

### Chapter 131: Preparations

Song Ning's winter break arrived at the right time. She planned to use this opportunity to lay low.

Cheng Che's plan and the Mu Group's PR team were handling the matter very well; the counterattack on the Internet was rather effective. No one dared to come to the hospital to cause trouble anymore. Apart from that, the patients were also rational and did not make a fuss.

Nevertheless, Song Ning did not feel particularly happy. In fact, she felt guilty about causing so much trouble to the people around her. This was what she cared about the most.

In the beginning, Song Ning was used to relying on her mother; her mother would face problems with her. However, after her mother passed, she gradually grew used to shouldering all her problems alone. Therefore, she felt uneasy and guilty for causing others trouble even if they were her husband, grandmother, and her brother-in-law.

Song Ning wanted to resolve the problem as quickly as she could to avoid further troubling her loved ones. To do that, she knew she had to bravely face her past and the Ning family.

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The film festival was slated to take place over the course of seven days. The date of the opening ceremony had been set to happen on the second day of Song Ning's holiday.

Many of the people involved in organizing the film festival were loyal fans of Yi Yao. Due to the recent hype around the television series that would be based on Yi Yao, which would star Ye Xin who was also known as Little Ning Xia, these people came up with the idea to organize a reunion for the Yi Yao's production team.

Needless to say, many were attracted by Yi Yao's ten-year reunion. In fact, many felt the reunion would attract a lot of attention and become the highlight of the film festival. The idea was so popular that it was immediately approved.

The cast and the production team were scattered all around the world, and it was not easy for them to meet even though all of them were very close to each other. The film was very special and important in their hearts after all.

For this reason, when the committee for the film festival invited the cast and production team of Yi Yao, they quickly received a reply from them. Almost all of them promised to do their best to attend the reunion. The only person they could not get in touch with was Ning Xia, the female lead. They did not even have a clue as to where to send the invitation to. In the end, they asked for help from Director Pan, and Director Pan promised to try to get in touch with Ning Xia.

After mulling over the matter for a long time, Director Pan decided to reach out to Cheng Che. Since Mu Chen's investment in the film was handled by Cheng Che in the past, he was more familiar with Cheng Che. Nevertheless, he did not expect Cheng Che would agree to help him. Although Cheng Che said he

could not guarantee anything, Director Pan felt rather optimistic. Despite feeling nervous, he could not help but feel expectant as well.

Unfortunately, at that time, negative news began to surface on the Internet. This made Director Pan unable to sit still. Therefore, he reached out to Cheng Che to discuss countermeasures.

Yang Li had also looked for Director Pan and told him that Ye Cheng had a hand in the matter as well. She told him Ye Cheng was helping Ye Xin gain momentum by slandering Song Ning. Needless to say, he was furious when he learned about it. He almost could suppress his urge to directly confront Ye Cheng. How could he endure the child he had watched grow up being slandered?

At that time, Cheng Che told Director Pan that Song Ning would attend the reunion as Ning Xia to clarify matters. Needless to say, he was ecstatic when he heard Song Ning would be joining them. Moreover, he also agreed this was the best chance to dispel the ugly rumors on the Internet.

Director Pan also agreed that this method was the best way to dispel the rumors.

Following that, Director Pan took over the job of negotiating with the committee for the film festival on Song Ning's behalf. With that, Song Ning was slated to appear last as the mystery guest to give everyone a surprise. Although Song Ning was not present during negotiations, the committee did not have any doubts. After all, was there anyone more credible than Director Pan in regard to this matter? Therefore, all of them easily agreed to his request to keep Song Ning's appearance a secret.

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Meanwhile, after Song Ning agreed to join the reunion, she felt restless. On one hand, she felt nervous. After all, it had been a long time since she left the entertainment industry; she was worried she would feel out of place. On the other hand, she felt excited as well to see her old friends. The production team and the cast of Yi Yao got along exceptionally well, and everyone treated her very well as well and taught her many things. She had a deep respect for these people who shared an unforgettable memory with her

Another matter that weighed heavy on her mind was those who supported Little Ning Xia under the name of Ning Xia's fans. They made her feel uncomfortable. If Little Ning Xia was someone who genuinely loved acting and wanted to be a successful actress, she would not have cared. However, the person who was crowned Little Ning Xia was none other than Ye Xin, the Young Miss of the Ye family who used money to get ahead. Although she did not spare much thought for this matter in the past, it would be a lie to say she was completely unbothered. She was human after all, not a saint. Nevertheless, she knew there was nothing she could do about it so she did not dwell on the matter..

### **Chapter 132: Public Outcry**

During this time, Mu Chen was much busier than Song Ning.

While Song Ning grappled with feelings of uneasiness over the upcoming event, Mu Chen was busy making preparations.

Currently, Mu Chen was discussing with the others about the clothes Song Ning would wear to the event.

When Jiang Jin learned about this, she was excited and insisted on joining the discussion as well.

After Mu Chen approved An Ran's design, Jiang Jin quickly found a set of jewelry that was suitable for Song Ning's dress.

Following that, everyone continued to busy themselves with their respective tasks.

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As a part of the new generation of actors, Ye Xin did not have any outstanding awards. Nonetheless, due to her fame as a top-notch beauty, the invitation to the film festival had long been sent to her management company.

Several brands that Ye Xin endorsed had sent dresses to her, in hopes that she would wear their clothes to the event.

Unfortunately, Ye Xin was not satisfied with the clothes that were sent to her. In the end, she sent Yang Li to Milan to look for a suitable dress.

Although Yang Li had been working non-stop for four days and was exhausted, she could only endure and satisfy Ye Xin and the company's wish.

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On Ye Cheng's side, he planned to use the film festival to wash away the embarrassment of losing out on the award previously. Therefore, he ordered his secretary to pay special attention to the boss of Ye Xin's management company in hopes they would take care of Ye Xin.

However, his worries were unfounded. The management company was incredibly attentive to Ye Xin and placed utmost importance on Ye Xin's attendance. The management company was so focused on Ye Xin that many of the stars under the company were neglected as a result.

Unsurprisingly, this caused many celebrities and their managers in the company to feel dissatisfied.

Gu Jia, an upcoming star, complained angrily, "This is really infuriating. All the company's resources are given to Ye Xin, the number one star in the company, then what about us? Is there a point in us attending the film festival? Are we meant to be her attendants?"

"Attendants? You're really too nice with your words. I think we're servants at most." Yu Nan, who used to be a top actress in the company and was recently suppressed by Ye Xin, scoffed.

"This is too much! If this continues, I'm not going to stand for it anymore. It's not like there's only one agency here. I don't believe we won't be able to sign with other agencies..." Gu Jia said angrily as she hit the stuffed toy in her hand.

"Don't be silly. If you leave, do you know how much you have to pay for breach of contract? We're not like Miss Ye. If she wants to cancel her contract, it's not a problem for her to fork out the money. In fact, with her family's influence, she probably doesn't even have to pay the fee. Let's not dwell on this matter

and just accept our fate. Otherwise, what else can we do?" Yu Nan used to be a child star and had been in the industry for more than ten years. Therefore, she was privy to many people's backgrounds.

Meanwhile, the two actresses' managers were busy with their phones and ignored the duo's conversation. Since there were no other people around, it was fine to let the duo vent their frustration a little. However, after leaving the room, no matter how dissatisfied the duo was, they were expected to put on a mask and smile. Even if the person in front of them was Ye Xin, they would have to smile and address her respectfully as Sister Xin. This was the way things worked in the entertainment industry.

It was a dream for many to be given an opportunity like Ye Xin to participate in a production that was based on Yi Yao. Although the duo had been in the industry for more than ten years, they were still treading on thin ice. Fame was an elusive thing after all. Not all of them had an impressive background like Ye Xin. Rumor had it that Ye Xin's brother invested heavily in the TV series based on Yi Yao just to secure the role of female for Ye Xin. How many of them had families like Ye Xin who could casually invest in a television series?

For all these reasons, the two managers let the two stars complain to vent their frustrations.

At this moment, Gu Jia said resentfully, "I really don't understand; is Ning Xia dead? How can she allow Ye Xin to take advantage of her fame? She must be dead. Otherwise, I don't think she'd be able to endure this."

Upon hearing these words, Yu Nan joined her palms together as she said with a straight face, "God, please let Ning Xia appear. Let her open a path for us small figures who don't have any backing..."

Gu Jia could not even mock Yu Nan since she wished for this as well. In the end, she said with a sigh, "If Ning Xia is still alive and returns to destroy the title of Little Ning Xia, I'm willing to be the president of her fan club and serve her for life..."

"Do you think you can be the president of Ning Xia's fan club? I heard that Ning Xia's fan club has now been taken over by Ye Xin. I'm afraid she really thinks Ning Xia is dead!"

At this time, the two managers finally felt the two stars had gone too far and spoke up to stop them.

"Alright, that's enough. This matter has nothing to do with both of you; you should just focus on your own matters. During this time, you're not allowed to post on social media without approval from the company, understand? In terms of skills, both of you are not inferior to others.. Your weaknesses are that you lack an impressive family background..."

### **Chapter 133: Testing the Water**

What else could Gu Jia and Yu Nan do apart from shutting their mouths? In this world, the rich and powerful controlled everything while people like them could not escape the fate of being trampled on no matter how they struggled.

Unbeknownst to Gu Jia, Yu Nan, and their managers, Ye Xin had overheard the conversation when she was passing the room.

Yang Li and Peng Peng, who were standing behind Ye Xin, had different expressions on their faces while Ye Xin wore a satisfied expression on her face as she returned to the lounge.

Peng asked Yang Li in a low voice, "Sister Li, what if Ning Xia really shows up?"

Yang Li glared at Peng.

Peng knew she had misspoken so she quickly shut up.

While Ye Xin stared at her fresh manicure in a daze, Yang Li's heart was in a mess as she looked through the film festival's schedule. Her job as Ye Xin's manager was far less glamorous and more difficult compared to other managers. At the very least, the other managers had control over their artistes. Apart from Ye Xin, was there any artiste who dared to disobey their managers?

Yang Li felt she was just free labor. She worked hard but failed to gain recognition. She had been assigned to Ye Xin by the company in the past. With Ye Xin's background and temper, how was it possible that she, as a manager, chose Ye Xin?

Yang Li's mind wandered to the reunion for the production team of Yi Yao. She was also part of the production team. She was still young at that time so her role was not particularly important. However, she had learned most, if not all, of her skill during her time filming Yi Yao so she regarded many people from the production team as her teachers.

After hesitating for a while, Yang Li made up her mind. Seeing that Ye Xin was rather calm, she decided to test the water. She said tentatively, "Xinxin, the production team for Yi Yao is having a reunion, and the committee for the film festival had sent me an invitation. I plan to attend..."

Ye Xin nodded indifferently. "Go ahead."

Yang Li could not help but feel delighted. She did not expect Ye Xin to agree so readily. She quickly struck while the iron was hot and said, "Then I'll delegate the work to Peng and the others for a few days. The gifts and jewelry are already in place. I've also spoken to Peng in detail about her duties before this. Judy is also very familiar with her job so she definitely won't make a mistake. As for the others, we'll follow the company's arrangements. The person who'll escort you is our company's top male star, Chu Ning. I'll tell him to come in some time over the next two days to practice...."

Ye Xin suddenly lifted her head and interjected, "Wait? What do you mean you're invited to the reunion of the production team of Yi Yao? Why did they invite you?"

Yang Li was slightly confused. She explained, "I was a member of the production team for Yi Yao. I just graduated at that time and was just an intern so I didn't help much. However, since they invited me, I wanted to meet everyone..."

Ye Xin's expression turned unsightly. "Are you talking about the movie Yi Yao?"

Yang Li nodded. "What else could I be talking about?"

After a moment, realization dawned on Yang Li. She realized Ye Xin had thought she was talking about the television series that would be adapted from the movie.

Ye Xin was still thinking about how to explain herself when Ye Xin said, “Not bad. Speak to the PR team and tell them to release a statement that my manager was a member of the production team for Yi Yao. Tell them that you’re confident the TV series will definitely surpass the movie...”

Yang Li was at a loss for words. “Xinxin, if you put it that way... I’m afraid it’d be disadvantageous to us...”

Ye Xin glared at her. “What do you mean? Are you saying I’m not as good as Ning Xia?”

Yang Li quickly shook her head. “That’s not what I mean. I’m saying the show hasn’t even aired yet. It’s best to keep a low profile to avoid affecting your reputation. Wait until the viewership rating comes in before we make any headline-grabbing statement...”

Ye Xin sneered. “You just think the TV series won’t be as good as the movie, isn’t it? Are you still hoping for Ning Xia to make a comeback? What a pity she has no intention of returning to the industry. If she wants to return, are you going to kneel and lick the soles of her shoes? Yang Li, don’t forget you’re my manager! I don’t understand why other people’s managers are so confident, but you’re so cowardly. You act as though I bully you every day. Who are you trying to gain sympathy from?”

Yang Li remained silent. She tried to suppress her anger by gritting her teeth and clenching her hands into fists under her sleeves.

Peng Peng quickly said, “Sister Xin, Sister Xin, that’s not what Sister Li means... Moreover, it’s difficult to get the company to release statements now. The company wants us to slowly build our momentum instead of acting rashly. Moreover, you’re so popular now; Sister Li is just worried the statement would invite trouble. Sister Li isn’t cowardly at all.. Although she doesn’t often socialize with the other managers, she would also pick up the bills...”

#### **Chapter 134: Initiation**

Ye Xin’s expression only eased up after Peng Peng carefully explained the situation. She brought a card out from her wallet and handed it to Yang Li. She said stiffly, “The password is my birth date. There’s 200,000 yuan inside. Charge to my cards when you’re treating others. You can save your pay for your mother’s hospital fees.”

Yang Li slowly reached out to take the card as she said in a low voice, “Thank you...”

Following that, Ye Xin took out a stack of bills and handed them to Peng Peng. “Go buy supper for everyone.”

Peng Peng giggled and said, “Sister Xin, we should just buy supper for our team. The others like to gossip about us behind our backs so why should we treat them to supper?”

Ye Xin smiled and tapped Peng Peng’s forehead. “When will you be as smart as your Sister Li? Of course, we have to treat them to a meal. If they gossip about us, it just means they’re jealous...”

Peng Peng smiled and said, “Alright! I’ll buy supper for them; let them be jealous of us!”

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When Peng Peng returned, the others from Ye Xin's team were already in the lounge. The atmosphere was rather good; the sounds of laughter would ring in the air every so often.

When Peng Peng approached Yang Li who was standing at a corner, Yang Li said softly, "Thank you..."

Peng Peng whispered, "Sister Li, were you a personal assistant like me back then?"

Yang Li smiled. "Yes, but I'm not as smart as you. At that time, I still needed to rely on my mentor..."

Peng Peng sighed. "What can we do? Miss Xin is so difficult to please. I was scolded so many times. It's all thanks to you for teaching me. I'm really glad I met you, Sister Li."

Yang Li smiled bitterly. "I'm not as good as you. I think I'm rather useless. Perhaps, it was because Ning Xia and the others treated me too well back then?"

Peng Peng said anxiously, "Sister Li, how are you useless? Moreover, you don't have a choice. If your mother weren't in the hospital, would you have to suffer like this? In the end, it's because we're too poor, causing us to give up on our dreams and ambitions. When I'm rich, I will..."

At this moment, someone shouted, "Peng Peng!"

"Yes!" Peng Peng looked as though she had been jolted by electricity as she ran over.

Yang Li could not help but laugh. Peng Peng really reminded her of her younger self.

After a while, Yang Li saw Ye Xin walking toward her. She thought perhaps Ye Xin was going to explain her outburst earlier so she quickly smiled as though she did not take the matter to heart.

Ye Xin gripped the bottle of water in her hand so tightly that they were half-crushed as she asked in a low voice, "Did you ask the cast and production team of Yi Yao if the female lead is making an appearance?"

Yang Li was stunned. It seemed like she had thought too much.

Ye Xin continued to stare at Yang Li intently.

Yang Li shook her head and said without any hesitation, "No, she has already retired from the entertainment industry after all."

Ye Xin did not relax at all. Instead, she sneered and said, "Don't think I've forgotten who she is. You even met her before. It's not difficult to find her at all. What's the point of a reunion if the female lead isn't present?"

Yang Li shook her head gently. "As far as I know, she rejected Director Pan's invitation. She said she wants to live a quiet life. Moreover, so much time has passed, even her fans no longer recognize her..."

Indeed, how ironic that Ning Xia's self-proclaimed fans did not recognize Ning Xia when they went to the hospital to cause trouble.

Ye Xin smiled. She was greatly satisfied when she thought about how obscure Ning Xia had become. Ning Xia was no longer a star and had melted into the sea of crowds.

Ye Xin felt more relieved the more she thought about it. 'Now that Ning Xia is married to Mu Chen, she definitely won't return to the entertainment industry. Moreover, there's a chance Old Madam Mu doesn't like her granddaughter-in-law to be a star. Otherwise, why would she choose Ning Xia who's as bland as a bowl of clear soup over me? Oh, right, I keep forgetting; her name is Song Ning. I should stop referring to her as Ning Xia...'

Nevertheless, Ye Xin thought it was better to take more precautions. She smiled coldly before she turned around and walked away.

Yang Li was stunned as she watched Ye Xin walked outside to the balcony to make a call.

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Ning Dong was with Ye Cheng at this moment. His eyes lit up when he saw a dozen or so people who were undergoing combat training.

Ning Dong's reaction did not escape Ye Cheng's notice. He smiled and asked, "Do you want to learn?"

Ning Dong nodded.

Ye Cheng waved his hand, and a man dressed in tight clothes immediately walked over and bowed respectfully. "Mr. Ye."

"This is my younger brother, Ning Dong. From today onward, I'll leave his training to you," Ye Cheng said.

"Understood. Young Master Ning, please follow me."

Ning Dong's regard for Ye Cheng grew higher when he saw the man obeying Ye Cheng without any hesitation.

Ye Cheng said with a smile, "His name is Ji An. If you have a problem in the future, just look for him."

Ning Dong hurriedly called out, "Master Ji An!"

"Young Master Ning, you don't have to be so polite. You can just call me Ji An," Ji An said.

Ye Cheng chuckled as he nudged Ning Dong. "There's no need to call him master; you can call him Ji An. He'll feel more at ease that way. Ning Dong, you're my younger brother now. In the future, you have to be an imposing Young Master Ning, do you understand? Throw away all the nonsense that you were taught. There are no such things as rules in this world. It's useless to be polite in this world. As long as you have power, you can control everything. Do you understand?"

Ning Dong felt his blood boil in excitement. His father had never taught him these principles before. No, to be precise, his father had never taught him any principles before..

## **Chapter 135: Danger**



Song Ning brought Jiang Jin and Sister Yu to the supermarket to buy ingredients. She was mostly busy so she wanted to take advantage of the time she was free to teach Sister Yu a few medical concoctions. She already had the medicinal herbs and all that was needed were the fresh ingredients in the supermarket.

Jiang Jin whispered to Sister Yu, "Song Ning will become famous again in a few days' time. At that time, it'll be difficult for us to shop with her openly. Therefore, we must cherish the time now."

Sister Yu smiled happily before she said, "I really didn't expect the Young Madam to be the one who starred in Madam's movie. Young Madam and Young Master are really fated to be together..."

"If only she didn't..." Jiang Jin sighed. "If she could witness Ningning and Mu Chen getting married, she would've been so happy..." She could not help but feel heavy-hearted when talking about Liang Zhen.

Meanwhile, Song Ning was carefully selecting the ingredients while Jiang Jin and Sister Yu pushed the cart from the back.

Song Ning suddenly turned back to look at the duo and asked teasingly, "Are both of you talking bad about me behind my back?"

"Hmm? What are you talking about?" Sister Yu feigned innocence.

Jiang Jin smiled and said, "Ningning has become mischievous now. It has to be Mu Chen's influence. How can we say bad things about you; we're only filled with praises for you..."

Song Ning chuckled. At this moment, she suddenly spotted two suspicious figures from the corners of her eyes. She continued chatting and laughing with the two elders while she discreetly brought out her phone to send a message to Mu Chen.

The trio took their time wandering the supermarket before they finally pushed the two carts of ingredients to the check-out counter.

After the trio paid for the ingredients, they pushed the carts toward the underground parking lot.

Song Ning deliberately slowed her steps, walking behind Jiang Jin and Sister Yu as the duo carried the lightest back into the car.

Jiang Jin and Sister Yu did not seem to notice anything was amiss and continued to load the bags.

When Song Ning was about to get into the car, two figures appeared and began to run toward her.

At this time, a black van suddenly came from the side and rushed towards them. After taking a sharp turn, the car screeched to a stop. When the car door opened, a person, with a black mask covering his face, shouted, "Quick!"

At this moment, the two figures that were chasing after Song Ning had arrived. They grabbed Song Ning's arms, trying to drag her into the car.

Song Ning suddenly took two steps back and struggled free from the hold of the two figures.

The two people seemed to be stunned by this development,

Upon seeing this, the driver jumped out of the car, leaving the engine on, as he cursed, "What's going on? Why are you slow? Are you stupid?"

Song Ning took another step back before she snapped her fingers.

The person who just came out from the car seemed to be frozen to his spot as well.

At the same time, the sound of another car speeding toward them rang from the entrance. Following that, the sounds of screeching tires resounded in the underground car park.

Boom!

The newly-arrived car slammed into the back of the black van.

The newcomer jumped out of his car and rushed to stand in front of Song Ning before he pulled her in for a hug. "Ningning, are you okay?"

Needless to say, the newcomer was Mu Chen. During his journey here, his heart felt as though it was going to jump out of his throat. He only managed to calm down after he saw Song Ning was unharmed.

Song Ning gently pushed Mu Chen away before she pointed at the three figures that were frozen in place. She said anxiously, "Hurry up and call the police. I only managed to temporarily stop them from moving..."

Mu Chen pulled her to his side. "It's okay. Don't worry. You've done very well."

It was at this time that Song Ning discovered Cheng Che was here as well, and he was leading a group of men toward the driver of the black van.

Cheng Che did not hold back as he kicked the driver of the black van. "Damn it!"

Needless to say, the three accomplices who were frozen could not move at all.

When Cheng Che saw the thin and long silver needles embedded on the trio's chests and back, he clicked his tongue and said with admiration, "Sister-in-law, you're really a martial art expert. This weapon is a weapon without bloodshed. Can you teach me? It's so amazing!"

Song Ning reached out and removed the needles and the men regained mobility again.

Cheng Che waved his hand, indicating his men to bring the unlucky people away..."

At this moment, Jiang Jin and Sister Yu only rushed over. "What's wrong? What happened?"

Jiang Jin looked at the sports car that had rammed into the van. "Rascal, collided with the commercial car and said with heartache, "Rascal, you're such a spendthrift. Isn't this your favorite car? How can you just crash into another car? Don't you feel distressed?"

Mu Chen remained silent.

Meanwhile, Song Ning felt guilty when she heard the car was Mu Chen's favorite car. She wondered if it could be repaired.

Mu Chen did not reply to his grandmother. Instead, he lowered his head and comforted Song Ning. "This car's performance is good and it runs fast, but it's nothing. I was so worried about you earlier..."

Song Ning said apologetically, "I wasn't completely sure when I sent you a message. However, to be on the safe side, I decided to send you a message. I really didn't think my instincts were right..."

"You did the right thing. In the future, you have to be vigilant just like this, understand? Think about the consequences if you didn't message me. Can you listen to me this once?"

Song Ning nodded obediently before she muttered to herself, "I wonder who's trying to kidnap me?"

### **Chapter 136: Analyzing**

Mu Chen patted Song Ning's hand. "Don't worry, I'll deal with it."

Song Ning said softly, "Is it someone who doesn't want me to attend the film festival, or is it some overzealous fan who...?" She could not finish her sentence.

Mu Chen wrapped his arms around her shoulders and said, "Don't let your imaginations run wild. All of us are here for you. No matter who they are or what their motives are, I won't let them succeed..."

Song Ning nodded.

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When they returned home, everyone was still in shock.

Jiang Jin patted her chest to comfort herself. "What's the reason for this? Mu Chen, have you called the police?"

Mu Chen placed his hand on his grandmother's shoulder and said, "Don't worry, Grandma. We've already called the police. I've also told them to keep a tighter watch on Cloudy Peak and patrol the area more often..."

Jiang Jin said, "From now on, it's best that you personally drop Song Ning off to work and pick her up after work. No matter what their motives are, we can't let our guard down..."

Song Ning did not want Jiang Jin to worry so she said reassuringly, "Don't worry, Grandma. It's possible that they made a mistake and mistook me for someone else. I don't have many friends so I don't think I'd have such a radical enemy. Don't worry."

Jiang Jin remained quiet. She knew there were ways to do things discreetly.

On the other hand, Cheng Che was still interested in Song Ning's needles. "Sister-in-law, your kungfu is really amazing! You must teach it to me; I promise I'll practice diligently."

Song Ning chuckled. "Actually this needle belongs to Jiahui.

"Huh?" Cheng Che was surprised.

Song Ning said, "When we first started learning acupuncture, she had the idea of using them for self-defense. However, the needles we usually use for acupuncture are thin and can't pierce through clothes. Therefore, she especially found someone to forge these needles. The first day she showed them off, the Professor confiscated them from her. She tried multiple times to steal them back but was discovered by the professor. After that, the professor secretly gave it to me for safekeeping to avoid Jiahui causing havoc with them. It's been in my bag all this time. I found they're actually quite useful today. Cheng Che, you better don't tell her about this. Otherwise, she'll definitely cause trouble."

Cheng Che admired Jiahui even more. It seemed like both of them had the same thinking.

With this the matter was over, Song Ning led Sister Yu to organize the ingredients they bought as Jiang Jin joined them.

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Meanwhile, Mu Chen and Cheng Che went to the study room.

Mu Chen asked, "What do you think?"

At this moment, Cheng Che's smile had vanished from his face. He said solemnly, "I've already asked my men to investigate. They're just street thugs with no connections to anyone. Nevertheless, I'm sure it has nothing to do with those overzealous fans. Not many people know sister-in-law will be making an appearance during the festival..."

Mu Chen frowned. "So what you're saying is someone wants to prevent Song Ning from participating in the film festival?"

Cheng Che was stunned. "If this is truly the case, we can easily narrow down the suspects."

Mu Chen smiled faintly. "It won't be difficult to find the culprit since the pool of suspects is small. It has to be either the Fu family, the Ning family, or the Ye family. I'm certain it's not the Fu family since they're unaware of her role in Yi Yao. Otherwise, they would have blown this matter up a long time ago. This leaves us with the Ning family and the Ye family."

Cheng Che nodded. "Brother, Ye Cheng's influence has already spread into the city. He also has a chain of fitness centers under his name. It's the most suitable for raising subordinates. Moreover, the Young Master of the Ning family has grown incredibly close to him recently..."

Mu Chen frowned. "What's his motive?"

Cheng Che sighed. "I don't know what's wrong with Ning Zhe. Back then, for the sake of this son, he didn't hesitate to divorce his wife. Even after marrying the mistress, he's not good to her as well. He seems like he doesn't care about his son at all. Strange, right? Young Master Ning is gloomy. Not only is he timid, but he's often bullied as well. The Ning family has never stepped forward to resolve this matter for him. Due to this, they had given Ye Cheng an opening. Ye Cheng isn't someone who does a good deed without expecting things in return after all."

"He wants to cooperate with the Ning family to enter the textile and clothing industry," Mu Chen said nonchalantly.

Cheng Che was puzzled. "Isn't he in politics now? Why is he so greedy. Isn't he afraid that stretching his hands so far might backfire on him?"

"Ye Chen is stuck in a quicksand. He has no choice," Mu Cheng said indifferently.

"Brother... it seems you're quite sympathetic toward him..." Cheng Che said as he rolled his eyes.

"I'm just stating facts. I have a feeling Ye Cheng doesn't have a hand in this matter. It's not his style to act this way. In my opinion, the culprit is likely Ye Xin. She knows Song Ning is Ning Xia. Although there's no news that Song Ning would be attending the film festival, she's probably worried. Therefore, she's probably doing everything she can to prevent Song Ning from attending the film festival.."

### **Chapter 137: Mother and Son**

Cheng Che nodded. "That makes sense. A woman's heart is difficult to comprehend...!"

Mu Chen instructed, "Ask Si Hai to return and bring some men to protect Song Ning."

Cheng Che was stunned before he nodded. "Understood."

Si Hai was their most capable assistant and bodyguard. This showed much importance to Song Ning by sending Si Hai to protect her.

"Although it wasn't Ye Cheng's doing this time, there's no guarantee he won't make a move in the future. I suspect Ye Cheng is still unaware that Song Ning is Ning Xia from Yi Yao." A faint smile could be seen on Mu Chen's lips when he spoke.

Ye Cheng had always viewed Mu Chen as a rival and considered him an enemy. Therefore, he always had to be on guard.

If Ye Cheng knew Song Ning was Ning Xia, he would probably die from anger.

...

At this moment, Ning Dong stood at the corner of the underground parking lot, watching the failed kidnapping. His hands were clenched so tightly it was as though his fingernails were going to draw blood.

After he called a car and returned home, he discovered his father was not around. Instead, he saw his mother pacing around the living room with an uneasy expression on her face,

Su Tong hurriedly rushed to her son and asked worriedly, "Son, why did you come back so late?"

Ning Dong shrugged and did not reply to her.

Su Tong asked absent-mindedly, "Do you want to eat something? Let the kitchen cook it for you."

Ning Dong looked at Su Tong. "Don't wait anymore. They were all taken away by the police."

Su Tong was shocked. "What? They were all taken away? Why are they so useless?" She tried to suppress her anxiety and asked again, "Dongdong, what... what do you mean? I... I don't understand..."

Ning Dong placed his bag on the sofa and sat down before he took a sip of water. After that, he said, "You know what I'm talking about. Stop pretending. The three people you hired couldn't get close to her at all. Mu Chen arrived in time and sent all of them to the police station. Think about it carefully. Did you leave any evidence that might lead back to you? Don't let them trace this back to you..."

Su Tong was dumbfounded. She said in a daze "S-son, you know everything? I... I only meant to scare her... I didn't..."

Ning Dong looked at his mother coldly and interjected, "What's the use of explaining to me? You can only hope those three good-for-nothings don't give you up. If they do, what are you going to do?"

Ning Dong sneered inwardly. 'With such an IQ, she still wants to harm others...'

Su Tong gulped as she tried to calm herself down. "I... I didn't have any contact with those people. I gave them money and pretended to be Ye Xin's people. They won't suspect me..."

Ning Dong's expression eased up upon hearing this. "Be careful. If something like this happens again, you have to discuss it with me first. I'll help you look for people. At least it'll be more reliable. If you want to harm her, what's the point of just scaring her?"

Ning Dong's words struck at Su Tong's heart like a heavy hammer. Her face paled immediately. Her son still looked like her son but he felt unfamiliar. When did he become like this? She could not understand. "Son... Son... you, you..."

Alas, she did not have the courage to finish her words.

Ning Dong grabbed his bag and rose to his feet. He left without sparing another glance at his mother as he said coldly, "I know what I'm doing, and I know what you want to do. In the future, you better inform me of your plan so I won't be implicated by you. The Ning family is mine; no one can take it away from me!"

Su Tong watched the thin figure of her son left. She had mixed feelings about her son's sudden change and could not help but feel chills running up her spine. When did her son become like this? Was he still her son?

Naturally, Su Tong was happy seeing her son's determination to take over the Ning Group, but she did not want him to become cold and heartless to the point where he did not even care about her. He was her flesh and blood; her life. If he did not love her, then she really had nothing in this world.

Moreover, Ning Dong said if she wanted to act again he would find people to do it. What help is talking about? Who did he know? Su Tong's heart was brimming with unease when she thought about these things.

She was about to go upstairs to his room to question when she heard the maid announce Ning Zhe's arrival. With that, she had no choice but to go and greet Ning Zhe at the door. Ning Zhe was her biggest support after all.

Despite her inner turmoil, she smiled beautifully. "You're back so early today..."

"Yes," Ning Zhe replied indifferently before he made his way to the study.

Su Tong stood there awkwardly.

The butler, Ning Chun, explained softly, "Madam, sir encountered some problems in the company today so he's not in a good mood."

Su Tong smiled bitterly. "It's okay. I'm used to his cold behavior."

Ning Chun lowered his head and walked past her, following Ning Zhe into the study..

### **Chapter 138: Made a Fool Out of Herself**

Ning Zhe sat on his chair; his expression was gloomy.

Ning Chun stood at the side quietly.

"Still no results?" Ning Zhe asked in a low voice.

Ning Chun nodded. "Our clients in Japan and Europe have said if we can't come up with something new, they will terminate their cooperation with us."

Ning Zhe frowned. "Based on what Ning Xia said, it seems like she's unaware of the existence of that book. Is it possible that Zhuang Yi didn't give it to her? If it's not with Ning Xian, then where could it be? The old mansion in the countryside?"

Ning Chun thought for a moment before he said, "Could it be the late Madam from the Fu family who worked with Madam previously?"

Ning Zhe shook his head. "The Fu family has been enticed by Ye Cheng so they're after the trademark as well. First, they wanted to reconcile with Ning Xia. When that didn't work, they slandered her. If they had the book, they wouldn't have resorted to this."

Ning Chun could not think of anything else either.

Ning Zhe sighed. "Zhuang Yi's thoughts are too deep!"

It was impossible to say he did not regret it, but he now had no way to make up for his regrets. If he had not been possessed back then, would the Ning Group fall to such a state today? It was unfortunate there was no medicine for regret. The only thing he could do was move forward now. Even then, he was at a loss. Ning Xia was just as stubborn as her mother.

After a while, Ning Zhe said, "Investigate the Eldest Young Miss; I want to know everything about her. From now on, we must let everyone know we're waiting for her return."

Ning Chun nodded. It seemed like Ning Zhe was still insisting on using the public to force his daughter to return to the Ning family.

...

There was a lot of buzz about the film festival that was only held once every four years.

Since a month ago, all the billboards in the city advertised the film festival.

At the same time, many major companies seized the opportunity to promote their artistes as well. Needless to say, Ye Xin's management company was the most aggressive in promoting Ye Xin.

After all, Ye Xin was a daughter of a noble family. Moreover, she was slated to play the female lead in the remake of Yi Yao. Her boyfriend had been snatched away by a vicious woman, and yet, she remained virtuous and kind. It was no surprise that among all the celebrities, she was the most talked about.

With all kinds of headlines and hot searches about Ye Xin, one would be misled into thinking the film festival was all about Ye Xin.

Naturally, it was impossible for everyone to feel the same way. There were some discordant voices that were against Ye Xin as well. There were many comments such as:

"She's bragging so much, but she hasn't even won a single award!"

"Even now, she still shamelessly bears the title of Little Ning Xia. She's still riding the coattail of her senior until now!"

"Does she even have any acting skills? Why don't I see it? I've only seen her acting pompous and relying on her appearance. Some of your praises are too exaggerated."

"I don't believe her boyfriend has been snatched away. She's rarely seen with that president..."

"Is she going for the beautiful and tragic image? It's too fake though."

"Personally, I think she focuses too much on publicity stunts. She's promoting herself too much. An actress should concentrate on making works that make a statement. Why is she always embroiled in gossip?"

"The comment above is wrong. An actress and a celebrity aren't one and the same. In any case, despite her rumors, I think this young miss from a rich family has rather good acting skills."

"The TV series for Yi Yao hasn't even been aired yet. They're really bold to remake such a classic movie. With her acting skills, it's difficult to say if she'd be able to pull off the character. If it's a flop, I'm going to be so angry!"

"Yi Yao occupies a special place in my heart. If she dares to ruin it, I'll curse her ancestors and her eighteen generations..."

These discordant voices would quickly disappear as soon as they appeared. With this, only pleasant comments were left.

...

Meanwhile, the film festival made an announcement through a live broadcast that they would open the poll for favorite male and female celebrities three days before the commencement of the film festival.

As time passed, something strange began to happen. The new celebrities began to drop in ranking while those at the top were veterans.

Ye Xin's votes were not too bad. She had consistently ranked fourth and fifth.



Gradually, strange phenomena began to appear. After three days, the popularity of the celebrities who had just become popular started to drop lower and lower on the rankings. The ones who were truly at the front were those old actors who could be praised.

Ye Xin's votes were still okay. She had always been ranked fourth or fifth. However, due to the discordant comments that appeared, her ranking and popularity dropped sharply.

This naturally put Ye Xin in a bad mood. She threw a huge tantrum at Yang Li and Peng Peng. In the end, she resorted to buying votes. She was determined to rank in the top 5. In this regard, she still had a sense of measure. She knew she could rank at the top, overtaking the veterans in the industry. Otherwise, she would only invite criticism.

Alas, Ye Xin had a useless father who ruined everything. When Ye He saw the billboards and advertisements of daughter in the city, he was incredibly happy. He bragged about his daughter to everyone who was willing to listen. Most importantly, or unfortunately, he ordered his subordinate to push his daughter to the top of the ranking.

In fact, Ye Xin was not the only one; there were many celebrities who also used money to buy votes. However, when they saw Ye Xin's popularity drop because of the backlash, all of them no longer dared to act recklessly.

In the end, due to excessive effort, Ye Xin was easily pushed to the top of the ranking with a ridiculously high number of votes.

By the time Ye Xin's management company found out about this, things had gotten ugly..

### **Chapter 139: Warming Up**

Ye Xin had no choice but to turn to Ye Cheng again. She could only withdraw from the ranking since it was too close to the commencement ceremony, she no longer had time to adjust her ranking. In the end, she suffered quite a huge blow.

Although the organizers turned a blind eye to this matter, Ye Xin's management company attracted a lot of hate.

Due to all these reasons, Ye Xin had been venting her anger on Yang Li and Peng Peng.

Both Yang Li and Peng Peng remained quiet and let Ye Xin do as she pleased.

In the end, Ye Xin gave Yang Li two days to repair her reputation and to guide it back on the right path.

After Yang Li gathered her emotions, she proposed that they release documents of her charity work. Perhaps, the public would have a warmer reception if they knew Ye Xin had made contributions to a poor village in a mountainous area.

Upon hearing Yang Li's idea, Ye Xin's eyes lit up. She was very satisfied with Yang Li's proposal that she ordered Yang Li and Peng Peng to immediately get to work.

...

Yang Li was indeed worthy of being a top manager. In such a short time, she still managed to redeem Ye Xin's competition the day before the commencement of the film festival. Ye Xin's charity work had successfully covered her previous negative image.

Apart from that, Yang Li had especially arranged for Ye Xin to appear on the red carpet with the company's higher-ups to show her status.

All in all, Ye Xin was very satisfied with Yang Li's arrangements.

Apart from that, unlike most celebrities, Ye Xin's dress was not sponsored. She had bought them with her own money abroad. This had also been mentioned in an interview.

With all this, Ye Xin's reputation began to improve.

...

Meanwhile, the TV series based on Yi Yao had completed post-production a week before the film festival. It would be shown during the week after the commencement of the film festival.

In the course of history, there were rarely any productions that were broadcasted at such swift speed. It could have been said to have set a record.

After all sorts of twists and turns, Ye Xin firmly stood at the top of the entertainment industry again.

...

Tonight was finally the opening ceremony for the film festival.

Many famous celebrities had gathered at this time.

The screams of fans rang in the air with no sign of stopping.

The male and female hosts were filled with praises when introducing and interviewing the celebrities.

On the red carpet, the female celebrities secretly compete with each other.

On the other hand, the male stars were gentlemanly, almost acting like a foil for the beautiful female stars.

When Ye Xin finally appeared in the arms of a higher-up from a company, the atmosphere skyrocketed.

The fans raised their hands and chanted in voices that grew increasingly loud, "Ye Xin, Ye Xin, Ye Xin!"

Ye Xin held a small bag in our hand and waved to her fans with her other hand. Her smile was reserved and elegant.

The reporters that lined the sides of the red carpet began to shout as well, "Miss Ye Xin, look here! Miss Ye Xin, turn around!"

The cameras shot Ye Xin from all angles. Fortunately, her beauty did not seem to have any flaws.

Ye Xin spent a lot of time on the red carpet, holding everyone up, since the reporters and fans pleaded for a few pictures every time she was about to leave.

When Ye Xin finally walked to the platform at the side, the host first spoke to the company executive who accompanied Ye Xin here. “President Ma, how do you feel accompanying Miss Ye Xin on the red carpet today?”

President Ma smiled as he took the microphone and replied, “I feel extremely honored. At least, for once in my life, I experienced a moment of glory. It’s all thanks to Miss Ye Xin. I wish Miss Ye Xin an even brighter future....”

Roused by President Ma’s words, the fans shouted even louder than before.

Ye Xin smiled and signed her name on the photo wall before she cooperated with the media and let them take her pictures.

Ye Xin was sure no one could outshine her today. She was going to be the star of the show. This slightly soothed her wound for not winning an award previously. Moreover, her company had announced that she would not be holding a press conference to avoid people making trouble by asking uncomfortable questions. She was feeling rather pleased and satisfied with the way things were going right now. As long as Yi Yao, the TV series, became a big hit, she would finally be able to cement her status as a top star.

During this time, many celebrities came up to greet Ye Xin. She would put one hand on her chest to avoid being exposed as she warmly shook hands with those who came to greet her and expressed their goodwill.

Naturally, these celebrities had ulterior motives. As they praised Ye Xin’s beautiful gown or exquisite makeup, they would inadvertently glance at the cameras pointed at them. They knew as long as they were photographed with Ye Xin, they would have a chance of appearing in major media outlets as well. In short, it was beneficial to them to be seen with Ye Xin.

Some of the younger generation from other companies even approached her for her autographs. This was enough to show her popularity in the entertainment circle.

As for the negative news previously, no one cared about it.

After all, Ye Xin was not just a popular celebrity, but she was a daughter from a noble family. There were only advantages and no disadvantages to currying favor with her..

#### **Chapter 140: The Opening of the Film Festival**

Ye Xin was not stupid. She could, naturally, see through these people’s intentions. However, she would not reject them. She wanted to establish an approachable persona, and she needed exposure to increase her popularity.

At this moment, there was a sudden commotion from the back.

Someone shouted, “President Mu is here!”

Everyone turned to look at the red carpet, including Ye Xin.

Ye Xin's heart could not help but jump in joy. Why did Mu Chen suddenly decide to attend the film festival? She blamed herself for not doing enough research that she was unaware of Mu Chen's attendance. If she had known he was coming, she would have thought of a way to walk the red carpet with him. Was there better publicity than that?

No. Ye Xin could not let this golden opportunity slip past her no matter what. She had to stand next to him; she had to be photographed in the same frame as him.

The person walking next to Mu Chen was his assistant, Cheng Che.

Both men wore black suits and snow-white shirts. However, Cheng Che looked more formal whereas Mu Chen looked more casual. The two men were good-looking; one of them was smiling while the other one was expressionless.

The female host was excited when she saw the duo as well. "The men walking toward us now are the investors, Mr. Mu Chen and Mr. Cheng Che."

The applause was thunderous. Their popularity was not any less than the celebrities who walked the red carpet. After all, such wealthy and handsome men were rare. Moreover, there was also the ambiguous relationship between Mu Chen and the popular female star, Ye Xin.

At this moment, there were already fans shouting at the same time. "Ye Xin! Ye Xin! Marry Ye Xin! Marry Ye Xin!"

The female celebrities around Ye Xin looked at her teasingly.

Ye Xin blushed.

Finally, Mu Chen and Cheng Che arrived at the platform.

The female host was so excited that she almost forgot her words. "President Mu, it's such an honor to meet you here. Executive Assistant Cheng, nice to meet you!"

Mu Chen and Cheng Che stood tall in front of everyone.

At this time, Cheng Che reminded the female host, "Shouldn't you ask why we're here?"

The female host was embarrassed and quickly did as she was told.

Cheng Che smiled and said, "Can you lend me the microphone? I'll help you complete your interview."

Who could resist such a smile?

The female host was in a daze as she passed the microphone to Cheng Che.

After taking the microphone, Cheng Che said, "Hello, everyone. It's an honor that I can introduce myself in front of so many people. My name is Cheng Che, and this is my boss, Mu Chen. I can see everyone's confused about our attendance. Some of you even looked like you're wondering if we came to the wrong place."

A burst of friendly laughter rang from below.

Cheng Che continued to say, "Both of us are here as investors and producers. I'm sure everyone knows that the cast and production team for the original Yi Yao would be having a ten-year reunion. Although President Mu and I aren't actors, we're the investors after all. Therefore, both of us shamelessly decided to attend the film festival."

The buzzing sound of discussion and thunderous applause continued to ring in the air due to Cheng Che's tongue-in-cheek speech.

"Heaven! Yi Yao was funded by President Mu? Why didn't I know this?"

"It's not strange. After all, most people only focus on the actors... Who would pay attention to the investors?"

"Well, at least we know now..."

Everyone looked at the stage with rapt attention.

Cheng Che returned the microphone to the host.

After taking the microphone, the host said amiably, "In the past ten years, the world has changed. However, some things would not change especially when it becomes a classic. Ten years ago, the movie Yi Yao caused a wave due to its deeply moving story. From the screenwriter to the director, the actors to the crew, and even the staff behind the scenes, all of them had made big contributions to the classic."

The host paused for a brief moment before saying, "After ten years, most of these people had walked on different paths due to their respective fields. However, the movie remained important in their hearts until today. For this reason, all of them have decided to come together for a reunion. Now, let's give the warmest applause to all the members of Yi Yao!"

The applause was even more thunderous than before; almost everyone was excited. Although there were many young people, all of them were familiar with Yi Yao due to it being a classic. Moreover, there were many mysteries surrounding the movie that piqued people's interest.

At this time, the production team walked onto the platform. Many of them had made a name for themselves over the past ten years. From nobody, they had become shining stars in their respective fields.

all the members of the production team walked up to the stage together. Moreover, many of them had already been honed over the past ten years and had gone from being nobody to shining characters..