

## Chapter 141: Red Carpet

Director Pan was a well-known director nationally and internationally. Perhaps, due to overworking, his hair had turned white before reaching the age of 60. However, his steps were energetic, his face was ruddy with health, and he was in high spirits. At this moment, he was whispering to the assistant director walking next to him.

The assistant director was also over the age of 50. With just a look, one could tell he was a capable person. Apart from that, he was also a well-known director in his own right.

Next was a group of screenwriters, field reporters, cameramen, videographers, makeup artists, and other staff members. They all came in a huge group. Among these people, the only person missing was the original author and main screenwriter for Yi Yao, Liang Zhen.

Following that was a group of actors and actresses. Among them, there were many famous faces.

Needless to say, with the appearances of the actors and actresses, the fans began to cheer loudly from the sides.

However, among the actors and actresses, the female lead and male lead were nowhere to be seen.

The male lead for Yi Yao, Yan Lu, had passed away two years ago due to an illness. It was a pity since he had strong acting skills and had made a name for himself in the film industry. He had once won the Most Popular Actor award.

As for the female lead of Yi Yao, Ning Xia, she was the most mysterious figure in the entertainment circle. During the filming of Yi Yao, she was heavily protected by the filming crew. Little was known about her. Even when the movie became a smash hit, she did not participate in the promotional activities. Rumor had it that she had gone back to school to sit for her college entrance exam.

There were many who tried to investigate Ning Xia. After investigating, they did not find the name Ning Xia listed in any of the film academies. Moreover, after the death of the author and screenwriter, Liang Zhen, she had disappeared completely.

There were fans of Yi Yao who created a club to commemorate those from Yi Yao who had passed or disappeared on a fixed date every year.

In recent years, Ning Xia's fans had also created a fan club for her. Unlike Liang Zhen and the male lead, Ning Xia was still alive after all. They just did not know where she disappeared to.

Everyone found it pitiful that such a spirited and talented girl did not become an actress. Many movie fans hoped that she would return to the big screen one day, participating in more films and creating classic movies for everyone to enjoy.

As the years passed, many new people joined the entertainment industry. There were some of Ning Xia's fans who began to invest their feelings into other people. Many treated Little Ning Xia as emotional sustenance and replacement. It was for this reason that Ye Xin grew famous. After all, Ye Xin somewhat

resembled Ning Xia, and her aloof personality also stirred up the fans' interest. Naturally, as much as they supported Ye Xin, Ye Xin would never be able to replace Ning Xia in their hearts, especially in regard to the movie Yi Yao.

In fact, when Yi Yao's reunion was announced, there was talk about inviting Little Ning Xia who was starring in the remake of Yi Yao. However, the idea was strongly opposed by the original crew of Yi Yao and Yi Yao's fan club. In the people's hearts, Ning Xia was irreplaceable.

This matter had embarrassed Ye Xin, her fans, and Ning Xia's fans who had converted to Ye Xin's fans. Some radical fans even left hateful comments on Director Pan and the other staff member's social media accounts. Nevertheless, none of them paid attention to the haters.

Some fans grew emotional when they saw the crew of Yi Yao due to the absence of a few key figures.

At this time, someone shouted, "Teacher Liang Zhen will live in our hearts forever!"

Following that, another person joined in and shouted, "Yan Lu will live in our hearts forever as well!"

Many fans were so overwhelmed by their emotions that they began to cry.

At this time, the men in the crew took off their hats while the women raised their left hands. As it turned out, all of them were wearing a yellow chrysanthemum bracelet on their left hands, showing that those who had passed lived in their hearts as well.

Upon seeing this, the fans grew even more emotional.

Since there were too many people on the platform, Mu Chen and Cheng Che silently retreated to the side.

After the host handed the microphone to Director Pan, he raised his hand instinctively.

With this, the crowd fell silent immediately.

Following that, Director Pan bowed deeply at the crowd.

The people standing behind him followed suit as well.

"Thank you for your love for Yi Yao even after all these years. I'm incredibly touched when I see everyone's enthusiasm. Thank you, everyone!" Director Pan said. His slightly hoarse voice made his speech even more touching.

Subsequently, the male host said, "Director Pan, it's been ten years! Even after so many years, just an invitation managed to gather everyone. I'm curious what kind of magic do your production team possess?"

Director Pan smiled. "This is the reason why I am emotional as well. I've filmed many movies and dramas and met many people. However, for Yi Yao, the production team and the cast have an unbreakable bond. Perhaps, we shared the same belief back then, and up until now that belief still remained in the depths of our hearts.."

## **Chapter 142: The Film Crew**

The female host was moved by Director Pan's words as well. She said, "I'm really moved by your words. I really want to ask what made you decide to shoot this movie back then?"

Director Pan looked at the sky and sighed before he replied, "Everyone says time creates heroes. This can be said about the movie. In the beginning, none of us expected the movie to be so well received. Liang Zhen and I grew up together. When Liang Zhen showed me her unpublished novel, I thought it would make an amazing movie so I roped her into it. It was also her first time as a screenwriter at that time. We were so poor at that time. I remember we were in the midst of filming when the investors suddenly decided to withdraw the funds. With that, we were put in a difficult situation. Fortunately, at that time, Liang Zhen's son stepped in and funded us so we could continue with filming..."

After saying that, Director Pan turned to look at Mu Chen and extended his hand in Mu Chen's direction as he said, "Everyone should feel grateful to him. If it weren't for him, there would be no Yi Yao. At that time, Mu Chen was still a student. The money he earned from investing at that time went straight to us..."

The crowd was shocked.

The female host exclaimed in surprise, "Heavens! As it turns out, President Mu is Teacher Liang Zhen's son?"

Director Pan smiled and nodded. "You didn't expect that, right? It's always been the dream of parents to fulfill their children's dreams. Liang Zhen's happiness lay with the fact that her son did everything he could to fulfill her dreams."

Mu Chen slowly walked to Director Pan's side.

Director Pan looked at Mu Chen and said affectionately, "Mu Chen, today I finally have the opportunity to represent everyone in the production team to thank you!"

After Director Pan finished speaking, he prepared to bow to Mu Chen.

Upon seeing this, Mu Chen hurriedly stopped Director Pan. "Director Pan, you can't do this! You're my mother's friend!"

Mu Chen's voice was deep and pleasant to the ears.

Ye Xin, who was standing below the platform, was already entranced by Mu Chen.

At this time, Mu Chen motioned for Cheng Che to come over.

When Director Pan saw Cheng Che, he smiled and said, "I forgot to tell everyone that we have another investor as well. This is Mr. Cheng Che. Back then, he was still studying at a university. In order to help us, he also took out all his savings. He's Teacher Liang Zheng's godson."

With this, the puzzles fell in their places. Everyone only knew Cheng Che was Mu Chen's assistant whose authority was almost as high as the heavens. Even the shareholders in the Mu Group had to curry favor with him to get projects approved. After all, Cheng Che was the only one who could speak freely with Mu Chen. Those people could speak to the Old Madam of the Mu family, but how could the Old Madam

be any easier to speak to? Therefore, there was no doubt Cheng Che was the most popular person in the Mu Group. However, none of them was aware that Cheng Che was Liang Zhen's godson. Perhaps, that was why there were strange rumors in the past regarding Mu Chen and Cheng Che's relationship.

Cheng Che smiled and said, "Director Pan, why do you have to reveal this? I quite enjoy reading those ridiculous rumors about the strange relationship between my brother and me!"

Cheng Che's words immediately drew laughter from the crowd.

The next segment was for everyone to introduce their roles during Yi Yao's filming. Following that, they would talk about their current work and achievements.

It had to be said that the production team of Yi Yao was filled with talented and outstanding people.

The audience would occasionally exclaim in surprise when they listened to the team's speech.

On the other hand, Ye Xin was sitting on pins and needles at this moment. Originally, she thought her appearance would be the finale or during the climax. Who knew the committee of the film festival had arranged this? With this, who could still remember the celebrities who walked the red carpet earlier? Her expression darkened immediately as she looked around and saw everyone watching and listening with rapt attention. She felt suffocated at this sight.

Some of the minor celebrities were even fans of the people on the stage. They were equally as excited as the fans. They repeatedly instructed their managers and assistants to prepare gifts such as notebooks, t-shirts, and other items for them. They even planned to ask for autographs when the group on stage was done. It was a rather strange sight that these celebrities whom many chased after were now chasing after the crew from Yi Yao.

Ye Xin's anger grew and grew, but she had nowhere to vent it. She felt humiliated since she had nothing to do with the film Yi Yao, but she was inextricably linked to it due to her title as Little Ning Xia. What she was most afraid of was someone on or off stage would bring up her and the title Little Ning Xia. It was highly likely something like that would happen since she had just wrapped up filming for the TV series that was based on Yi Yao..

### **Chapter 143: Emotions**

Ye Xin somewhat understood now what Yang Li meant by keeping a low profile.

Based on the fanfare surrounding the original crew members of Yi Yao, no matter how well the TV series based on Yi Yao was, it would definitely draw comparison. Although Ye Xin was confident in her acting skills, she had a feeling the result of the comparison would not be in her favor. Moreover, the audience was unpredictable. If there were even the slightest flaw with the TV series, Yi Yao the film would further cement its status as a classic while the TV series would be deemed a knockoff. Her palms grew sweatier and sweatier as she thought about this.

At this moment, it was finally Yang Li's turn to speak.

"Ten years ago, I just graduated from university and was an intern during the filming of Yi Yao. My teacher, Du Yue, was the one who brought me on set. She taught the ins and outs of the industry and

many skills that are important..." She paused briefly as she bowed at Du Yue and said, "Thank you, teacher!"

Du Yue smiled and grabbed Yang Li's hand. "You're a famous manager now, and you're very capable..."

At this moment, the female host said, "That's right! Miss Yang, I heard you're now the manager of Little Ning Xia. Otherwise known as Ye Xin. Miss Ye Xin just wrapped up filming for the TV series based on Yi Yao. As it happens, you're involved in both productions of Yi Yao. Why don't you tell us the difference between the two productions? How's Little Ning Xia's performance? Does she have the same skill and elegance as Ning Xia back then?"

Everyone was staring expectantly at Yang Li at this moment, waiting for her answer.

Meanwhile, Ye Xin's tightly clenched hands grew sweatier. She regretted allowing Yang Li to participate in the reunion at this moment. However, what could she do now that Yang Li was standing on stage?

Yang Li smiled at the host and spoke into the microphone. "The filming has just wrapped up so it hasn't been broadcasted yet. Whether it's good or not, I'll leave it to the audience to judge. I won't spoil it in advance. I'm only Miss Ye Xin's manager so I have nothing to do with the production of the TV series. Moreover, I didn't even have a chance to watch the end product so I'm not qualified to comment on it."

Yang Li's words were tactful and very appropriate. Nevertheless, it made the nervous Ye Xin angry. Initially, she had been nervous because she was worried Yang Li would say something inappropriate and make a joke out of her. However, she was furious now that Yang Li did not even say a single good word about her despite being her manager! Such a good opportunity to promote her was wasted by Yang Li! How could she not be furious?

With this, Ye Xin decided to change manager. A manager like Yang Li who could not even do her job properly was useless to her. To think she treated Yang Li so well.

At this moment, an up-and-coming starlet next to Ye Xin nudged her and said, "Yang Li's famous for being skilled in all areas. You're really lucky your company assigned you the best manager there is in the industry!" She could barely conceal her envy and jealousy when she spoke.

Ye Xin said bluntly, "It's just rumors. In fact, she's just alright. I don't see anything outstanding about her. Just look at me, and you'll be able to see the quality of her work..."

The little starlet said with a smile, "Sister Xin, your requirements are too high. Yang Li has fought for you so many times outside. If I were given such a manager, I'd put her on a pedestal and bow to her every day. I don't even need her to do anything for me apart from coming up with ideas for me. I'll even get an assistant for her."

Ye Xing glanced at the up-and-coming starlet and sneered inwardly. 'How inexperienced. No wonder she's not particularly famous...'

At this time, a minor celebrity sitting on Ye Xin's left could not help but chimed in when she overheard the conversation, "My manager admires Sister Yang Li a lot. She said if she were as capable as Sister Yang Li, I would be as famous as Sister Xin."

The flames of fury in Ye Xin's heart surged even higher upon hearing this. Was this what people thought of Yang Li? What had Yang Li done for her? Nothing! And yet, Yang Li was given so much credit!

In Ye Xin's opinion, she had to rely on herself for everything. She was the one who created a scandal with Mu Chen; she was the one who thought of a way to resolve the crisis with the Mu family; she was the one who wrote the speech, and Yang Li only edited it. Why did so many people think Yang Li was so great? Could it be that people think she, Ye Xin, was only famous because of Yang Li? How could Yang Li take all the credit?

Ye Xin's eyes burned with flames of fury as she watched Yang Li move to the back after her speech.. Yang Li was her manager; Yang Li should have used this chance to get support from the crew of Yi Yao for her! How useless and disappointing!

#### **Chapter 144: Ning Xia**

Ye Xin's thoughts were still running wild when everyone on stage finished their introductions.

At this moment, the female host said, "Ten years have passed, and everyone has embarked on a new journey, but you're all still so close. Your production team is really inspiring. The only regretful thing is the passing of Liang Zhen and Yan Lu and the absence of Ning Xia. Wherever they are, in heaven or on earth, I wish them all the best!"

This was a signal that the introductions for the team of Yi Yao were coming to an end.

However, Director Pan suddenly took the microphone from the male host and said, "Today, another one of our members is also here. Although she's no longer part of the entertainment industry, she was and is the soul of Yi Yao and will always be Yi Yao in our hearts."

Upon hearing these words, everyone, including the other crew members of Yi Yao, was stunned.

What did Director Pan mean? Apart from the three people that the female host mentioned, in which two had passed and one had disappeared, everyone was present. Even Yang Li, who was just an intern back then, was present. Who else was there? However, as the words 'soul of Yi Yao' sank in, realization began to dawn on many people.

In just a blink of an eye, the crowd broke into an uproar. Was the 'soul of Yi Yao' not referring to the female lead of Yi Yao? Was it possible that the mysterious female lead was finally going to make an appearance?

The female host asked excitedly, giving voice to everyone's question, "Director Pan, are you saying Ning Xia is here?"

Director Pan only smiled and looked at Mu Chen.

At this moment, Mu Chen suddenly leaped off the platform and walked toward the entrance. A gentle expression could be seen on his face as he walked toward the entrance.

Everyone's eyes were trained on the door.

Soon enough, a figure in red appeared before everyone's eyes. The woman was dressed in a red gown, and she had a buyao, an Oriental dangling hair ornament, in her hair. Her head was lowered, and she looked as demure as a lotus.

Mu Chen walked in front of her and reached out for her hand.

The woman raised her head and placed her hand in his hand.

As the duo walked back to the platform, they looked like a married couple walking down the aisle.

Mu Chen's hand gently covered the little hand that was holding onto his arm. It was as though he treated her like a treasure.

The fans on both sides were silent.

Everyone was shocked by that beautiful face.

Ye Xin had walked the red carpet earlier, and everyone was familiar with her face. How did Ye Xin become famous in the first place? Was it not because she slightly resembled Ning Xia, the movie queen? And now, that famous face that long disappeared from the public eye had appeared! It was Ning Xia!

Everyone inhaled sharply when they looked at Song Ning.

There was no harm without comparison. Ye Xin's was undoubtedly beautiful. However, in comparison to Song Ning, it was like putting the original and knock-off side by side. The difference was incredibly obvious.

Meanwhile, Song Ning felt slightly nervous. She gripped Mu Chen's arm and lowered her head. The elegant clothes complemented her elegant demeanor.

Those who were obsessed with the movie could not help but feel as though they were transported back to summer ten years ago when they saw Song Ning. The Yi Yao from the movie seemed to have stepped out of the silver screen.

No one dared to breathe heavily. It was as though they were afraid if they made too much noise, the woman before them would disappear.

Meanwhile, the male and female hosts on the platform were in a daze. For a brief moment, they were at a loss for words.

In the end, Director Pan was the one who broke the silence. He held the microphone and said, "This is our female lead, Ning Xia, who played the titular character, Yi Yao. Currently, she's known as Song Ning."

With this, thunderous applause exploded from below the platform.

"Ning Xia!"

"Ning Xia!"

"Ning Xia!"

The fans were ecstatic. They did not expect to see Ning Xia again in this lifetime. They felt as though they were dreaming now that she was standing in front of them.

The male host regained his senses first and said, "Director Pan, I really didn't expect this. Miss Ning Xia, you're really Miss Ning Xia?"

Song Ning took the microphone from Director Pan and bowed deeply to the audience before she said softly, "Thank you for your love, everyone. After so many years, everyone's love for Yi Yao still remains the same. I'm very touched by this. Thank you to all the fans who have been waiting patiently all this time..."

Following that, Song Ning turned around and faced the production team of Yi Yao and bowed deeply again. "Long time no see, everyone."

Everyone on the stage returned the greeting one after another.

At this moment, the female host stepped forward and said, "Miss Ning Xia, what a surprise to see you here today! It's truly a treat for everyone present here and for our viewers at home!"

Song Ning smiled at the female host and said into the microphone, "My current name is Song Ning. Ning Xia only belongs to Yi Yao."

Everyone was stunned. The name Song Ning sounded familiar, but they could remember where they had heard the name before..

#### **Chapter 145: Identity**

Under everyone's astonished gazes, Song Ning gradually calmed down. She turned to look at Mu Chen who was standing next to her and smiled.

This did not escape the female host's notice. "So President Mu is familiar with Ning Xia? I mean, Miss Song Ning."

Mu Chen took the microphone from Song Ning's hand and held her hand with his other hand before he said, "She's my wife..."

Another uproar broke out again.

Director Pan spoke up at this moment, drowning out the noises. "In fact, this is fate. Liang Zheng and I grew up together, and Liang Zhen's son ended up funding Yi Yao. Liang Zhen stood up against many people and insisted on casting Ning Xia, a girl with no acting experience at that time. In the end, after many twists and turns, Mu Chen ended up marrying the girl his mother cast in the movie he invested in. Everyone, don't you think they're fated to be together?"

A resounding 'Yes' rang in the air.

It had to be fate. After all, how could there be such a coincidence in this world?

The female host grew even more excited. "I think many people like me are interested in what Miss Song Ning, I mean, Mrs. Mu, has been up to over the years. How did Ning Xia become Song Ning? How did Song Ning become Mrs. Mu?" Then, she pointed the microphone at the audience before she asked, "Doesn't everyone want to know?"



Another resounding 'Yes' thundered in the hall.

Mu Chen wrapped his hand around Song Ning's shoulders, allowing her to lean on him. He wanted to ease her nervousness.

Song Ning inhaled deeply and raised the microphone before she said, "When I was at the door earlier, I heard all the senior's experiences over the years. They're all wonderful and inspiring. However, I'm nowhere close to being as inspiring or wonderful as they are..."

Song Ning's voice was soft and gentle. It was soothing, like a hand gently brushing across the listeners' hearts.

"When I was filming Yi Yao, I was in the first year of high school. For the sake of filming, I took a year off from school. After the filming was completed, something happened in my family so I couldn't participate in the movie's promotional activities. Following that, my maternal grandparents fell ill so my mother and I moved back to her hometown in Jiangnan. We stayed with them until they passed. After we returned, it was time for me to prepare for my college entrance exam. I didn't enter any film academies and chose to fulfill my grandparents' wish instead and studied to become a Chinese medicine doctor. I'm now a Ph.D. student studying Chinese medicine at M University. I'll be graduating in a year so you can call me Doctor Song..." Song Ning smiled gently and said, "You can call me Little Song as well. Song is my maternal grandmother's surname, and I retained the name Ning in memory of Yi Yao. It's not as complicated as everyone thinks it is..."

Song Ning continued to say, "Many people asked why I didn't apply to study in a film academy. During the time I was filming Yi Yao, I had discussed this with Director Pan and Aunt Liang Zhen. I explained my decision to them. Although they felt I was talented, they could see my personality might not be suited to the entertainment industry. They knew the industry would make me jaded in the future. Both of them respected my decision and supported me. I'd like to thank both of them."

Then, Song Ning bowed and said, "Thank you, Director Pan."

Director Pan was very happy. "I really have no regrets now!"

Suddenly, someone shouted from below, "Are you Ning Xia, the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family? What's your connection to Zhuang Ji?"

This question was immediately met with rebukes.

"Are you stupid? How can you ask such a question? Why would you bring this up during such an occasion?"

"What's the big deal? If I don't ask now, when should I ask then? Song Ning's going to be embarrassed after this. You better record this. Otherwise, the video will definitely be taken down later, and they'll remove her from the hot searches..."

"Why would she be embarrassed? The Mu family has already publicly announced that Song Ning is the Young Madam of the Mu family!"

"It's been such a long time since I've seen her. News about her has been blowing up recently."

“Brother, this is our chance to get to the bottom of things! Today’s matter will definitely make the headlines!”

“Hey, stop talking and focus. Let’s listen to Miss Ning, I mean, Young Madam Mu’s explanation.”

“Is there a need to listen to her explanation? If you read all the news in recent days you’ll know Ning Xia is the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family. The Ning family chased her out, but they’re desperately trying to acknowledge her now. Song Ning is the boss of Zhuang Ji that has gotten famous lately. Song Ning is also the Young Madam of the Mu family. Think about her identity. I can’t even make this up if I want to..”

## **Chapter 146: Deep Affection**

Song Ning’s fingers that were holding the microphone turned white.

Mu Chen hugged her and kissed her gently on the forehead. He said in a low voice, “Don’t be afraid, I’m here.”

The audience on and off the stage was in an uproar.

The fans below the stage all cried out and cheered for her when they saw Mu Chen’s deep affection for her. This was what love looked like.

Song Ning’s face turned slightly red. She gently pulled away from Mu Chen’s embrace but allowed him to hold her other hand. Then, she slowly said, “Everyone, please take a look at this dress I’m wearing. We named this the Xiu He dress. A designer from Zhuang Ji based this design on the work of Zhuang Ji’s founder, Zhuang Yi.”

She continued to say, “Zhuang Yi is my mother, and Zhuang Ji was founded by her and her good friend, Yun Yao. However, before I completed my undergraduate course, they left me one after another.”

She inhaled deeply before she said again, “Zhuang Ji has been criticized lately. Today, I’ll use this opportunity to clarify everything. The founder of Zhuang Ji is my mother, and the trademark is registered under my name. I am the sole owner of Zhuang Ji. No one, including Miss Yun Yao’s son, has the right to demand Zhuang Ji’s ownership from me.”

“Regarding Miss Yun Yao’s son’s ridiculous demand, you can speak to my lawyers. When my mother and aunt were around, they had written down the terms and conditions, and they were kept at Da Ming Law Firm. The lawyer in charge, Lawyer Yang, is better than I am at explaining all these legal matters. If any of you have doubts, you can refer to him. I hope the media will stop coming up with preposterous and baseless headlines. Otherwise, I’ll take legal actions.”

“As for the Ning family, during Zhuang Ji’s opening, my husband and I held a press conference. After that, all kinds of versions of the press conference were printed. Let me repeat myself: My name is Song Ning. According to the principal idea of Liao Fan’s four lessons, one shouldn’t be bound by fate, but by one’s actions. Ning Xia is part of my past, and I can’t change my past. However, Song Ning is my present and future. I have nothing to do with the Ning family,” Song Ning said calmly.

Song Ning's refusal to acknowledge caused everyone present to fall silent. What happened for her to do such a thing? The Ning family lived in Cloudy Peak and was one of the top ten wealthy families in M City. The Ning family might even be in the top five in terms of wealth. The head of the Ning family, Ning Zhe, was her biological father and he had repeatedly expressed his intention to acknowledge her, but she still rejected him. To reject such a person, Song Ning must possess a lot of courage and determination.

Perhaps, Song Ning's courage came from her in-laws. After all, the Mu family was even wealthier and more influential than the Ning family. With the Mu family as her support, it was no wonder she could confidently reject her father.

At this moment, a reporter asked loudly, "Miss Song, you refuse to return to the Ning family; is it because you're now married into the Mu family?"

The question was undoubtedly rude.

Nevertheless, Song Ning was not angry. However, she was at a loss for words.

At this time, Mu Chen reached for the microphone before he asked Song Ning, "Can I answer this question?"

Everyone was impressed by Mu Chen's act of protecting his wife. Although the question was rude, it was not too bad. However, it was enough for him to step forward to defend her. It seemed like he could bear to see her suffer even the slightest grievance.

Mu Chen said, "When I met Song Ning, she was just an ordinary student who's in need of help with Zhuang Ji. I had no idea about her identity at all. Since I have experience running a business, she has asked for my help with Zhuang Ji. She wanted to save her mother's legacy. Our relationship has nothing to do with our family backgrounds; our relationship is based on love. I promise to listen to Song Ning and respect her choices for the rest of my life. Now that we're married, our home is a place of peace for us. It has nothing to do with our respective families..."

Mu Chen's reply was very impactful; it was even more impactful than Song Ning's earlier words.

That was right; the duo was so capable. Was there a need for them to rely on their families? Even if Mu Chen did not have the Mu family at his back, his skills were enough for him to make a name for himself. As for Song Ning, during the years without the Ning family, she managed to enter M University and studied to become a doctor! Most importantly, was there anyone as in love as the duo in this world?

The male host sighed. "Did the two of you save the universe in your previous lives? To be able to find such partners, I'm really envious..."

Mu Chen and Song Ning looked at each other and smiled.

Following that, a warm applause sounded from below.

At this time, the people on stage began to hug Song Ning one after another. All of them greeted her with her new name.

Song Ning choked, trying to hold back her tears that were brimming in her eyes and hanging from her eyelashes..

## Chapter 147: Promoting Zhuang Ji

The female host smiled and said, "I would like to ask two questions on behalf of everyone. Do you prefer people to call you Ning Xia, Song Ning, Doctor Song Ning, or Mrs. Mu?"

Song Ning lowered her gaze and smiled. "Any one of those is fine. They're all me, after all."

Her composure made people admire her even more.

"The second question, which I'm sure everyone wants to know the answer to, is why did you decide to become a doctor? And if there's a suitable role in the future, are you open to returning to acting?"

Song Ning mulled over the questions for a moment before she said, "I chose to become a doctor because it's my grandfather's last wish. He wanted someone to follow in his footsteps and become a good doctor. Moreover, I feel being a doctor suits me more compared to being an actor."

She continued to say, "As for acting, I'm not a professional so I don't think I'll act again. As for the success of Yi Yao, its success has never been mine alone. The script, the screenwriters, the director, and the crews are all part of its success. Its success belongs to the entire team. Although I have no intention of entering the entertainment industry again, I'll try my best to support our domestic film industry. For example, if there's a good project, I'll try convincing my husband to invest in it..."

Friendly laughter immediately broke out on stage and off stage.

Director Pan walked over with his arms wide open and hugged Song Ning.

Upon seeing this, many people could not help but tear up again.

After a moment, Song Ning looked at the hosts and asked, "I still have a few words to say, may I?"

The two hosts naturally obliged.

Song Ning bowed to the audience again before she said, "During this time, due to personal reasons, I've made multiple headlines and caused troubles to people I care about. I want to apologize for making everyone worry. I'd like to use this chance to clarify everything once and for all. This will be the last time my husband and I will explain ourselves. Regardless if you believe us or not, I hope people won't unnecessarily waste public resources."

"I am a doctor. This is the career I chose. Previously, some fans went to the hospital to stir up trouble. In the end, I had no choice but to resort to legal means. Some people said I was too harsh because I wouldn't even let those children go. However, due to the trouble that day, a patient's life was endangered. For this reason, I will not withdraw the lawsuit. Those who cause harm must be punished to serve as a warning to others..."

"I'm very grateful that so many people remember and still support me. I hope my fans will do more good deeds. Like the character, Yi Yao, whom so many people love, be kind. No matter how hard life was, Yi Yao always tried to live well. I aspire to be like that, and I hope my fans will be like that as well. This is the greatest wish of mine, my husband, and my mother-in-law, Liang Zhen."

The applause was thunderous after Song Ning finished speaking.

Song Ning held Mu Chen's hand and bowed to the audience again.

"Finally, I'd like to address the controversies surrounding Zhuang Ji. My mother's original intention of opening Zhuang Ji was very simple. She wanted to use her own skills to raise me and support me in my studies. She didn't have any lofty thoughts about promoting the nation's ancient tradition of embroidery. At that time, what was important to her was providing me with food, warm clothes, and a roof over my head. Similarly, I don't have any lofty ambitions either. I don't have plans to compete with other businesses. Zhuang Ji is my mother's legacy; it's something she left for me. All I want to do is to preserve her legacy."

"I have a few friends who share the same ideas as me. However, they also want to carry forward our Chinese tradition and are unwilling to let embroidery and my mother's works become lost in time. For example, this Xiuhe dress I'm wearing. It deserves to be preserved and loved for the future. I hope everyone will treat Zhuang Ji normally and not overthink things. Don't rush to buy the products from Zhuang Ji just because of your love for Yi Yao. After all, the products from Zhuang Ji are rather expensive since they're all handmade. Thank you, everyone!"

Everyone present was impressed by Song Ning. Although she was promoting Zhuang Ji, she did not urge people to buy Zhuang Ji's products. Instead, she urged them to think it through carefully before purchasing the products. With such intelligence, it was not surprising that President Mu was so in love with her. Indeed, she was worthy of a man like President Mu.

With this, Song Ning ended her ten years living in seclusion. From Ning Xia to Song Ning to becoming Mrs. Mu, everything was revealed to the public. She did not hide nor did she pretend; she was straightforward and honest.

This made everyone's favorability toward Song Ning soar.

The opening ceremony for the film festival this year had become Song Ning's special stage, but no one was unhappy. Her attitude and words were flawless, and no one could find faults in them.

Even if there were people who wanted to cause trouble, they still had to consider the person Song Ning married. No matter how much they wanted to tear her down, they still had to suppress their urges. After all, just because Song Ning treated people gently, it did not mean her husband was the same..

## **Chapter 148: Resentment**

At this moment, Ye Xin who was sitting below the stage had clenched her hands so tightly that she had already drawn blood on her palms. She could barely conceal her livid expression. She did not even have the strength to stand up and leave.

She had spent a million on her dress, but the glory it brought her on the red carpet lasted only a brief moment.

Previously, she was confident she would be the star of the film festival; the limelight would be hers. Both her family and her management company had built her up; her status as an A-list celebrity was

unshakeable. Moreover, her ambitions did not only stop here. She wanted to be the number one actress even after ten years or even longer. To achieve her dream, she would spare no effort. Alas, she met with a huge obstacle today.

Ye Xin was famous because she was known as Little Ning Xia. However, she had been trying to get out of the shadow of Ning Xia and was intent on shedding the title of Little Ning Xia. Perhaps, it was not a big problem in the beginning. However, with the real Ning Xia's appearance, her status as a fake was even more glaring. She had lost. She had lost everything because of the title Little Ning Xia.

At this moment, she was shaken. She wondered if she would ever feel the glory she felt earlier when walking the red carpet again in the future.

She understood now. Perhaps, if there were no Yi Yao the movie or Song Ning's flawless portrayal of the titular character, she might have been praised for her role in the TV series based on the movie. However, after seeing everyone's reactions today, she suddenly felt uncertain. Even if her performance was good, it would be difficult to compare people's memories of Yi Yao the movie. Put aside the fact that Yi Yao was an amazing movie, people's nostalgia would add a rose-tinted filter in the way they viewed the movie. With this, how was her TV series going to fare well?

In her entire life, the person Ye Xin hated the most was that woman standing on the stage. Ever since she debuted, she had to live under Ning Xia's shadow. Everyone would relate her successes and failures to Ning Xia. If she performed well, it was because of Ning Xia. If she failed, they would say she was not as good as Ning Xia. Ning Xia was like her natural enemy!

Ye Xin did not understand how Song Ning could appear here. She had thought about the possibility of this happening and had even planned to take precautions. However, before she made a move, she learned that someone else had already made a move and failed.

Her brother even looked for her to ask her if she was the culprit. Since she had the idea of acting against Ning Xia, even if she did not make a move in time, it was unconvincing when she tried to defend herself. In the end, she did not dare to act rashly. She held onto the hope that Song Ning would not appear. She even probed Yang Li, and Yang Li had said with much conviction that Song Ning would not be making an appearance. Was she played by Yang Li? She did not doubt Yang Li's words at that time. After all, she had seen how determined Song Ning was to stay out of the entertainment industry.

Apart from that, there was also the matter with Mu Chen.

Although Mu Chen had said on various occasions that he was married and released a public statement about his marriage, there were many people who did not believe it.

The scandal with Mu Chen she had asked her people to stir up did not completely die down as well, and she did not bother putting a stop to it. After all, she was not willing to concede the position of the Young Madam of the Mu family to Song Ning. She firmly believed that she would be able to win Mu Chen over.

However, all her hopes were dashed today. She knew without a doubt that she had no chance whatsoever with Mu Chen.

From now on, if she tried to create scandals with Mu Chen again, she would be labeled as the third party and would only incur the public's wrath.

Song Ning was really too ruthless. When Ye Xin thought about these things, she could hardly breathe. Every breath she took hurt her heart. She felt even worse when she saw the people around her being moved to tears as they clapped for the woman she hated.

At this time, she did not even have the strength to hide her emotions. She did not even react when the people on stage left.

It was only when Yang Li came to her to remind her to change her dress did she manage to break free from the sea of despair that almost drowned her.

Without any warning, Ye Xin raised her hand and slapped Yang Li.

Yang Li was stunned.

Even the people in the surroundings were stunned.

Yang Li was a famous manager. Even before she became Ye Xin's manager, she was already somewhat famous. Earlier, when it was revealed she was also part of Yi Yao's production team, her status was elevated slightly as well. Who knew as soon as she left the stage she would be slapped by Ye Xin?

The crowd exchanged a look before they tactfully and quietly left.

Under the bright lights, Ye Xin confronted Yang Li. She said through gritted teeth, "You traitor!"

Yang Li smiled bitterly. "I have a clear conscience. I've never done anything to harm you. This is all a product of your paranoia."

Ye Xin said furiously, "Don't forget who's paying for your paralyzed mother's treatment. You're worse than a dog. At least a dog knows how to be loyal..."

Yang Li lowered her head as tears fell and said quietly, "Right, I'm worse than a dog."

At this moment, Director Pan strode over to Yang Li's side and grabbed her. When he saw her swollen face, he asked, "What happened?"

Yang Li hurriedly wiped her tears away and forced a smile on her face. "It's nothing."

Director Pan's gaze fell on Ye Xin.

Ye Xin lifted her chin proudly and fearlessly. Her anger had reached its peak, and she no longer cared what anyone thought. Moreover, she had failed epically this time.. Why should she care about what others thought of her?

## **Chapter 149: Resolved**

Director Pan said to Yang Li, "If you're unhappy, don't force yourself. It's just a job. It's not like you can't find another one. Don't compromise your dignity. What difficulties are you facing? You have others to support you. No matter how big the problem is, there's always a solution."

Yang Li could no longer hold back her tears upon hearing these words. She said softly, "Thank you, Director Pan."

Director Pan said sincerely, “Yang Li, you have a family to support you as well, do you understand?”

Yang Li’s tears fell like rain as she nodded. She knew what Director Pan meant by family.

There were many who witnessed this warm scene.

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It had to be said that this year’s film festival was incredibly successful and gossip-worthy. The attendance was good and the viewership ratings were high.

Needless to say, the highlight of the film festival was Ning Xia whose name was now Song Ning. Not only that, but she was also now Mrs. Mu. This matter was beyond everyone’s expectations.

...

It had to be said that Mu Chen and Song Ning’s method was effective and cunning.

While the public was speculating wildly about Song Ning and spreading unfounded rumors, they kept a low profile. They waited and seized the right opportunity to clarify everything in the most eye-catching manner.

With everything in the open, no one could play dirty tricks. Since the couple had revealed everything, it would be impossible for others to frame her or slander her. Even if they tried, they would only be labeled as liars.

Previously, when Mu Chen suggested this to her, she agreed immediately. After all, she had nothing to hide. She and her mother had always risen above all these petty things and did not bother to defend themselves. This attitude allowed others to slander them. However, now that she had stepped forward to clear up everything all at once, it caught those who hid in the dark unprepared.

Those wicked people did not expect Song Ning would appear at such a public event. With this move of hers, all of the ideas they came up with to harm were rendered useless.

Apart from that, Song Ning’s appearance also elevated Zhuang Ji’s popularity.

Song Ning had personally written a sign for Zhuang Ji that read: Promoting our nation’s tradition is important, but so is responsible consumerism.

Her calligraphy was powerful and lively, causing her fans to admire her even more. How could the fans not love such a responsible, talented, passionate, kind, and perfect idol?

Although Song Ning had clearly stated she had no intention of returning to the entertainment industry, her fan club refused to disband. They even set up a group under Ning Xia and Yi Yao’s names to focus on charity.

Needless to say, when Song Ning learned about this, she was moved. She met with a small group of them and voiced her support for their actions. She even asked Cheng Che to help them with setting up the foundation for their charity work.

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Song Ning returned to the hospital and acted as usual. Initially, there were many people who were curious. There were also reporters from non-mainstream media who secretly followed her and took photos of her.

However, Song Ning faced everyone openly and without any pretense. She had no dark past to be dug up, after all. If the media dared to make up stories, they would have to deal with the Mu Group's legal department. Moreover, she herself had a team of lawyers to handle her legal matters.

...

The happiest person was Jiang Jin. After recuperating for half a year, her health had improved tremendously.

With this, Mu Chen finally felt relieved.

Needless to say, the half-year agreement between him and Song Ning was discarded.

The Mu family was harmonious and lived in bliss.

Jiang Jin was all smiles when she looked at her grandson and granddaughter-in-law. Now that one problem was solved, she turned her attention to Cheng Che.

Her task now was to help Cheng Che pursue Jiahui.

As the spring festival drew closer, Jiang Jin and Sister Yu grew more and more excited. The Mu family house had been empty for so many years; finally, it was going to be lively this year.

The two women spent all their time and energy preparing for the new year.

Meanwhile, Mu Chen and Cheng Che were busy with the company since it was the end of the year.

Song Ning had been keeping to herself, completing her thesis. She hardly rested or slept. She wanted to make use of the time she had now to make preparations.

At the same time, when Jiahui learned that Song Ning was writing her thesis, she decided to do the same and moved into the Mu family house to do so. She abashedly decided to freeload off the Mu family's food and drinks.

Needless to say, Jiang Jin and Sister Yu were delighted.

With Jiahui's presence, Cheng Che began to arrive home on time. He even told Jiang Jin and Sister Yu not to interfere; he wanted to obtain the beauty with his own skills.

Only Mu Chen was unhappy. This was because now he had to share Song Ning with his grandmother, Sister Yu, and Jiahui.

Every night, when he was finally able to have alone time with her, she was already exhausted. Upon seeing how tired she was, he could not bear to torment her with their nightly activities.

Under such circumstances, how could he not feel vexed?

**Chapter 150: Hope**

Song Ning could naturally sense Mu Chen's emotions. She found it amusing that he was acting like a child. However, her heart was filled with warmth. There was a person in her life now who loved her so much whom she could also rely on. Such happiness was something she had never expected for herself. If she had married Fu Le, they would probably treat each other perfunctorily for the rest of their lives.

For a long time, Song Ning did not believe in love nor marriage. She subconsciously created a barrier around her heart in order to avoid getting hurt. She even thought it was best for husbands and wives to get along like friends. However, Mu Chen opened up a completely new world to her. He peeled off her shell layer by layer, allowing her to feel warmth, happiness, security. He patiently waited for her to trust him. All in all, she was really grateful to him.

When Song Ning woke up in the middle of the night, she felt a thin layer of sweat on her body. She tried to move and felt Mu Chen's legs pressing down on her. It was as though he was afraid she would run away and would hold her in his arms before he could peacefully go to sleep.

She reached out for her phone to look at the time. After putting the phone down, she turned, with great difficulty, to face Mu Chen.

His breathing was even, and he looked as though he was sleeping very soundly.

Although the light was dim, she could see his eyebrows and eyes clearly. His facial features were really eye-catching and exquisite. His eyebrows were high, and his eyes were deep set. His nose bridge was high, and his lips were plump. He resembled his mother, Liang Zhen.

She had never seen Mu Chen's father before, but based on the other members of the Mu family whom she had met, it seemed like he did not take after the Mu family, appearance-wise.

Rumor had it that Mu Chen's cold expression matched his cold heart. He was ruthless in his business dealings and did not show mercy to anyone, not even his family; this included his father. Therefore, apart from Cheng Che, there was no one else he was close to.

In front of Jiang Jin, he was an obedient grandson who was sometimes used as a punching bag; in front of Cheng Che, he was a perfect elder brother. Only in front of her, he would occasionally act childishly.

Song Ning could not help but chuckle when she thought about this. She reached out and gently traced his eyes brows, thinking that this was the man who would accompany her for the rest of her life.

Currently, her previous view on marriage had changed. She believed that she would grow old with Mu Chen. She knew clearly in her heart that she loved him.

Her fingers tracing his eyebrows slid down to his nose bridge and gently made their way to his lips. She was suddenly overcome by the urge to kiss him.

She leaned forward gently, drawing closer to his lip, but she suddenly came to a stop. She felt her face burn from embarrassment. She was not one to take the initiative to do something like that.

She was still hesitating when suddenly she felt the world turn upside down. In just a moment, she was pressed under Mu Chen.

Mu Chen's kisses were urgent and long.

She tentatively slid her hands around his neck and held onto him, slightly raising her face to meet his kiss.

Mu Chen paused briefly when she took the initiative to raise her face to meet his kiss. Then, his kisses fell on her again. They were more passionate than before. It was as though he could not bear to let her go and wanted her to cling to him forever.

Song Ning indulged him and did not reject him as she usually would. It was as though she was rewarding and comforting him.

This change in Song Ning's attitude stirred Mu Chen up even more.

Song Ning completely surrendered herself to him, allowing him to take, give, and receive.

Ever since they had gotten married, this was Mu Chen's most freeing moment. All the grievances he felt over the past few days were swept away at this moment.

After some time had passed, Mu Chen caressed Song Ning's tender skin as he held her in his arms. He kissed her gently on the crown of her head and her forehead. "Song Ning, I love you."

Song Ning replied drowsily in a soft voice, "Alright."

Dissatisfied with her reply, he repeated his words, "Song Ning, I love you."

"Alright," Song Ning replied, clearly drowsy and exhausted.

With that, Mu Chen lowered his head and nipped her neck.

She immediately hissed in pain and reached out to gently hit his back.

Following that, he whispered in her ear, "Song Ning, I love you."

Song Ning closed her eyes and said with a smile, "Mu Chen, I love you too."

Finally satisfied, Mu Chen smiled and tightened his hold around her.

Song Ning reached out wrapped an arm around his neck as well.

The couple listened to each other's heartbeat and breathing as they fell asleep, feeling content.

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In the morning.

Sister Yu was accompanying Jiang Jin during breakfast. From time to time, she would glance at the staircase. However, after a long time, there were still no movements.

Jiang Jin smiled knowingly as she asked, "Do you think our family will have a new addition this time next year?"

Sister Yu was briefly stunned. When she regained her senses, she smiled happily. "Of course. When I think about that, my heart is filled with happiness. Old Madam, we must take care of our bodies so when the time comes, we'll have the strength to take care of the child!"

Jiang Jin grinned.. "You're right! It'd be even better if we have more than one child! I want to live until I'm 100!"