

At School 1191

Chapter 1191: Qinghuan Was Injured

This sudden accident shocked everyone!

“Qinghuan!”

Jian Ai, Yan Tian, and Guan Tao exclaimed in unison. Then, they stood up and ran over.

The staff surrounded Xia Qinghuan like a swarm of bees. The production team’s doctors rushed over when they heard the news.

Xia Qinghuan lay on the ground on her back. Because her lower body was numb, she could not feel any pain, but her back hurt badly, especially her lumbar spine. It seemed that she had injured a vital spot.

Cold sweat seeped out. Xia Qinghuan frowned in pain, but no one around her dared to touch her. They only moved aside when the doctor arrived.

The staff called the hospital’s ambulance. Although Jian Ai and the rest were anxious and worried, they didn’t dare to delay the doctor’s examination and treatment. They could only wait at the side.

“Two people, carry her in first. Be gentle!” the doctor said.

When the two strong extras in the production team heard this, they took the initiative to carry Xia Qinghuan to the temporary medical room.

Establishing a medical room in the production team was something every production team had to do. However, ever since ‘Interweaving Night’ started filming, the most common thing in the medical room was to prescribe cold medicine for the production team. Qinghuan was the first to get injured!

The medical room was small, so Jian Ai and the rest were naturally stopped outside.

Chen Jin was also incomparably nervous. Qinghuan was the only artist under him, but he didn’t even protect and take good care of this person. He caused her to be injured!

At this moment, Chen Jin fell into deep self-reproach.

Guan Tao was frightened. Although the house was a flat, it must have hurt a lot to fall without warning. She wondered how Qinghuan was.

Needless to say for Yan Tian. The person he cared about and loved the most was Qinghuan. He could not bear to see her injured at all. He did not know the situation yet, but he was already so anxious that his eyes were red.

In comparison, Jian Ai was relatively calm. It was less than four meters tall, so there shouldn’t be too serious consequences. Now, she was mainly afraid that Qinghuan would hurt her spine. That was a weak spot. If she hit the ground, it would be terrible!

The production team fell into a temporary chaos. Jian Yiyi didn’t go forward to join in the fun, mainly because Jian Ai and the rest were around. She didn’t want to provoke them.

"She fell from that place. She should be injured!" Liao Bo looked toward the medical room and whispered.

"We shouldn't be able to film tonight. Why don't you go back to the hotel first?" Jian Yiyi suddenly looked at Liao Bo and said.

Liao Bo nodded. "Alright, if the filming can't go on, go back and rest early. I'll send you a message when I wake up tomorrow morning!"

Obviously, Liao Bo had no ill intentions towards Jian Yiyi this time. Jian Yiyi was staying in a three-star hotel arranged by the production team, while Liao Bo had booked a five-star hotel himself. He had no intention of staying with Jian Yiyi.

Jian Yiyi smiled and nodded. "Alright, rest early!"

After Liao Bo left, Jian Yiyi hesitated for a moment and planned to go forward to see what was going on.

However, as soon as she took a step, Wang Mingxiao, who had suddenly appeared, stopped her. "Yiyi!"

Jian Yiyi stopped in her tracks and turned around. She saw Wang Mingxiao looking at her with a hesitant expression. Under the night sky, his face was slightly pale, but he couldn't hide the disappointment in his eyes.

Jian Yiyi was stunned. She looked at Wang Mingxiao and raised her eyebrows. "What's wrong, Mingxiao?"

Wang Mingxiao's Adam's apple moved unnaturally because of nervousness. Then, he looked up at Jian Yiyi's innocent and harmless face and slowly said, "That boy just now... he's..."

"Ah!" Jian Yiyi pretended to be surprised and covered her mouth. "You... you saw him?"

Wang Mingxiao's heart instantly turned cold, and grief filled his eyes. He nodded. "I know you ate at the Walt Hotel tonight. I saw you sitting together just now!"

As he spoke, Wang Mingxiao couldn't help but take a step forward. "Yiyi... You, you know that I..."

Without waiting for him to finish, Jian Yiyi said apologetically, "Mingxiao, I'm sorry to let you see this. I know a little about your feelings, so I know you might be sad."

"Actually, that boy just now is my senior..." Jian Yiyi pursed her lips and revealed a pitiful expression. She said in a conflicted tone, "He has always liked me in school. I rejected him, but he didn't seem to give up."

"You also know that I can't be tough. Besides, he did nothing overboard! Moreover, I think liking someone is uncontrollable. I shouldn't blame him for this, right?"

Wang Mingxiao was stunned. "You mean... he's just your admirer?"

Jian Yiyi nodded. "You can say that. At least he hasn't given up yet. Moreover, he suddenly came to visit this time. I didn't know at all. Otherwise, I wouldn't have let him come."

“But since he’s here and said that he only wanted to see me, I can’t chase him away. I can’t do such a thing, Mingxiao.”

“So I’m sorry to make you sad, but I hope you can understand. I didn’t want this to happen either!”

“Understand... Of course I understand!” Wang Mingxiao’s sadness turned into joy. He didn’t know what expression to show.

Jian Yiyi spoke passionately. Moreover, for a beautiful girl like her, it was easy to believe that she had a suitor by her side. In addition, Wang Mingxiao felt that Jian Yiyi was gentle and kind. It was indeed something she would be embarrassed about if she refused others. Hearing Jian Yiyi’s words, he believed her without hesitation!

“I was overthinking. I thought he was your...” Wang Mingxiao pursed his lips in embarrassment, and his pale face was slightly red.

Jian Yiyi pursed her lips and smiled. After clarifying her relationship with Liao Bo, she didn’t give Wang Mingxiao a chance to take advantage of the situation. She said, “You’re thinking too much. I’m still so young and don’t have the intention to fall in love. Filming and learning have already distracted me. I don’t have the energy to think about this.”

These light words directly blocked Wang Mingxiao’s path. In other words, she was hinting to Wang Mingxiao that he could continue to be good to her, but he couldn’t confess to her because she didn’t have the energy to date and didn’t want to.

This was the typical way to deal with a spare tire.

However, Jian Yiyi had Wang Mingxiao at her mercy. He didn’t care when he would confess. He only wanted the fact that Jian Yiyi didn’t have a boyfriend. This way, he could appear beside Jian Yiyi naturally.

Wang Mingxiao chuckled. “I understand what you mean. I misunderstood you!”

Chapter 1192 Qinghuan Was Injured (2)

Seeing Wang Mingxiao’s reaction, Jian Yiyi knew he didn’t doubt a word she said. She couldn’t help but feel smug.

After all, she enjoyed playing others. This pleasure was indescribable with words. She could only feel the joy after experiencing it herself.

Revealing nothing on her face, Jian Yiyi looked at the infirmary worriedly and said to Wang Mingxiao, “I wonder how Qinghuan is. Let’s go over and look too!”

Wang Mingxiao nodded. Although he rarely interacted with Xia Qinghuan, she was still friendly to him when they met occasionally. They were in the same production team, so he should go over and show concern.

The two of them came to the infirmary. Many people were waiting there, including Director Cloony and Chu Lingfeng.

After all, the injured person was the female lead. This movie was a female lead movie. If anything happened to Xia Qinghuan, the entire production team's filming would be affected, so everyone was worried.

Jian Ai saw Jian Yiyi and Wang Mingxiao coming over together, but Liao Bo was nowhere to be seen. However, she was not in the mood to guess Jian Yiyi's thoughts. She only glanced at them and looked away.

It was her!

Because the production team had been working together for a few months and everyone was familiar with each other's faces, Jian Ai and the other outsiders who came to visit were exceptionally eye-catching. Wang Mingxiao quickly recognized Jian Ai!

Not that his memory was good, but it was difficult for him to forget Jian Ai even if he wanted to! It was because his uncle was too impulsive and offended her that his appointment with Rose Entertainment got ruined!

Wang Mingxiao was one of the few people in the production team who knew that Jian Ai was the boss behind Rose Entertainment.

Thinking of the conflict that had happened before, Wang Mingxiao hid behind guiltily. At that time, his uncle was indeed too aggressive, and he didn't stand up to stop him in time. However, he was still acting in a movie that Rose Entertainment had invested in, so when he saw Jian Ai, Wang Mingxiao subconsciously wanted to reduce his presence.

Little did he know that Jian Ai had long recognized him!

The ambulance quickly drove into the production team. A nurse pushed a trolley out of the ambulance. Seeing this, everyone quickly made way.

Not long after, Xia Qinghuan lay on the trolley and was pushed out by the nurse. She got into the ambulance.

As her manager, Chen Jin naturally had to follow. Ye Tong, the person in charge of the 'Interweaving Night' project, also got into the ambulance.

Before getting into the car, Chen Jin didn't forget to say to Jian Ai and the rest, "Don't worry. The production team's doctor has already checked Qinghuan just now. There shouldn't be a big problem. Go back to the hotel first. We'll talk tomorrow. Let's keep in contact by phone!"

Jian Ai and the rest were initially worried, but hearing Chen Jin's words, they couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief.

"Brother Jin, remember to tell us the results of the examination immediately," Yan Tian said. He wanted to follow since Qinghuan was injured, but there were already a few people including Brother Jin, the assistant, and the project manager. The scene was already very chaotic.

Therefore, Yan Tian resisted the urge to cause trouble for the production team.

Chen Jin nodded and turned around to get into the ambulance. It quickly disappeared from the set.

“Let’s end work today. Everyone, go back and rest for the night. If Qinghuan is fine tomorrow, we’ll catch up with today’s progress!” The crowd control transmitted the director’s words through the loudspeaker.

Without the female lead, there was no way to film this scene. When everyone heard this, they packed their things and returned to the hotel.

Jian Ai and the rest stayed in the same hotel as Qinghuan. Yan Tian booked two rooms, Jian Ai and Guan Tao stayed in one, and Yan Tian stayed in the other. However, at this moment, the three of them were in the same room. No one planned to sleep. They were all waiting for news from Chen Jin.

“Yan Tian, don’t worry too much. It shouldn’t be a big deal.” Jian Ai saw Yan Tian’s frown and solemn expression and couldn’t help but comfort him.

Yan Tian nodded slightly, but how could he not be worried?

He knew injuries were inevitable in the industry, but when it happened to Qinghuan, he couldn’t help but feel heartache.

How painful would it be to fall from such an elevated place?!

Jian Ai and Guan Tao looked at each other helplessly. As Qinghuan’s friends, the two of them were naturally anxious. However, compared to Yan Tian, Jian Ai was still optimistic.

It was not until one in the morning that Chen Jin called.

“Brother Jin, how’s Qinghuan?” Jian Ai quickly asked when she picked up the phone.

Chen Jin said, “She did an X-ray and suffered some light injuries. It’s not serious. Don’t worry!”

Jian Ai’s chest relaxed when she heard this. Then, she said, “Can we see her tomorrow morning?”

“Sure. I’ll send you the hospital’s address later. Just call me when you come tomorrow,” Chen Jin said.

After hanging up, Jian Ai reached out and patted Yan Tian’s shoulder. “Alright, feel at ease. Go back to sleep. We’ll wake up early tomorrow and go to the hospital to see her together!”

Yan Tian pursed his lips and nodded. After bidding farewell to Jian Ai and Guan Tao, he returned to his room.

On the other side, as soon as Wang Mingxiao returned to his room, Yu Xiaofeng rushed up excitedly. “Mingxiao, I heard that Xia Qinghuan was injured?”

Because the weather was getting cold, Yu Xiaofeng couldn’t stand to suffer in the production team at night, so he returned to his room after dinner. Wang Mingxiao didn’t want him to follow him all the time, so he didn’t object.

Frowning slightly, Wang Mingxiao looked at his uncle’s excited expression and said unhappily, “Uncle, she fell from a height. You’re still quite happy?”

Yu Xiaofeng’s expression changed when he heard that. Then, he smiled embarrassedly. “Uncle thinks that an opportunity has come!”

Opportunity?

Hearing these words, Wang Mingxiao knew what his uncle was thinking about. His handsome face immediately turned cold, and he said seriously, "I'm begging you, can you not always think about nonsense? My relationship with Xia Qinghuan is not bad now. When we meet, we'll greet each other. What else do you want?"

"Tsk!" Yu Xiaofeng raised his eyebrows in dissatisfaction. "This is not bad? If you spend twenty percent of your enthusiasm on Xia Qinghuan instead of Jian Yiyi, I'll thank the heavens! Xia Qinghuan worked with Yun Buyao before. Now, she's the female lead of this movie. Look at this resource. If you get closer to her, won't you be more popular in the future?"

"Uncle!" Wang Mingxiao interrupted Yu Xiaofeng impatiently. He had heard Yu Xiaofeng mention these crooked thoughts more than once. Wang Mingxiao scoffed at this method!

"I won't use others to hype myself up!" Wang Mingxiao said seriously, "If you like to hype up, hype up with others yourself!"

Chapter 1193 How About Another Day?

"Me? I would want to!" Yu Xiaofeng's chest tightened when he heard that. He walked up to Wang Mingxiao and scolded, "Look at you. I'm your uncle. How can I hurt you?"

"Although Uncle isn't a professional manager, I've done my homework for you! In the entertainment circle, what we want is exposure and popularity. How can we let you have exposure and popularity? Of course, there has to be news and rumors! This has to be hyped up. Otherwise, as time passes, the audience won't remember who you are!"

"Don't you think so? Xia Qinghuan is obviously going to become famous overnight. You have the right time, place, and people now. Aren't you going to seize the opportunity to improve your relationship with her? After this passes, where are you going to find the next one?"

"You're counting on Jian Yiyi? She's the third female lead. No matter how famous she is, can she be more famous than Xia Qinghuan? Can't you tell which watermelon is sweeter?"

Wang Mingxiao sat on the bed, but he ignored Yu Xiaofeng's words. He could hear the calluses in his words.

Fortunately, he had strong willpower. No matter what Yu Xiaofeng said, he told himself this was called having evil intentions. He would not compromise.

Moreover, he liked Jian Yiyi and only Jian Yiyi. He tried his best to keep a distance from the other actresses in the production team because he wanted Jian Yiyi to see his loyalty.

Yu Xiaofeng chattered for a long time. In the end, he was so tired that he fell onto the bed, panting. He slowly said, "Uncle will make soup for you tomorrow. Take it to the hospital to see Xia Qinghuan."

Wang Mingxiao: "..."

He was not familiar with Xia Qinghuan to the extent that he could go to the hospital alone to visit her, alright?

If he went, wouldn't everyone know his intentions?

He was not going!

"Uncle, guess who I saw today!" An idea flashed across Wang Mingxiao's mind.

When Yu Xiaofeng heard this, he turned around and looked at him. He frowned and asked, "Who is it?"

"You should still remember the boss of Rose Entertainment, right? It's the girl who bumped into me with coffee when we went to discuss the contract," Wang Mingxiao said.

Yu Xiaofeng was stunned. There was no need to think too much about it. How could he forget Jian Ai?!

When he came back to his senses, he couldn't help but sit up in shock. "You saw her? Where did you see her?"

"The production team!" Wang Mingxiao said softly, "Have you forgotten that Rose Entertainment invested in this movie?! As the boss, isn't it normal for her to appear in the production team?"

Without waiting for Yu Xiaofeng to speak, Wang Mingxiao continued, "Moreover, she seems to be here to visit Xia Qinghuan. If you let me go to the hospital tomorrow, I might bump into her!"

"So what if we bumped into each other?" Yu Xiaofeng didn't react and subconsciously asked.

"We offended her before!" Wang Mingxiao looked at Yu Xiaofeng. "This is a project they invested in. If they know that I'm also on the production team, what if they hold a grudge and change me out?"

"She wouldn't dare. We have a contract. That's a breach of contract!" Yu Xiaofeng widened his eyes, but he felt a little guilty.

Wang Mingxiao snorted. "Why wouldn't she dare? Didn't they reject the contract we discussed back then with just a word? Anyway, if you want me to go without considering the consequences, I'll go..."

When Yu Xiaofeng heard this, he blurted, "Then... why don't we do it another day?!"

He was usually fierce when he saw people, but he was also a coward when something happened. This was Yu Xiaofeng's personality that he could not change.

Seeing that this move had worked, Wang Mingxiao knew when to stop and nodded gently.

The next morning, Jian Ai and the rest went straight to the hospital.

In the ward, Qinghuan had just finished her breakfast.

"How is it? Does it still hurt?" Jian Ai looked at Xia Qinghuan and asked.

When Qinghuan heard this, she smiled and said, "It's okay. It doesn't hurt too much!"

"How can it not hurt after falling from such an elevated place?" Yan Tian asked with a pained expression.

Xia Qinghuan glared at him. "How is that high? I accidentally fell down. Otherwise, I could have jumped down from above!"

Yan Tian: "..."

Seeing that Xia Qinghuan was still in the mood to argue, Jian Ai knew she was fine. She couldn't help but smile and say, "It's good that you're fine. You scared us yesterday!"

Guan Tao nodded. "We were just talking when you fell. You scared us to death!"

"Alright, alright! Don't worry. I'm fine!" Xia Qinghuan couldn't stand this the most. She blurted, "Do what you have to do. No one has to think about me. The doctor said that I'll be fine after recuperating for a few days!"

Yan Tian: "I want to take a photo..."

Before Yan Tian could finish speaking, Xia Qinghuan glared at him.

Yan Tian shrunk his neck, looking like a bullied wife. Jian Ai and Guan Tao couldn't help but laugh.

They accompanied Qinghuan in the hospital until the afternoon before getting into the car to return to Baiyun City.

On the way, Jian Ai received a call from Bai Zhou. He wanted her to go to the apartment for dinner and tell her something. Jian Ai agreed.

When they returned to the city, the sky was completely dark. Jian Ai got out of the car in Haicheng District while Yan Tian sent Guan Tao back to Zhonglou District.

When she arrived at Bai Zhou's apartment, as soon as she entered, Jian Ai realized that Si Yue, Xiao Zhen, and Zhi Tong were all here. She couldn't help but be slightly surprised. "Oh, it's so lively!"

Chi Lian stood by the window with a glass of red wine. When she heard this, she said, "Bai Zhou has something important to announce, so he called everyone over for a meal."

Jian Ai nodded in understanding and walked to the sofa to sit down. Then, her gaze landed on Zhi Tong and she smiled. "Zhi Tong, are you used to living with Xiao Zhen?"

After they finished handling Bai Zhou's matter, Jian Ai left Zhi Tong with Xiao Zhen for the time being.

Zhi Tong was still wearing his black robe. At this moment, he was sitting on the sofa. The loose fabric was like a tent. However, he never wore a hat in front of Jian Ai and the rest. Hearing this, he nodded. "Brother Xiao Zhen takes good care of me!"

Xiao Zhen was sitting at the side. When he heard this, he couldn't help but say, "As long as I don't see spirits again..."

Jian Ai: "..."

Spirits?

Zhi Tong lowered his head gently, as if he was embarrassed.

Xiao Zhen was a man of few words, so he didn't explain further.

Jian Ai blinked inexplicably. "Zhi Tong's spirits?"

"I'm used to letting spirits help me carry things. One night, a spirit was pouring water in the living room when Brother Xiao Zhen saw it. It might have frightened him," Zhi Tong whispered.

Jian Ai was stunned. Let a spirit help him carry things?

"Aren't spirits illusory?" Jian Ai asked shamelessly!

She had always thought that spirits were illusory and could not come into contact with physical objects. How could it help Zhi Tong pour water and take things?

When Zhi Tong heard this, he explained, "It's related to my ability. I can decide if a spirit has a physical body. This is a relatively high-level power of the evil spirit!"

Chapter 1194 Bai Zhou's Decision

Jian Ai couldn't help but ask in surprise, "So not only can you control a spirit's visibility, but you can also decide if they have physical bodies or not? Then, you can instruct them to complete your instructions through your ability?"

Zhi Tong nodded gently. "Although it's not completely right, it's theoretically possible."

Jian Ai couldn't help but raise her eyebrows slightly. She thought to herself that Zhi Tong's ability was interesting. Spirits were originally unconscious spirits, but Zhi Tong could attach his consciousness to spirits and let them move like humans.

"So, what does a spirit look like?" Chi Lian walked over curiously with a wineglass. She looked at Xiao Zhen and asked, "It can scare you. Isn't it terrifying?"

Chi Lian smiled, obviously teasing him.

Xiao Zhen slowly raised his head and said faintly, "What I saw was a translucent faceless spirit. Other than a faint outline, there's nothing special!"

"Nothing special, but it could scare you?" Jian Ai blinked. Logically speaking, shouldn't Xiao Zhen be quite bold, having lived alone in the wilderness?

Seeing Jian Ai's expression, Xiao Zhen knew what she was thinking. He couldn't help but frown and whisper, "The situation was quite sudden. I passed by the living room in the middle of the night and a translucent spirit was pouring water. Of course, I was shocked!"

"That thing was translucent. If I didn't look carefully, I wouldn't have seen it. At first glance, I only saw the kettle floating in mid-air. I didn't see any spirits!"

Jian Ai and the rest couldn't help but laugh.

It was rare to hear Xiao Zhen say so much in one go. His description was specific enough, and they all had images in their minds.

A kettle floating in the air was indeed a little terrifying.

Zhi Tong at the side lowered his head in embarrassment. "I'm used to living alone. I'll only feel at ease with a few spirits around, so..."

Jian Ai quickly said, "Xiao Zhen doesn't mean to blame you. It's just that he doesn't understand your habits, only that the spirit he suddenly bumped into shocked him."

Xiao Zhen looked at Zhi Tong and couldn't bear to blame him. He couldn't help but sigh softly. "If you had told me in advance, I would have been mentally prepared."

After all, no one could accept seeing a ghost in the middle of the night.

Zhi Tong nodded gently. "In the future, I'll only let them move around in the room..."

As they were talking, Chi Yang walked out of the kitchen wearing a light pink apron and told everyone to prepare to eat.

Everyone stood up to help. Today, Chi Yang made a table of Chinese food. The strong fragrance of the dishes instantly filled everyone's taste buds.

At the dining table, everyone sat around. Bai Zhou opened a bottle of good wine and poured it for them one by one. Then, he sat beside Jian Ai.

However, no one moved their chopsticks immediately. Instead, their gazes landed on Bai Zhou.

Bai Zhou was slightly stunned. He blinked at everyone and looked puzzled. "Aren't you all hungry? Why are you looking at me?"

Jian Ai said, "Didn't you call us all here because you have something to say?"

When Bai Zhou heard this, he couldn't help but chuckle. He raised the wineglass in front of him and looked at them. "Don't be so nervous. Come, have a drink first. Let's talk while eating!"

Seeing this, the others couldn't help but look at each other. Then, they cooperated and raised their glasses. Everyone clinked glasses and took a sip.

Putting down the wineglass, Bai Zhou suddenly straightened his expression and sighed softly. "I've seriously considered it and decided to fund the mercenary group!"

Everyone was stunned.

Xiao Zhen frowned and spoke first. "Have you thought about it?"

Bai Zhou nodded. "I've thought about it!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Bai Zhou turned to look at Jian Ai and smiled. "Boss wants me to do the same, right?"

Jian Ai raised her eyebrows subtly and shook her head with a smile. She slowly said to Bai Zhou, "Although I said that I wouldn't interfere with your decision, it's impossible to say that I have no selfish motives."

She nodded gently. "You're right. I hope you do this sincerely because this will become your trump card, especially with the mercenary group, Irene and the other ability users. If you can utilize them, it might be a good thing!"

Chi Lian put down her chopsticks and leaned back in her chair with her arms crossed. She looked at Bai Zhou and immediately said, "You sponsored them, so you plan to go against your Brother Qi Ye?"

The others also looked at Bai Zhou. This question was obviously what everyone was most concerned about.

Once Bai Zhou funded a terrifying faction, it meant that he might stand up and resist. The target of his resistance was undoubtedly his brother.

Bai Zhou smiled bitterly and shook his head. He mumbled, "I've only decided to fund the mercenary group. As for what to do next, I haven't thought about it at all."

Jian Ai understood.

As expected, it was a little difficult for Bai Zhou to decide to be enemies with his brother. Even after knowing the truth, he still could not completely harden his heart.

His kindness was like a double-edged sword. It was his strength in attracting people and also his fatal weakness.

"I think the most important thing now is to figure out the truth behind this conspiracy," Xiao Zhen said slowly. He looked at Bai Zhou and said seriously, "You must want to know why all of this happened, right?"

Bai Zhou nodded without denying it. "I'm indeed puzzled. Moreover, after such a thing happened, I didn't dare to rashly contact Qiusi's trusted aides. I think there's no one in the entire royal family I can trust."

Even his brother, whom he had always respected, wanted to kill him. Who could he trust in the entire Qiusi?

"No matter what, since you plan to fund the mercenary group, you've taken the first step. We'll investigate the rest!" Jian Ai said.

Moreover, if Qi Ye knew that Bai Zhou was related to the mercenary group, it might be a deterrent to him. Even if Qi Ye gave up on the mercenary group, he could not deny the mercenary group's status in the international killer organization.

If Qi Ye wanted to take action again, he would have to consider it.

Bai Zhou could do nothing to Qi Ye now, but at least he could strengthen his forces. It was something to protect himself first.

"I plan to go to Italy soon and negotiate with Leader Hans in person!" Bai Zhou said.

Jian Ai naturally had no objections. Since he had already decided, he should do it quickly. Leader Hans was probably already eager to hear the good news.

"Let Zhi Tong accompany you," Jian Ai said. "We stayed at the mercenary group's headquarters for a few days before. Leader Hans is quite familiar with Zhi Tong, and Zhi Tong is very familiar with Italy!"

Chapter 1195 Without You, I Wouldn't Be Here Today

When Zhi Tong heard this, he nodded and said to Bai Zhou, "Sure!"

On the other hand, Bai Zhou shook his head gently and rejected her. "There's no need to go through so much trouble. Zhi Tong just came to China. It's better to stay here and adapt. Chi Yang will accompany me."

As soon as he finished speaking, Bai Zhou looked at Jian Ai and smiled. "Didn't you say that Leader Hans is very friendly? He won't do anything dangerous to me, right?"

Jian Ai couldn't help but smile when she heard this. Although she had only interacted with Leader Hans for a short time, Jian Ai knew he was an open and aboveboard person. Moreover, Bai Zhou was going to negotiate with him for funding this time. Leader Hans' mercenary group's urgent need was there. They would treat Bai Zhou well as a distinguished guest.

"Don't worry. Even if the negotiation fails, Leader Hans won't do anything to you," Jian Ai said.

However, she already had some predictions in her heart. Bai Zhou's trip should not have been for nothing.

Since Bai Zhou had already decided, the others did not interfere too much. Moreover, everyone felt that Bai Zhou's choice was correct. From the beginning, Yun Buyao, Chi Lian, and Yu Wuyuan had expressed their support for Bai Zhou to fund the mercenary group.

Everyone expected Bai Zhou to decide.

After dinner, Bai Zhou went to the open-air garden on the roof alone. The night wind blew against his face, and the cold air made him stay awake. Bai Zhou's silver-white hair moved with the wind, and his sparkling eyes were filled with melancholy. He looked up at the cold crescent moon in the sky and fell into a temporary deep thought.

When Jian Ai brought the champagne to the top floor, she saw such a scene. Bai Zhou was like a lost lone wolf. Even his back looked confused.

Jian Ai's heart tightened, and she couldn't help but sigh softly. Ever since she reunited with Bai Zhou, she had never seen Bai Zhou in such a low mood. Even at the dining table just now, it was not difficult to tell that he was trying his best to be friendly and cater to everyone. He was just forcing a smile.

It had been a while since the incident happened, but Bai Zhou had not completely accepted the truth. It could be seen how much of a blow the truth of this matter was to him.

After hesitating for a moment, Jian Ai walked forward.

Hearing footsteps, Bai Zhou came back to his senses. He turned around and saw Jian Ai. The emotions on his face were instantly swept away, and he smiled. "Boss!"

He always refused to show weakness in front of her, which made Jian Ai's heart ache even more.

"It's just you and me. Don't pretend. I know you can't get over this," Jian Ai stood in front of Bai Zhou and said slowly.

When Bai Zhou heard this, he couldn't help but lower his eyes and whisper, "I'm the weakest among the twelve guards, but I can't even handle my emotions. I don't want you to think I'm useless."

"You know I wouldn't think that way at all." Jian Ai paused and said righteously, "In my heart, there's no such thing as who's stronger or who's weaker. You're all people I care about. Compared to them, you undoubtedly have more weight in my heart!"

Jian Ai's words were not just to comfort Bai Zhou, but the truth in her heart.

She also wanted to make everyone in the twelve guards have the same weight in her heart, but people were creatures with both emotions and rationality. Jian Ai knew herself. She was often more emotional with relationships.

She cared about everyone from the ancient sect who appeared beside her, but if she had to choose among these people, Jian Ai knew that Bai Zhou and Si Yue occupied more feelings in her heart.

She could not divide her heart evenly into twelve pieces for everyone to have a fixed space. She was not a robot, so she admitted she cared more about Bai Zhou.

When Bai Zhou heard Jian Ai's words, he couldn't help but feel flattered. "Boss, are you serious?"

Seeing this, Jian Ai couldn't help but chuckle and nod. "You're the first of the twelve guards to appear beside me. You've always been by my side. When I need help the most, you'll always be standing beside me."

"Bai Zhou, don't belittle yourself. You might not have any other mental cultivation techniques to protect yourself or fight, but you're the most irreplaceable person in my heart. Without you, I, Jian Ai, wouldn't be where I am today!"

Without you, I wouldn't be where I am today!

The weight of these words was like a huge mountain pressing down on Bai Zhou, making his breathing stop. His gradually chaotic heartbeat showed he could not hide his excitement. The Sect Master had said such words to him.

"I don't deserve it. It's my mission to serve the Sect Master!" After the shock, Bai Zhou quickly lowered his head with a terrified expression.

However, as soon as he finished speaking, Bai Zhou felt a warmth in his hand. Jian Ai held his soft and slightly cold hand. Her voice followed. "I'm not good at expressing my feelings, but everything I said today was from the bottom of my heart!"

"You're one of the most important people in my life, so no matter what choice you make, I'll always support you like how you support me unconditionally. Even if you're wrong, I'll stand behind you!"

"Similarly, if someone in this world wants to harm you covetously, I won't sit idle. Bai Zhou, I fully understand the struggle in your heart, but this isn't enough for me to let go of those who want to hurt you!"

"Whether or not he's your brother, even if he's your father, I won't allow anyone to covet your life."

"Therefore, you don't have to sink into the quagmire of relationships because there are some things you can't do, but I can!"

"Boss, I..." Bai Zhou looked at the determined and sincere light in Jian Ai's starry eyes and was speechless.

He had never seen his boss say these words to him in such a serious tone. It turned out that he had such an important position in his boss's heart.

Other than feeling touched, Bai Zhou also felt deeply uneasy because he seemed to have heard the signs in Jian Ai's words. The boss seemed to mean that if he could not decide, the boss would do it herself!

"You don't have to worry!" Jian Ai saw the uneasiness in Bai Zhou's eyes and couldn't help but soften her tone. "I'm not a rash person. There's more than one solution to some things. As Xiao Zhen said, the most important thing now is to figure out Prince Qi Ye's goal in attacking you. Is there a motive to kill you, or is there another misunderstanding? Unless necessary, I won't kill your brother."

Without waiting for Bai Zhou to speak, Jian Ai added, "Of course, I'm not being merciful. I just don't want you to be sad. I hope there's still room for negotiation."

"If not, and if someone has to die, I'll kill him!"

Chapter 1196 What Are You Trying to Do Again?

Hearing Jian Ai's words, Bai Zhou's heart seemed to have been struck by an invisible force, causing him to pull himself together.

He slowly raised his head and looked into Jian Ai's eyes with his gaze. He smiled.

This smile was like a blooming epiphyllum under the night sky, making Bai Zhou's entire body brighten. It was as if he had released infinite vitality, making people feel at ease.

Seeing this, Jian Ai couldn't help but reveal a comfortable and warm smile. Through Bai Zhou's smile, she could feel that her words seemed to have some effect on him, allowing him to be and carefree at least for the moment. At least, it allowed him to understand that even if the sky collapsed, she was still by his side!

...

Late at night, at Wang Yunzhong's house!

Ever since Wang Zichen moved to Jiang Chunfen's place, Wang Yunzhong's family entered a short period of peace. The old lady went to Zhonglou District during the day to help Wang Yunfa take care of the vegetable stall. The old man was happy and relaxed, and he usually drank tea.

Wang Yunzhong was busy with the company. After Xu Qianqian got pregnant, he hired a nanny to serve her at home. The family had their own things and positions, so it was peaceful.

However, they had only been married for more than a month. Because of her pregnancy, Xu Qianqian gradually became bloated, and her complexion was not as good as before. Now, under the old lady's nose, she could not put on makeup when she was pregnant.

As a result, Wang Yunzhong had to face his wife, who had gained weight at a visible speed every day and was bare-faced. In just over a month, he had already developed some negative emotions in his heart.

No matter how beautiful a woman was, as long as she was pregnant, it would greatly reduce her beauty.

At this moment, Wang Yunzhong was sitting on the sofa in the living room and drinking tea. These days, he always waited until Xu Qianqian fell asleep before going upstairs to sleep. Pregnant women were sensitive and easily angry. In addition, Xu Qianqian was a delicate person.

In the past, when he saw her pleasing appearance, Wang Yunzhong will endure it and coax her, but now...

At this moment, the old lady came downstairs with an empty cup. Seeing that Wang Yunzhong was still drinking tea, she couldn't help but say, "Drink fewer tea leaves. Aren't you going to sleep tonight?"

Wang Yunzhong looked up but didn't answer the old lady. He only asked, "Qianqian is asleep?"

"She just drank hot milk. She's lying down now," the old lady said and walked forward to pick up the tea set in front of Wang Yunzhong. "Don't drink tea. I'll heat a glass of milk for you too. You can sleep better at night. I see you haven't been resting well recently. You're still confused when you wake up at eight in the morning."

"Don't be busy, Mom." Wang Yunzhong quickly stopped her and stood up. "I'm going to Zichen's room to sleep today. Qianqian is pregnant, so she's a light sleeper. I didn't even dare to turn around, so I couldn't sleep well."

As soon as he finished speaking, Wang Yunzhong wanted to go upstairs, but the old lady stopped him. "Wait a moment. Mom has something to tell you."

Wang Yunzhong's expression froze, and he said unhappily, "Can't we talk tomorrow morning? I'm tired!"

"No!" The old lady put down the tea set in her hand and pushed Wang Yunzhong back to the sofa. Then, she lowered her voice and said, "I said nothing tonight because of Qianqian. Coincidentally, there's no one now. Mom has to say it!"

Seeing the old lady's mysterious appearance, Wang Yunzhong subconsciously felt that something was wrong, but he couldn't help but ask, "What's wrong? What do you want to do again?"

"Tsk!" The old lady clicked her tongue unhappily and looked at Wang Yunzhong. "What else can I do? It must be something important and useful!"

As she spoke, the old lady sat down beside Wang Yunzhong and continued to lower her voice. "Don't you have a classmate working at the women and children's hospital?"

Wang Yunzhong was slightly stunned. He didn't expect the old lady to remember this.

He nodded gently. "Yes, what's wrong? Are you sick? Or is it my father?"

"No one is sick!" The old lady quickly said, "I wanted to ask, don't you plan to bring Qianqian there to check and see if the child in her stomach is a boy or a girl?"

“Mom!” When Wang Yunzhong heard this, he immediately widened his eyes. “What are you thinking? It’s illegal for the hospital to distinguish the gender of a fetus. Don’t cause trouble for me!”

He knew that the old lady was up to no good by being so sneaky. Although he also hoped to have a son, he had never thought of going to the hospital to appraise the child’s gender. This was because Chinese laws explicitly prohibited such behavior to prevent the child’s parents from aborting the fetus because of some old-fashioned concepts after knowing the fetus’ gender.

However, the old lady said indifferently, “That’s why I asked you to find that classmate of yours for help. I don’t know if it’s a boy or a girl in Qianqian’s stomach. I don’t feel at ease!”

“What? If it was a girl, would you let Qianqian abort it?” Wang Yunzhong said coldly, “She’s been pregnant for three months. Do you want her to die?”

“I’m not asking her to abort it!” The old lady panicked. “I just wanted to know if he was a grandson sooner!”

Wang Yunzhong sighed impatiently and waved his hand at the old lady impatiently. “Stop thinking about these useless things. If he’s a grandson, he can’t become a granddaughter, and vice versa. Let’s leave it to fate!”

As soon as he finished speaking, Wang Yunzhong stood up. Although everything at home was orderly and there were no conflicts, he felt inexplicably irritated when he thought of these trivial matters.

This had never happened when he was with Jiang Chunfen. This was because Jiang Chunfen would take care of the family in an orderly manner. Even if something happened to the elderly, it would not reach him because Jiang Chunfen would stand in front of him and help him resolve it.

But now, he had to worry about everything. Just thinking about it made him tired.

Seeing that her son was not in a good mood, the old lady couldn’t bear to nag at him anymore. She only instructed, “I’ve stuffed the blanket in Zichen’s room into the cabinet. Take it yourself.”

Wang Yunzhong nodded and picked up the cigarette and lighter on the table. Just as he was about to go upstairs, he stopped in his tracks. “Mom, is Xiao Mei’s birthday in December?”

When Wang Yunmei was suddenly mentioned, the old lady’s expression couldn’t help but pause. “Why are you asking about this?”

Wang Yunzhong said, “I vaguely remember that Xiao Mei’s birthday seems to be quite close to Christmas!”

“I know nothing about this or that festival. I don’t know!” The old lady was unwilling to mention anything about Wang Yunmei now. It was best if no one mentioned it. Once she did, she would get angry.

However, Wang Yunzhong didn’t relent and asked, “Think about it. Which day in December is it?!”

“Why? You want to celebrate her birthday?” The old lady glared at him. “You’re a brother. How can you celebrate your sister’s birthday?!”

Chapter 1197 The End of the Year

“Isn’t it normal for an elder brother to celebrate his sister’s birthday?” Wang Yunzhong said, “Besides, it’s been so many years, but I’ve never celebrated Xiao Mei’s birthday. Can’t I make it up to her?”

“I don’t know!” The old lady turned around angrily.

In her heart, she almost had no feelings for her elder daughter anymore. After what had happened in the past year, the old lady gritted her teeth when she thought of this daughter. However, her elder son, whom she doted on the most, still thought of ways to get close to her elder daughter. The most infuriating thing was that the old man supported his son to do so.

This made the old lady feel like she was receiving blame from both sides and putting herself in a difficult position.

So she had fallen out with her elder daughter for this family, but in the end, no one was on her side? Now, her son was going to celebrate someone else’s birthday. It was ridiculous just thinking about it!

However, the old lady didn’t tell Wang Yunzhong the date because she really couldn’t remember her daughter’s birthday.

In the past few decades, since Wang Yunmei was born, she had never celebrated her birthday. She only remembered that it was snowing in December, but she had forgotten the exact day!

Seeing the old lady’s appearance, Wang Yunzhong couldn’t be bothered to ask further. He would ask the old man later. He said nothing else and turned around to go upstairs.

The living room fell silent. The old lady turned around and exhaled as she looked at the empty living room!

...

Three days later, after Bai Zhou had settled everything in the company, he flew to Italy with Chi Yang alone.

The goal of this trip was to achieve an employment relationship with Leader Hans’ mercenary group.

Jian Ai didn’t interfere too much in this matter because she believed that Bai Zhou could handle it.

After Bai Zhou left, he temporarily handed the company’s matters to Jian Ai. Fortunately, Bai Zhou had already dealt with most of the company’s matters before he left, so he did not add too much burden to Jian Ai.

Amidst the busyness, December quietly arrived.

This was the last month of 2002. It was the first year-end since the company was established. The employees of East Sea Real Estate, Rose Entertainment, and Shuiyun Club also started preparations for the annual meeting. The entire corporation’s atmosphere was filled with joy.

The most important job Jian Ai was facing now was that the second round of bidding for the South City demolition project was about to start.

Unlike the first round of bidding, there was no bidding document for the second round. Instead, all the companies that passed the first round of bidding had to prepare a well-founded PowerPoint and bid live at the bidding conference.

This bidding model was more open, fair, and transparent, but it was also seen as the most difficult round. Especially for a new company like East Sea Real Estate, passing the first round of bidding had already caused many people to fantasize that they had received preferential treatment. Now, the bidding model for the second round was like being naked. There was no cover!

Jian Ai knew that East Sea Real Estate's momentum in Baiyun City this year was too fierce, causing many people to be jealous. Countless peers were waiting to see East Sea Real Estate make a fool of themselves. It was also because of this that Jian Ai's nerves tightened. She initially did not have any excessive hopes for this bid, but she did not expect that they would coincidentally carve out a path from the first round.

People were like this. After something they did not expect came true, it would inexplicably ignite hope.

Therefore, compared to the Buddhist mentality of the first round of bidding, Jian Ai's fighting spirit ignited in her heart in the second round of bidding. It also aroused the competitiveness she had not seen in a long time.

This time, she really wanted to win!

She had already experienced the model of live bidding countless times in her previous life. The company's PowerPoint slides were also constantly refreshing and improving with the passage of time. Real estate had never been the product of inherent ideas. In the future, the real estate developers who ranked among the richest people in the country were not old and stubborn. Only innovation would make people improve.

This was Jian Ai's unique advantage. Her thoughts and business theoretical model had improved for fourteen years.

Fourteen years was enough for East Sea Real Estate to have an insurmountable gap between it and other enterprises. Therefore, even if Jian Ai knew that the company's scale and financial resources might not be competitive, with her far more forward-looking market and era-crossing business views, Jian Ai believed that East Sea Real Estate would have a fighting chance in the second round of bidding!

Therefore, Jian Ai had invested most of her energy in this matter recently.

...

A week later, Jian Changsheng returned from a business trip in the capital.

After the noon flight landed, Jian Changsheng went home first.

"Husband, you're back!"

Qiao Shuyi went to the door to pick him up. She reached out to take Jian Changsheng's luggage and said gently, "You're tired, right? You're in time for lunch. Knowing that you're back, I specially asked Nanny Xu to make crucian carp soup. Do you want to take a bath first or have lunch first?"

Jian Changsheng took off his shoes but said anxiously, "I'm sorry, Wife. I don't have time to eat. After changing my clothes, I have to go to the company. I have an important meeting later!"

"Ah?" Qiao Shuyi was stunned when she heard that. She quickly said with concern, "Didn't you just get off the plane? You're going back to the company for a meeting? A meal won't take long!"

"The flight was delayed. I'm almost late!" Jian Changsheng quickly went up the stairs. "Eat first. I'll take a bite at the company after the meeting. Don't worry about me!"

Qiao Shuyi held Jian Changsheng's coat and stood by the stairs. She opened her mouth but said nothing.

However, looking at Jian Changsheng's busy figure, her heart ached.

Not long after, Jian Changsheng changed his clothes and quickly went downstairs. However, he didn't forget to walk to the sofa and kiss Qiao Shuyi's forehead. Then, he looked into her eyes and said gently, "Eat obediently. I'm leaving!"

Qiao Shuyi knew that as the CEO of the company, Jian Changsheng had to put everything in the company first. How could she lose her temper at him just because of a meal? Therefore, she immediately revealed an understanding smile and nodded gently. "Drive slowly. Don't be anxious!"

Jian Changsheng smiled and kissed her again before standing up to leave.

When the door closed, Qiao Shuyi pursed her lips and sighed. She was stunned for a long time with a helpless expression. Then, she stood up and walked to the dining table to sit down. Looking at the table full of dishes, she immediately lost her appetite.

"Madam, eat it while it's hot?" Nanny Xu brought out the carp soup and mumbled.

Qiao Shuyi slowly came back to her senses. She looked at the carp soup for a few seconds and suddenly turned to Nanny Xu. "Nanny Xu, bring over the thermal lunch box at home. Pick a few of Changsheng's favorite dishes and scoop a bowl of soup. I'll send it to his company!"

Nanny Xu was stunned for a moment before coming back to her senses. She quickly nodded. "I'll scoop an extra serving. Madam can eat with Sir in the company!"

Qiao Shuyi couldn't help but smile and nod. "Alright!"

Chapter 1198 Rumors

After Jian Changsheng reached the company, he entered the conference room. Not long after, Qiao Shuyi appeared at the Jian Group with a lunch box.

Because Qiao Shuyi usually appeared in the corporation from time to time, the staff at the front desk was familiar with her.

"Madam, you're here."

The receptionist quickly came forward. Qiao Shuyi smiled and revealed her well-maintained figure under her decent clothes. She said softly, "I'm here to deliver some food to Changsheng. You don't have to receive me. I can go up myself."

"Alright, Madam, but the CEO should be in a meeting now. You can go to the living room or the CEO's office to wait," the receptionist answered.

Qiao Shuyi nodded gently and walked elegantly towards the elevator.

Seeing this, the girls at the front desk gathered together and looked at Qiao Shuyi's back. One of them couldn't help but click her tongue and sigh. "The CEO's wife has such a good temperament. She's born noble and speaks softly to others."

Another person chimed in, "That's right. She's also pretty. She's compatible with the CEO."

"I heard that the CEO's wife's family is famous in the capital and has quite a background," another person said.

It slightly shocked the others when they heard that. One of them whispered, "Then she doesn't have the airs of a rich family at all. She's usually especially gentle when she talks to us!"

Everyone nodded. "I really hope that I could become a woman like her at her age!"

"Then you have to find a husband like the CEO first!"

"Hahaha... Forget it then. I don't have such a good life!"

Qiao Shuyi took the elevator to the top floor of the corporation. After greeting the secretary, she asked her to take the lunch box to the office while she turned a corner and went to the bathroom.

As soon as she closed the cubicle door, the sound of high heels came from outside, accompanied by the whispers of two female employees.

"Hey! Did you see that? After Director Han came back from her business trip with the CEO, she was glowing!" Female employee A said in a low voice, with a faint excitement and gossipy tone.

When female employee B heard this, she couldn't help but sneer. "Why? Do you think Director Han will bloom? Look at her usual image. It's impossible for the CEO to like her!"

"Besides, the CEO is already married. Who in the company doesn't know that the CEO and his wife are very loving? There's no way the CEO has anything to do with Director Han!"

Qiao Shuyi was in the innermost cubicle. She didn't want to eavesdrop on others, but these words seemed to have something to do with Jian Changsheng. This made her subconsciously hold her breath and listen to their conversation carefully.

The Director Han the two female employees were talking about was Han Wenjing, Jian Changsheng's subordinate. There was a very important project in the capital this time, and Jian Changsheng brought Han Wenjing along on this trip.

Female employee A's voice sounded again, but with a hint of certainty. "Let me tell you, I don't dare to say if the CEO is interested in Director Han, but Director Han must be interested in the CEO!"

"Look at her expression when she usually faces us. Her face is so dark that it's as if our entire family owes her money! However, every time she goes to the CEO's office, she can maintain a temporary

intimate relationship with us when she returns. Isn't this because she likes the CEO? Her mood improves when she sees the CEO, right?"

"Besides, you also know that the CEO has never brought a female employee along when he goes abroad for a business trip. Don't you think it's strange that he asked Director Han to accompany him this time? When Director Han returned at noon today, she was high-spirited. She even brought everyone in our department specialties from the capital. This is simply like the sun rising from the west. Don't you think she's so abnormal? How can it not cause people to fantasize?"

Female employee A's words were reasonable and her analysis was very accurate. It was as if she could stand firm for all kinds of reasons.

When female employee B heard this, she couldn't help but frown and think deeply. Then, she revealed a strange expression and said, "In that case, did the CEO deliberately ask Director Han to accompany him on a business trip? To avoid people's eyes and ears and create space and opportunities for the two of them?"

With that, female employee B shook her head in disbelief and denied her words. "I don't think so. If it were anyone else, I might have believed it, but Director Han... the CEO wouldn't go that far, right? The CEO's wife is so beautiful and gentle. How can Director Han compare to the CEO's wife in all aspects? The CEO is a rational person, so he wouldn't be so desperate!"

"Tsk, don't you believe me?!" Female employee A said with an understanding expression, "Men are like this. No matter how delicious the food at home is, they can't help but want to taste the snacks outside! Ninety-nine percent of men have the thought of having an affair in their lives! Those who are timid will have an affair in their hearts, and those who are bold will basically take action!"

"Do you still remember Xiao Wang from the product department? His wife, who was his childhood sweetheart, had both the looks and the figure. In the end, he got together with Sister Li from the finance department! Sister Li is almost fifty years old, but he's only twenty-seven years old. Do you think you can understand this man's thoughts? So don't always look at the surface. You can tell something from the details!"

Female employee B couldn't help but look enlightened. "Oh, if you didn't mention this, I would have forgotten. At that time, it caused quite a commotion in the company. Fortunately, the vice president suppressed it and didn't spread it to the CEO! However, Xiao Wang and Sister Li both resigned later. I wonder what happened to them!"

"Who knows? With such a big scandal, if they don't resign, it will inevitably cause gossip..."

Their voices gradually faded until they disappeared.

Qiao Shuyi slowly opened the door of the stall. Her expression was indifferent, and no one could tell if she was happy or angry.

She walked to the washbasin and washed her hands. She looked up and saw her exquisite and beautiful face in the mirror. There was no trace of time. The corners of her lips curled up slightly, and Qiao Shuyi revealed a faint smile. She became even more beautiful and moving.

It was almost two hours after Jian Changsheng's meeting. As soon as he left the conference room, the secretary quickly walked up to him. "CEO, Madam is waiting for you in the office!"

Jian Changsheng was talking to someone at the side. He was stunned for a moment before asking, "Madam is here? When did she come?"

"She came over not long after you returned to the company. She's been waiting for you. She brought a lunch box. She should be here to deliver food to you!" the secretary said.

Jian Changsheng quickly walked towards the office. The secretary was about to follow when Han Wenjing suddenly walked forward and asked, "What happened? Why is the CEO in such a hurry?"

Seeing that it was Han Wenjing, the secretary couldn't help but explain, "Director Han, the CEO's wife is here!"

Chapter 1199 I'm Willing

When Han Wenjing heard the words 'CEO's wife,' her heart seemed to hurt. Looking at Jian Changsheng's anxious back, she felt bitter.

Fortunately, she was still someone who could control her emotions. She knew that her sincerity was ultimately wrong. Her feelings would never receive a response from the CEO.

Not to mention that he was already married, but even if he was not married, he would not like her at all.

Han Wenjing knew herself very well. She was not the kind of woman that men would love. Her strong personality and strong career ambition made her work harder than men.

Therefore, she, who was already over thirty years old, had never fallen in love once. The only time was admiration for a married man.

How ironic and ridiculous!

When Jian Changsheng returned to the office, Qiao Shuyi was already asleep on the black leather sofa.

Seeing this, Jian Changsheng closed the door gently and went to the inner room to take out a blanket. He opened it and gently covered Qiao Shuyi.

Unexpectedly, this gentle action still woke her up.

"Changsheng..." Qiao Shuyi opened her eyes and saw Jian Changsheng. She sat up and raised her hand to support her face and hair. Then, she smiled in embarrassment. "You finished your meeting? I was a little bored from waiting, so I fell asleep!"

"Why did you make this trip? You knew you had to wait for a long time," Jian Changsheng said. His tone was not blaming, but heartache.

Qiao Shuyi smiled indifferently. "It's fine. I'm just afraid that you'll be too tired and not eat well!"

As she spoke, Qiao Shuyi stood up and walked to the shelf to get the lunch boxes. Then, she opened them one by one. "They're still hot. I'll eat with you!"

Jian Changsheng was touched and couldn't help but walk forward and hug Qiao Shuyi. His low voice followed. "You can understand my hard work, but I'm the same. I can understand your hard work!"

Qiao Shuyi paused for a moment and smiled. She reached out and gently hugged Jian Changsheng's waist. She whispered, "I don't have to work. What's so hard about it..."

"It's hard on you to wait for me every day," Jian Changsheng said.

When Qiao Shuyi heard this, she gently pulled herself out of Jian Changsheng's arms. She looked up at his deep eyes and smiled. "That's not hard work. It's happiness."

"Eat quickly. It'll be cold soon. Nanny Xu brewed this crucian carp soup for a long time."

Jian Changsheng smiled and nodded. Then, he pulled Qiao Shuyi to sit on the sofa.

Qiao Shuyi didn't show any abnormality from the beginning to the end. It was as if what she heard in the bathroom didn't affect her at all. She didn't even ask Jian Changsheng if he had traveled with someone on this business trip.

Her condition did not differ from usual, as if she had never heard those words.

Not long after, there was a knock on the office door.

"Come in!" Jian Changsheng put down his chopsticks and looked up. Han Wenjing pushed the door open.

Han Wenjing was still wearing a professional female suit. Her short hair and thick glasses gave off a capable and boring feeling!

"Wenjing?" Seeing that it was Han Wenjing, Jian Changsheng couldn't help but ask, "What's the matter?"

However, Jian Changsheng didn't seem to notice that he called Han Wenjing by her nickname so naturally.

Qiao Shuyi was drinking soup from a bowl and did not seem to care.

When Han Wenjing saw Qiao Shuyi, she nodded and greeted her politely, "Hello, Madam."

Qiao Shuyi smiled elegantly and nodded. "Hello."

Only then did Han Wenjing walk up to Jian Changsheng and hand over the document in her hand. "CEO, this is the model contract for the China Trade Street project in the capital that I drafted. Take a look. If there are no problems, I'll send it to the other party!"

"So soon?" Jian Changsheng was shocked. He had handed this mission to Han Wenjing the day before yesterday. She had drafted the model in less than two days.

Han Wenjing gently adjusted the glasses on her nose bridge and said, "At that time, you said to do it as soon as possible, so I stayed up all night to make it. I just don't know if it's passable!"

Jian Changsheng chuckled. He had always been confident in Han Wenjing's work ability. While pursuing efficiency, she could also ensure quality assurance.

"Alright, I'll read it after my meal," Jian Changsheng said.

Han Wenjing nodded. Just as she was about to turn around and leave, Jian Changsheng stopped her. "Wenjing, you still have to go to the capital next week. Talk to the construction material company about lowering the price. I'm worried if others go!"

"Alright, CEO," Han Wenjing agreed and left the office!

After Han Wenjing left, Jian Changsheng couldn't help but chuckle. Then, he said to Qiao Shuyi in a casual tone, "This Han Wenjin's work ability is outstanding. Even her department exceeded the work target every quarter. In the past few years, she became a director with an annual salary of one million yuan from an ordinary employee. She's also the youngest director on the company's board of directors!"

Jian Changsheng's tone was natural, but it revealed his appreciation and praise for Han Wenjing's ability.

When Qiao Shuyi heard this, she couldn't help but smile and agree. "Sometimes, I'm quite envious of such working women. Their lives are fulfilling, they have goals, and they have their own values. Many women yearn for them but can't achieve their ideals."

Jian Changsheng couldn't help but sigh. "That's why it's not easy for you women. You always have to be in a dilemma between work and family! Take Han Wenjing for example. Her annual salary is one million yuan, and she has a house and a car. But she's in her thirties and isn't married!"

"Moreover, as far as I know, she hasn't been in a relationship in the company all these years! Her personality is very strong, and no man would dare to pursue her. She's not easy to control!"

Qiao Shuyi scooped another bowl of soup for Jian Changsheng and said, "When two people are together, don't always think that one party can control the other. Only an equal individual can maintain the balance of their relationship. However, it can't be hot or cold. A normal temperature is the longest."

"Haha..." Jian Changsheng couldn't help but laugh. He looked at Qiao Shuyi with a doting expression and said, "It's fine if others say this, but it doesn't seem convincing coming from you! You've attached your entire life to me. Between us, you've sacrificed far more than me, so sometimes, I always feel guilty!"

Qiao Shuyi narrowed her eyes. "Why? Did I put all my energy and attention on you to make you feel pressured?"

Jian Changsheng took a deep breath and reached out to hold Qiao Shuyi's hand. He said gently, "Of course there's pressure, but I'm willing to endure it!"

Chapter 1200 Two Billion Dollars

Jian Changsheng spoke seriously and affectionately. His dark eyes were filled with unconcealed emotions. Such direct words of love didn't feel greasy at all. Even after marrying him for so many years, his love still moved Qiao Shuyi.

His words were so touching.

Qiao Shuyi pursed her lips and smiled. She muttered, "I'm the same. I've never felt that waiting for you is a pain. I have expectations in my heart. Isn't that a gift from life to me?"

Jian Changsheng looked at Qiao Shuyi's face and pulled her into his arms. He said slowly, "With a wife like this, what more can a husband ask for?!"

Qiao Shuyi leaned against Jian Changsheng's firm arm and felt his comforting scent. She smiled happily.

After Han Wenjing left Jian Changsheng's office, she rushed to the bathroom and took off her glasses. She turned on the tap and splashed cold water on her face to calm herself down.

The CEO's wife's elegance, dignity, confidence, and beauty were like an insurmountable mountain in front of her. Han Wenjing knew she should not have these thoughts of crossing the bottom line of morality. No matter how charming a married man was, he should not be the person she was tempted by.

She looked down on her depravity in her heart, but she fell for it again and again. Han Wenjing knew that if she didn't work hard to control herself, she might fall deeper!

Calm down!

Stay sober!

Be rational!

She shouted at herself in her heart. She was not a woman who placed love above all, so she knew that as long as she kept reminding herself, she could stop in time and give up on Jian Changsheng!

Footsteps came from the corridor. Han Wenjing quickly took out two facial wipes to wipe the water off her face. Then, she picked up her glasses and put them on!

When she turned around, she was the cold-faced director, Han Wenjing!

"Hello, Director Han!"

When the female staff who entered the bathroom and saw Han Wenjing, she lowered her head in horror like a frightened rabbit.

Han Wenjing's gaze shot at the other party through the glasses. In the end, she snorted as a response and left without looking back!

...

A week later, Bai Zhou returned from Italy. Other than Chi Yang, there were two other people who returned with him.

Irene and Andrew!

When Jian Ai rushed to the apartment after school, the living room was already filled with people. The usually spacious space instantly became crowded.

Even Yun Buyao and Yu Wuyuan rushed back after receiving the news. Everyone was very concerned about Bai Zhou.

As soon as Jian Ai arrived, everyone stood up. Jian Ai raised her hand and gestured for everyone to sit down and talk.

On the sofa, Bai Zhou sat on the left. Beside him were Irene and Andrew.

Seeing the two of them, Jian Ai was a little surprised, but she still nodded and said, "We meet again!"

"Hello!" Andrew greeted Jian Ai in accented Chinese, and Irene nodded slightly.

Then, Jian Ai sat on the sofa opposite them and looked at Bai Zhou. She smiled and said, "How was it? Did everything go smoothly?"

After Bai Zhou returned this time, he looked much better than when he left. This trip to Italy could be considered a walk for him.

Nodding slightly, Bai Zhou said, "It went smoothly. Leader Hans was surprisingly passionate, and the negotiations went smoothly."

Jian Ai couldn't help but raise her eyebrows. Although she expected that Bai Zhou wouldn't have made a wasted trip this time, she didn't expect it to go so smoothly. After all, it was a transaction with a huge amount of money and benefits involved. It was settled so quickly?

"Tell me the details," Jian Ai leaned back and said to Bai Zhou.

The others also looked over when they saw this, as if they were curious about the details. They were most interested in how much Bai Zhou would pay the mercenary group every year.

Facing everyone's curious gazes, Bai Zhou only smiled faintly and slowly said, "Actually, it's not as troublesome as everyone thinks. Moreover, I've never liked trouble, so I asked Leader Hans to tell me all the conditions he wanted. I considered it and agreed!"

"You mean there's no negotiation process? It's just the other party's request, and you agreed to it?" Yun Buyao was slightly shocked and asked with wide eyes.

Bai Zhou smiled charmingly and nodded faintly. "You can say that. As long as it's a request within a reasonable range that I can accept, I'll agree."

Jian Ai: "..."

Everyone: "..."

Chi Yang lowered his head awkwardly at the side. He had once tried to persuade his master to consider it again. At the very least, he had to deal with the other party and fight for more benefits. However, his master did not seem to have this plan. He did not even bargain and agreed to all of Leader Hans' conditions.

This...

It did not seem like something a professional businessman would do.

At this moment, Bai Zhou added, "Of course, Leader Hans has shown enough sincerity to some of my requests. I think this is putting myself in his shoes. A cooperative relationship has to be based on mutual trust. Even if we spend more money, it's worth it!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Bai Zhou gently brushed the silver-white fringe on his forehead and said something extremely annoying. "After all, I'm too rich!"

Jian Ai: "..."

Everyone: "..."

Returning to her senses, Jian Ai quickly asked, "How much are you funding them a year?"

Under everyone's gaze, Bai Zhou slowly made a peace sign. "Two billion..."

Two billion yuan did not seem to be a high price. It had to be known that the benefits an international organization could create should far exceed this amount.

Moreover, there were thousands of people in the International Mercenary Group alone. Two billion yuan of funding was not much for such a huge organization. After all, the mercenary group spent far over two billion yuan a year to purchase weapons and ammunition.

However, before anyone could heave a sigh of relief, Bai Zhou said, "US dollars!"

Jian Ai: !!!

Everyone was speechless.

"Two billion US dollars?" Jian Ai exclaimed, and her mind was instantly filled with US dollars.

In the same conversion, two billion US dollars was equivalent to sixteen billion Chinese yuan. Sixteen billion yuan a year. Oh my!

Not to mention an astronomical figure for ordinary people, but even for Jian Ai, it was almost an astronomical figure!

The others were stunned as if lightning had struck them. Only Xiao Zhen frowned at Bai Zhou in confusion and whispered, "Are you crazy?"

At this moment, Jian Ai also felt that Bai Zhou's actions were a little irrational, as if he was angry.

Two billion US dollars a year. This number far exceeded Jian Ai's expectations.