

Work Hard 681

Chapter 681: I Think I Should Give You A Tooth For A Tooth !

The bodyguards even took Hua Wenfeng to Hai Rui to identify the woman. However, Hua Wenfeng studied everyone carefully, but couldn't find the person that had provoked her.

After the interrogation was over, Hua Wenfeng expected the bodyguards to let her go. It wasn't like Tangning would actually want her life.

But, Hua Wenfeng was wrong...

Did she really think, after torturing Bai Lihua for so many years and causing Tangning and her child to almost die, she would be let off so easily?

The bodyguards took Hua Wenfeng back to the small dark house where they had her detained before. Inside the house, there was nothing except a slightly opened window...

"Let me go. What you're doing is illegal!" Hua Wenfeng yelled as she looked around. But, no matter how much she yelled, no one responded. Worst of all, as night hit, Hua Wenfeng knelt on the floor and could suddenly smell something burning. A moment later, sparks of fire appeared in front of her, rendering her body weak in fear. She immediately stood up and began screaming for help, "Anyone there? Fire...something's on fire!"

No one paid attention to her, but the fire continued to grow. Hua Wenfeng felt the scorching heat as her body became covered in a layer of sweat. However, inside the enclosed space, all she could do was huddle up in the corner and cry.

"Help...help! I was wrong. Let me out, please," Hua Wenfeng pleaded. But, she didn't know who could help her at a moment like that...

As the fire got bigger and bigger, she wondered if she was going to die here today?

However, just as the fire reached Hua Wenfeng's feet, the lock on the door suddenly opened and the two bodyguards dragged her out. They then threw her on the floor.

"Thank you..." Hua Wenfeng lay weakly on the floor as she nodded her head thankfully. However, a cold voice suddenly echoed from above her.

"No need to be polite."

Hua Wenfeng shivered as a sense of fear suddenly flowed down her back to the rest of her body. She had just been pulled out of the fire and her body was hot, but...for some reason, when she heard this voice, she actually felt cold.

Because, the person standing before her, was none other than her 'good son', Mo Ting!

"The lesson you have just been taught was payback for the explosion you caused 19 years ago. Even though, what you have experienced, is not even one-thousandth of what my mother went through..."

"Of course, let's not dwell on old matters. However...Tangning's poisoning incident..."

Hearing the mention of poison, Hua Wenfeng immediately retreated. She could roughly guess what Mo Ting wanted to do.

“I think I should give you a tooth for a tooth!”

Hua Wenfeng shook her head in fear, “No, no! Please don’t.”

However, Hua Wenfeng was simply met with a cold “Pfft!”.

The two bodyguards then approached Hua Wenfeng. One grabbed her body and the other grabbed her legs. Afterwards, all that could be heard were sounds of splashing water as the top half of Hua Wenfeng’s body was soaked in water.

“Mo Ting...Mo Ting! If you kill me, you will need to go to prison,” Hua Wenfeng cried in a hoarse voice as she lay on the floor.

“Kill you? You wish!” Mo Ting knelt down and glared at Hua Wenfeng with his piercing eyes. “How long have I tolerated you? Yet, you didn’t know how to behave! You could have hurt anyone, yet you decided to hurt Tangning...”

After speaking, Mo Ting stood up and brushed off the dust on his body, “Don’t worry, I run an entertainment agency, not an underworld gang. I won’t do anything to you. But, before you turn yourself in to the police, we will play plenty more ‘jokes’ like the one we played today.”

“I would like to see if you prefer to be tortured by me or if you prefer to go to prison!”

After speaking, Mo Ting turned around and instructed the bodyguards, “Let her go, we will play another fun game tomorrow.”

The bodyguards hadn’t actually followed Mo Ting for a long time. But, it was rare to see him angered to this extent. However, they understood that Hua Wenfeng had hurt Mo Ting’s most important person. So, they did not dare to disobey his orders.

Hua Wenfeng felt like her life was a living hell. Especially when she thought about how she was almost burned and the way she had medicine poured all over her. At this moment, she wished she could just ram her head into a wall and end her suffering.

“Ms. Hua, we suggest you turn yourself in. That way you can avoid being tortured.”

“Mo Ting, you are ruthless.”

In reality, no one had ever seen such a ruthless side to Mo Ting, even though he had always told people that he wasn’t a kind person.

But, of course, it depended on how far Hua Wenfeng pushed him...

...

That night, Tangning did not notice that Mo Ting had temporarily left her side in the middle of the night. All she knew was, the next day when she woke up, she received news that Hua Wenfeng had turned herself in to the police.

She surrendered!

Was this something that Hua Wenfeng would do? How did she suddenly get enlightened?

Even though Hua Wenfeng couldn't find the person that had provoked her...she at least paid for what she had done.

Tangning felt like Mo Ting was somehow involved, but she could not figure out how he did it.

As for the person lurking in the shadows...

...Tangning kept her guard up, but she knew the truth would eventually be revealed!

Hua Wenfeng's surrender was unforeseen by everyone, so the media naturally flocked to the police station. But, it was after all a government organization. Even though the media were in a hurry, they couldn't get a single glance of Hua Wenfeng. Especially since she would be spending the next few years behind prison walls.

However, her surrender triggered Song Xin's assistant to quickly change her appearance.

The police investigated Hai Rui, but Song Xin's assistant was tricky and remained calm the entire time. So, she easily cleared all suspicion and followed Song Xin to her next job.

"This Hua Wenfeng can't do anything right, she is a complete failure!" Song Xin complained, "She even left behind a mess for me to handle."

"It's fine. They will only investigate once. They won't suspect us anymore," the assistant comforted.

"Let's go. Your interview is about to start. We shouldn't waste our time being angered by a person like this."

Of course, Mo Ting and Tangning had no way of confirming if the person they were looking for was indeed from Hai Rui. But, with Mo Ting's strict nature, as long as there was a trace of suspicion, he wouldn't let it slip. He simply had to wait and see how long the culprit could hide...

...

Meanwhile, Chen Xingyan's identity as 'Princess of Hai Rui' was revealed.

She cluelessly became the sister of the Big Boss of Entertainment, so everyone around her looked at her differently.

However, she did not feel happy at all. In fact, she felt slightly restricted by it.

Her ultimate goal was to become a stunt double.

But, judging by the current situation, it didn't seem very possible.

Lin Sheng noticed Chen Xingyan's discomfort from a distance and smiled as he approached her, "What? Aren't you happy that you're Mo Ting's sister?"

"Why should I be happy? From now on, when people mention my name, they will point to me and ask if I'm Mo Ting's sister," Chen Xingyan rolled her eyes. "I like keeping a low profile."

“It seems, An Zihao has put all his heart into helping you for nothing...” Lin Sheng sighed.

Chapter 682: I’ve Been Replaced

“In what way has he put all his heart into helping me?” Chen Xingyan asked as she tilted her head slightly.

“How would I know? You should ask him yourself!” Lin Sheng decided not to clear the mystery so An Zihao could suffer a little.

...

Meanwhile, An Zihao willingly compensated the production crew for all their losses. As the director watched, his heart ached on his behalf, “It must be a headache to support someone like that.”

An Zihao looked at Chen Xingyan and shook his head, “She’s a good little seedling. She just needs time to grow and prove her worth.”

“You’re the only one here who thinks she has unlimited potential,” the director sighed.

An Zihao smiled in disagreement.

“Have you come across some financial difficulty lately? If you need money, come and look for me. I can introduce some work to you,” the director offered enthusiastically. However, he was simply showing off his wide network of contacts.

An Zihao smiled as he nodded his head thankfully, but he wasn’t at that stage yet.

Although Chen Xingyan did not work hard enough, she had her own unique personality. Sometimes, An Zihao was stuck in a dilemma: he didn’t know whether to make her shine or to let her continue being herself.

Afterwards, An Zihao left the set. Meanwhile, to make up for the shots from the previous day, Chen Xingyan continued to film into the middle of the night. In fact, she had to film a scene submerged in water.

But, Chen Xingyan wasn’t scared of anything except water. So after dozens of takes, she practically failed every single shot.

This made the water-soaked director yell from the shore, “Do you know how to act?”

Chen Xingyan’s body tensed up. She couldn’t voice her suffering; she could only stand in the water and tremble.

But, to be fair, because of her fear of water, it was indeed difficult for her to focus her emotions.

“Director, I’m sorry, let’s try again.”

The director held back his anger and returned to the camera. However, Chen Xingyan’s performance this time was even worse.

Lin Sheng watched from the side the entire time. His assistant originally wanted to help, but Lin Sheng stopped him, "Let her suffer a little."

"Stop filming! I've never seen such a lousy actor. You, on your own, have caused the entire crew to not get any sleep..."

Chen Xingyan lowered her head, stepped out of the water and headed to the director's side dripping in water.

"Don't look so pitiful, I am also pitiful; the An Zihao that has been endlessly sacrificing for you is pitiful," the director said as he pointed at Chen Xingyan. "I know you're used to living a carefree life and used to the life of a stunt double. But, you are currently the female lead. Can you not be so selfish? Can you think on other's behalf?"

"In order to get revenge on Director Matt for you, An Zihao practically exhausted his finances. As for today, he once again paid the price because of your childish behavior. He was a promising new director, yet because of you, he's almost gone bankrupt. Do you not feel bad at all?"

The director practically screamed his last few words.

Tangning was stunned.

"Go, go, go...I'm not filming anymore tonight. If not for Lin Sheng and An Zihao, I would have directly fired you."

Chen Xingyan opened her mouth to speak, but as the words reached her lips, she suddenly felt like everything she was to say would merely sound like an excuse.

An Zihao...

Because of her, he was almost bankrupt?

Chen Xingyan was confused, she had no idea that An Zihao had done so much for her in secret.

"Director, let's try one more time."

"No, An Zihao has done so much for you, but your performance tonight has shown me how you've insulted his trust, his sacrifices, and his heart." After speaking, the director left. Meanwhile, the other staff on set looked at Chen Xingyan with deep disappointment.

"Sheng Ge, the director's words were a bit harsh," Lin Sheng's assistant said beside Lin Sheng's ear. "Chen Xingyan has a slight fear of water."

"Since she wants to be an actress that everyone has their eyes on, there's nothing she can't overcome. She has a mouth, she can always ask others for advice. But, she is young, reckless, and too proud to ask for help." After speaking, Lin Sheng gestured for his assistant to return to his room and get some rest.

"When it comes to acting, a thousand Chen Xingyan's cannot compare to one Tangning."

Chen Xingyan was used to things not going right, but she had never suffered in such a way. However, the suffering was worth it this time.

Because she actually felt a trace of guilt.

It didn't take long before Chen Xingyan helplessly returned to her room. But, at this time, the director gave An Zihao a phone call.

"I don't think I can continue filming with your little seedling. Since we haven't filmed much, I'd rather find someone to replace her, in case things get more complicated later on."

From the director's tone of voice and the time of the phone call, An Zihao could tell that the director had already tried his best. Otherwise, why would he call him in the middle of the night to complain?

An Zihao remained silent for a few seconds before he responded, "In that case, director, I have a plan. If she still can't do it after one last try, you can replace her. By that time, I won't have any reason to persist either."

The director took a deep breath. He obviously appeared calmer than before, "OK then, tell me your plan. But, this will be her last chance."

"OK," An Zihao nodded.

...

That night, Chen Xingyan did not sleep well. Her mind constantly thought about the words that the director had said to her.

Did An Zihao really do so much for her?

After not sleeping for an entire night, as she got out of bed the next day, she received a notification, "The director called your manager last night. The director has decided to replace you," the director's assistant said after knocking on her door early in the morning.

"The director can't work with someone that doesn't understand teamwork and gratitude. It's best you go home and look for An Zihao."

Chen Xingyan had heavy eyebags from lack of sleep. Her consciousness was originally not clear, but when she heard that the director was going to replace her, she was stunned like she had been struck by lightning.

After speaking, the assistant turned and left without giving Chen Xingyan a chance to defend herself.

But, was she really replaced just like that?

After a few minutes in a stunned daze, Chen Xingyan remembered she should give An Zihao a phone call, "I've been replaced."

"I know," An Zihao replied calmly. "It works for you. Now you can return to being a stunt double."

"I..." An Zihao's words suddenly pierced into Chen Xingyan painfully.

"Go home by yourself first. I still have stuff I need to do here."

After speaking, An Zihao hung up the phone.

Chen Xingyan sat on her bed uncomfortably as she began to panic.

Was she going to spend the rest of her life like this? Was she going to continue dragging people down and implicating them?

Chapter 683: Bearing The Burden

Chen Xingyan didn't understand, nor did she want to understand. She simply got out of bed, tidied up a little and returned to the set. She couldn't leave!

Seeing the staff were busy setting up, she hurried over to help, "Let me do it, I'm strong..."

"Ms. Chen, if I'm correct, you have already been replaced by the director," the lighting designer said as he stared at Chen Xingyan. "It's best if you go home. Don't waste your time here."

Chen Xingyan did not admit defeat as she went to pester someone else. However, in just one night, everyone's attitude towards her had changed.

More importantly, when the director finally appeared on set, he treated her like she did not exist. He didn't even glance at her once.

Chen Xingyan had never been humiliated in such a way.

But, knowing that it was her own fault, she could only take a deep breath and blink back her tears.

"Director, please take me back. I will do well this time."

"Take you back? It wasn't easy for me to convince An Zihao into getting rid of you. You think I'd take you back?" the director laughed. His laugh felt extra sarcastic, "I previously gave you a chance, but you didn't appreciate it. You fooled around all day, disregarded everyone, and still considered being a stunt double your main goal. So, you can go do what you want now, no one is going to hold you back."

Chen Xingyan endured the director's humiliation and desperately held back her tears. After a few moments, she finally said, "I can help out on set for free..."

After hearing this, the director eyed Chen Xingyan from top to bottom, "In the end, you're indeed only good for menial jobs. Do as you please, just don't appear in front of me."

Chen Xingyan felt a spark of hope as she immediately recovered her energy and began helping out on set.

From a distance, Lin Sheng spotted the busy Chen Xingyan; a smile subconsciously appeared on his face, "If she's smart enough, she will know how to turn the tables."

"Yes, she should study your acting in detail," Lin Sheng's assistant laughed.

Even in the past, Tangning had studied plenty of Lin Sheng's notes and gained a lot of insight.

He was, after all, the winner of three Best Actor Awards. In terms of acting, he was on par with actors like Bei Chendong and was highly experienced.

"Let's go, it's time to start."

In reality, this was exactly what Chen Xingyan had planned. She was going to watch Lin Sheng act while she helped out.

As she watched the way that Lin Sheng expressed himself with ease and fluidity, she finally experienced the shock of acting.

Sometimes, Lin Sheng would even ask the director if he could demonstrate some of the other roles. The director allowed him because he was curious how Lin Sheng would portray them. However, only Lin Sheng's assistant knew that his motive was to show Chen Xingyan how each role should be expressed.

Night hit. After a long day of work, An Zihao returned to find that Chen Xingyan was nowhere to be seen. So, in the middle of the night, he gave her a phone call, "Why haven't you returned?"

Chen Xingyan was standing beside the lake where she had filmed the night before. Inside, she really wanted to overcome her fear, but she still lacked a bit of courage.

"I am helping out on set," Chen Xingyan replied. "I need to make money so I can pay you back."

"OK. Since you don't have anything else to do, staying there will at least cure your boredom," An Zihao's words were cold but polite. It made Chen Xingyan uncomfortable.

This seemed to be a response of disappointment.

"An Zihao..."

"Speak!"

"Don't worry, it's nothing," Chen Xingyan wanted to know if An Zihao found her annoying. But, she couldn't get herself to ask.

Ever since she was a child, everyone listened to her and she was used to it. So, she always did things independently and never understood how to work in a team. Worst of all, she always felt that as long as she was happy, it didn't matter if others weren't. But, she never knew that a person like An Zihao existed in this world.

She liked her independent self, but...

At this point, Chen Xingyan stopped herself from thinking any further. She suddenly placed her phone aside and jumped straight into the water.

She then did what she had read online and tried her best to stand calmly in the water. Slowly, she managed to do it. In the end, she spent the entire night, jumping into the water and walking back to shore until her hands were white and shriveled.

The next morning, as soon as Chen Xingyan saw the director, she ran over and stopped him, "Director, I'm not afraid of water anymore. We can continue filming."

But, the director scanned his eyes across her and said, "Just because you were afraid of water, was I supposed to allocate extra time for you to practice. Next time, if you're afraid of the mountain, should I flatten it for you? Either way, this is the least of our matters. What about acting? Can you even act?"

Chen Xingyan didn't know how to respond but she endured it as usual. At least, she had already overcome her worst obstacle.

Although the director was yelling at her, he had already made a lot of exceptions. Normally, when filming, the set would always be cleared. Yet, he allowed her to appear on set.

As usual, Lin Sheng liked playing some of the other roles. After a couple times, Chen Xingyan slowly understood his motive. So, she began to take notes.

Seeing her take notes whenever she had time, the director sneered.

The assistant director glanced at Chen Xingyan and chuckled, "She's quite persistent. After the way that you yelled at her, she still hasn't left."

"If she left just like that, An Zihao would really need to hang himself," the director replied disdainfully. "Even though she appears serious, her acting may not necessarily improve. We still need to wait and see."

As a result, Chen Xingyan was extremely busy on set. On one side, she needed to improve her relationship with the crew, on the other, she needed to study Lin Sheng's acting. At night, she would practice, and during the day, she did all kinds of manual labor. However, this type of training seemed to be quite effective.

Even though the director still refused to let her act.

Soon, a new female lead appeared on set. Chen Xingyan felt like she had failed. She had put in so much work, yet the director was not moved by her efforts.

"Xingyan, the new female lead has arrived. You should go home now," the staff were afraid that she'd get hurt, so they kindly tried to persuade her. "It's already been finalized. You can't change anything."

Chen Xingyan was upset, but...

...she continued to persist, "It's fine. Didn't you say that the lamp was too heavy? Let me move it for you."

"But, this is really cruel for you."

No matter how cruel things were, it was because she did not try hard enough!

She couldn't blame anyone.

Chen Xingyan wanted to call Tangning to vent and to ask for her advice. But, Tangning was about to give birth. She didn't want to cause trouble for others.

They found a new female lead, huh?

Then, she would need to first see how strong her competition was.

Chapter 684: Has She Lost His Adoration Already ?

Over at Hai Rui, the most successful person in recent days was none other than Song Xin.

Her songs were the number one bestsellers, her adapted scripts were a hit, and she was extremely likable on variety shows. It didn't take long before Song Xin's name was all over Beijing. In fact, the music industry named her as a rare genius!

Hai Rui was already in the process of preparing her first EP. They believed, in the near future, her popularity was going to rise to an inestimable level. However, her only flaw was the fact that she wasn't a very interesting topic of discussion.

Sure, she was popular. But, she still did not compare to the deep impression left by Tangning.

So, if she wanted to surpass Tangning, she still had a long way to go.

After the incident with Hua Wenfeng, Tangning remained at home even more than before. Even when there were important events, she completely avoided them to protect the child in her stomach.

She continued to investigate the person who had provoked Hua Wenfeng. But, faced with a person that even Hua Wenfeng couldn't recognize, how was Tangning to find any clues or information?

Meanwhile, over the past couple of days, Mo Ting left the house early and returned late. The couple barely got a chance to see each other; even getting a few words with each other was impossible. Every time Tangning awoke, she wanted to chat with Mo Ting, but every time she saw his tired face, she couldn't bear to disturb him.

Seeing this, Bai Lihua couldn't help but ask, "I haven't seen you complain that Mo Ting works too hard. Don't you feel that he doesn't spend enough time with you?"

Because of her encounter with Quinidine, Tangning had been occupying her time with basic books on medicine. As soon as she heard Bai Lihua's question, she shook her head, "What is there to complain about? I know him better than anyone."

"What if he is doing something else behind your back? I've noticed that he's been going next door quite often lately. Haven't you noticed?" Bai Lihua asked with deep meaning. "I spotted him this morning. After he left the house, he did not go to Hai Rui, but went next door instead."

Tangning put down the book in her hands and stretched her neck to look outside, "How's that possible?"

"Why don't I go with you to see? Perhaps we might run into him."

Although Tangning did not believe Bai Lihua, she still wanted to know what Mo Ting had been getting up to. So, she stood up from the sofa and walked out of the villa with Bai Lihua to the building next door.

Next door, a bunch of workers were busy at work. As soon as they spotted Tangning, they quickly said, "Madam, your presence will hinder our construction."

"Isn't there anyone living here?" Tangning asked curiously.

"Originally there was, but the place has been sold to someone else now. Perhaps some big boss wants a place for his mistress," a worker sighed before he turned back to his work. However, Bai Lihua's expression was displeased, even though no one could see it.

“Xiao Ning, why don’t you call Mo Ting and ask him about it?”

Tangning shook her head indifferently, “No need. He will naturally tell me when he wants to tell me.”

Tangning then turned and returned to her home. After she left, the workers finally recalled Tangning’s name, “Wasn’t that Mo Ting’s wife, Tangning? Does this mean she has lost his adoration already? Otherwise, why would he buy a property next door when he already has a home? He must be doing something sneaky. This must be a convenient way to keep a mistress while his wife is pregnant.”

“Shut your mouth. Stop talking nonsense and focus on your work,” the supervisor knocked the worker on the head as a warning.

“Seeing Tangning pregnant makes me feel sympathy for her.”

“You can’t say words like this out in the open.”

Bai Lihua had only been around Tangning and Mo Ting for a short time. All she knew was that they had a flash marriage and never had any arguments. So, she had no idea how they interacted with each other, nor did she know the level of trust that Tangning had towards Mo Ting.

Especially during this sensitive period right before giving birth.

“Xiao Ning, I trust that Mo Ting has his reasons for doing this.”

Tangning simply responded with a gentle smile.

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That afternoon, the new female lead arrived on Chen Xingyan’s set.

As it was a last minute change, the director could not find any big name actresses to take the role because of problems with their schedule. However, Lin Sheng was all they needed. As long as the new female lead was nothing like Chen Xingyan, that’s all that mattered.

As soon as the woman arrived on set, she treated everyone to a big meal. Her generous gesture easily overshadowed the small favors that Chen Xingyan had done.

More importantly, the director had decided on using her after seeing her act one scene and confirmed that she would be replacing all the scenes that Chen Xingyan had previously done.

Chen Xingyan continued to help out on set even though everyone looked at her with pity. Someone even asked her why she persisted on not leaving.

Chen Xingyan didn’t know how to respond. All she knew was, she did not want to be defeated.

However, that night was going to be a difficult night for her...

“Lighting designer, hurry and adjust the lights. Actors, you can get some rest,” hearing the calls of the director, Chen Xingyan followed the rest of the crew onto the set. As soon as the new actress saw Chen Xingyan, she asked, “Were you the previous female lead? I heard about what happened to you. I’m sorry for taking your role.”

The woman was covered in a blanket with a casual expression; she did not look apologetic at all. Of course, she was slightly taunting Chen Xingyan.

"I understand you. You had always been a stunt double. To suddenly be the focus of the cameras is a bit hard to get used to," the woman paused halfway and looked at some clothes on a nearby chair, "Could you please hand me those clothes. Now that you are just a member of staff, I'm sure it's no issue for you to do that, right?"

If this was in the past, it would have been impossible for Chen Xingyan to withstand this treatment. But now, she was merely a hedgehog that had its spikes removed. No matter how much it hurt, she had to control her anger and hand the clothes to the woman.

"After an arduous journey, my assistant is unwell and is having some rest. Why don't you assist me tonight? Give me a price...I won't treat you badly."

"I..."

"Director..."

"Fine." Seeing that the woman wanted to call the director, Chen Xingyan immediately agreed, "I'll be your assistant."

"That's the right answer. I'm about to film my next scene, help me find the makeup artist. I don't need to teach you this, do I?"

Chen Xingyan swallowed her anger and ran off the set to look for the makeup artist. But, no matter where she looked, she couldn't find her. After returning to the woman's side, the woman directly threw a slap across her face, "What kind of assistant are you? I told you filming was about to start. How could you spend 10 minutes looking for a makeup artist?"

Everyone was stunned.

The woman was much too arrogant. How could she slap Chen Xingyan in the face?

"I don't care if you are Mo Ting's sister or not. When you're on set, you are just a member of staff and a 'nobody'."

Chen Xingyan turned around and glared at the woman. The deadly look in her eyes made her appear ready to tear her apart at any time.

"What do you want to do?"

"Do you think I'm going to hit you?" Chen Xingyan asked coldly. "I'm going to see how you do the next scene without a stunt double."

"Even if I can't complete the scene, the role won't be given back to you!"

Chapter 685: Steal a Little Taste

An Zihao did not arrive too early nor too late. He arrived just in time to see the woman slap Chen Xingyan.

He had promised that he wasn't going to help her, but, seeing Chen Xingyan being humiliated in such a way, his right leg disobediently took a step forward. However, after one step, he quickly retreated. He couldn't waste a great opportunity for Chen Xingyan to grow by being too overprotective.

Because of Chen Xingyan's nimble skills, the director had not hired a stunt double for her role. But, after he replaced her, he specifically found one. So, contrary to what Chen Xingyan had said, the woman had a stunt double to help her.

The woman looked at Chen Xingyan with ridicule. She seemed to think that she was stupid and naive, "The person without a stunt double is you, not me."

So, Chen Xingyan watched as the woman focused on looking good on screen, while the stunt double took care of all the action scenes.

It wasn't fair!

Chen Xingyan could no longer hold back the fire that was boiling up inside her, so she walked over and said to the director, "Director, can you let me act out this scene? I simply want to give it a try..."

"Leave, stop wasting my time," the director looked at Chen Xingyan impatiently.

"Director, you must know how high Lin Sheng's expectations are. Compared to someone that uses a stunt double, I'm sure he prefers acting with someone who does their action scenes themselves," Chen Xingyan followed behind the director and tried to seize an opportunity for herself.

After hearing this, the director turned around and glanced at Chen Xingyan. He then nodded his head, "Your reasoning makes sense. Sometimes to create a life-like result, you need to look at the interaction between actors."

"How about this, why don't you act out a scene with Ling Long."

Act out a scene?

What acting? It was more like asking her to suffer beatings.

"What? Are you afraid? If you don't want to do it, then forget it."

"I'll do it," Chen Xingyan grabbed onto the director and said in a firm voice. "If I perform well alongside her, will you let me try out her scene?"

"Go ahead!"

An Zihao stood in the distance watching as Chen Xingyan grabbed onto the director. She no longer appeared as childish as before because she was obviously putting in a lot of effort.

No wonder when the director asked her to be beaten up in a passerby role, she agreed.

Seeing Chen Xingyan's serious challenge, the woman was afraid she'd have her role snatched back from her, so she didn't use a stunt double and decided to act out the scene herself.

But, the most frightening thing about the scene was, Chen Xingyan had to accept the beatings without fighting back.

“Come Ling Long, pay attention to your safety. Let’s begin,” the director reminded as he waved at the woman named Ling Long. He then gestured for the set assistant to clap the slate. He did not expect Chen Xingyan to be able to withstand the punches and kicks.

However, after filming started, everyone was shocked. Not only did Chen Xingyan endure Ling Long’s beating, but she was also extremely in character.

In reality, when it came to action scenes, the director was still confident in Chen Xingyan. But, when it came to emotional scenes, she was a bit worrying.

After all, action scenes were her specialty.

But, Chen Xingyan aside, even observers felt painful watching the scene in front of them. After all, Ling Long threw punches left, right and center, each punch with more force than anyone else would apply.

In the distance, An Zihao watched as Chen Xingyan endured the beating. He felt the pain from every punch like it was being applied on his own body.

But, Chen Xingyan endured it all. Not only did she not make a sound, she completed the entire scene professionally.

“Director, what are your thoughts?”

The director did not say a word, he simply turned to leave. At this time, the majority of the staff finally spotted An Zihao in the distance, including Ling Long.

The director approached him and said, “You saw the scene just now. Why don’t you sign Ling Long on as one of your artists as well?”

An Zihao knew the director was deliberately trying to provoke Chen Xingyan. As a result, Chen Xingyan looked anxiously at An Zihao. Seeing he did not respond, her eyes began to turn dull...

But, as he thought about the way that Ling Long deliberately provoked Chen Xingyan, An Zihao strode over to Chen Xingyan, removed his jacket, placed it on her and said to everyone, “One Chen Xingyan is enough.”

After speaking, An Zihao tried to leave with Chen Xingyan.

Chen Xingyan struggled a little as she felt her heart heat up. She then said with furrowed brows, “I still need to film.”

“It’s just a childish game, what else is there to film?” An Zihao pressed her under his arm and dragged her back to her room. He then sat her down on the sofa and began lifting her shirt.

“Hey...” Chen Xingyan retaliated.

“I’m just checking if there are any bruises,” An Zihao explained. “Are you going to mess around with your roles from now on? If you get this role back, will you be able to play it?”

“Of course I can,” Chen Xingyan replied in certainty. But, she didn’t quite understand what An Zihao meant.

“I’ll take you to see a physiotherapist in a moment.”

“Have...have you spent a lot of money on me?” Within the empty room, Chen Xingyan was so nervous that she could feel her heart beating out of her chest. But, if she didn’t ask this question now, she wouldn’t know when she’d get the chance.

“Yes, I spent a bit,” An Zihao admitted as he nodded his head.

“I will be serious with my acting so I can help you earn back the money.”

An Zihao looked at Chen Xingyan from behind as he placed his hands on her shoulder. He actually wanted so badly to hug her...

Perhaps because of the mutual sparks between the two, Chen Xingyan couldn’t help but lean back into An Zihao’s chest, “I’m tired...”

An Zihao did not expose her, he simply let her lean on him quietly, “If you could give people a peace of mind like Tangning, how good would that be?”

Chen Xingyan closed her eyes and suddenly remembered how An Zihao had once said that he wouldn’t let history repeat itself..

So, she wondered if she should have a bit more self control. What if...

With this thought, Chen Xingyan decided to sit up straight. But, An Zihao held her down and pulled her into his arms, “If you want to lean on me, then lean. Don’t move around.”

“But...isn’t this a little too intimate?”

“You like this kind of intimacy. Don’t think I can’t tell,” An Zihao said beside Chen Xingyan’s ear.

Chen Xingyan’s ears turned red. She immediately covered her burning cheeks and said, “I think...this is the first time I’ve developed feelings for someone. I think I like you.”

“Me too,” An Zihao replied quickly.

“You too?” Chen Xingyan turned around and looked at An Zihao, “Didn’t you say that you wouldn’t let history repeat itself?”

“I don’t think those words apply to you,” An Zihao surrendered to himself and to Chen Xingyan. He had already helped her to this extent, what other reason could there be? He obviously liked her and cared about her.

“What should we do from now on?”

An Zihao looked at Chen Xingyan’s helpless expression and gave in to his urges. Without restraint, he grabbed her head with one hand and kissed down on her lips.

He didn’t care about the future. He was going to steal a little taste first.

He had signed her as his artist and worked so hard to train her. Didn’t he do all that to make her into his girlfriend?

Chapter 686: Investigate In Detail

Over the past two days, Huo Jingjing's condition improved a lot. After visiting her at the hospital and seeing that she was looking good, Tangning began to relax.

"Why are you just standing in the doorway? Aren't you tired? Isn't the little one in your stomach complaining?" Huo Jingjing noticed the serious expression on Tangning's face, so she tried to make her laugh.

"Where's Fang Yu?"

"He went to take Fang Yue to school. But, she will be having a few days off soon. I'm afraid that Fang Yu won't have time to take care of her. I was just about to call to see if we could leave her at your place for a few days," Huo Jingjing gestured for Tangning to sit down.

"That's no problem." Tangning sat down on the edge of Huo Jingjing's bed and subconsciously looked down at her bandaged legs, "Lately..."

"You don't need to say it, I'm aware of it myself," Huo Jingjing said casually. "I haven't rested like this for many years. Sometimes, getting hurt isn't all that bad."

"I also know what you want to say to me. After I recover, I know the world will be a very different place. But, what can I do about it? At my age, perhaps all I can do is copy you and retreat from the industry so I can focus on taking care of Fang Yu and Xiao Yue."

"Won't you miss it?"

"I love Fang Yu and I love my family. As long as I still have my family, there's nothing to miss," Huo Jingjing shrugged her shoulders honestly. "I'm not just valuable on the runway."

Huo Jingjing had experienced a lot in the past. If she didn't understand something so simple, then all her experiences in the past were for nothing.

"In the past, Fang Yu didn't mind that everyone called me a pair of used shoes. He loved me and respected me regardless of what they said. So, I want to make some sacrifices for our family too. Especially since he has been so tired."

After listening to Huo Jingjing, Tangning nodded her head, "As long as you're happy with your decision."

"I'm honestly fine. What about you? Just as Fang Yu was leaving a moment ago, auntie called and asked me to comfort you. She was afraid that your imagination would go wild. What happened between you and President Mo? Does President Mo really have a mistress?"

Tangning was silent.

"Tangning, even I trust President Mo. You wouldn't believe such nonsense would you? Plus, even if another woman tried to seduce him, who would have the ability to compete against you?"

"Mom hasn't seen the way we interact with each other, so she's worrying over nothing," Tangning explained, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

Tangning continued to keep Huo Jingjing company while they waited for Fang Yu to return to the hospital. Meanwhile, Tangning arranged for Fang Yu to bring Fang Yue to Hai Rui after he picked her up from school that afternoon.

To welcome the child, Tangning headed straight over to Hai Rui afterwards and read a book in Mo Ting's office while she waited.

During that time, she snuck glances at Mo Ting every now and then. Seeing that there was nothing strange about him, she let out a laugh, "Mom saw you go next door. Why did you buy our neighbours building?"

Hearing Tangning's question, Mo Ting lifted his head, "I bought it for my little lover. I'm planning to join the two villas."

"Are you planning for our child to live next door?" Tangning assumed. Although her man did not have a mistress as Bai Lihua had guessed, he was indeed a bit strange.

"I asked a lot of people around me. They all said that after a woman gives birth, all their attention will be placed upon their child while their husband becomes a part of the background."

"So, is President Mo afraid of becoming a part of the background?" Tangning laughed. "Aren't you being a bit childish?"

"But, President Mo, have you considered that perhaps you could spend more time with our child than me after it's born?" Tangning teased. "It's best if you stop doing such silly things. You're making mom misunderstand."

"Misunderstand what?"

"Misunderstand that you've found a mistress behind my back," Tangning explained calmly.

"What about you? What were your thoughts after you heard what she said?"

"My first thought was, if my husband was such a promiscuous person, he wouldn't have tried to find a random woman to marry before me. It's not that I'm confident, but I know you can't be bothered to spare a second glance at other women," Tangning smiled. "In fact, I can tell that my husband cares about me even more than before..."

"...because he's scared that the little monster in my stomach will compete with him for affection, so he's jealous!"

This was Mo Ting's unique possessiveness; he was even cautious against his own child.

But, this meant one thing was certain.

Tangning practically occupied his entire heart in terms of importance.

Soon, Fang Yu arrived at Mo Ting's office with Fang Yue. As soon as he saw Tangning, he tiredly thanked her, "I really have no time to take care of her. Sorry for troubling you."

"Take good care of Jingjing!" Tangning warned before she received Fang Yue from his hands. The well behaved child followed her over to the sofa.

“Xiao Yue, do you like it here?”

Fang Yue looked around and nodded her head, “Yes...”

Just as Tangning was about to offer some lollies that she had prepared to Fang Yue, the little girl suddenly grabbed onto her shirt and exclaimed, “Auntie...auntie...just a moment ago, Xiao Yue saw...”

“What did you see?” Tangning listened patiently to the stuttering Fang Yue.

“I saw that auntie.”

“What auntie?”

“The...the...” Fang Yue didn’t know how to explain, so she dragged Tangning out of the room. Tangning followed curiously behind the little girl as she was led to an artist’s waiting room.

“What is it, Yue Er?”

Through the slightly opened door, Fang Yue pointed to a round bag with an elk print, “On the day that mummy was bit, I saw that bag...”

Tangning was stunned as she questioned, “Are you referring to the night Jingjing was bitten?”

“Uh huh. An auntie wearing this bag walked past the doorway that day. I thought it was pretty when I saw it and I liked it. Just a moment ago, I saw the same auntie wearing that bag walk into this room...”

Tangning held back her emotions without looking further into the matter. Instead, she calmly led Fang Yue away. After all, the name ‘Song Xin’ was clearly written on the door.

When children liked something, it would leave a deep impression on them. They may not be able to explain things in detail, but they would remember the moment they saw it vividly.

After returning to Mo Ting’s office, Tangning recalled everything that Fang Yue had said to him.

“Before Jingjing’s incident, she had spoken to me on the phone. She suspected someone of scheming against her. So, after she was injured, I was determined to find the truth. At that time, all suspicions were cleared. But, even though so much time has passed, I did not waste my efforts.”

“Hua Wenfeng had previously said that the person that provoked her came from Hai Rui. I think it’s time we investigate in detail.”

Mo Ting closed his last document and walked over to Tangning. He then carried Fang Yue in his arms, “Let’s go home...”

Song Xin would have never imagined that justice was slow but certain. No matter how quickly her assistant changed her appearance, she ended up being exposed by a simple bag.

Some people may think that the bag was just a coincidence.

But, were there really that many coincidences?

Chapter 687: Tangning’s Counterattack

It wasn't actually hard to prove whether the woman was Song Xin's assistant or not.

By privately investigating her whereabouts and secretly paying attention to her actions, a lot of unexpected information could be uncovered.

"The woman's name is Duan Jinghong. She is an old friend of Song Xin's. They've been working together for a long time. The fact that Song Xin managed to rise within the industry in such a short period of time wasn't solely due to the platform that Hai Rui has provided her. Her assistant/manager 1 has also played a huge part. She knows how to take advantage of Song Xin's strong points, especially her background. She secures endorsements easily and she is a cautious and calculative person."

"Because of this, she is deeply trusted by Song Xin and the two of them complement each other with their own strengths. So, in a short time, they managed to rule over half the entertainment industry."

"By the way, this woman used to have short hair, but I'm not sure when she started to wear a wig and have a pointy nose. I heard she had plastic surgery done."

This was what the HR manager had discovered from his investigations at Hai Rui. As for her specific whereabouts, he could only assume that she followed Song Xin's schedule.

After all, how was anyone to know where she went in private?

"As for the bag you asked me to investigate, it is from the latest limited edition global commemorative release by Valentino. There is no more than 5 in the entire world, so the chances of having the same bag as someone else is slim."

After hearing the manager's words, Tangning thought about the situation in detail and asked, "When did Duan Jinghong start wearing a wig?"

"Only a few days ago. If I remember correctly, it was around the time when Hua Wenfeng held her press conference."

No wonder when Hua Wenfeng came to the office, she couldn't recognize the person she was looking for.

Even a clever rabbit knew to make three entrances to its burrow 2, let alone a cunning fox.

"Everything that happened today, just pretend it didn't happen. Don't let anyone know that I asked about Duan Jinghong."

"Don't worry, Madam, I'll keep it a secret."

Tangning nodded her head and waved the manager off. However, her expression did not look pleased. If her existence made Song Xin sense hostility, how did Huo Jingjing provoke her? Huo Jingjing's leg was almost amputated because of an aggressive dog. Worst of all, Duan Jinghong had used a young child to achieve it...

Duan Jinghong actually had the heart to use such a young child!

“Fang Yu will naturally deal with Huo Jingjing’s incident. What I want to know is, who provoked Hua Wenfeng...” Mo Ting said without lifting his head. However, Tangning managed to hear a slight trace of danger in his voice.

Tangning did not ask further into the matter. She knew what Hua Wenfeng had experienced the night before she surrendered to the police even though she didn’t hear it from Mo Ting himself.

If Duan Jinghong was actually involved, the man sitting in the office would never allow her to live in peace...

Since Duan Jinghong worked for Song Xin, Song Xin obviously knew about the entire matter. In fact, there was a huge possibility that she was the instigator.

Someone seemed to be challenging this Mo Ting’s authority, so he gave Fang Yu a phone call, “Create a problem for every single one of Song Xin’s upcoming projects.”

...

Song Xin had no idea that she had already become a suspect for Tangning. Instead, she was still dreaming of surpassing Tangning in a few months. She was a winner in many aspects and enjoyed looking down on people, but it didn’t mean she’d always be number one.

After Fang Yu received Mo Ting’s phone call, he was a bit surprised. He had no idea how Song Xin had angered Mo Ting.

Even so, he still did as told.

That night, Song Xin was supposed to appear on a talk show. The talk show was one that was enjoyed by fans from all over the world, so it was a great opportunity for her to accumulate popularity and fame.

But, what Song Xin did not expect at all was that she obviously participated in the recording but her appearance on the camera...

...was minimal!

What happened? She was currently famous. Were the producers blind?

After the recording, Duan Jinghong went to look for the producer. At first, her tone was very polite, “Sir, I wonder if Song Xin has offended you in any way?”

“Nope,” the 40-something-year-old producer shook his head.

“Then...don’t you think her appearance on the camera has been too scarce?”

“Oh, are you complaining that it’s too small of an amount? Then, we might as well cut it out completely,” the producer said before he walked off without even looking into Duan Jinghong’s eyes.

Duan Jinghong was so angry she felt like she was going to cough up blood. But, the man was a top-class producer; no matter how brave she was, she wouldn’t dare to argue with him. Unless, of course, Song Xin no longer wanted to survive in the industry.

Yet, no matter how she thought about it, she couldn’t accept what had happened!

After a while, Duan Jinghong returned to Song Xin's side and explained everything that had happened to her. However, Song Xin did not appear angered at all. She simply asked, "Did you mention my family background?"

"He didn't give me the chance."

"Give Hai Rui a call and speak to Fang Yu!"

Song Xin was undoubtedly talented. In fact, her talent wasn't mediocre. But unfortunately, she wasn't very modest about it.

Even at times like this, in the middle of the night, if she wanted to see Fang Yu, she had to know where he was and he had to deal with her issues immediately.

But, of course, Fang Yu was at the hospital and his phone had been switched off; he had predicted that Song Xin would come looking for him. So, Song Xin diverted her call to Lu Che instead. However, Lu Che was in the middle of driving Mo Ting and Tangning home. As soon as he heard the call, he pulled to the side and picked up the phone.

"Assistant Lu Che...our Song Xin was treated badly tonight, Hai Rui needs to deal with it.

Lu Che needed to drive, so it wasn't very convenient for him to chat on the phone. However, Tangning overheard what Duan Jinghong had said, so she instructed, "Hand the phone to me. You can continue driving."

Lu Che immediately handed the phone to Tangning. After glancing at Mo Ting, Tangning asked in a lowered voice, "How has she been treated badly?"

"You are?"

"I would like to know who taught you the rules? How could you skip Fang Yu and directly contact the President?" Tangning's voice was calm, but it carried a sense of authority.

"I..."

"How much of a big shot is Song Xin for her to think that she can get the attention of the president?"

After listening for a bit, Duan Jinghong finally recognized the voice as Tangning's, so she calmly responded, "Mrs. Mo, you are just an artist at Hai Rui. Don't tell me the president asked you to answer the phone on his behalf because Hai Rui is just a toy for you to play with?"

In other words, she was telling Tangning that she had no right to interfere with her.

"If Mo Ting answers the phone, your fate will only get worse..." Tangning replied honestly.

"What has that got to do with you?"

Tangning sneered as she handed the phone to Mo Ting. But, Mo Ting did not even take a glance at the phone and simply instructed, "Tell her boss to come to my office tomorrow. What an unruly creature!"

Chapter 688: Song Xin Suffers A Setback !

On the other side of the phone, Duan Jinghong's face turned pale...

She obviously sensed Mo Ting's warning...

If Hai Rui could raise Song Xin to new heights, they could also drag her back down. This was the almighty power that Mo Ting had. He could give someone the best, as long as they didn't challenge his authority.

Hence why the artists at Hai Rui all respected and feared Mo Ting at the same time.

Duan Jinghong no longer dared to act impulsively, in fear that she would ruin Song Xin's future. So, she quickly swallowed back her anger.

Luckily, she did not make this phone call in the presence of Song Xin. Otherwise, the situation would have gone out of hand.

After returning to the artist's van, Duan Jinghong looked at Song Xin and comforted, "Fang Yu said that he'd look into it tomorrow."

"Can't he do it tonight?"

"You're well aware that his wife..."

"Yes, she was injured by me!" Song Xin did not say any more, she simply closed her eyes to get some rest. Duan Jinghong assumed that she'd forget about the entire matter. But, nice and early the next morning, Song Xin dragged Duan Jinghong to Fang Yu's office, sat in his chair, and asked, "What was up with the talk show last night?"

"Don't they know my identity?"

Fang Yu was under Mo Ting's instructions, so, of course, he knew what Song Xin was referring to. Hence, he curved his lips upwards and asked, "What identity?"

"My grandfather..."

"The producer's brother is currently appointed to an important position in the government. Yet, you're mentioning your retired grandfather?" Fang Yu rebuked. "Song Xin, don't you think you're stepping a bit out of line?"

Both Song Xin and Duan Jinghong were stunned. Fang Yu actually spoke back to Song Xin in such a manner.

More importantly, Song Xin was made to understand that there was always someone better.

She hated the feeling of being oppressed. She despised it!

"The matter this time doesn't pose that big of a loss for you. You simply appeared on the camera a little less. Plenty of artists put up with stuff like this, why are you any different? Yet, you even made a phone call to President Mo last night. Do you know what President Mo hates the most?"

"He hates self-righteous people. What do I mean by self-righteous? Someone that thinks they are more important than others..."

"If you don't have anything else, you can leave."

Song Xin had never suffered such humiliation in her life. After being scolded by Fang Yu, her eyes were red and swollen. If she could, she would chop Fang Yu up into a million pieces.

“Song Xin, let’s leave first,” Duan Jinghong knew that it wasn’t wise for them to have a fall out with the agency at a time like this. After all, Song Xin was currently on the rise and Hai Rui was already the best platform in the industry.

If they offended Hai Rui, how was Song Xin going to ever achieve anything?

“Remember what you have said today!”

After speaking, Song Xin stormed angrily ahead of Duan Jinghong, making the staff at Hai Rui very uncomfortable.

Upon returning to her room, Song Xin sat quietly in her chair. Duan Jinghong gave her some time to cool down, before she patted her on the shoulder, “Don’t be angry...this is only momentary.”

“Why did they treat me like this?”

“If you think about it carefully, Hai Rui didn’t actually do anything wrong. President Mo has always been tough and ruthless, so it’s normal for him to disregard you. Wasn’t this the reason why you entered Hai Rui in the first place? As for Fang Yu, his words may have been a bit harsh, but they made sense. Your background may be impressive, but there are plenty of people in this world with impressive backgrounds. Just think of today as a lesson.”

“Above all...don’t forget that we were the ones that injured his wife. Let’s just endure it for now.”

After listening to Duan Jinghong’s advice, Song Xin tried her best to suppress her anger.

“I’m going to make him kneel before me someday...”

“Yes, our Song Xin is invincible.”

It was good to have confidence, but one shouldn’t think too highly of themselves.

Actually, Fang Yu was quite puzzled. According to Song Xin’s progression, she was undoubtedly popular right now. Although she was selfish with an arrogant personality, Mo Ting did not need to personally restrict her from advancing in her career.

But, Tangning had no intention to reveal the truth straight away because she didn’t know what Fang Yu would do.

Although she had basically confirmed the truth, it was just a basic hunch.

Since Song Xin enjoyed playing a game of cat and mouse...Tangning was going to play along.

That morning, Bai Lihua returned to the Bei Family house. After her identity was confirmed, Elder Bei discovered all the trauma that Bai Lihua had gone through and was ready to welcome his real daughter home.

It wasn’t convenient for Tangning to move around, so she did no accompany Bai Lihua. Even though she would have liked to see Mo Ting’s grandfather.

...

Meanwhile, ever since Chen Xingyan and An Zihao confessed their love to each other, Chen Xingyan's appearance suddenly looked like that of a young girl in love.

During this time, her competition with Ling Long grew more and more fierce, while the director became more and more willing to give her chances and she faced each scene with more seriousness. When competition existed, the challenging feeling attracted both love and hate. But her improvement was obvious.

The director did not tell her that this was all a part of An Zihao's plan. Nor did he tell her that every scene she tried was actually recorded properly.

At first, Ling Long was indeed advantageous, but as support for Chen Xingyan grew, it was hard not to admit that Chen Xingyan improved dramatically.

That night, Chen Xingyan continued filming late into the night. But An Zihao had to return to the set of 'Concubine Ning' the next day.

An Zihao liked to take things slow. After all, there was still plenty of time. But, this was Chen Xingyan's first relationship.

She dreamed of sticking to her lover 24 hours day and not wasting a single minute.

As a result, An Zihao ended up staying the night. But of course, he did not stay in Chen Xingyan's room. Instead, he slept on the grounds of the set. They couldn't allow others to discover their relationship, yet they couldn't help stealing glances at each other. It sure was tiresome...

It wasn't until the next morning, when no one noticed, that Chen Xingyan finally leaned into An Zihao's face and placed a quick kiss on his cheek before she quickly moved away.

An Zihao couldn't help but smile, "You are still young after all. I'm getting too old..."

"What? You don't like this?"

"Careful others don't see you," An Zihao said as he nudged her forehead.

"We are lovers. Why can't we do this?"

"It's to protect you," An Zihao got up from his seat and massaged his numb arms, "I'm leaving now. Take care of yourself on set."

"When will you come back?" Chen Xingyan gazed at him hopefully.

"Depends on your performance..." An Zihao replied before he turned and left.

Sometimes, even he didn't understand why he would once again choose such a troublesome and young girlfriend.

Perhaps...

...he was born to enjoy being abused!?

Chapter 689: Are You Declaring War ?

Following on for quite some time, Song Xin's jobs did not run as smoothly as she hoped. She either didn't get many shots in front of the camera, or she was disregarded on the side.

If it was just once or twice, she may have ignored it, but, after missing so many opportunities, she began to suspect that someone was manipulating things behind-the-scenes.

"It's already late. Why are you still sitting here?" Duan Jinghong spotted Song Xin smoking on the balcony and quickly pulled out an ashtray for her.

"Haven't you noticed that my jobs haven't been going well lately?"

"I haven't noticed anything major," Duan Jinghong replied. Song Xin was still appearing on TV programmes and her schedule was still packed full. The only issue was the result wasn't always ideal.

"I keep feeling like Hai Rui is deliberately suppressing me," Song Xin said as she looked into the distance.

"That couldn't be. Hai Rui has no reason to do that."

"Don't forget, Hai Rui doesn't just have one Mo Ting, there is also Tangning. It wasn't easy for Tangning to get to where she is today. For me to suddenly appear and steal her limelight, she's bound to hate me," Song Xin did not consider for a second that her evil deeds had been exposed in front of Tangning. She simply assumed that Tangning treated her as a competitor.

An intimidating competitor!

"What should we do now?" Duan Jinghong felt that Song Xin's words were not unreasonable.

"Since Hai Rui has gone down this path, they shouldn't blame me for retaliating," Song Xin put out her cigarette with an icy cold gaze. She was indeed talented, but...she thought way too highly of herself.

She was right, Hai Rui was suppressing her. But, it wasn't because of the abilities that she was so proud of.

Early the next morning, news started spreading that Hai Rui was suppressing Song Xin. Since Tangning had taken things so far, she couldn't blame Song Xin for bringing the issue to light.

After hearing the news, Fang Yu immediately knocked on the CEO's office and sat opposite Tangning, "Rumors have started."

"The rumors didn't start on their own. Song Xin started it," Tangning said calmly as she remained focused on the script in front of her. "She wants Ting and I to know that she's not one to meekly submit to oppression."

"Speaking of this, I don't quite understand how she has offended President Mo," Fang Yu was confused. "Logically speaking, she may be arrogant, but I've always been the one on the receiving end."

Tangning glanced up at Fang Yu. She did not respond immediately. After planning out her words, she replied, "We have our reasons."

“Tangning, you’ve never gone around in circles like this,” Fang Yu sighed weakly. “I’m quite passive towards your actions.”

“The person that provoked Hua Wenfeng was Song Xin’s assistant, Duan Jinghong,” Tangning directly skipped the incident with Huo Jingjing and told Fang Yu about her other crime. “I’m sure you understand why Ting made such arrangements.”

“Are you sure?” Fang Yu was still doubtful.

“Hua Wenfeng previously came to Hai Rui to identify the person that provoked her, but she looked all over the agency and did not find the culprit. At that time, we thought the culprit must not be from Hai Rui. But, as it turns out, she changed her appearance,” Tangning explained without revealing the part about Xiao Yue recognizing the limited edition bag.

“You can’t assume it’s Duan Jinghong based on this small fact...”

“That’s why Mo Ting took a photo of Duan Jinghong with short hair and no makeup to Hua Wenfeng. Can you guess what the result was?”

Needless to say, the fact that Tangning asked this meant that she had already confirmed her target.

“These two women are tricky. They almost got away with it...”

“But, no matter how big the world is, nothing can slip through the cracks.”

Fang Yu finally understood, so he nodded his head, “Why didn’t you call the police?”

Tangning put down her script, lifted up her glass of milk and replied with deep meaning, “Because it’s not time yet.”

She wanted Duan Jinghong and Song Xin to at least experience how it felt to be bitten by a dog and to be poisoned first.

“But, there are a lot of public discussions going on...”

“Use another artist to draw away the public’s attention,” Tangning instructed softly. “Fang Yu, I understand what you are thinking, Song Xin is a rare talent. But, a talent that hurts others in secret, will only hurt the innocent to achieve their motive.”

“Don’t worry, I never go easy in this aspect.”

It was because Tangning understood Fang Yu’s temper, that’s why she couldn’t tell him about Huo Jingjing.

At least, not for now.

Fang Yu stood up to leave, but a moment later, he returned to the office and said to the Mo couple, “Song Xin wants to see you, will you see her? If not, I’ll reject her for you.”

“I’ll speak to her at the office, she can’t do anything to me here.” Hai Rui had an open balcony and there were plenty of people around. According to Song Xin’s mindset, no matter how stupid she was, she would never do something reckless at a place like this.

A moment later, Tangning stood up from the sofa. Although Mo Ting did not say anything, he gestured the bodyguards to keep an eye on her.

Soon, Tangning arrived on the balcony. Song Xin was already sitting on a chair waiting for her.

“I didn’t think you’d actually agree to meet me.”

“Speak, what do you want?” Tangning said as she sat down opposite Song Xin. After sweeping her eyes across Song Xin, she added, “Where’s your manager?”

“I noticed you’re not only good on the runway and acting, you’ve also gained a new skill recently. You know how to snitch in bed,” Song Xin said as she stirred her coffee and laughed. “Do you feel that pressured by me? Is that why you’re using President Mo to suppress me?”

Tangning also laughed as she lifted her head and looked at Song Xin, “We don’t exist in the same field, so there is no competition between us. Why would I treat you as a competitor?”

“You are good at writing songs and your scriptwriting is not bad. But, you don’t have a pair of long enviable legs, nor do you have impressive acting skills. Why would I even care about you?”

Song Xin was stunned for a moment, but she quickly responded with a stronger tone, “If that’s the case, then why would you get President Mo to suppress me?”

“It’s true that I don’t have long legs nor any acting skills, but I’m young. By the time I reach your age, what can’t I achieve?”

“You may not achieve even half of what I’ve achieved,” Tangning spoke back calmly. “Don’t try to provoke me verbally, it won’t be of any benefit to you. Song Xin, watch what you do, otherwise, you may attract your own demise.”

After hearing this warning, Song Xin suddenly laughed arrogantly, “Are you declaring war on me? With the way that you are now?”

“Tangning, not only are you pregnant, you are already 27-years-old. Even if you were as young as me, you wouldn’t be a worthy opponent. Did you think that using President Mo to suppress me is a sign of success?”

“Let me tell you, you’re far from it.”

Chapter 690: Doesn’t She Just Want To Make Things Difficult For Me ?

This was the first time that Tangning had come across such a confident person. It seemed Song Xin had exceeded her limits.

So, Tangning opened her arms and waited to see what was to come.

“I hate how you appear indifferent when you’re actually ruthless on the inside.”

“You’re still young...”

Hearing this, Song Xin threw back her chair and left. Tangning had accurately read her mind. For Song Xin, there was nothing worse than having Tangning disregard her.

A moment later, Fang Yu approached and asked, "Is everything alright?"

"What did you expect her to do to me?" Tangning asked back.

"Well, you are pregnant after all..."

"Whether I'm pregnant or not, Song Xin has no chance of winning against me," Tangning said seriously. "In fact, I quite enjoy the way she underestimates me."

How high was Tangning's EQ? After an entire year of training, it had already reached a frightening level.

However, Song Xin was not an average opponent...

...

"What did Tangning say?" Duan Jinghong asked as she followed behind Song Xin.

"What else could she say? Of course she denied it!" Song Xin sneered. "I hate people that don't admit to what they've done. What complete rubbish!"

"What should we do following on then?" Duan Jinghong asked. "Now that we've confirmed that Tangning has done something behind-the-scenes and Hai Rui are suppressing you, what can we do?"

"There's plenty that we can do. It's not like I'm obligated to stay with Hai Rui. We have other options," Song Xin replied coldly. "Tangning's old. Looking at her expression today, it's obvious that she was pretending to be calm because she doesn't know how to compete against me. I can't wait to see how long she can keep it up."

This was Song Xin's interpretation of Tangning's expression. But, she had no idea that Tangning faced everyone with the same calmness. Tangning never revealed her temper.

But...she actually said that Tangning was old?

...

Compared to others, Song Xin was definitely a lot more calculative. At least, underneath her arrogance, she still knew how to judge a situation.

She knew that Tangning currently possessed the most resources in Hai Rui. If she wanted to stand out, she would need to show Tangning something that was beyond her expectations.

But, what could that be?

Perhaps she could pretend that other companies were also fighting for her.

With news of Hai Rui's suppression, plenty of agencies tried to offer her a way out. Especially the newly reestablished Cheng Tian. Apart from that, a few other film and television agencies also expressed their interest.

On one side, Song Xin was displaying her loyalty to Hai Rui. But, on the other side, she began to demonstrate to everyone that Hai Rui was losing its professionalism. She wanted everyone to know that Mo Ting suppressed his artists unreasonably to keep Tangning at the top; that he was treating contracts and professionalism as a joke.

But, she had no idea that Tangning had already played these tricks in the past without anyone knowing.

She wanted Hai Rui to be flustered. She wanted them to acknowledge her importance. But...after the commotion that she caused, Hai Rui did not give any response.

No, to be exact, it wasn't completely no response. At least, during one of his interviews, Fang Yu had said to the media, "Is Song Xin being suppressed? No one in Hai Rui knows of this."

"Then, have you heard that other agencies have sent her offers?"

"The agency hasn't been notified of this either."

Who was Fang Yu? He was Hai Rui's ex PR manager, after all. Would he not be able to get over such a small obstacle? Just a simple deflection was enough to easily dispel the media's doubts.

However, Song Xin wasn't willing to admit defeat. She even leaked a photo of herself having dinner with the boss of another agency.

So...

"I think Song Xin knows how to respect contracts."

One simple sentence from Hai Rui was enough to highlight Hai Rui's bottom line. If Song Xin dared to change agencies, Hai Rui would only focus on retrieving compensation.

Even Fang Yu couldn't help but laugh and cry. Why did Song Xin keep asking for trouble like this?

She was honestly not very important to Hai Rui and Tangning was truly just getting revenge on her. Tangning had never felt that Song Xin was a worthy opponent.

In reality, Song Xin did indeed have the intention to change agencies, but she did not want to leave so easily. She wanted Hai Rui to first feel panicked.

So, she continued to release songs as usual. In fact, the response was so good that she appeared on entertainment news and ranked well on the music charts.

But, after a long and arduous battle, Hai Rui was not affected. Instead, Song Xin was completely exhausted. After all, she did not have any proper backing.

If one looked at the female celebrities that jumped to immediate stardom, it was obvious that they all had a rich person backing them.

In the past, she had rejected many rich men because of her arrogance. Now that she thought about it, it wasn't worth it.

"Jinghong, if I go find someone to back me up, what do you think?"

“You’ve finally figured things out?” Jinghong had previously made this suggestion to her already. But, when it came to having a background, plenty of people had backgrounds. So, Song Xin would have to find a relatively stable backing.

Song Xin used to be so arrogant that she thought having a godfather or being someone’s mistress was a very dirty thing. But now...

...she did not say a thing.

“I told you before that the heir of Kaihuang Film and Television tried to ask you out on a date. But, you ignored him. Do you want me to organize a meeting with him? You should know that his family owns half the theaters in the country...”

Song Xin took a puff of her cigarette and nodded, “Yes, I’ll meet with him.”

“Could this be considered as admitting defeat against Tangning?”

“How could it be?” Duan Jinghong replied. “Doesn’t she also have a strong backing in the form of Mo Ting? What we’re doing is giving you a fair starting point.”

That’s right!

If Tangning was allowed to snitch in bed, then couldn’t she find some assistance?

“I’ll leave things for you to arrange.”

Duan Jinghong refused to admit that Song Xin was taking a shortcut. No, this wasn’t a shortcut, this was a reward for being a genius!

...

While Song Xin was causing a commotion, Tangning was simply sleeping at home, getting some rest and reading her scripts. She didn’t need to do anything for Song Xin to be thrown into a panic.

“Tell me, what’s Song Xin planning to do next?” Long Jie was filled with curiosity as she helped Tangning cut some fruit.

After all, it had been a long time since Tangning had met a decent opponent.

“I reckon this child has been lacking love since she was young. Only people that lack love would try so hard to get attention.”

“She feels good about herself right now and wants to make Boss regret what he’s done. She wants to make you regret as well. I think she still has a lot of tricks up her sleeves.”

Tangning smiled with disdain, “I’ll wait and see what kind of sensational scene she can create.”

“Do you already know what she’s planning to do?” Long Jie asked as she watched Tangning close her eyes.

“Doesn’t she just want to make things difficult for me?”