hold seniority to you in this family. Don't view the wrong person as the enemy."

"The biggest enemy in my life is right before me, Miss Ye Lan. Don't you think so?" After speaking, Xu Qingyan crossed her arms and turned to leave. Of course, she wasn't joking when she said that she'd side with Tangning. She felt a connection with Tangning and could sense that they had similarities.

As a result, she immediately contacted the staff at Xu Corps and asked for Tangning's method of contact.

To Xu Qingyan, there was no other mistress in the world that was as shameless as Ye Lan. To become her father's wife, that woman had used every method possible. In fact, to please her father in bed, Ye Lan had flown all the way to Japan to learn a few dirty, unmentionable tricks.

Perhaps it was because she actually had a talent for it, Ye Lan ended up pursuing acting and did pretty well.

And because her methods were quite ruthless, she did not view others with any regard. Of course, this included Tangning.

In fact, the issue with the votes being cleared also involved her.

It was hard to believe, a woman that was so cruel that she couldn't be bothered to hide her own evil intentions, actually had the ability to mesmerize her father.

...

It didn't take long before it was time to look at the votes for Best Newcomer a second time. This time, everyone's expression was especially serious, like they were making a huge life-changing decision.

"I know most of you are firm with your decision from yesterday, but at least tell me what you think."

"I have decided to stick with my original vote."

"Me too."

"I agree..."

About a dozen people expressed their opinions with no changes to the previous day's decision...

But, did this mean that Tangning had lost her chance at the Fei Tian Best Newcomer Award? Did she not even get the chance to be named as a top 5 nominee?

“Regardless of the result, let’s talk after we review the votes...” Elder Mo said unhappily, “But first, I would like to mention that Hai Rui’s PR has stopped some information that leaked from our meeting yesterday. I’m curious as to how this information was exposed in the first place.”

“Elder Mo, we only agreed to review the votes because we respect you. But, that doesn’t mean you can treat us with suspicion and insults...”

“How would we know how information was leaked from our meeting yesterday?”

“Stop talking nonsense, let’s start voting.”

In reality, although a large number of the judges did not change their votes, there were also a few that had sat down in seriousness and thought carefully about their decision. Especially after they saw Hai Rui’s letter.

Tangning’s ability compared to previous winners of the Best Newcomer Award was quite comparable. In other words, Tangning’s acting could not be doubted.

As for those that held prejudice against Tangning, only a small number of them had been converted, but it was enough to make a difference...

The official final result for the first round of votes ended with Tangning ranked in 5th place and Ye Lan in 6th. There was only one vote difference between the two, but Tangning just slipped through.

Although Elder Mo was still disappointed with the final result, at least Tangning made it into the final list of nominees and the second round of voting would be handled by a different group of judges.

At this time, someone expressed their doubt towards Elder Mo.

“Elder Mo, I have nothing to say about this final result, but I would like to know who you voted for. Did you directly give it to Tangning?”

“What do you mean?” Elder Mo queried.

“You keep telling us to be fair and objective, but, I want to know if you have been a fair judge,” the man paused for a second and continued, “If you want to convince us, it’s simple, you just need to get rid of one of Tangning’s votes. After all, even though you’ve been fair all your life, would old age have made you act differently?”

If Tangning was to lose a vote, then she would have the same votes as Ye Lan again!

Elder Mo wanted to refute, but from the looks of it, everyone else seemed to be in agreement with the man’s suggestion.

As a result, Elder Mo gave a slight smile and asked, “So, all I have to do is cancel my vote?”

“Of course,” the man replied in certainty.

“Fine.” After speaking, Elder Mo turned to the staff member in charge of counting the votes and said, “Cancel my vote.”

It seemed, everyone expected Elder Mo to vote for Tangning. But, surprisingly, Tangning’s votes did not change, instead the actresses in 1st and 2nd place were effected.

Elder Mo had given his vote to someone else – not Tangning!

“What else do you guys have to say?”

Everyone fell silent, including the man that had requested Elder Mo to cancel his vote. Since a new result had been decided on, it was only right for everyone to accept it.

“Since no one has anything to say, then the final nomination list has been set.”

A portion of the people in the room were indifferent about the results, but those that disliked Tangning scoffed to themselves. So what if her name made it on the final list? The results showed that Tangning had received the least amount of votes. Even so, a small amount was better than no amount...

The next group of judges were expected to be stricter than the first and no one could stand in their way. So, Elder Mo was no longer worried about Tangning. In reality, after Hai Rui’s PR released their statement, the public had already accepted the possibility that Tangning would receive an award. After all, Tangning’s capability was obvious...

All Hai Rui had to do was emphasize Tangning’s capability and any doubts would be quickly dispersed.

The final result was an achievement between the grandfather and his grandson. One man did everything for his wife, while the other did it for his granddaughter-in-law. For the sake of their family member and lover, they were willing to give their all.

Of course, they simply helped Tangning achieve a fair chance. After all, even though Tangning had their support and protection, their relationship also created a lot of doubt.

Tangning was obviously a great actress...

For the sake of creating a great film, she put in more effort than everyone else!

But, because of her relationship with Hai Rui and the fact that she was the wife of Mo Ting, everyone also had higher expectations for her...

Chapter 542: Yanshu is Getting Engaged

Ye Lan had been eliminated!

Even though Ye Lan knew the results, there was nothing she could do. It was impossible to bribe the judges, so all she could do was slander Tangning to create dislike towards her. But, in the end, she lost to Tangning by one vote.

That night, Ye Lan sat at home sulking to her husband, “Hubby, I can’t accept this result. I’ve already been the female lead in 5 films and it wasn’t easy for me to get this opportunity. How could Tangning compare when she’s only been in two films?”

“Tangning is, after all, our business partner. You shouldn’t mind too much.”

“She is your business partner, not mine. Plus, Old Man Xu, your daughter tried to threaten me earlier. She said she was going to side with Tangning. Could your daughter have influenced the result in some way?”

Just as Ye Lan was sulking, Xu Qingyan appeared from upstairs and looked coldly at the two people in the living room, “You are younger than my father by 25 years, please don’t rub yourself all over him – it’s disgusting!”

“You...”

“Qingyan, how could you speak to your mother like that?” Father Xu’s icy cold voice resonated through the room, “Did you do anything behind-the-scenes to cause your mother to be eliminated?”

“I’m sure you both know what type of person Tangning is. If she wants something, then everyone has no choice but to make way for her,” Xu Qingyan laughed. “Luckily, I get along quite well with Tangning. It seems, I may need to hang around with her a bit more often. That way I can learn how to rid my home of evil energy.”

After speaking, Xu Qingyan turned to leave. However, Father Xu immediately stood up and roared, “Stay right there!”

Xu Qingyan heard him clearly, but she did not look back. At this time, Father Xu suddenly ran up behind her and punched her in the back, around her hip area.

Violence...

...was sometimes synonymous with this family.

Meanwhile, Ye Lan stood watching with her arms crossed and laughed loudly...

Xu Qingyan lay on the icy cold floor, but her stubborn nature refused to plead for mercy. After standing up, she simply returned to her bedroom.

She believed that karma existed in this world and a cheap person was bound to be eventually dealt with by God.

...

It didn’t take long before all the nomination lists for the Fei Tian Awards were released to the public. Tangning’s name was, of course, amongst these lists.

Afterwards, the amusing incident with Elder Mo being asked to cancel his vote was spread around like a joke. Of course, this was proof that Elder Mo had not been bias. In fact, to avoid doubt, he had no intention to vote for Tangning whatsoever. It also proved that his request for the votes to be reviewed was indeed an objective decision and wasn’t a subjective request.

Tangning had entered the final 5!

But, it hadn't been an easy path to take. So, how was actually receiving the award going to be like?

Seeing Tangning's name on the nomination list, quite a few people immediately called to congratulate her. Amongst these people, was Song Yanshu.

Although Tangning didn't have much to say to her, she still treated her politely out of courtesy.

"Ning Jie, I am truly happy for you."

"Thank you," Tangning replied in a distant manner. Even though they had once been friends, because of Tang Jingxuan, they had drifted further and further apart.

"Errr...would you happen to have news about Luo Xing?" Song Yanshu asked, even though she had a feeling that Tangning would not tell her.

"Yanshu, stop thinking about someone that has already left. Focus on your own life," Tangning replied straightforwardly. "I know you feel guilty, but, you really don't need to."

"Ning Jie...to be honest, I still like him." Song Yanshu may have gathered all her courage to reveal this, but to Tang Jingxuan, these words had come too late. "I never thought he'd react so seriously. It was beyond my expectations..."

"He has always been a serious person, you should know this. But, a part of your heart has always been with someone else, so you've never been certain," Tangning directly exposed Song Yanshu's true thoughts. "Yanshu, what's passed is in the past..."

"You're right. What's passed is in the past. I simply wanted to notify you that I'm getting engaged."

"In that case, congratulations."

She was already getting engaged, yet she was calling to reveal that she had another man in her heart. Tangning could not understand Song Yanshu's views on love.

"Thank you. I know you don't want to hear my voice right now. Sorry to have bothered you, Ning Jie."

"It's fine. I wish you happiness," Tangning said, before she hung up the phone.

Tangning knew the situation between the three people clearly. Because of this, she did not want Tang Jingxuan to be dragged back into the messy web of love. He had been hurt by Xia Jingyi once and hurt by Song Yanshu once, wasn't that already enough of a lesson?

Even so, Tangning still decided to give Tang Jingxuan a phone call, "Yanshu is getting engaged. I felt that you should know about this."

"Sister Three, I am a lot better now. I'll return in a couple days. It's only right for me to go to her engagement party and congratulate her in person," Tang Jingxuan replied calmly.

"It's your choice," Tangning could clearly tell that there wasn't an ounce of sadness in Tang Jingxuan's voice. Perhaps, he had truly dragged himself out of the depressing swamp of love.

"OK."

“You should take someone with you. You are, after all, the Fourth Master of the Tang Family. Don’t let others look down on you,” Tangning thoughtfully reminded.

“I understand.”

After Tang Jingxuan hung up the phone, he immediately contacted Song Yanshu. This was something that Song Yanshu had never expected. Especially since Tang Jingxuan’s voice appeared extremely calm, “Congratulations, my sister told me you’re getting engaged.”

“Are you...coming back to Beijing?” Song Yanshu asked with complex emotions.

“Yes,” Tang Jingxuan nodded. “Regardless of everything that’s happened, you indeed helped me in the past. I will never forget what you’ve done for me. So, I will definitely attend your engagement.”

“Great, I’ll see you then.”

Song Yanshu actually had a lot that she wanted to say to Tang Jingxuan, but...

...as the words reached the edge of her lips, they transformed into polite small talk.

Tang Jingxuan had agreed to attend her engagement...

He was going to attend!

...

The final nominees for the Fei Tian Awards had been officially announced and the date of the ceremony was set for February 13th; the day before Valentine’s Day.

Song Yanshu’s engagement party was to be held in 3 days time. At this time, Tangning received a surprising phone call. It was a call from the heiress of Xu Corps, Xu Qingyan.

If not for what happened at Tang Corps’ Annual Celebration, she may have already forgotten about this person. But, as soon as Tangning thought about the image of Tang Xuan being taught a lesson, she immediately remembered the pretty and extravagant young lady.

Chapter 543: Xu Qingyan

As a courtesy to her business partner and due to the good impression that she had towards the young lady, Tangning agreed to meet in person.

Knowing that Tangning’s identity made it inconvenient for her to travel, Xu Qingyan offered to meet Tangning at her home.

After all, the Xu Household wasn’t a place that Tangning could visit. If the mistress was home and saw Tangning, she would go crazy.

After careful thought, Tangning did not feel like she should be cautious of Xu Qingyan. Plus, she did not want her pregnancy to be revealed just yet, so staying at home was indeed the best option. As a result, she agreed to Xu Qingyan’s suggestion.

“Ting...why do you think Xu Qingyan wants to see me?” Tangning expressed her confusion after she hung up the phone.

“Lu Che has already looked into it. She is a genuine person,” Mo Ting covered Tangning with a blanket and allowed her to comfortably fall into his embrace. Tangning understood what Mo Ting meant. Xu Qingyan was someone she could try to befriend; it wouldn’t be much of an issue.

“OK hubby, I understand.”

Not long after Mo Ting left, Xu Qingyan appeared at Hyatt Regency. Although she had previously tried to imagine Tangning and Mo Ting’s home, seeing it in real life still made her sigh in admiration. They lived in such a big villa, but it did not feel cold and unwelcoming. It was clear to see how much effort the couple put into their home.

This was Xu Qingyan’s second time meeting Tangning. She did not look as elegantly mysterious as she did on the first night that they met. She simply looked like a warm and gentle housewife. Yet, she still looked extraordinary...

“I hope I’m not bothering you,” Xu Qingyan smiled apologetically.

“Miss Xu, please sit down,” Tangning smiled.

“You must be surprised as to why I suddenly wanted to see you,” Xu Qingyan walked over to Tangning and sat down on the sofa. “Actually, it’s not much. I simply wanted to tell you that the person that was previously standing in your way for the first round of votes, was Ye Lan...”

“You...”

“She is my stepmother,” Xu Qingyan waved her hand awkwardly.

Tangning was a little dumbfounded, but she quickly remembered Ye Lan’s age. If she was right, Ye Lan was a little bit younger than Xu Qingyan.

“I specifically came to show my gratitude. If I didn’t tell you about this matter, I may not ever get a good night’s sleep. It’s been a long time since I’ve seen the mistress fuming with rage,” Xu Qingyan relaxed and added, “You don’t need to be cautious of me. I simply came to thank you.”

“I’m not from the same industry as you, so I don’t have any ulterior motives.”

Tangning had actually figured long ago that Xu Qingyan wasn’t a calculative person. It was obvious that her happiness was genuine. Perhaps it was because she had found someone with the same enemy.

“What’s wrong with your hip?” Tangning had noticed, from the moment that Xu Qingyan sat down, she had been massaging her hip area. From the looks of it, she was in quite a bit of discomfort.

“I’m fine,” Xu Qingyan smiled. She, of course, couldn’t tell Tangning about the cause of her injury. “Eek, I feel a little awkward. I looked for you so anxiously just to tell you about something so insignificant. You must be busy.”

Tangning watched as Xu Qingyan laughed at herself and shook her head, “As you know, I’ve already retreated from filming, so I haven’t been that busy.”

“In that case...”

“Actually, I didn’t come today with no motive whatsoever. I was hoping my words would be able to warn you to be cautious of Ye Lan.”

“Are you worried about me?” Tangning asked in an amused manner.

“No...No...I know how capable you are. I simply have one request. If the sl*t falls into your hands, please don’t show her any mercy.”

Hearing this, Tangning burst out laughing. Xu Qingyan was indeed how Mo Ting had described: she was a genuine person.

She didn’t have an extremely high EQ, but for some reason she was naturally likeable.

At least, when it came to Tangning, she found Xu Qingyan impossible to hate.

“Don’t worry, when it comes to other things, I can’t make any promises, but what you have asked of me, I can definitely do,” Tangning replied in a relaxed manner.

In reality, Xu Qingyan wasn’t good at starting conversations. Her mother had passed away early and her father hit and scolded her often, so she had never learned how to socialize with other people. In fact, she didn’t even know how to properly share her feelings. The only reason she could argue with others was because of skills she had developed over time.

And of course, the argument she had at the Annual Celebration was all because Tang Xuan had provoked her!

But, apart from standing her ground, she did not have the skills to handle the matter on her own.

The two women ended up sitting silently until the doorbell suddenly rang. Xu Qingyan stood up and offered, “I’ll go open the door.”

Tangning did not move. After all, she was trying to conceal her protruding belly. However, Tangning did not expect that Tang Jingxuan had returned home one day early and would be so surprised to see Xu Qingyan.

“Little Monkey?”

Xu Qingyan froze and pointed to herself, “You know me?”

Tang Jingxuan looked at her like she was joking as he entered the villa and laughed, “We went to the same primary school, the same secondary school and the same high school. You were really famous...”

“No wonder when I saw you on television, I thought you looked familiar. Yet, I couldn’t figure out what it was...” Xu Qingyan suddenly came to realization. However, she quickly covered her face in embarrassment, “Does that mean you know about my humiliating past?”

Tang Jingxuan burst out laughing and nodded his head.

Tangning watched the interaction between the two and watched as Tang Jingxuan burst out laughing. So, she cleared her throat to remind them that there was another person present.

“Sorry sis, I was getting overexcited by seeing an old classmate.”

Of course, the person that Tang Jingxuan referred to as classmate was merely someone that had shared the same school; they were in completely different grades.

“Have you made preparations for the event tomorrow?” Tangning directly asked.

Hearing this question, Tang Jingxuan’s expression darkened as he took a deep breath, “Yes, I’m prepared.”

“Where are you going? Can I go too?” Xu Qingyan asked.

Tang Jingxuan was a little surprised, but Tangning let out a laugh, “Of course you can. What do you think, Jingxuan?”

It would actually be perfect if he could take Xu Qingyan with him...

Although Xu Qingyan didn’t have a high EQ, she was obviously trying to improve her social skills.

“Can she go?”

Initially, Tang Jingxuan did not respond. But, after thinking about what Tangning meant, he eventually nodded his head, “As long as she won’t find it boring.”

“I can chat to you. I’m sure we have plenty to talk about.”

Over the years, because of her family, Xu Qingyan barely had any friends. Her temper had also only improved in the last few years because, in the past, she actually had a very short fuse.

Since it was rare for her to come across an old classmate that she got along with, Xu Qingyan completely opened up and relaxed...

Chapter 544: Idiot, Aren’t You In Pain ?

Tangning didn’t expect for this to happen. But, as long as her brother wasn’t being bullied, nothing else mattered to her.

For some reason, Tangning felt like she could trust Xu Qingyan. She felt like she would be the key to protecting Tang Jingxuan, like a protective fortress.

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Perhaps it was because they had gone to school together, even after leaving Hyatt Regency, Xu Qingyan and Tang Jingxuan found themselves still deep in conversation. In fact, they exchanged contact details and Tang Jingxuan even offered to escort Xu Qingyan home.

“It’s fine, my home isn’t that far. Plus, I drove myself over here anyway.”

“You are helping me with a huge favor tomorrow. It’s only right for me to take you home today.”

Xu Qingyan wasn't an overly cautious person. So, she couldn't see any reason to reject Tang Jingxuan's sincerity as she boarded his sports car. However, for a short moment, Tang Jingxuan was suddenly reminded of the woman that used to sit beside him: Song Yanshu.

"What's wrong?" Xu Qingyan asked sensitively.

"Nothing," Tang Jingxuan immediately snapped out of his daze.

"You're not thinking about 'that' woman, are you?" Xu Qingyan saw through Tang Jingxuan immediately, but felt she may have been a little impolite, so she placed her hands under her chin and pulled an ugly face, "Is she as pretty as me?"

Tang Jingxuan let out a laugh, "You are still the same as before."

"To be honest, I prefer wearing jeans and gym clothes, but in recent years, I've had no choice but to act feminine." After speaking, Xu Qingyan tore a split down the middle of her dress and tied the corners together to create a pair of makeshift pants, "This feels a lot better."

A smile remained on Tang Jingxuan's face, especially after he saw Xu Qingyan's relaxed attitude. Meeting a person in life that one felt comfortable around, was a difficult task.

"The car's starting. Sit tight."

It didn't take long before the two arrived outside the Xu Household. After thanking Tang Jingxuan, Xu Qingyan opened the car door and stepped out. They had agreed on a meeting time the next day, so they had no reason to linger. However, just as Tang Jingxuan started driving away, he noticed that Xu Qingyan had left her handbag in the car.

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It had been a long time since Xu Qingyan had acted in such a carefree manner. But, she never expected, as she arrived home, she would run into Father Xu and Ye Lan. As soon as Father Xu spotted her torn dress, his expression immediately darkened, "Who allowed you to dress like a rebel? Xu Qingyan, don't you know that you're an heiress? How could you walk around like a club escort? Are you deliberately trying to embarrass me?"

Xu Qingyan's face turned pale before she looked behind Father Xu at Ye Lan. Needless to say, her every move must have been revealed by this sly woman.

"Do you still hold any regard for the family rules?" Father Xu grabbed onto Xu Qingyan's arms and shook her violently.

"It hurts..." Xu Qingyan cried as her gaze sharpened. "Apart from treating me with violence, what else can you do?"

"How dare you talk back at me..."

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This was not a scene that Tang Jingxuan had expected to witness after entering the Xu Household. He couldn't believe that Father Xu completely disregarded his daughter's feelings and treated her with

violence. In fact, he deliberately hit her in places that weren't normally exposed. No wonder when they were in the car, Xu Qingyan repeatedly massaged her hip.

Tang Jingxuan originally wanted to rush in and put an end to the scene that was playing out. But, seeing Xu Qingyan's unafraid expression, he froze in the doorway.

He knew that Xu Qingyan wanted to remain strong; there was no way that she'd want an outsider to see her current state. So, he decided not to walk in. Of course, this was only after he confirmed that Father Xu had stopped acting violently.

Perhaps it was because he was born into the Tang Family, he had never been exposed to domestic violence like this.

So, when he saw the cruel expression on Father Xu's face, he couldn't believe that he was treating his own daughter in such a way.

That night, after returning home, Tang Jingxuan thought about the look on Xu Qingyan's face as she endured the violence from her father. He immediately pulled out his phone and called Xu Qingyan, "Little Monkey, don't worry about coming tomorrow."

"Why? I've already picked my outfit," Xu Qingyan responded.

Idiot, aren't you in pain? he thought to himself.

"Uh..."

"If you're a man, then come pick me up tomorrow...Do you know how arrogantly the mistress in my home has been acting?" Ye Lan had ridiculed Xu Qingyan multiple times in the past about not being able to find a man. And Xu Qingyan indeed had her faults. Whenever she dated a man, their relationship would not last long. So, she had gotten used to being on her own. But, that didn't mean that she wasn't effected by Ye Lan's words.

In reality, Tang Jingxuan already knew that Xu Qingyan had a tough exterior but soft interior; she was cold on the outside but warm on the inside.

As he thought about Ye Lan's expression when humiliating Xu Qingyan, Tang Jingxuan did not say another word. Holding tightly to the phone, a smile gradually appeared on his face.

He knew better than anyone, how it felt to have a poisonous snake lurking at home. Even though Tang Xuan had already been taught a lesson by Tangning...

Luckily, the Tang Family had Tangning...

But, who did the Xu Family have? All they had was a father that bullied his own daughter.

To help his old classmate get revenge, Tang Jingxuan woke up nice and early. Dressed in a dark blue retro handmade suit, covered by a dark green coat, he picked out the blue Maybach from his garage that he barely used. Most importantly, on the way to pick up Xu Qingyan, Tang Jingxuan bought a bouquet of elegant champagne-colored roses.

8am, Tang Jingxuan arrived outside the Xu Household. The person to open the door was Ye Lan. Upon seeing Tang Jingxuan, she gasped in surprise, "Luo Xing?"

"Sorry, may I ask where Miss Xu is? I'm here to pick her up..."

Seeing that Tang Jingxuan was handsome and noble, Ye Lan couldn't help but scan her eyes over him a few times. After all, she was still fairly young and it was only normal to be attracted to good looking things.

"She's not here..."

"But, I called her earlier and she said she's at home," Tang Jingxuan immediately uncovered Ye Lan's lie.

"In that case, come in. I'll go fetch her."

"No need..." Xu Qingyan's voice echoed from behind the two people. "We will now make our leave, mom."

In that moment, Ye Lan's face turned frighteningly red because of the way that Xu Qingyan called her 'mom'.

More importantly, Ye Lan's heart was filled with envy. How could Xu Qingyan find such a young and handsome man, while she got stuck with an old man.

"So...she's your father's second wife..." Tang Jingxuan looked at Ye Lan in an amused manner, not showing her any face at all. "A woman like this is indeed only befitting of being a second wife. After all, a normal man wouldn't have such bad taste."

"Let's go, we should stop wasting our time," Xu Qingyan walked right past Ye Lan and approached Tang Jingxuan's side.

Tang Jingxuan reached out his arm and hooked it around Xu Qingyan's waist as they turned to leave, "Sweetie, let me open the door for you." ## Trial Marriage Husband –

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Perhaps it was because he was born into the Tang Family, he had never been exposed to domestic violence like this.

So, when he saw the cruel expression on Father Xu's face, he couldn't believe that he was treating his own daughter in such a way.

That night, after returning home, Tang Jingxuan thought about the look on Xu Qingyan's face as she endured the violence from her father. He immediately pulled out his phone and called Xu Qingyan, "Little Monkey, don't worry about coming tomorrow."

"Why? I've already picked my outfit," Xu Qingyan responded.

Idiot, aren't you in pain? he thought to himself.

"Uh..."

"If you're a man, then come pick me up tomorrow...Do you know how arrogantly the mistress in my home has been acting?" Ye Lan had ridiculed Xu Qingyan multiple times in the past about not being able to find a man. And Xu Qingyan indeed had her faults. Whenever she dated a man, their relationship would not last long. So, she had gotten used to being on her own. But, that didn't mean that she wasn't effected by Ye Lan's words.

In reality, Tang Jingxuan already knew that Xu Qingyan had a tough exterior but soft interior; she was cold on the outside but warm on the inside.

As he thought about Ye Lan's expression when humiliating Xu Qingyan, Tang Jingxuan did not say another word. Holding tightly to the phone, a smile gradually appeared on his face.

He knew better than anyone, how it felt to have a poisonous snake lurking at home. Even though Tang Xuan had already been taught a lesson by Tangning...

Luckily, the Tang Family had Tangning...

But, who did the Xu Family have? All they had was a father that bullied his own daughter.

To help his old classmate get revenge, Tang Jingxuan woke up nice and early. Dressed in a dark blue retro handmade suit, covered by a dark green coat, he picked out the blue Maybach from his garage that he barely used. Most importantly, on the way to pick up Xu Qingyan, Tang Jingxuan bought a bouquet of elegant champagne-colored roses.

8am, Tang Jingxuan arrived outside the Xu Household. The person to open the door was Ye Lan. Upon seeing Tang Jingxuan, she gasped in surprise, "Luo Xing?"

"Sorry, may I ask where Miss Xu is? I'm here to pick her up..."

Seeing that Tang Jingxuan was handsome and noble, Ye Lan couldn't help but scan her eyes over him a few times. After all, she was still fairly young and it was only normal to be attracted to good looking things.

"She's not here..."

"But, I called her earlier and she said she's at home," Tang Jingxuan immediately uncovered Ye Lan's lie.

"In that case, come in. I'll go fetch her."

"No need..." Xu Qingyan's voice echoed from behind the two people. "We will now make our leave, mom."

In that moment, Ye Lan's face turned frighteningly red because of the way that Xu Qingyan called her 'mom'.

More importantly, Ye Lan's heart was filled with envy. How could Xu Qingyan find such a young and handsome man, while she got stuck with an old man.

"So...she's your father's second wife..." Tang Jingxuan looked at Ye Lan in an amused manner, not showing her any face at all. "A woman like this is indeed only befitting of being a second wife. After all, a normal man wouldn't have such bad taste."

"Let's go, we should stop wasting our time," Xu Qingyan walked right past Ye Lan and approached Tang Jingxuan's side.

Tang Jingxuan reached out his arm and hooked it around Xu Qingyan's waist as they turned to leave, "Sweetie, let me open the door for you."

Chapter 545: I Am His First Love

"Jingxuan, you sure are thoughtful."

"Get in, sweetie," Tang Jingxuan smiled gently. After ensuring that Xu Qingyan was seated properly, he walked around to the driver's seat.

As Ye Lan watched this scene, a fire burned ferociously inside her. Although she had married a rich tycoon and stepped all over Xu Qingyan throughout the years, Father Xu was still an old man and there were many things he couldn't do. For example, there was no way that he could provide her with the warmth and romance that a normal man would.

So, as she watched Tang Jingxuan treat Xu Qingyan thoughtfully, she was so tempted to run up and tear Xu Qingyan's pretty face apart...

...

“Haha, that’s the first time I’ve seen Ye Lan with that expression. How satisfying!” Within the sports car, every time Xu Qingyan remembered the expression on Ye Lan’s face, she would cheer excitedly in a satisfied tone.

“Are you in pain?” Tang Jingxuan suddenly asked.

“Why would I be in pain?” Xu Qingyan asked as she turned to look at Tang Jingxuan.

Tang Jingxuan wanted to tell her that he had bought some medicine and it was in the glove box of the car; it was his way of caring for an old classmate. But, seeing that Xu Qingyan did not treat the injuries on her body like they existed, he couldn’t possibly tell her that he had witnessed the entire scene the previous night.

“It’s nothing...You look beautiful today.”

Tang Jingxuan’s words came genuinely from his heart. After all, Xu Qingyan was lively and her bright eyes were full of spirit. It seemed, she was quite an interesting person. She didn’t suck up to others, nor did she know how to be sneaky; she was so straightforward that she was hard to hate. She was a rare breed.

“When have I ever been not beautiful?” Xu Qingyan smiled confidently. “By the way, where are we going today?”

“Attending a friend’s engagement party.”

“Don’t tell me...it’s your ex-manager. I’ve heard about your relationship with her.”

“Yes, it’s her engagement party. But, there’s nothing between us,” Tang Jingxuan explained.

“Liar. If there really is nothing, why would you need someone to accompany you to help boost your confidence? If there really is nothing, would you keep falling into a daze? I’m straightforward, but I’m not stupid,” Xu Qingyan laughed. “So...was she the one that dumped you? Or did you dump her?”

“We never started...She’s always had someone else in her heart.”

“Understood. Don’t worry, I will definitely help protect my old classmate’s fragile little heart,” Xu Qingyan declared as she patted her heart. But, because she was a little rough, she realized she still had an injury on her chest. As a result, she quickly reacted by holding her chest and letting out a slight cry of pain.

“What’s wrong?”

“I’m fine,” Xu Qingyan quickly composed herself.

“You know, you look like an easy target for bullies,” Tang Jingxuan laughed. “You obviously received the short end of the stick, but you keep telling yourself that the short end is a blessing.”

“That’s because no one can defeat this heroine, OK? Once upon a time, I lived quite a rough life.”

“Yes, I’ve heard. You supposedly ran away from home before. But, you spent 3000rmb in 2 days and returned home in a defeated manner.”

“Haiz...am I really that famous?” Xu Qingyan brushed her hair behind her ear awkwardly. At this time, Tang Jingxuan noticed a small mole on her left cheekbone – it was quite unique.

Tang Jingxuan shrugged his shoulders with a smile and did not respond. All the embarrassing things that Xu Qingyan had done in the past was enough to fill an entire book.

Her mother had passed away and her father often hit her, so back then, in the eyes of everyone, she was seen as a rebellious student. But, because of her, everyone’s school life had become a lot more entertaining.

“Hey...did you notice that there are a lot of cameras pointed our way?” Xu Qingyan noticed as the car pulled up at a red light.

Even though Tang Jingxuan had announced his retreat from the music industry, he was still Luo Xing. This was the undeniable truth.

“Don’t worry about what others think,” Tang Jingxuan replied calmly. “I am now but an average businessman, not a celebrity. As soon as they get bored, they will leave us alone.”

Xu Qingyan let out a gentle laugh and nodded her head. She had noticed a change in Tang Jingxuan’s state of mind.

The Tang Jingxuan in the past compared to the current Tang Jingxuan were two completely different people...

...

It didn’t take long before they arrived at Song Yanshu’s engagement party. As there were a large number of guests, Tang Jingxuan’s appearance was bound to cause quite a stir. After all, Song Yanshu had once risked her reputation for Tang Jingxuan. But, how their relationship had fallen to this level was still a mystery.

“Isn’t that Luo Xing?”

“I never expected him to attend today.”

“After not seeing him for a few days, he seems to have gotten more handsome.”

“He couldn’t have come to steal the bride, right?”

“Are you guys blind? Can’t you see the beauty next to him?”

As everyone watched Tang Jingxuan walk by, they couldn’t help but gossip about him as they observed his every move. At this time, Xu Qingyan gently leaned her head on Tang Jingxuan’s shoulder and whispered, “These people seem like they want to swallow you alive.”

“It’s fine once you get used to it,” Tang Jingxuan laughed.

“The bride is over there, do you want to walk over?” Xu Qingyan pointed to a corner of the lawn.

Tang Jingxuan looked over as he grabbed a glass of champagne from one of the passing waiters. He then led Xu Qingyan over to the wedding dress adorned Song Yanshu.

Song Yanshu also spotted Tang Jingxuan as she became overcome with indescribable emotions. Especially when she saw the woman beside him, the unhappiness she felt was even harder to hide.

"I can tell that Song Yanshu has feelings for you..."

Tang Jingxuan did not respond as he hooked his arm around Xu Qingyan's shoulder and smiled at Song Yanshu, "Congratulations."

"Thank you for coming," Song Yanshu lifted her glass to cheers Tang Jingxuan. "By the way, this is...?"

"I am his first love," Xu Qingyan cut in.

Tang Jingxuan was immediately defeated by Xu Qingyan's answer as he let out a laugh.

"Why are you laughing? Am I not your first love? You dreamed about me from primary school until high school..."

"Yes," Tang Jingxuan nodded. "But, who introduces themselves like that?"

In reality, everyone was well aware that Song Yanshu's family were quite prominent and her fiancé wasn't any less in comparison. He appeared tall and handsome as he looked over at his fiancée and noticed that she was talking to her previous employer. He began to boil in anger as he walked over to them, "Luo Xing, you've returned. Welcome to our engagement party."

"Thank you, congratulations."

The two men had previously gone up against each other in private. So, the man deliberately flaunted his victory in front of Tang Jingxuan.

Chapter 546: Little Monkey, You're Still As Cheeky As Ever

"Is this your new girlfriend?"

"How about you? Is this your new wife?" Xu Qingyan directly rebutted. "Who asks a question like that? Are you deliberately trying to make things uncomfortable?"

The man's face turned slightly red as he let out an awkward laugh, "I'm sorry, you must have mistaken. I don't mean anything by my words..."

"I'm sure you know better than I do whether there is another meaning to your words. Those that are here today, all come from prestigious backgrounds. For someone like you, isn't your family worried that you are going to go around sparking up trouble?" the words that Xu Qingyan was saying, were words that someone else had once said to her.

"Oh...I don't mean to look down on Luo Xing..."

"I know you have a decent family background, but don't forget, this man's sister is the chairwoman of Tang Corps and his brother-in-law is the CEO of Hai Rui. As for me, I am the heiress of Xu Corps. I don't think you have the right to look down on someone with his identity," Xu Qingyan did not leave the man with an ounce of pride as she embarrassed him in front of all the guests.

In the end, the man's parents couldn't stand it anymore as they rushed over and comforted Xu Qingyan with a few words to settle the issue.

"What is it? Impressed by me?" Xu Qingyan asked a little while after the issue was settled. The two were currently standing on the edge of the lawn observing the engagement ceremony.

"Tell me, if you're so impressive then why did you need my sister to save you at Tang Corps' Annual Celebration?"

"Don't remind me of your rubbish eldest sister. Just the thought of her makes my cheek hurt," Xu Qingyan scoffed. "The situation that day was very different. The engagement party today is a lot more interesting. Song Yanshu obviously has feelings for you, but her fiancé is full of arrogance. I'm curious whether she will truly be happy after marrying a man like that."

"I'm not sure," Tang Jingxuan responded. He had once thought that Song Yanshu would be by his side for the rest of his life, even if it was just as colleagues.

"You must have thought she was quite unique in the past, only to realize she was but an average person, right? I don't understand. Is it that hard to be honest with one's feelings?" Xu Qingyan took a deep breath before she took a sip of her champagne. "I guess, everyone thinks differently."

It didn't take long before the engagement ceremony neared its completion. At this time, someone suddenly suggested, "Today is a big day for our bride-to-be. Since our superstar Luo Xing is here today, why don't we ask him to sing us a song as a symbol of their friendship?"

Everyone looked towards Tang Jingxuan and Xu Qingyan and, of course, started cheering.

"Sing a song!"

"Sing a song!"

Originally, a request like this was quite reasonable, but everyone was well aware that Song Yanshu had previously sacrificed her reputation for the sake of Tang Jingxuan and their relationship was quite ambiguous. With this knowledge, someone actually had the audacity to make such a request?

Above all, Tang Jingxuan had already made it clear that, from the moment he retreated from the industry, he was no longer Luo Xing. He was now Tang Jingxuan, the fourth master of Tang Corps!

How could these people ask for such a thing? They obviously viewed Tang Jingxuan's words with no regard.

As a result, Tang Jingxuan furrowed his brows at the crowd. There was no way he was going to perform for them...

Xu Qingyan hated seeing a bunch of people team up against one person. So, she stepped out and said, "My Jingxuan's singing is only for me to hear. If you guys really want to hear someone sing, then I can sing instead. Also, I would like to emphasize that my Jingxuan is no longer Luo Xing."

After speaking, Xu Qingyan stepped forward and grabbed the microphone from the MC's hand...

Initially, everyone thought she was going to sing really well, but to their surprise, she was completely tone deaf.

Everyone covered their ears in discomfort. Only Tang Jingxuan stood below the stage, listening with all his heart.

From the time they were still in school, Xu Qingyan had been the type to consistently start fights and arguments. She often gave off the vibe of a criminal. But, everytime she fought, it was always because she was sticking up for someone else.

So, she was the only bully in school that no one hated.

“Miss Xu, please stop singing...” one of the guests pleaded. Xu Qingyan scoffed and handed the microphone back to the MC.

Some people found her lame, some found her charismatic and some even found her cool. As for Tang Jingxuan, he found her interesting...

Xu Qingyan had always been such an interesting person. She was obviously simple-minded, but her actions were always surprising; shocking everyone that witnessed it.

“I hope, from today onwards, none of you will say that my Jingxuan has any type of ambiguous relationship with Miss Song. He obviously doesn’t.” After speaking, Xu Qingyan turned and looked at the red-faced groom-to-be, “My Jingxuan is hungry. I think it’s time we go have some food. You guys continue with what you were doing.”

“Ridiculous, does everyone think they can bully my Jingxuan...?”

Tang Jingxuan watched as Xu Qingyan walked towards him. Although her actions were based on loyalty to an old classmate, it was hard to deny that she was indescribably cool.

“Xuan Baby, let’s go.”

So, who embarrassed who in the end?

The guests looked at the two couples. It was obvious to see that the only ones that were suffering were Song Yanshu and her fiance.

“I never expected that the heiress of Xu Corps would be this cute.”

“Hey, did anyone record her singing? Why did I feel like her singing was like honey to my ears? From now on, if an ex is getting married, I am going to send them this recording and broadcast it in front of everyone. It’s quite destructive.”

“Hahaha, she is crazy cute!”

Of course, Tang Jingxuan and Xu Qingyan had no idea what the guests were talking about. They simply boarded their car and involuntarily burst out laughing.

“Let me tell you, I love messing up ceremonies and breaking up couples.”

"I never thought your singing would be that bad," Tang Jingxuan laughed. It was rare to see him in such a carefree mood.

This time, Xu Qingyan did not joke around as she repeated the song. Her singing was actually really good. But, back at the ceremony, she wasn't going to satisfy them.

"Little Monkey, you're still as cheeky as ever. But, thank you," Tang Jingxuan said sincerely.

"I would do anything to protect my friends."

Tang Jingxuan turned and looked at Xu Qingyan. For a moment, his heart broke as he thought about the times that Xu Qingyan endured violence at home and couldn't retaliate. At times like that, was there anyone that would do anything to protect her?

Chapter 547: You Want to Live With Me ?

"From now on, if you are ever in trouble, you can always come look for me," Tang Jingxuan said in seriousness, "No matter what it is..."

"OK," Xu Qingyan nodded casually. Perhaps, she would have never imagined that, one day, she would actually need Tang Jingxuan's help.

...

After this huge incident, Xu Qingyan and Tang Jingxuan once again graced the headlines with their presence. After all, in the past, the relationship between Song Yanshu and Tang Jingxuan wasn't simple but had now turned sour.

Anyone with eyes could tell that Song Yanshu's fiance had the intention to humiliate Tang Jingxuan at their engagement party. But, unfortunately for him, Tang Jingxuan had brought along Xu Qingyan.

In the end, not only did he fail, he ended up being humiliated instead as Xu Qingyan messed up his ceremony.

Entertainment news spread like wildfire and photos of Tang Jingxuan and Xu Qingyan were posted everywhere. Perhaps, to Tang Jingxuan, this wasn't much of an issue. But, to Xu Qingyan, this was a disaster.

Father Xu felt completely humiliated! As a result, he locked her at home and refused to let her leave the house.

...

Meanwhile, at Hyatt Regency.

Tang Jingxuan was drinking some soup with Tangning.

"After this incident, I assume there will no longer be anything between you and Song Yanshu, am I right?" Tangning asked. "Initially, grandfather had high hopes for the two of you. Luckily, we saw

through her early on. I can't deny that Yanshu is capable, but, it is impossible for me to agree with her views on love."

"Sis, I know what you are trying to say," Tang Jingxuan replied in seriousness.

"Good, let's talk about Xu Qingyan then. I've looked through the newspapers and seen the videos online. This old classmate of yours has sure treated you well."

"She is quite cute," Tang Jingxuan couldn't contain his smile, "She doesn't put up a front and is full of righteousness. She obviously..."

Tang Jingxuan stopped. He suddenly realized, it had been an entire day since the rumors started, but he had not heard from Xu Qingyan at all.

"Your rumors are currently spreading like wildfire, it's only right for you to step out and do something about it. I've heard that she doesn't have a very loving father. Don't let this young lady speak up for you innocently when she has no one to protect her."

Thinking about the way that Father Xu tortured Xu Qingyan, Tang Jingxuan suddenly put down the bowl in his hands and grabbed his jacket as he walked out the door, "Sis, I'm going to pop out for a bit."

Tangning knew where he was going, so she did not stop him. All she could do was smile to herself; there were some things that one had to experience for themselves before they could figure out what was most suited to them.

...

Tang Jingxuan had completely overlooked the problem with Father Xu. Now that he thought about it, he hadn't been able to get through to Xu Qingyan's phone and she had not replied to any of his messages; Father Xu must have gotten angry at her.

So, he increased his speed and rushed over to the Xu Household. However, as he arrived, he realized he didn't have keys to the house, so all he could do was climb up one of the walls.

Xu Qingyan had never imagined that she'd see Tang Jingxuan under these circumstances. Neither had she imagined that he'd climb up the pipe and tap on her window.

"Are you crazy? Climb back down, it's dangerous."

"Are you locked in here?" Tang Jingxuan asked as he clung easily to the pipe. "Do you want to leave? I can take you out of here..."

Xu Qingyan looked cautiously at the door and back out the window, "No, I can't leave."

"Heroine Xu once scaled the walls of the school dorms. Now that you've grown up, has your bravery shrunk?"

"If I run away like this, my credit cards will be cut!"

Seeing the anxious look on Xu Qingyan's face, Tang Jingxuan let out a laugh, "I don't understand you. How could you be worried about your credit cards at a time like this? You'll be fine, you can stay at my place."

“You want to live with me?”

“What are you thinking? I’m currently living at the Tang Household.” Tang Jingxuan was beginning to lose his grip so he began to rush her, “Hurry and get out here. I can’t hold on for much longer.”

Xu Qingyan thought for a moment before she gritted her teeth and climbed out the window. In fact, she was more nimble than Tang Jingxuan...

Tang Jingxuan was stunned. It was hard to imagine that a precious heiress like Xu Qingyan would be able to climb down a wall so easily.

Father Xu had obviously put in a lot of effort to teach Xu Qingyan proper etiquette. Unfortunately, the little monkey enjoyed her freedom too much.

It didn’t take long before the two ran out of the main gates and boarded Tang Jingxuan’s car. As the door closed, they burst out laughing, “That was pretty exciting...I never thought my skills were still so good.”

“Did your father...hit you?” Tang Jingxuan noticed the injuries on Xu Qingyan’s body, even though she tried hard to conceal it.

“I’ve long been impenetrable!” Xu Qingyan said as she pointed her chest. She then changed the subject, “So, where are we going?”

“Where do you want to go?” Tang Jingxuan asked back. “How about we pay our primary school a visit?”

“No, it’s embarrassing,” Xu Qingyan said as she waved her hands.

“Qingyan, be honest with me. After running away, if you were to return home, what would your father do to you?” Tang Jingxuan was aware of the truth behind Xu Qingyan’s smile. He was certain she would get hurt again. That’s why he directly said, “Don’t try to brush me off. Tell me the truth.”

Seeing the seriousness on Tang Jingxuan’s face, Xu Qingyan felt a little uncomfortable, “What could he do to me? I am, after all, his daughter.”

After hearing these words, Tang Jingxuan grabbed onto Xu Qingyan’s wrist and rolled up her sleeves to reveal blue bruises and red wounds on her arms, “Your father has always been a violent man; everyone at school knew about this. But, I thought, after all these years, he would have changed.”

“Don’t make a big fuss out of nothing. I’m fine,” Xu Qingyan said as she pulled her arm away.

“It’s been so many years, haven’t you ever thought of leaving your father?”

“I need to put my hatred aside and consider that he is, after all, my father. I can’t stand idly by as ‘that woman’ tricks my father of his entire fortune,” Xu Qingyan finally gave a serious response. “However, I wonder at least once a day whether I should run away and go to a place where no one knows me, so I can spend a few days living my own life.”

“But...”

Tang Jingxuan understood her pain, so he directly started the car and drove her to a private hospital, “Don’t think about going anywhere for now. Let me see how many injuries you have first.”

“I...”

“Let me do something for you. Even if it’s something small.”

This time, Xu Qingyan did not persist. She knew, it was impossible for her to reject the current Tang Jingxuan.

So, she allowed the doctor to examine her as required...

However, no one expected that the doctor would approach Xu Qingyan with the results and ask, “Who was so cruel as to do this to you? You have over 50 new and old injuries combined.”

Chapter 548: I Don’t Think You Are At The Level To Do So

More than 50!?

Tang Jingxuan froze in shock. Although he expected that she was fairly injured, he did not expect it to be this serious.

More than 50! How ruthless would a father have to be, to treat his own daughter in such a way?

“Although they are all external injuries, our bodies are merely made of flesh and blood...”

“Doctor, can you please prescribe her some medicine?” Tang Jingxuan understood that the doctor was in shock. After all, if she was a child, it would have made sense, but she was a grown adult, did she not know how to retaliate when being hit?

However, even though others did not understand, Tang Jingxuan was well aware that Xu Qingyan had no other choice.

That’s why he cut in.

The doctor took a deep breath and nodded his head, “The patient will need some rest first.”

During this entire time, Xu Qingyan either looked elsewhere or pretended to be playing with her hair.

“Stop acting, I won’t question you. However, since we are old classmates, I can’t sit idly by. What can we do to stop your father from laying his hands on you again?”

“You know how bad his temper is...the worst case of violence was when he hit me so hard that I lost control of my bowels and bladder,” Xu Qingyan said with a slight smile, as if the person she was talking about had nothing to do with her.

She had lost control of her bowels and bladder!

This was beyond belief.

“There have been many times that I’ve picked up a knife and tried to take him to the grave with me. But, I failed.”

In this moment, Xu Qingyan told her story gently, while Tang Jingxuan stood by her bedside with his arms crossed...

“By the way, it’s best if you find a place to hide me. If another scandal gets started, my life will become even more tough...”

“There’s no use hiding,” Tang Jingxuan said as he rubbed his chin.

“What are you thinking?”

“Nothing, you get some rest,” Tang Jingxuan sat down on the sofa in the room; he had some thinking to do. By suddenly butting his nose into someone else’s life, what kind of result would ensue.

“I can’t sleep. Can you watch ‘Stupid’ with me again? ‘W.H.’ is still screening at the cinemas, so it’s not online yet.”

Tang Jingxuan did not respond. Instead, he quietly pulled out his phone and gave Tangning a phone call.

“Did you find her?” Tangning asked.

“Yes. Sis, I was originally supposed to return to the US tomorrow, but it doesn’t seem like I can go yet. I want to help Qingyan.”

“You can make your own decisions. Do you need my permission?” Tangning asked in an amused manner. “If you want to do something, then go do it, regardless of the risks.”

“I understand.” After speaking, Tang Jingxuan was about to hang up the phone. But, he suddenly remembered that Xu Qingyan had said that she wanted to watch ‘W.H.’, so he quickly added, “Sis, where can I get my hands on a copy of ‘W.H.’? Qingyan wants to watch it right now, but it’s not convenient for her to go to the theater.”

“Ask Lu Che.”

Tang Jingxuan understood as he hung up the phone.

“You don’t need to go through so much trouble...”

“Just wait a bit.” Actually, Tang Jingxuan had never done anything romantic for a woman before, but for some reason, when he looked at Xu Qingyan, he had the impulse to give her all the best things in the world. After all, they had known each other since they were little and were childhood friends, it was only normal, right?

One hour later, a laptop arrived in the hospital room. On the screen of the laptop, Tangning’s latest film, ‘W.H.’, was playing. Tang Jingxuan sat on the bed holding onto the laptop as Xu Qingyan enjoyed the film. Not only this, he was also holding onto a tub of popcorn for her.

“No one has ever treated me this good. In future, I will definitely do all I can to help you.”

“Who needs you to do that?” Tang Jingxuan scoffed.

That night, after watching multiple films, the relationship between the two remained as pure as ever. A single man and a single woman actually managed to spend an entire night simply enjoying what was on the screen!

How unbelievable!

The next morning, Tang Jingxuan escorted Xu Qingyan out of the hospital. After they boarded the car, Xu Qingyan asked, "Where are we going?"

"You will soon find out."

Xu Qingyan did not ask any further, after all, it wasn't like Tang Jingxuan would take her somewhere to be sold. So, she closed her eyes and got some rest.

Seeing that Xu Qingyan trusted him, the corners of Tang Jingxuan's lips slightly curved upwards, before he drove Xu Qingyan back to the Xu Household.

As soon as she saw the front door of her home, Xu Qingyan's expression turned pale. Tang Jingxuan turned to her and comforted, "Do you trust me?"

"Jingxuan..."

"Let's go," Tang Jingxuan helped Xu Qingyan out of the car.

The issue had already gotten so big and couldn't get any worse. Plus, they would have to face reality sooner or later anyway, so what was the point of hiding?

"OK, let's go..."

Tang Jingxuan looked at Xu Qingyan. This little monkey was quite silly; she did not put up a guard around people she was familiar with. Even if she knew she was heading into a fire pit, she would still jump in head first.

It didn't take long before the two entered the living room of the Xu Household. At this time, Father Xu and Ye Lan were enjoying breakfast in the dining room.

"Where did you go last night? How dare you stay out all night," Father Xu directly turned and questioned Xu Qingyan. Of course, he also looked at Tang Jingxuan with disdain.

"She was at the hospital," Tang Jingxuan replied.

"Master Tang, this is a matter concerning my family..."

"Qingyan, go up and get some rest. I would like to have a chat with uncle," Tang Jingxuan gave Xu Qingyan a slight nudge towards the stairs.

"I never said she can leave!"

"Go. Leave this with me," Tang Jingxuan ignored Father Xu's words.

The two families were business partners, but Tangning had caused Ye Lan to miss out on The Fei Tian Awards. This was something that Father Xu was already unhappy about. So, it was good timing that Tang Jingxuan had suddenly appeared in the firing line.

Of course, Ye Lan, who was sitting beside Father Xu, acknowledged that Tang Jingxuan was charismatic, but she did not want to acknowledge his boldness. After all, the Tang Family already had a highly capable Tangning.

So, she refused to believe that Tang Jingxuan would be able to save Xu Qingyan.

Wasn't he asking to be humiliated?

Xu Qingyan was worried about Tang Jingxuan, but seeing that he was firm, she decided to take a gamble as she lowered her head and headed upstairs to her room.

"Does Master Tang want to negotiate with me? I don't think you are at the level to do so. It's best you return home and not embarrass yourself."

"Qingyan's hospital report is in my hands," Tang Jingxuan said calmly. "I'm sure Uncle Xu is aware that the Tang Family love appearing on the headlines. If the public were to find out that the Chairman of Xu Corps has been treating his daughter with violence, I wonder how badly your market value would drop..."

After hearing Tang Jingxuan's words, Father Xu sneered, "Are you trying to threaten me? You're too weak. Go ahead and reveal it! Did you think I would be afraid of you?"

"Don't forget, Xu Qingyan is my daughter, that is something that will never change. If this is your trump card, then I've really overestimated you."

"Since I'm standing here in front of you, this obviously isn't all I've got...Uncle Xu, I simply feel that we should meet each other halfway," Tang Jingxuan smiled.

Chapter 549: How Many Hits Did You Take From My Father ?

Father Xu looked disdainfully at Tang Jingxuan with doubt, "Halfway? Are you referring to Tang Corps? I don't care if I work with you guys or not. In all honesty, I can cancel our contract at any time."

"My sister is currently in charge of Tang Corps; I don't have the right to wave it around in front of Father Xu even if I wanted to. That's why we should stick to what we have before us. I know that Father Xu enjoys doing exercise and I happen to know a little bit of Kung Fu, why don't we exchange moves?"

Father Xu looked at Tang Jingxuan with interest, "You need to know that I've been training in Muay Thai for 20 years."

"I know, that's why Qingyan has so many injuries on her body," Tang Jingxuan nodded.

"Aren't you afraid that I'd kill you?"

"We still don't know who will win," Tang Jingxuan replied with a smirk.

"Since you are trying to dig your own grave, then follow me," Tang Jingxuan had successfully gained Father Xu's interest. The man put down the bowl and chopsticks in his hands and led Tang Jingxuan to his gym. Over the years, Father Xu had consistently practiced Muay Thai in order to maintain his body and youth. Although, in 'some aspects', perseverance wasn't enough.

Of course, as Father Xu's woman, Ye Lan was well aware of this.

"What do you want to compete in?" Father Xu asked as he pointed to the empty boxing ring.

"Let's stick to Muay Thai."

Tang Jingxuan removed his clothes and casually threw them on the ground, until he was only left with a thin undershirt, "If I win, then from today onwards, you're not allowed to lay even a finger on Qingyan."

"What if I win?" Father Xu scoffed.

"You can do whatever you want with me..."

Father Xu looked in detail at Tang Jingxuan. Although he felt that Tang Jingxuan was still trying to dig his own grave, he realized that this Fourth Master of the Tang Family wasn't simply someone that made easy money and sang a few songs.

But, if Tang Jingxuan wanted to win...he was still far from it.

Tang Jingxuan knew what Father Xu was thinking, but he did not waste any more time on pointless words. The two men jumped into the ring bare-handed and as Tang Jingxuan looked at Father Xu's stance, he could tell that he was well-trained.

"What do you think? It's not too late for you to surrender. Fourth Master Tang, think about it carefully, Xu Qingyan is my daughter, do you think it's worth it to suffer punches because of her?"

"Make your move," Tang Jingxuan replied straightforwardly.

Father Xu was like a thug, whether it was business or family, he always had to be in charge, like a mighty king. So, his punches were quick and ruthless with a surprising speed and power. Tang Jingxuan quickly dodged; only inches away from having his nose broken by Father Xu's punch.

This move surprised Father Xu. No one had ever dodged his hits so quickly. Even his training partner, who he had trained with for many years, sometimes found it hard to avoid his attacks.

Yet, Tang Jingxuan actually dodged him.

How interesting...

Tang Jingxuan himself and Tang Jingxuan's motive for the fight were both interesting...

Actually, Tang Jingxuan had undergone training before. During his school days, he was quite famous. But, he was young and wasn't as experienced as Father Xu, so after a few moves, he began to tire out as sweat trickled down his body.

Father Xu took this opportunity to throw a series of punches, each one at full force, until Tang Jingxuan found himself lying on the floor. However, Tang Jingxuan had no intention to surrender nor admit defeat. Instead, he bravely stood back up on his feet, forced Father Xu to the ground and released his anger like a leopard tearing apart its prey.

The corner of Father Xu's mouth began to bleed, but he was extremely pleased with the fight.

He hated prim and proper men. If Tang Jingxuan had admitted defeat today, he may have looked down on him for the rest of his life. But...

...seeing Tang Jingxuan practically risk his life in order to win, he gave a pleased smile, "You've won. I admit defeat."

Tang Jingxuan sat to the side as he tried to catch his breath. After a few moments, he finally asked, "Do you mean it?"

"You're quite brave. If Qingyan had fought back like you did, she wouldn't have had to suffer so many hits." After speaking, Father Xu wiped the blood from his mouth and walked out of the gym.

However, Tang Jingxuan didn't quite understand Father Xu's words.

Meanwhile, Xu Qingyan was pacing back and forth in her room, unsure of Tang Jingxuan's situation. Did her father already knock the life out of him?

Xu Qingyan wanted to sneak out and check on him, but at this time, Father Xu suddenly opened her bedroom door...

In an instant, Xu Qingyan froze in fear as she looked at her father cautiously. However, a miracle happened: Father Xu did not hit her this time.

"The rascal from the Tang Family sure has some guts. Tidy up and come down for breakfast."

Xu Qingyan looked like she had seen a ghost; her father had never spoken to her in such a gentle way. What did Tang Jingxuan do?

"I heard you use to go to the same school. For a classmate to do so much for you, he's not bad. Even if he became my son-in-law, I wouldn't mind."

"Huh?" Xu Qingyan's mind went blank.

From classmate to son-in-law...how did he make that connection?

Father Xu glanced at Xu Qingyan and didn't say anymore. Of course, Xu Qingyan didn't continue dwelling in her own thoughts.

A moment later, the father and daughter returned to the dining room. At this time, Tang Jingxuan was already seated at the dining table with a few injuries on his face.

"Jingxuan..."

"I'm fine. These are marks of a real man," Tang Jingxuan laughed as he brushed away Xu Qingyan's outstretched hands. He then whispered in her ear, "To tell you the truth, I've still got a lethal weapon regarding your stepmother that I have not used yet. Wait until I learn how to be more sly, we can give it a try."

"How many hits did you take from my father?"

"Your father also took hits from me," Tang Jingxuan glanced briefly at Father Xu's injuries. "Don't worry, your father won't hurt you for a while."

"What's with all the chatter. Don't think I can't hear you," Father Xu glared at the two. "I admit, I have always resolved matters with violence. But, that's how I am and that's how I express myself. Qingyan, you can either get used to it, or try to kill me. This is who I am and I will never change."

"..."

“Master two, have you forgotten what you promised me?” Ye Lan suddenly said after remaining quiet for quite some time. “You promised that between your daughter and I, you would always choose me. But, what’s happening now? Are you planning to come to a truce with your daughter?”

“Truce?” Father Xu looked questioningly at Ye Lan, “When have I ever said that? You are always number one to me. Xu Qingyan is merely my daughter: I can hit her as I like and yell at her whenever I want. If someone wants to stick up for her, then I will have to see if they have the means to do so.”

Chapter 550: Ye Lan Can't Be Dealt With ?

If this was ancient times, Father Xu’s character may have deemed him a mighty warrior.

He was fierce and hot-headed. And, even when dealing with his own daughter, he never showed mercy. It was only when it came to Ye Lan that he was submissive and obedient.

Looking at the odds, Xu Qingyan was bound to be the loser in this battle.

After all, to Father Xu, she held no value whatsoever.

Xu Qingyan’s face turned pale as her hands trembled, “If it wasn’t because I was worried that this woman would cheat you of your entire fortune, I would have left here ages ago.”

“Oh? Are you worried about me? Or are you worried about your inheritance? Xu Qingyan, let me tell you, I created Xu Corps with my own bare hands. I can give the company to whomever I want. Even if I donate the entire thing to charity, you can only watch from the sidelines,” Father Xu said in a heartless manner.

“You are forcing me to drag this woman down to the grave with me,” Xu Qingyan yelled as she pointed at Ye Lan.

“If you want to die, then go ahead and die. Don’t drag my wife down with you,” Father Xu replied, without even taking a glance at Xu Qingyan. After he was done talking, he put down the knife and fork in his hands and casually took a sip of his red wine.

The atmosphere became stale. All Xu Qingyan could do was try her best not to cry. While maintaining her composure, she swallowed her tears back into the depths of her stomach.

Seeing this, Tang Jingxuan suddenly stood up and said to Xu Qingyan, “Leave with me right now. Otherwise, I can’t guarantee that I can control myself any longer.”

“Did you think you can get through me?” Father Xu asked in mockery.

“You, at least, won’t be any better off,” Tang Jingxuan sneered.

Xu Qingyan remained in her seat, still as ice.

“Qingyan...”

Xu Qingyan remained silent for a while. At this time, Ye Lan looked over provokingly with a victorious smile.

Xu Qingyan took a deep breath and rejected Tang Jingxuan's offer, "This is my home. I won't be going anywhere."

"What are you thinking? Come outside and get some fresh air to clear your head!" Tang Jingxuan grabbed onto Xu Qingyan's arm and dragged her out of the dining room. At this time, Ye Lan's voice resonated from behind them, "Don't stay out too late! There is still a huge pile of clothes waiting for you to clean. I can't trust the maids with it."

Tang Jingxuan pretended not to hear a thing as he covered Xu Qingyan's ears until they reached the car. After they boarded, he placed his hand on Xu Qingyan's shoulder and asked, "How long has this been going on?"

"Ever since that woman married my father at 20-years-old," Xu Qingyan replied.

"Have you never thought of fighting back?"

"No matter what I do, I will always be wrong. Is there any point?" Xu Qingyan replied in self-ridicule. "You've already done enough for me. Jingxuan, you don't need to offend my father for my sake. After all, Tang Corps and Xu Corps still need to work together."

"Little Monkey, I know you've tried a lot of things. But, I'm sure there's one thing you haven't tried," Tang Jingxuan suddenly winked at Xu Qingyan as he thought of something.

"What do you mean?"

Tang Jingxuan did not say a word. He simply started up his sports car and drove towards the destination he had in mind. As long as his enemy was physically able, he had the ability to go up against them. But, Tang Jingxuan did not like getting involved in arguments and calculations. Even when he was in the entertainment industry for so long, he did not like to use schemes.

But, this particular person was different...

So, Tang Jingxuan directly brought Xu Qingyan to Hyatt Regency.

Mo Ting was at work, so Tangning and a maid were the only ones at home. To prevent her stomach from being revealed, she once again chose to cover it with a cushion as she sat on the sofa.

"Sis, can you please help Qingyan..."

"Should we first deal with the injuries on your faces?" Tangning gestured for Tang Jingxuan to fetch the medicine chest. As she helped them apply ointment, she asked, "Speak. What do you want me to do?"

After a bit of time, Tang Jingxuan managed to briefly explain the situation between Xu Qingyan and Ye Lan to Tangning. Of course, the injuries on Xu Qingyan's body were the best proof.

If they were only dealing with Father Xu, the situation may have been easy to resolve. But, there was also a Ye Lan involved...

"Is Ye Lan the female lead of 'Survive'? The one that lost to me?" Tangning suddenly remembered.

"Uh huh," Tang Jingxuan nodded.

"I don't want to get involved with other's family matters..." Tangning shook her head. Although they were business partners, she wasn't very familiar with them.

"Just help us think of an idea...Look at the injuries on Qingyan's body!"

"Why don't you think of something yourself?" Tangning asked with a smile.

"I'm not good at scheming. Sis, don't make things difficult for me. I can help you with other things," Tang Jingxuan replied helplessly. "If I was capable, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Tangning knew that Tang Jingxuan was referring to his past. So, she waved her hand and said, "You...leave. Miss Xu stay."

Hearing this, Tang Jingxuan knew Tangning had an idea. So, he immediately stood up and left without hesitation.

Afterwards, only Tangning and Xu Qingyan remained in the living room. Tangning looked at Xu Qingyan in detail and said with a slightly serious expression, "My instincts tell me that you won't hurt Jingxuan. I could help you, after all, Ye Lan still owes me for what she's done to me."

"But, Ning Jie...Ye Lan has my father backing her. I've tried many methods in the past, but I've always ended up suffering in the end."

"That's because you are too passive," Tangning directly pointed out the issue.

"Ning Jie, please help me. I really want to kick this woman out of where she doesn't belong."

Tangning thought for a moment before she eventually nodded her head, "I can give it a try."

So what if Father Xu was violent? As long as he was human, he definitely had a weakness. Since he had a weakness, then there was a chance of attack.

As for Ye Lan...

Tangning had not gotten back at Ye Lan for what she had done yet!

"Qingyan, you need to remember, the only reason why you are still living in the Xu Household is because you are your father's daughter, not because you want to prevent him from getting tricked and hurt! Since he is using his identity to suppress you, then as your father, he would have given you shares to Xu Corps. You can use these shares to go against him."

"Don't be afraid of getting hit. If you face him confidently, he may actually back down."

"As for Ye Lan...There are way too many ways you can drive her mad..."

After hearing a few sentences from Tangning, Xu Qingyan could already see the difference between herself and Tangning. This was the difference between a professional and an amateur.

"Also, you need to change your image a little. Toughen up. I'll tell you what to do and you follow...Let's give it a try," Tangning looked at Xu Qingyan and smiled, "I know you've helped my brother before."

Did they think that Father Xu can't be defeated? And Ye Lan can't be dealt with?

Impossible!