

Chapter 1421: Didn't You Receive My Messages

Zhu Yuchen nodded. "That's good."

"That's good? What do you mean?" Lu Ning didn't understand.

"Lu Ning." Zhu Yuchen held her soft little hand. "Have you forgotten our agreement?"

Lu Ning looked at the two of them shaking hands in confusion.

"Lu Ning, I started chasing after you when you were a freshman. It's been five years now. We once agreed that if you were 23 years old and hadn't fallen in love, you would agree to be my girlfriend. Have you forgotten?"

Lu Ning recalled that when she was in university, she had many suitors. Zhu Yuchen was definitely the most dazzling one among them. She also had a good impression of him because they had a common topic and she admired him very much.

However, this affection and admiration was very simple. It was the same as how she had treated Zhou Pingan back then. She didn't have any romantic feelings for Zhu Yuchen.

However, he pursued her closely, so they had that agreement.

Now, he was looking for her to fulfill his promise?

"Ha, that..." Lu Ning smiled sheepishly, then pulled back her small hand without batting an eyelid. "I haven't celebrated my 23rd birthday yet. There are still two months left."

A hint of sadness flashed in Zhu Yuchen's eyes, but he quickly smiled and said, "Okay, then I'll wait for you for another two months. In these two months, I'll extinguish all the peach blossoms in your life."

She didn't have any peach blossoms, Lu Ning thought to herself.

...

The next day, Lu Ning felt that the entire company was shrouded in a dark cloud, as if a storm was about to come.

One colleague came out of the President's office. She heard that he had been scolded by the President again, and she also heard that the President had always had a mature personality. Even if he was displeased, he would only give you a look and wouldn't say anything. However, today, for some reason, the President seemed to have eaten a powder keg and exploded at the slightest touch.

"Lu Ning, come to the President's office." Ai Lisi called the internal line.

This was really a case of what one was afraid of. Lu Ning could only put on a bitter face.

Midway, she met Ai Lisi. Ai Lisi still smiled politely, but today, his smile had a hidden meaning. He looked as if he was saying, "You should take care of yourself."

Lu Ning...

She really didn't think that Yin Zhihan's temper today was because she stood him up yesterday afternoon. A man like him wouldn't go so far as to scold the entire company over such a small matter, right?

Knock, knock. She knocked on the office door.

"Come in."

Lu Ning pushed the door open and entered.

Yin Zhihan stood by the floor-to-ceiling window with his long legs. His hands were on his hips, and his handsome face was as calm as water.

"President, you called for me?" Lu Ning smiled.

Yin Zhihan turned his head and looked at her. His cold eyes fell sharply on her small face. He asked, "Didn't you receive my messages?"

Lu Ning didn't expect him to be so direct, but she was mentally prepared. "I did, President."

"Why didn't you reply?"

"I am working under you. I don't think we should talk so much outside of work."

"Ha." Yin Zhihan forced out two laughs from his throat, which made people's hair stand on end. "I told you to wait for me. Why didn't you wait?"

Lu Ning tried her best to remain calm. "President, we are in the office. I'm afraid that if the other employees see me with you, it will affect your reputation..."

"Really? I thought you were afraid of affecting your reputation. After all, after leaving the office, you got into Zhu's Porsche. Even in the car, you didn't dare to answer my calls. Were you afraid that Zhu Yuchen would misunderstand?"

Chapter 1422: I Want You to Be My Girlfriend

How did he know that she got into Zhu Yuchen's car?

How did he know who Zhu Yuchen was?

Lu Ning's expression was not too good. "Yin Zhihan, are you following me?"

"Following?" Yin Zhihan's handsome face turned cold as he laughed mercilessly. "Who do you think you are? I haven't used the method of following you yet!"

She knew what kind of person he was. She didn't need him to remind her. It was as if he had eaten a barrel of gunpowder today and could explode at any time. Nothing good would come out of this conversation if they continued to talk like this.

“President, since you have nothing else to say, I’ll leave first.” Lu Ning turned around and left.

Just as she opened the office door, a long leg kicked over and slammed the door shut. A powerful palm came from her shoulder. The man exerted force and she was forced to turn her body and press against the wall.

“Pa!” Yin Zhihan pushed his palm against the wall, trapping her between his chest and the wall.

“Lu Ning, did I let you go? You’re getting bolder and bolder!” Yin Zhihan’s handsome features became sharp, and his fierce gaze seemed to want to poke a bloody hole in her face.

Lu Ning was not used to being in such an intimate position. He was an expert in love, so he could naturally do this wall-knocking technique smoothly, while she was just a cabbage.

“President, I see that you are very emotional. If we continue to talk, we will only end up in an argument. Since that’s the case, let’s calm down and talk again when there’s a chance.” Lu Ning bravely met his gaze.

She was always so rational. She did not want to talk to him anymore, so she turned around and left.

Yin Zhihan curled the corners of his lips. “Okay, let’s talk properly now. What is your relationship with Zhu Yuchen?”

“He is my senior.”

“Senior? Your relationship is so simple? I heard that Zhu Yuchen has never had a girlfriend. Does he like you?”

Since he did not believe that her relationship with Zhu Yuchen was so simple, why did he ask? Was she going to spin her relationship with Zhu Yuchen into a story for his sake?

“No comment! I feel that our relationship is not good enough for me to tell you all my secrets!”

“Okay.” Yin Zhihan nodded. He tried his best to suppress his temper. “Then tell me about our relationship.”

“The relationship between the President and his subordinates.”

This time, Yin Zhihan’s face darkened. A storm was coming. “Lu Ning, I always thought that you were a pure and simple girl, but you actually know how to play hard to get in front of me.”

What did he mean by playing hard to get? His words were getting more and more unpleasant.

“Lu Ning, don’t you know that I want to hit on you?”

This sentence made Lu Ning’s heart jump. What was he saying?

He wanted to hit on her?

He finally admitted that he wanted to hit on her. During this period of time, it was not her imagination that was running wild. The unintentional intimacy between him and her, the vague ambiguity, was really because he wanted to pursue her.

Was it the same when he pursued other women?

Yin Zhihan looked at the beautiful little face in front of him. It was this little face that had moved his heart for so many years, and he could not forget it.

“Lu Ning, I have already said what I think. What do you think? Stay with me and cut ties with Zhu Yuchen. Zhu Yuchen is my competitor professionally and personally. You should not have any contact with him. Lu Ning, be my girlfriend, huh?”

He said, be his girlfriend?

Lu Ning slowly regained her senses and said calmly, “To and Zhu Shi are competitors. I will handle my relationship with Zhu Yuchen both professionally and personally. You don’t have to worry about this. Regarding our relationship, I’m sorry. I can’t agree to be your girlfriend because I don’t like you.”

Chapter 1423: Yin Zhihan, I Don’t Like You

Yin Zhihan was not surprised. If she had agreed, she would not have been Lu Ning. Many years ago, he had known that this woman was difficult to get.

“You really don’t like me? Lu Ning, don’t lie to yourself. Your eyes can’t deceive others. You’re moved by me,” Yin Zhihan said affirmatively.

He saw through her?

Lu Ning admitted that she had indeed been infatuated with him before, and her heart had been racing. She didn’t feel embarrassed. No woman would dislike such an overwhelming and powerful man like him, and she was just an ordinary girl.

However, she wouldn’t tell him that she liked him.

“I don’t know what I did to make you think that I like you, but you’re not my type. I’m telling you clearly now that I’m not moved. In the past, now, and in the future, I won’t be moved.”

“I’m not your type? Then what type do you like, like Zhou Pingan or Zhu Yuchen?”

Lu Ning frowned. Why did he keep bringing up Zhou Pingan? The hazy memory of her and Zhou Pingan’s youth was a long time ago, so long that it was just a memory.

Was he mocking her?

“Yin Zhihan, Pingan is about to become your brother-in-law. Linger is already pregnant with his baby, so please don’t talk nonsense in the future. You’ll make us very awkward.”

“Okay, Lu Ning, let me ask you this. Do you like me or not? I want you to look me in the eye and answer me,” Yin Zhihan asked seriously.

Lu Ning took a deep breath, thinking that she had to end it with him today. She had already considered it carefully. She could not be with such a dangerous man. If she continued to spend time with him, she would only sink deeper and deeper. The best way now was to take advantage of the fact that she was not in deep trouble yet.

Lu Ning looked straight at Yin Zhihan and said clearly, “Yin Zhihan, I don’t like... Mmm!”

Before she could finish, Yin Zhihan directly kissed her red lips. He did not want her to say anything.

Lu Ning’s eyes widened. She did not expect him to kiss her forcefully. He kissed her very hard and intensely, as if to vent his dissatisfaction. Very quickly, he stuck his long tongue in and washed her mouth with a storm.

“Oh, Yin Zhihan, stop... stop...” Lu Ning kicked him with both hands and feet.

Yin Zhihan kissed her from her red lips to her pink neck and said wickedly, “Stop what?”

His big palm wrapped around the softness of her chest.

His hooligan behavior made Lu Ning’s legs go soft. She hated his frivolity, but her body gradually became addicted to his overwhelming attacks.

No, this can not continue!

“Yin Zhihan, let go!” She used all her strength to push the man away.

Yin Zhihan took a step back. He was about to approach her again, but with a “pa”, Lu Ning directly gave him a slap.

The crisp sound of the slap resounded throughout the office.

And so, the atmosphere became quiet, so quiet that it was stifling.

Yin Zhihan’s face was smacked to the side. He slowly turned his eyes to look at Lu Ning. There was a deep and heavy emotion in his lazy, cold eyes, similar to disappointment or injury.

For such a proud son of heaven to reveal such an emotion, Lu Ning’s heart felt as if it had been stung by a bee. It was an indiscernible pain.

The little hand that had hit him just now hung by his side, and it seemed as if her palm was numb. Lu Ning moved her red lips, wanting to say something, but in the end, she didn’t say anything. Instead, she opened the door of the office and walked out.

When the girl’s back disappeared from his sight, Yin Zhihan clenched his fist and punched the wall.

Chapter 1424: A New Love

On one day, Zhu Yuchen invited Lu Ning to play in the square in the center of the city. The small fountain in the square was like a meteor shower, enveloping the entire sky in five colors.

Lu Ning reached out her small hand and caught two drops of rain.

At this time, her shoulder softened. It was Zhu Yuchen who took off his coat and draped it over her body. "Don't just play around. You'll catch a cold when you go home."

"Thank you, Senior." Lu Ning expressed her gratitude.

"Ah Ning, have you thought about our relationship?" Zhu Yuchen asked gently.

Lu Ning was stunned. She had just rejected Yin Zhihan, and now Zhu Yuchen was urging her. The corners of her mouth twitched. "Yeah, I don't want to be in a relationship yet. Senior, let's just be friends."

Zhu Yuchen smiled and shook her head. "Ah Ning, are you trying to use these words to brush me off?"

Lu Ning...

"I don't care. I'll wait for another month. Your 23th birthday will be in a month. If you haven't met the person you like by then, we'll go out and you can be my girlfriend," Zhu Yuchen said dotingly and domineeringly.

Lu Ning's eyes widened. "Senior, you..."

"Alright, let's not talk about this topic anymore. Ah Ning, let's go. I'll treat you to a big meal." Zhu Yuchen extended his hand to Lu Ning.

Lu Ning didn't pass her small hand to him. She stood up and walked beside him.

Zhu Yuchen was a little disappointed, but he changed the topic. "Ah Ning, I remember that your cooking skills are very good. Why don't we go back to your house now and you can cook dinner for me personally?"

This...

Lu Ning was in a difficult position. "Senior, let's eat outside. This meal is on me. It's already late. It's not good for us to be alone in the same room, right?"

"Ah Ning, I'm your senior. You're too guarded. Don't tell me that you think I have ulterior motives? To be honest, Ah Ning, have any men been to your house?"

Yes, Yin Zhihan had been there...

A furious face appeared in Lu Ning's mind. She thought of Yin Zhihan. Although he hadn't been in the company for the past month, the gossip about him had never stopped.

She heard that he had a new girlfriend, the daughter of a gambling king...

Sometimes, Lu Ning thought that his feelings for her were only so-so. She rejected him and immediately, he had a new lover.

Lu Ning looked at Zhu Yuchen. "Yes, Pingan came to my house. He came with Linger."

Zhu Yuchen raised his eyebrows. "Alright, let's go for dinner. Do you want to eat Chinese or western food today..."

...

A few days later, a project that Lu Ning was working on had a problem.

A cosmetics case that she was in charge of had participated in an international bidding. However, on the day of the bidding, her bidding price was leaked. It was exactly the same as the Zhu Corporation's bidding price. The numbers behind the decimal point were exactly the same.

The bidding failed and Zhu Corporation won. Lu Ning was involved in the commercial leak.

To held an emergency shareholders' meeting. At the meeting, all the shareholders agreed to suspend her immediately.

Lu Ning had a lot of opinions about this treatment. She argued at the meeting, "Directors, I admit that I was the main person in charge of this case. The bidding price was also confidential. However, I cannot rule out the possibility that the competitors may have schemed to steal our bidding price. And I guarantee that I absolutely did not leak the numbers."

"I personally think that the most important thing is to clean up the aftermath and minimize the loss of this case. Then, the company will set up an internal investigation team to thoroughly investigate this matter. You can deprive me of my rights, but please keep my position. I want to participate in this investigation and prove my innocence."

Chapter 1425: Where Is He

The shareholders were obviously not buying it. Their eyes were filled with suspicion and hostility. "Lu Ning, I heard that you are currently dating Zhu Yuchen, the heir of the Zhu Family?"

Lu Ning knew that she would not be able to clear her name even if she jumped into the Yellow River. Some ideas were preconceived.

"No, Zhu Yuchen is my senior. We are just ordinary friends."

"Lu Ning, the Zhu Corporation is our competitor. It doesn't matter if you deny your relationship with Zhu Yuchen. You can't deny that you have been meeting Zhu Yuchen frequently during this period of time. We now have every reason to suspect that you are a spy that Zhu Yuchen sent to our company!"

Lu Ning wanted to explain, "I..."

"Lu Ning, don't say anything now. You are suspended and under investigation. We have already reported you to the relevant departments. In fifteen days, you will be detained. We will see you in court," the shareholders said firmly.

Lu Ning looked at the unfriendly faces and finally looked at the main seat in the meeting hall. The main seat was vacant. She said softly, "I want to see the President."

She wanted to see Yin Zhihan!

“Lu Ning, the president is in Southeast Asia now. He doesn’t have time to see you. We don’t need the president’s approval to deal with a small department manager. You’d better take care of yourself!”

...

Lu Ning was really suspended. She was an otaku, so she stayed in her apartment every day to catch up on dramas and improve her culinary skills. In short, it was very boring.

She really wanted to know the progress of the leak case, but no one told her. The entire company was guarding against her like a thief.

No one believed her.

This leak case was indeed very strange. She was the main person in charge of that case. Besides her, only a few shareholders of the company knew about the bidding price. She was innocent, so those shareholders were problematic.

However, she did not have the right to investigate the shareholders, but Yin Zhihan did.

He was the biggest boss of To.

Would he believe her?

Lu Ning took out her phone and dialed his phone number, but it was always a mechanical female voice on the other end — Sorry, the phone number you have dialed has been switched off.

His phone was switched off.

Why was his phone switched off?

Lu Ning sent him a message — President, where are you? If your phone is on, please call me back.

— President, there was a leak in the company. I was involved in it, but I’m innocent. I hope you can return to the company immediately to take charge of the situation. My personal honor and disgrace don’t matter, but the company cannot have a mole.

Her text messages was sent out, but they all sank into the sea. He did not reply.

Where was he?

What was he busy with?

Lu Ning was like an ant on a hot pan, running around anxiously. Her white teeth bit her lower lip. She finally made up three words — Yin Zhihan, and then added an exclamation mark.

It meant that she was angry.

But thinking about it, she felt that this message was very inappropriate. It sounded like a girlfriend complaining and acting coquettishly to her boyfriend. She wanted to delete these words.

However, she clicked on the wrong button, and this message was sent.

When the notification of the successful sending of the message came, Lu Ning wished she could chop off her hand. Damn it, what did she do?

Just as Lu Ning was feeling frustrated, the doorbell rang. Someone was knocking on the door.

Who was it?

Lu Ning's heart skipped a beat, then she was pleasantly surprised. Was it Yin Zhihan?

"He's here!" She ran out quickly and opened the door.

The smile on her face froze. Looking at Zhu Yuchen outside the door, she was stunned. "Senior, why is it you?"

"Ah Ning, who else did you think it would be?"

Chapter 1426: I'm Waiting for Someone

Lu Ning smiled stiffly. "Oh, no one."

"Ah Ning, you look like you're waiting for someone. My arrival has disappointed you."

"Senior, how can that be? I welcome you very much. Please come in." Lu Ning stepped out of the way and invited Zhu Yuchen in.

...

In the apartment.

Lu Ning looked at Zhu Yuchen. "Senior, why are you here? There has been a bidding leak between our two families, so you'd better keep a distance from me now. Otherwise, I really won't be able to defend myself."

"Ah Ning, I think you're at a loss for words." Zhu Yuchen shrugged and said apologetically, "As far as I know, the directors of To have reported you to the higher-ups. In a few days, you'll be brought to the police station."

Lu Ning was shocked. She didn't expect the shareholders to be so fast. She was innocent, so why did no one believe her?

Why didn't they give her a chance to defend herself?

"Ah Ning, what do you plan to do?"

Lu Ning looked at Zhu Yuchen. "Senior, what exactly caused the leak? Why is your price exactly the same as ours?"

"Ah Ning, do you think I will tell you?"

"Of course not. I'm just asking casually," Lu Ning said with a bitter smile.

"Actually, I can tell you..."

"Forget it. Don't say it. Every company has its own interests. You are the crown prince of the Zhu family. The Zhu family's interests come first."

"Ah Ning, have you ever doubted me?"

"Doubted you? Suspected that you put a tracking device on me?" Lu Ning smiled and shook her head.

"Senior, we have known each other for many years. I know you. You wouldn't use me."

Zhu Yuchen smiled calmly. "Thank you for your trust, but you'll probably be at the police station in a few days. Do you have any countermeasures?"

Lu Ning thought for a moment. "I'm waiting for someone."

"Who?"

"Yin Zhihan." Lu Ning said the name softly and slowly. "I'm waiting for him to come back. I believe that as long as he comes back, all the problems will be solved easily."

"But Ah Ning, what if he doesn't believe you? You're in charge of this case. You're directly in contact with the bidding price, and you're so close to me. Why should he believe you? I think he'll stand on the same side as those shareholders."

"He won't." Lu Ning shook her head affirmatively. Her almond-shaped eyes were covered with a layer of brilliance. "I believe that he's not that kind of person."

"Then what kind of person is he?"

Lu Ning thought for a moment. How was she supposed to answer this question? Yin Zhihan was a very wise man. His gaze was so deep that you couldn't tell what he was thinking, but you just had to believe that he was omnipotent and that you would feel safe wherever he was, you would subconsciously want to rely on this person.

"He's my CEO. No matter what, I will hold my ground and wait for him to return to take charge of the overall situation. I believe that all the conspiracies will be exposed. Senior, just wait and see."

Zhu Yuchen looked into Lu Ning's eyes. In all the years that they had known each other, he had never realized that her eyes were so beautiful. They were like the stars in the sky, shining brightly.

Was it because she mentioned Yin Zhihan?

When she mentioned this man, the light in her eyes was so bright that she probably did not even notice it herself.

"Then, have you ever thought that he would take revenge for his personal grudge?"

“What?” Lu Ning didn’t understand for a moment.

“I heard that you rejected him a while ago. Ah Ning, I heard that he is a man who will seek revenge for the smallest grievance.”

Chapter 1427: Be More Honest

“What?” Lu Ning did not understand.

“I heard that you rejected him a while ago. Ah Ning, I heard that he is a man who will seek revenge for the smallest grievance.”

Lu Ning understood in her heart. It seemed that there was really a mole in To. This mole was Zhu Yuchen’s spy. Otherwise, how would he know such a private matter?

“Senior, he is a person who divides his work and his personal life. I trust him.”

“Ah Ning, why do you trust him so much? I heard that during this period of time, he was in Southeast Asia on his honeymoon with the daughter of the King of gamblers. He was having so much fun that he didn’t even want to go home. You have already been suspended for half a month. No matter how late the news was, he should already know about this matter, right? But he didn’t come back. Don’t you think that he tacitly agreed to the shareholders’ decision or that he doesn’t think that you are worth him coming back?”

Lu Ning’s heart felt like it had been stung by a bee. It was aching. Was he really like this?

Was he too happy to be with his new lover, or did he not want to waste another second on her after she rejected him?

“Ah Ning, come to my company.”

Lu Ning looked at Zhu Yuchen.

Zhu Yuchen continued, “Come to my company. I will settle everything for you and you can be my girlfriend. In the future, you will be the mistress of the Zhu Corporation.”

Lu Ning was stunned for a moment before she smiled. “Senior, stop fooling around. I can’t even be a department manager properly. How can I be a mistress? You should find someone else.”

She was tactfully rejecting him.

Zhu Yuchen was not discouraged. She would soon turn 23. She was one step closer to their agreement. Sooner or later, she would belong to him.

...

Three days later.

There was a knock on the door of Lu Ning's apartment. The police arrived as scheduled and took her away.

This was her first time sitting in a police car. She was even sitting in the back. The people around her were looking at her and pointing at her. They were talking about how such a beautiful girl could break the law. Lu Ning could only smile bitterly.

When she entered the police station, a young police officer behind her pushed her very rudely. "Go in quickly."

With a thud, Lu Ning's head hit the glass door. She was in so much pain that she couldn't help but frown and say, "Sir, can you be a little gentler?"

The young sergeants looked at Lu Ning contemptuously and said, "You are already suspected of a commercial leak case. The consequences will be very serious. You'd better behave yourself."

"Sir, you also know that I am just being suspected. The case hasn't been decided yet. To say the least, even if I am really a criminal, should a criminal really be humiliated by you? You have no right to do this."

The young superintendent snorted coldly and said arrogantly, "I've seen many people like you. Now you're so stubborn, but when the court finally decides, you'll be so scared that you'll cower like a turtle. Take care of yourself. Someone, lock her up."

Lu Ning still wanted to say something, but she was locked in a cell.

Her head hurt so much. Lu Ning reached out her small hand and touched it. There was a big bump on her forehead. She had hit it too hard just now.

What should she do now?

If Yin Zhihan didn't come back, then she would really have to go to jail!

She didn't want to go to jail. She didn't break the law. She was innocent.

Should she ask her father or her brothers for help?

If she asked them, this matter would be easily settled. But when she came to America, she had said that even if there were any difficulties, she wouldn't ask her family for help. If she asked her family for help now, everyone would laugh at her.

Lu Ning hugged her knees and sat on the clean floor. Yin Zhihan, Yin Zhihan, when are you coming back?

Chapter 1428: The Return of the Big Boss

Late at night.

Outside the door of TO, a black luxurious sedan came to an emergency stop. Ai Lisi got down from the driver's seat and was about to open the back door, but the back door was pushed open from the inside, and a black figure walked out, his tall and straight figure blended into the autumn frost, appearing particularly cold and solemn.

At this time, in the VIP meeting room, the shareholders were woken up by a phone call in their warm beds. Even though they were complaining in their hearts, they did not dare to show it on their faces and they sat upright and waited for the ruler.

Soon, a series of steady footsteps approached from afar outside the door. The shiny black leather shoes on the high-quality tiles would emit a “creak”, but it was not abrupt. Instead, it sounded like the low-pitched hum in the night.

With a bang, the door to the meeting room was pushed open, and Yin Zhihan appeared in front of everyone.

“President.” The shareholders smiled awkwardly.

Ai Lisi pulled out the chair at the head of the table, and Yin Zhihan sat down. His lazy, cold eyes quickly scanned the people present, and then went straight to the point. “Who will explain to me about Lu Ning’s matter?”

Lu Ning?

The shareholders never expected Yin Zhihan to rush back from Southeast Asia to deal with a small employee’s matter, “President, the matter goes like this, this cosmetics case was the bidding case that Lu Ning was personally responsible for. However, on the day of the bidding, the bidding price was leaked to the Zhu Corporation. Everyone knows that Lu Ning and Zhu Yuchen, the Crown Prince of the Zhu Corporation, are in a romantic relationship. She is a major suspect.”

“Ha.” Yin Zhihan laughed.

The shareholders did not understand what was going on. They felt that this man’s laughter made their hairs stand on end.

“President, you...”

Yin Zhihan’s gaze was incomparably sharp. It was as if he wanted to see through everyone present like an X-ray, “Since you also know that Zhu Yuchen and Lu Ning are in a romantic relationship, do you think that Zhu Yuchen will push Lu Ning to the center of the storm? Do you think that Zhu Yuchen is naive, or do you think that I am stupid?”

Yin Zhihan emphasized the last two words.

The shareholders trembled, almost trembling, “President... President, we don’t know what Zhu Yuchen is thinking, but... but Lu Ning is indeed a major suspect... it’s very likely that Lu Ning wants to please Zhu Yuchen, and in order to become the crown princess of the Zhu family, she will take risks...”

“Lu Ning is innocent,” Yin Zhihan said with certainty.

“President, why do you trust Lu Ning so much? She...”

Yin Zhihan mercilessly interrupted the shareholders, "Do you know Lu Ning's identity?"

The shareholders were stunned. What identity could Lu Ning have? She was just a small employee. Even though her self-created high-heeled shoes brand had once shocked the world, she was indeed talented.

"Lu Ning is the daughter of the Lu family."

Hearing this, the shareholders were stunned. They looked at the man in the main seat, not understanding which Lu family the Lu family was?

They knew of a Lu family. This Lu family had been standing at the top of the business pyramid for hundreds of years, and was the absolute ruler with a noble bloodline. The current head of the Lu family was the queen of entertainment, Ning Qing. After marriage, she had two sons and a daughter, her eldest son, Lu Jinwen, already had the power to rule the world in Vancouver. Her second son, Lu Fan, became famous after he single-handedly destroyed the international organization Green Gate. He became the king of the special forces.

They knew very little about the little daughter of the Lu family. There was very little news about the daughter of the Lu family in the Jianghu. Everyone said that the daughter of the Lu family was born into a high-profile family but kept a low profile. It was simply... a waste of God's gift.

Could it be that Lu Ning?

The shareholders were shocked.

Chapter 1429: Ha

Yin Zhihan took in the expressions of these people and moved his thin lips, "Lu Ning is the daughter of the Lu family. Even if the identity of the Zhu family's crown prince consort is placed in front of her, she will not take a fancy. In this leak case, some of you have made a wrong calculation and want to push Lu Ning out as a scapegoat. Why don't you investigate her background first? Why, now that you know her background, isn't it very surprising?"

The shareholders were shocked. So it turned out that Lu Ning really was!

They didn't expect Lu Ning to be the one!

Their eyes were almost blinded by the light.

This daughter of the Lu Corporation had never exposed her identity in good times or bad. As expected... she was extremely willful.

What the shareholders were even more shocked about was that there were some people present?

Did Yin Zhihan suspect that there was a mole among them?

"From now on, the company will form a surprise investigation team. The team leader will be Ai Lisi. Besides Lu Ning, the three of you have also seen the bidding price. Now, the focus of the investigation will be on the three of you. You'd better not let me find out. Once I find out, I will not give you a chance to cry," Yin Zhihan said with a sinister gaze.

...

At the police station.

Lu Ning heard a “gulu” sound. She reached out and hugged her small tummy. Ah, I’m hungry.

She had been locked up here for a day. Logically speaking, she could eat national food for free, but the sergeants seemed to have forgotten about her. No one sent her food.

She had not eaten rice for three meals. If this continued, she would faint from hunger.

“Sir, sir!” Lu Ning wanted to call for help to protest.

But no one paid attention to her.

Lu Ning shut her mouth resentfully. She had offended that young sergeant. Without a doubt, that young sergeant must have prevented her from eating. She really could not offend a villain.

Lu Ning obediently sat back in the corner. She turned her head to look at the cell next door.

There was a fat auntie living next door. The Auntie’s relatives had just come to visit her and sent her two steamed buns. The auntie was eating steamed buns.

Looking at the white and fat steamed bun, Lu Ning almost drooled.

“Hi, how are you?” Lu Ning took the initiative to strike up a conversation with her.

The auntie looked at Lu Ning with a bit of steamed bun in her mouth. She looked a little dazed. Perhaps it was because of the language barrier, the auntie did not seem to understand her English.

Lu Ning gestured with her fingers. She was very embarrassed, so her little face was red. “Um, can you give me some steamed buns? I’m... hungry.”

“Just a little bit is enough. I’ll return it to you in the future.” Lu Ning smiled pitifully.

The aunt looked at her and hesitated for a moment. Then, she pulled out half of the steamed bun and handed it to her.

Lu Ning took it in her hand and quickly smiled with crescent eyes, “Thank you.”

She put the steamed bun in her mouth and bit. Finally, she could fill her stomach.

However, before she could eat it, she heard a low and sweet laughter. “Ha.”

Lu Ning was stunned. Then, she looked up and saw a straight and handsome figure standing outside the prison cell. Yin Zhihan was wearing a thin black coat. He was looking at her with a soft smile at the corner of his mouth.

The bun in Lu Ning’s hand fell to the ground.

Him?

He's Back!

At this moment, a series of footsteps rushed over. The Chief of the police department bowed and said with a polite smile, "Mr Yin, I didn't know you were here. Sorry for not welcoming you."

Yin Zhihan looked at Lu Ning inside the prison cell and said, "Open the door."

"Okay, hurry up and open the door!" The Chief of the police department ordered the young police superintendent who had a rude attitude.

Chapter 1430: Rubbing Her Head

The young superintendent was on the verge of tears. He had no idea that Lu Ning was leaning against such a huge mountain. He quickly opened the door and looked at Lu Ning, begging for mercy, "Miss Lu, you can come out now. Ha, if I did anything wrong earlier, please forgive me, Miss Lu."

The next sentence was, "Please don't tell Mr Yin." Lu Ning understood.

In fact, Lu Ning was not a narrow-minded person. In this world, the strong preyed on the weak. It was normal for people without power to be looked down upon and discriminated against in such a place. She would not be so small minded as to tell Yin Zhihan about this.

Moreover, who was he to her?

He wasn't her who-who. Why would she let him stand up for her?

She just felt very awkward. He had come at an unknown time just now. Did he see that she had borrowed half a steamed bun from the aunt next to her? It was so awkward just thinking about it.

Lu Ning walked out and came to the man's side. "President, you're back?"

"Yes." Yin zhihan nodded and said, "Let's go."

"Okay." Lu Ning nodded.

"What's wrong with your forehead?" At this moment, Yin Zhihan's gaze fell on the big bump on her forehead.

The young superintendent beside him was suddenly nervous, afraid that Lu Ning would say something bad.

Lu Ning just smiled. "Nothing, I bumped into it myself."

Yin Zhihan's sharp cold eyes stopped on the young superintendent's face.

The young superintendent's scalp tingled. "I'm sorry, Mr. Yin. I . . . I am as good as blind... Miss Lu, please forgive me. I was too rash, I'll apologize."

As the young superintendent spoke, he slapped himself.

Lu Ning was a little embarrassed. She didn't make things difficult for others, but the young superintendent's actions made her feel that Yin Zhihan was protecting her. The subtle atmosphere made her heart beat faster.

"I'm fine," Lu Ning looked at Yin Zhihan and whispered, "I'm really fine..."

Yin Zhihan retracted his gaze without batting an eyelid. He looked at the Chief of the police department and asked, "Chief, do you have a medical kit here?"

"Yes, Mr Yin, this way please."

Everyone came to the hall. Yin Zhihan pointed to a chair and said to Lu Ning, "Sit down. I'll help you apply some medicinal wine."

"No need, I'll do it myself when I get back." Lu Ning waved her hand and refused.

Yin Zhihan looked at her and frowned.

Lu Ning, ..

At this moment, a clean and faint smell of bamboo approached. Yin Zhihan stood in front of her and enveloped her whole body. His broad and gentle palms rested on her forehead. "Does it hurt?"

He rubbed her head.

"It doesn't hurt." Lu Ning's small face had already reddened unconsciously. The forehead that he had rubbed seemed to have been electrocuted.

Yin Zhihan rubbed the medicinal wine for her. "After this incident, why didn't you call your dad or your brother?"

"If I called them, they would laugh at me." Lu Ning puffed up her beautiful cheeks in childish anger.

Perhaps it was the mention of her family that made her reveal her little girl's haughty attitude. Yin Zhihan's eyes lingered on her face and slowly softened, "What if I didn't come back?"

"You won't, I believe you will come back!" Lu Ning looked at Yin Zhihan with bright eyes.

Yin Zhihan raised his eyebrows and focused on what he was doing.

His tall black figure was shrouded in the dim yellow light and appeared particularly warm. Lu Ning recalled that many years ago, she and Ling Er had a fight with that Han Xue. At that time, her leg had been injured and she was in the dormitory, he also wrapped her up gently.

Chapter 1431: Dinner at My Place

Looking at him now, his face was still as handsome as ever, causing the female police superintendent's gaze to stay on him. Once he appeared, he would always be the center of attention.

However, he seemed a little haggard. The black coat on his body had some wrinkles, and even his eyes were bloodshot. She heard that he was on a honeymoon with his Du Shi's daughter in Southeast Asia. His appearance really did not seem like he was on a honeymoon.

Of course, Lu Ning would not ask. She did not have the right to ask what he had been doing this whole time.

"It's done."

...

After she was bandaged, the two of them walked towards the main door of the police station. Yin Zhihan said, "You go back and rest for a week first, you can return to the company to work when you are well rested."

"President, I am absolutely innocent, you have to believe me. Regarding this leaked case, I suspect that there is a mole among the shareholders of our company," Lu Ning said affirmatively.

Yin Zhihan nodded. "I understand, you don't have to worry about this matter anymore. I'll take care of it."

Lu Ning's heart was finally relieved. With his words, she knew that everything had been resolved. Walking beside him and listening to his steady footsteps, she felt an unprecedented sense of security.

This sense of security must have come from his overwhelming aura and outstanding masculine charisma.

"Are you hungry?" He suddenly asked.

At the mention of this topic, Lu Ning froze. She quickly waved her hand. "I'm not hungry at all."

"Really? If you're not hungry, why did you borrow half a steamed bun from the person next door? Could it be that the daughter of the Lu family has never tasted the taste of a steamed bun?"

His tone was very gentle, and even his gaze seemed to have a hint of pity. Lu Ning's small face instantly burned up, probably because she was embarrassed.

"You're mistaken. I didn't borrow a steamed bun. The aunt next door forced it on me and let me have a taste." Because she was not good at lying, Lu Ning's gaze was evasive.

Yin Zhihan raised his straight eyebrows and did not continue this topic. If he continued, she would have to dig a hole in the ground.

"Let's go, I'll treat you to a meal. This time, you've been implicated by the company. As your boss, I'm compensating you."

“No need. I want to go home and eat. There’s food in the fridge at home. It’s very convenient for me to cook.”

Yin Zhihan looked at her without saying a word.

Lu Ning was afraid that he would misunderstand, so she explained, “It’s very late now. The restaurant outside is probably closed too. I...”

“No need to explain,” Yin Zhihan interrupted her. “I didn’t think too much.”

So... she was thinking too much?

“Well, if you don’t mind, why don’t we go to my place for dinner?”

This was the first time Lu Ning had invited a man to her apartment, and it was so late at night. She regretted saying it out loud, and her heart inexplicably raced.

Was this considered her taking the initiative?

How would he answer?

Lu Ning didn’t get an answer from the man, because he didn’t say anything for a long time. Lu Ning looked up, but the man beside her didn’t look at her. His gaze fell on the front.

Only then did Lu Ning realize that there was a black luxury business car parked under the stairs. A blonde beauty was leaning against the side of the car. She was very beautiful with a pair of sapphire eyes.

The daughter of the king of gamblers, Ann.

Lu Ning was stunned on the spot.

“Han, you’re out?” Ann ran forward and held Yin Zhihan’s muscular arm affectionately.

Yin Zhihan looked at Lu Ning with a natural expression and then introduced, “My girlfriend Ann, Ann, this is my subordinate, Lu Ning.”

“Hi, How are you?” Ann took the initiative to greet him.

Chapter 1432: Beautiful

Lu Ning quickly came back to her senses and she stretched the corners of her mouth. “Ann, hi.”

She could guarantee that her smile at this moment must be very ugly.

He had brought his girlfriend back, and she had just invited him to her apartment. It was too awkward.

She was simply overthinking things!

“Lu Ning, get in my car. I’ll send you home.” Yin Zhihan said.

“No need, I’ll go back by myself.” Lu Ning didn’t want to be a third wheel.

“At this time, the subway has already stopped, and taxis are almost impossible to be flagged. Unless you walk home by yourself, but it’s very dangerous for girls to walk at night.” Yin Zhihan reminded her kindly.

Lu Ning thought of some bad news. A young woman was robbed and raped while walking at night. She suddenly felt very scared.

There was a private car, but she didn’t take it. She realized that she was quite pretentious.

“Okay then, I’ll have to trouble the President.”

...

In the luxurious sedan.

Yin Zhihan drove without looking away. Ann sat in the passenger seat, and Lu Ning sat in the back seat.

“Han, I didn’t expect your company to have such a beautiful female subordinate. Miss Lu, you’re really beautiful.” Ann turned her head and praised Lu Ning without stingy words.

Lu Ning showed a polite and modest smile. “No, Miss Ann, you’re flattering me.”

“Han,” Ann looked at the man beside her. “Do you think Miss Lu is beautiful?”

Lu Ning’s heart skipped a beat. She didn’t expect Ann to let Yin Zhihan evaluate her.

She didn’t care much about her appearance. To put it simply, she had always cultivated her character and cared about her talent. However, since young, people around her always praised her and said that she was beautiful.

She should be quite pretty.

Lu Ning looked at Yin Zhihan through the rearview mirror. She didn’t know how he would reply?

She was quite expectant.

Women would care about men’s evaluation of them.

Yin Zhihan’s gaze slowly came over. It was very gentle, but it was also a man’s appreciation and sizing up of women. He nodded and smiled, “Mm, Pretty.”

This time, Lu Ning felt her ears turn red.

She didn’t know if he was sincere or pretending, but his gaze just now made her feel that he really thought she was very beautiful.

“Han, you have such a beautiful girl under you, why didn’t you pursue her?” Ann continued to ask.

Lu Ning's forehead was filled with three black lines. This Ann was really asking for trouble. It seemed that he didn't pursue her. It was only on that day that he was very angry and said that he wanted to hit on her, but she rejected him. Then, he found a new lover, his speed made her think that all of this was a dream.

"Ann, you're joking. No matter how beautiful I am, the President won't take a liking to me. In the eyes of the President, you're the most beautiful." Lu Ning answered first.

These words made Ann very satisfied, and Ann smiled brightly.

Yin Zhihan looked up at Lu Ning behind him, and then smiled faintly.

Lu Ning didn't know what his gaze meant, and she didn't want to guess. In short, her feelings at the moment were very complicated, a little painful, and a little sour..

She looked sideways at the car window, and the shadow of the man in the front seat could be vaguely seen through the window. His handsome features were plated in the bustling neon lights, looking charming.

Lu Ning hurriedly looked away.

After driving for a while, Yin Zhihan said, "Ann, I'll send you back to the hotel first. I'll look for you after I send Lu Ning back."

"Okay." Ann nodded obediently. At this time, the only daughter of the king of gambling was also obedient like a little kitten in front of this man. In fact, rumours said that she was a wild and shrewd person.

Chapter 1433: Take Care of Yourself

"Zhihan, I'll be waiting for you in the room. You have to come over quickly," Ann rushed over and hugged Yin Zhihan's muscular arm. She nuzzled against him, sporting a coy look. "I've been waiting outside for a really long time. My legs are sore."

Lu Ning fidgeted awkwardly. Watching the sappy display of affection made her skin crawl.

Did all women lie so convincingly like Ann?

She couldn't do it.

Even as a child, Lu Ning had always been headstrong and free-spirited – she bowed to no one. She could not bring herself to act in a manner like Ann.

While Ling'er shared certain similarities with Ann, she was not so wanton as to lavish her affections on just anyone. She only behaved coquettishly with Pingan. For them, it was a sort of interplay they both enjoyed. Every time Ling'er pouted or stamped her feet, Pingan would turn into a wobbling mess of jelly. It was something special they shared and bonded over. It was not the same with Ann.

Lu Ning's complexion settled on a hazy pink. She felt like she had bitten into a lemon.

Was she... jealous?

When she thought of this possibility, Lu Ning's expression turned ugly.

"Be good. I'll be back soon. I'll make it up to you tonight." Yin Zhihan chuckled as he pinched Ann's soft cheeks.

Lu Ning watched the scene unfold with conflicting emotions. Perhaps because she was there, Yin Zhihan's actions were not as flirtatious as they could have been. For a second, Lu Ning thought Ann would take him there and then from the way she was attached to Zhihan's arm. How could she not when everything about him screamed elegant perfection? It was almost as if Ann was a wild cat in heat.

Later that night...

What was he going to do with Ann?

Lu Ning's imagination ran wild. There were only so many things they could be doing together in a room. She would be a fool not to read between the lines. There was no way they would spend the whole night drinking tea and chatting!

A luxurious sedan stopped in front of the hotel. Waving goodbye, Ann sashayed back to the comfort of her hotel room. Meanwhile, Yin Zhihan drove Lu Ning back to her apartment.

In the stillness of the car, only the sounds of Zhihan and Lu Ning's breathing punctuated the silence.

"Are you really dating Zhu Yuchen?" Yin Zhihan suddenly asked.

Lu Ning looked at him but chose not to answer his question directly. "Is something the matter?"

"Zhu Yuchen's personal life is clean. Among the rich second generation, he is young and shows a decent level of self-restraint. He is not a bad choice as your life's partner. Yet, it does not look like he cares much for you. He threw you into the fire despite knowing you were the one in charge when this leak occurred. It's evident he cares more about his career than he does you. I heard over the grapevine how he has broken into the European market recently. It seems his bid for success has borne fruit."

"Lu Ning," Yin Zhihan eyed her through the rearview mirror, "Have you thought this through? Zhu Yuchen isn't a simple person. He might not be pursuing you for covert reasons. It's very likely he already knows you are the heiress to the Lu family. You need not doubt my intentions. I'm merely cautioning you as a friend."

Of course, Zhihan was worried for her. They were friends, after all. He was simply behaving in a manner any good friend would. He was offering her his objective analysis of the person she was going to date. What more could she ask for in a friend? Logic dictated that she ought to be glad for having such a thoughtful friend, but the heart is a curious creature unbound by reason, and here, it rebelled.

Rage thrummed in her chest. Zhihan had fallen out with her faster than flipping through a book. A month ago, he had said that he wanted to pursue her, but now no sign of his earlier passion was apparent in his demeanour towards her. Zhihan changed too quickly. He was inconstant.

"I know!" After saying that, Lu Ning looked out of the window. It was clear she didn't want to talk to him.

Yin Zhihan didn't say anything else. Soon, the car stopped in front of the apartment.

"Please excuse me, President Yin. Thank you for driving me home." Lu Ning opened the back door.

"Lu Ning." Yin Zhihan turned around and looked at her. "Take care of yourself. I'll probably be away for the next six months."

Lu Ning's little hand froze on the door handle as she stared blankly at Yin Zhihan.

Chapter 1434: I Have Someone I Like

Lu Ning's small hand froze on the sedan's door as she stared blankly at Yin Zhihan.

"If something like this happens again, call your family. You don't always have to put up a strong front – showing off your meek side will endear more people to you than otherwise. I won't always be around to help you, and even if I wanted to, there may come a day whereby I wouldn't have the ability to do so." Yin Zhihan chided gently.

Lu Ning came back to her senses, feeling her face flush. It seemed Zhihan had seen that message.

She wished she could dig a hole to escape her current embarrassment.

"Lu Ning, come here." Yin Zhihan reached out to her.

His obsidian eyes glimmered brightly in the gloom of the sedan, resembling the first rays of sunlight peeking through a spring shower. Those bewitching pools of night drew Lu Ning in like a moth to the flame. Slowly, she crept closer to his outstretched hand.

The two of them were so close that they touched each other. Yin Zhihan's large palm gently stroked her cheek. "In my eyes, you are the most beautiful."

You are the most beautiful...

Lu Ning only awoke from her trance some minutes after she had gotten out of the car. Earlier, Zhihan had said that Ann was the most beautiful woman in his eyes, yet now he called her the most beautiful.

Where did the truth start and the lie end?

Lu Ning hurried to her apartment with flaming cheeks cupped in between her hands. If anyone had seen her in passing, they would have thought someone was chasing her. Hopeless. She was completely and utterly hopeless. All it took was a little flirting on Zhihan's part to send her heart racing.

Upon returning to her room, Lu Ning drew open the curtains and looked down. The sleek and polished black sedan that she had ridden in had not left. He was still parked there.

It looked like he had no intention of leaving.

No. It could not be. Ann was still waiting for him at the hotel. He said that he would return as soon as he could to accompany her. Such ambiguous words they were, spurring on the imagination. Why was not he leaving?

Lu Ning did not sleep that night, haunted by the image of a black sedan and the person driving it. Unbeknownst to her, that black sedan did not leave until the following day.

...

Half a month later, Lu Ning's 24th birthday.

On this day, Zhu Yuchen rang the doorbell of her apartment, and she generously invited him in.

Zhu Yuchen's reason for coming was evident, and he quickly dove into the topic that was at the forefront of his mind. "Ah Ning, today is your 24th birthday. You should fulfil our promise and be my girlfriend."

Lu Ning took a deep breath and said, "I'm sorry, Yuchen, but I can't be your girlfriend."

"Why ever not?"

"Because I already have someone I like..."

"Who is he?"

Lu Ning did not respond.

"Ah Ning, if you don't tell me who he is, I'll think that you're just putting me off. I won't give up so easily!"

Lu Ning sighed, her voice mellowing. "You should know who he is..."

"... Yin Zhihan?" Zhu Yuchen murmured hesitantly.

Lu Ning did not deny Yuchen's conjecture. Yin Zhihan's handsome face constantly flashed in her mind's eye, replaying the sight of his luminous eyes that shone like stars.

"Ah Ning, why? Didn't you reject him before? Why do you like him now?"

"I... I don't know. I feel so conflicted – I don't know what to think! I always thought that Zhihan wasn't my type. I thought I wanted someone who always smiled, someone who would make me laugh and give me a sense of stability in life. Zhihan is the exact opposite! He's too wild, too lacking in self-restraint. I believed I would only hold him back, so I rejected his advances. Now he is with Ann, and oh how my heart aches! It feels so empty. Yet, every time I see Ann and Zhihan together, I can't help but grit my

teeth in jealousy. I can't stop thinking about him – so much so that it hurts knowing I'm not there by his side."

Lu Ning inhaled a rattling breath before she continued. "I don't know what to do. Liking Yin Zhihan means I'll have to cast aside the past and usher in a new life of danger and intrigue. I-I'm not sure I'm ready for such a change, but one thing is certain. My heart belongs to Yin Zhihan. I can't agree with your pursuing me under such circumstances. It isn't fair to you!"

Chapter 1435: The Yacht

Zhu Yuchen nodded. Failure and defeat bled through his poised countenance. "Hah... Ah Ning, you are the bravest girl I've ever met. Why are you so unsure of yourself when it comes to Yin Zhihan?"

"Maybe it has something to do with my personality..."

"Ah Ning, it doesn't have anything to do with your personality. It's because you don't just like Yin Zhihan. You are in love with him. You are afraid of rejection because you love him so deeply. Your love for him has merely drawn out your deepest insecurities – it has nothing to do with any defect of character on your part."

Could Yuchen be on to something?

Lu Ning's heart skipped a beat. Was she in love with him?

When had she fallen in love?

Diving into the memories of her past was not a complicated matter. One memory, in particular, stood out. It was around the time she was 15 years old. She remembered injuring her leg and how Zhihan had taken it upon himself to bandage her wound, going so far as to bring her books to read so she wouldn't be bored. Lu Ning felt the first stirrings of her heart were then.

Gratitude gave way to intrigue, and before she knew it, it had transformed into the beginnings of love. Since then, she never managed to put aside her feelings for him, regardless of how she tried.

Subconsciously, Lu Ning rejected him. She was afraid of love. For a burgeoning young girl of her nature, love was a foreign concept. Like many others of her disposition, she shunned it, too afraid her passionate love would consume her; More so in the unfortunate event should Zhihan fail to return her feelings.

"Ah Ning, Yin Zhihan is already dating Ann. If he can throw you to the back of his mind so soon after falling out, I'd advise you to reconsider. In terms of marriage, I'm a much better candidate than Yin Zhihan."

In her heart of hearts, Lu Ning knew, without a doubt, that Yin Zhihan would not be a suitable marriage partner. One might compare him to a work of art in that regard. He was an object to be admired from a distance, nothing more.

Yet, what the mind proposes, the heart often disposes.

She wanted to follow her heart.

“Yuchen, thank you for your kind consideration, but I must humbly decline your affections. Yin Zhihan and I will let nature take its course...”

Three months later...

During these three months, Yin Zhihan did not return to the company. Lu Ning had not seen him for a very, very long time, and the two of them did not have any contact.

On this day, Lu Ning decided to take leave for a short vacation – a month’s break to rest and relax.

She had not slept well these past three months. Lu Ning’s mind often replayed the scene of a particular sedan some three months ago. Perhaps it was just Zhihan’s way of flirting with girls, but she could not help but read more into it.

This holiday was a chance to let her hair down, to forget the pesky nuisance that was her overactive imagination. It was a time for fun and games.

Lu Ning did not go alone. She went on vacation with her good friend and colleague, Xiao Qiu. The two of them spent seven days shopping in Hong Kong before flying into Macau for some fun.

One day, Xiao Qiu brought her to a white sandy beach overlooking a large, pellucid lake. She pointed at a palatial yacht cresting over the blue waters. “Ah Ning, let’s board that yacht.”

Lu Ning glanced at the yacht and smiled. “Xiao Qiu, stop fooling around. That yacht is a place for the rich. It isn’t something we can venture into without an invitation.”

“You’ll be glad to know, then, that I managed to snag one!” Xiao Qiu smirked proudly.

Lu Ning’s gaping mouth resembled an elegant koi. “Oh my God, Xiao Qiu, you’re... amazing. I don’t know what to say. How did you get your hands on an invitation?”

“I got this invitation from a good friend of mine. She couldn’t attend the event – she said something about having another engagement – so she transferred her invitation rights to me.”

“Is that so? When did you become friends with such a wealthy person? The invitation can’t be fake, can it? If we get kicked out, it’ll be such a scandal!”

“Ah Ning, this invitation is real. Come one, let’s go in already!”

Xiao Qiu all but dragged Lu Ning to the yacht with giddy excitement. “Ah Ning, let me tell you. There are many rich people on board this yacht. This yacht is hosting a masque and an underground casino. Honestly, we’ve been in Macau for so long but not once have you stepped foot into a casino. You don’t know what you’re missing!”

A casino?

Casinos were places where vice took on physical form and clung to individuals like a second skin. They were sites of opulent indulgence, where the upper rungs of society mingled and enjoyed themselves. Those who did not lack money and those who hoped to strike it rich often mingled shoulder to shoulder in these raucous dens. People like Lu Ning would never venture into one. All that she had was won through hard work. It was not something she could afford to squander in places like casinos.

As someone from the mainland, Lu Ning feared the many stigmas attached to casinos in general, many of which stemmed from the vague impressions of them she had garnered via television dramas and old-fashioned crime movies. She was afraid of being caught by the police. She did not fancy the idea of sitting behind bars for the rest of her life.

Chapter 1436: The Guardian Star

Casinos were not places any respectable person would visit.

Her father, eldest brother, and second brother would never visit such a cesspool of vice. If they ever did, her mother would rip into them like a bloodhound.

The two of them stopped at the embarkation point of the yacht. The steward at the door promptly asked the present their invitation, polished and polite, "Madams, please present your invitation cards."

"Here," Xiao Qiu handed the invitation card to the steward.

The impeccably dressed steward examined it seriously. "Everything seems to be in order. I wish you a pleasant time on board our yacht."

Such was how Lu Ning was dragged aboard the yacht by Xiao Qiu.

The yacht was quite large, and it had a total of three floors. They passed the reception area and found themselves in an opulent ballroom. Elegant music filled the air with the crisp tones of a chamber orchestra. Several long tables, laden with confectionaries and other finger foods, were interspersed among the throngs of smartly dressed men and dolled up women. One would have had to be blind not to recognise these men and women as those belonging to the upper echelons of society.

Lu Ning rarely attended such events. She had never liked going to the parties her parents were invited to while as a young girl. Her feelings towards such events had not changed since becoming an adult. She would rather stay at home in her apartment with a good book in hand. A steaming cup of tea would not have been remiss either. Being in such an ostentatious environment for the first time in a long while, Lu Ning could not help but marvel at the novelty of the whole experience.

"Xiao Qiu, I'm impressed. I didn't expect that invitation of yours to be real."

Xiao Qiu raised her eyebrows and smiled. "Ah Ning, let's go and grab something to eat. The food looks amazing!"

While the two of them sampled the inviting spread, they heard the discussions around them —

“I heard it being said that the owner of this yacht is going to invite someone to dance with him at the ball tonight. That fortunate lady will even receive a necklace called the Guardian Star.”

“The Guardian Star is said to be the King of Diamonds. It’s one of a kind in the world – no other like it exists. It’s something money can’t buy. Legend has it that the Guardian Star protects whomsoever owns it for all eternity. Don’t you think it sounds so romantic?”

“Bah! Stop dreaming of such nonsense. I heard that the owner of this yacht brought his girlfriend with him. He probably obtained the Guardian Star for his girlfriend.”

“His girlfriend must be so happy!”

Xiao Qiu hopped about excitedly when she heard the news. Nudging Lu Ning by the shoulder, she said, “Ah Ning, when the owner of the yacht comes out to dance later, you must brave your fears and attract his attention. If he asks you to accompany him for a dance, then that string of Guardian Stars will be yours!”

Lu Ning almost spat out a mouthful of fruit juice. “Xiao Qiu, what are you talking about? He’s here with his girlfriend. There’s no way I’ll stand a chance. I’m more than aware of my limits.”

“Ah Ning, you shouldn’t short change yourself. You’re one of the most beautiful women I’ve ever met. I can think of no man who wouldn’t appreciate your beauty upon catching sight of you. Look! Even now, you’re drawing attention to yourself.”

Lu Ning scanned her surroundings. Indeed, her appearance had caused quite a commotion. She could feel countless pairs of eyes staring her way, many of whom were well-dressed men in suits and tuxedos. They eyed her slender form hungrily like a wolf stalking a hapless lamb.

Unfortunately for them, Lu Ning was not interested. She already had someone she liked. Even if any one of those men staring at her were to offer up the Guardian star on a silver platter, she wouldn’t bat an eye. Nothing was more precious than a gift from one she truly loved – no else could compare.

“Xiao Qiu, didn’t you say that there is an underground casino? Let’s go and see it.”

“Okay, okay. Let’s go.”

The two of them made their way down to the first floor and entered the casino. Lu Ning was dumbfounded. The sight that greeted her went beyond anything she could imagine.

Gambling tables dotted the casino in every direction. Cocktail waitresses suited in bunny uniforms shuttled back and forth with glasses of alcohol balanced on large trays. Under the dim orange lights, men and women gambled to their heart’s content. From the clothes they wore, none of them lacked money.

Money did not exchange hands at these gambling tables. Instead, they were playing with chips. Each chip was valued at a hundred dollars apiece, with the values only going up from there.

“Ah Ning, look at that table.” At this moment, Xiao Qiu grabbed Lu Ning’s hand, drawing her attention to a particular table.

Lu Ning looked over. The table Xiao Qiu was pointing at was by far the largest of all the tables in the casino. It was the principal seat of the entire venue. Seated at the table were four men placing bets.

Chapter 1437: A Prosperous Man

Lu Ning’s pupils constricted as she sucked in a breath of cold air. Yin Zhihan was one of the four seated at the main table.

He was here!

Yin Zhihan was wearing a navy blue sweater that opened into a V-neck. It complimented the pair of slim black pants he wore. Zhihan had styled his short brown hair in voluminous waves that framed his handsome features, enhancing his roguish charm under the warm light.

Beside him stood Ann.

“President Yin, your luck tonight is too good. You’re cleaning us out!. The masque is about to start soon. How about this? Let’s finish this with a bang. One game to play for keeps,” one of the men suggested with an easy smile.

“Yes, yes. Let’s do it that way. President Yin, bring all the chips. I’m sure President Yin is not short on money anyway. Haha...” echoed his fellow gamblers.

Yin Zhihan narrowed his eyes and turned to Ann, pinching her fair cheek. “Ann, why don’t you decide?” he said casually.

“My goodness! President Yin certainly trusts you a great deal. It looks like you’ve got quite a lot on your plate. Are you sure you can manage it all without your hands shaking?”

Ann blushed under the crowd’s teasing. She glanced at Yin Zhihan coquettishly, clinging to his side.

“Zhihan, let’s go all-in.”

“Alright.” Yin Zhihan pushed all his chips up without any hesitation.

“President Yin truly is forthright! I like it!” One of his fellow gamblers gave him a thumbs up.

Lu Ning’s heart jumped into her mouth. How could he be so nonchalant? What if he lost?

A wave of anger rose in her chest. Zhihan had said that he would not return to the company for half a year. She thought that he had pressing business to attend to. Who knew he would be spending his time away from the company onboard a yacht gambling? To think he even brought Ann along with him!

She was beside herself with fury.

Although she was mad with him, there was not much she could do for the moment. The game had already begun. All she could do was pray for his success. The anxiety that gnawed at her heart caused her to break out in cold sweat. Lu Ning could not bear the thought of him losing.

Perhaps it was divine intervention, or at least the tides of fortune had answered her prayer, but nothing could defeat the sense of relief that washed over her when Zhihan flourished a winning hand. He had won.

The three men beat their chests and stomped their feet, whining, "President Yin, this is the last time we ever play with you. Your luck..."

Ai Lisi swept up all the chips on the table. Yin Zhihan stood up, wrapping his muscular arms around Ann's supple waist and grinned. "I can't help it. With someone like Ann in my arms, my luck is unstoppable."

Ann's face glowed red like an apple. She playfully punched Yin Zhihan's firm chest with a dainty hand and said, "Hush now! Zhihan, you're embarrassing me!"

Watching this scene unfold replaced Lu Ning's relief with an intense, sour dislike for Ann. Had her self-control been any worse, she would have pounced at Ann there and then, pushing that minx away from Zhihan.

Here she was fretting for him, yet the only thing in his eyes was that flirtatious harpy flouting her beauty!

No. She had to remain calm. As much as her heart ached at the sight of Zhihan hugging Ann, she had no right step between them. She had no right to be jealous. It was ridiculous.

Yin Zhihan escorted Ann by the arm, walking in their direction. To avoid meeting the pair, Lu Ning beat a hasty retreat. She did not think she could remain civil the way her emotions were all over the place.

She... She couldn't see him – not at the moment.

Without so much as a word of warning, Lu Ning turned around and left. Xiao Qiu, feeling something off about her friend, shouted, "Ah Ning! Ah Ning! Hold on. What's wrong? Where are you going?"

Xiao Qiu's shouts successfully attracted Yin Zhihan's attention. His onyx eyes narrowed, locking on the figure of the person who was being addressed as 'Ah Ning'.

The figure was that of a delicately beautiful woman.

Just as Lu Ning had taken two steps, she bumped into someone.

"Humph! Don't you have eyes? How dare you walk into my boss? If anything happens to him, you'll be in trouble!" The so-called boss's subordinate berated threateningly.

Lu Ning looked up at the man she bumped into. He was a man in his fifties wearing a Changshan – a Chinese tunic worn by men. From a glance, one could tell that it was an exceptional tunic of refined make. His eyes, however, were lit with a sort of cunning sophistication that not even his muddy eyes could conceal.

He was a man of Jianghu.

Although Lu Ning thought the man was somewhat hateful for standing in her way, she recognised that she had been the one to bump into him. Since the fault laid with her, she did not hesitate to apologise. "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to bump into you. It was careless of me."

Chapter 1438: His Protection

"What's the point of saying sorry? If it's of any use, then what do we need the police for?" The subordinate replied fiercely.

At this moment, the old man signaled for the subordinate to shut up. The old man sized up Lu Ning from head to toe and finally stopped at her exquisite face, "Miss, you bumped into me just now and my chest bone hurts now. Why don't you rub it for me?"

Lu Ning raised her eyebrows instantly. Bah, old hooligan!

He was even older than her daddy, Shaoming!

"Sir, if you are hurt, you can go to the hospital. As long as the doctor certifies your injury, I'll compensate your medical fees regardless of the amount," Lu Ning said sternly.

The old man smiled lecherously, "Miss, I have money, but it's rare to see a beauty like you nowadays."

Lu Ning rolled her eyes at him and was about to leave.

She did not want to waste her breath on such a hooligan.

"Miss, you want to leave just like that?" The old man gave his subordinate a look, and his subordinate immediately rushed over to catch hold of Lu Ning.

Lu Ning was shocked. She didn't expect him to be so brazen to kidnap a woman publicly.

When she realized that she was about to be caught, Lu Ning's heart sank, and she tried to think of a way to escape.

At the critical moment, she felt a large hand on her shoulder. With a gentle tug, she fell against a warm and broad chest. A low mellow voice spoke above the top of her head, "Uncle, what happened?"

"Daddy." Ann walked over and hugged the old man's arm.

Lu Ning felt disgusted when she saw it. So this old man was Ann's daddy. He was the King of Gamblers, no wonder he was so arrogant!

The person protecting her was Yin Zhihan. Lu Ning looked up at him.

Yin Zhihan also looked down at her at the same time. His gaze was calm, Lu Ning sensed that he was telling her everything was fine and she felt safe and reassured.

No matter what happened, he would not budge.

The King of Gamblers looked at Lu Ning, then at Yin Zhihan, and asked, "Zhihan, do you know this young lady?"

Yin Zhihan gave a gentle nod of his head, "Yes, she is my employee, Lu Ning."

So she was just a lowly employee. The King of Gamblers' eyes shone with resolution.

Yin Zhihan continued, "Uncle, you should have met Lu Ning's father before. He is the Chairman of the Lu's Group, Lu Shaoming. Her eldest brother, Lu Jinwen, is currently in Vancouver. You should also be familiar with Lu Ning's second brother, Lu Fan because you had a run-in with him some time ago."

Hearing that, the King of Gamblers' expression changed drastically. He didn't expect Lu Ning to have such a formidable family background.

In the business world, anyone of status would know her father, Lu Shaoming. As for her eldest brother, Lu Jinwen, it was said that he was even more capable than their father.

Lu Jinwen had created Lu's Group's second legend in Vancouver.

However, the one whom the King of Gamblers was truly terrified of, was her second brother, Lu Fan. Some time ago, Lu Fan had led his Special Forces into his territory and destroyed two of his main leads, causing him to lose hundreds of millions of dollars. If he had not paid a large sum of money to the authorities to suppress the matter and that Lu Fan had not been summoned back by his superiors, the work he painstakingly built his entire life would have been ruined by the recalcitrant Lu Fan.

Chapter 1439: Who Cares About Your Money

The King of Gamblers broke out in a cold sweat. If he were to touch Lu Ning rashly, the men of the Lu family would definitely come for him.

"Haha, so you're the daughter of the Lu's. I've heard a lot about you. Let this slide, Miss Lu, we wouldn't have known each other if it didn't happen," the King of Gamblers said, trying to salvage the situation.

Lu Ning didn't want to see the ugly face of this old man any longer, so she simply said, "It's okay."

At this moment, the hand on her shoulder gave her a gentle squeeze, then said, "Lu Ning, go and play."

Lu Ning looked at Yin Zhihan, who was looking at her gently.

"Ah Ning, let's go out," Xiao Qiu bounced over to her.

"Okay," Lu Ning agreed, then they left.

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Xiao Qiu clutched Lu Ning's slender arm. "Ah Ning, was what the Chairman said true? Do you have a very powerful family?"

Lu Ning smiled. "My family is my family, I am me."

Xiao Qiu raised her head, her heart ached for Lu Ning. "Ah Ning, you're too proud."

Lu Ning was puzzled, how was she proud?

"Xiao Qiu, I need to get some air. You should go in and eat first." Lu Ning withdrew her arm.

"Okay, but Ah Ning, don't run around. We have to dance later," Xiao Qiu admonished.

"Okay." Lu Ning nodded.

Once Xiao Qiu left, Lu Ning glanced around, seeming to be looking for someone.

Then she heard someone chuckling behind her. "Are you looking for me?"

Lu Ning froze. She turned and saw Yin Zhihan standing in front of her and she started to blush for no reason. But still, she bravely met his gaze head-on and said, "Chairman, how did you walk so silently?"

"You did not hear me because you were looking around for me too intently." Yin Zhihan walked forward.

"Is there something you need from me?"

Of course, there was.

Lu Ning straightened her back and arched her head back so that she could look clearly at the tall man in front of her. "You were away from the company for so long because you were here gambling? Gambling is not good. It's your hard-earned money, what if you lose? You could lose the entire To." She furrowed her brows.

She was clearly very young, yet she acted so mature and tried to reason with him earnestly.

Yin Zhihan raised his straight eyebrows. His gaze was drawn to her lips. Her lips were bright red and extremely alluring. As she spoke, he could see her perfect teeth. He wanted to hold her in his hands.

"Lu Ning, even if I lose money, what does it have to do with you?" He said faintly.

Lu Ning was taken aback. "Ah?"

Yin Zhihan stuck his hands in his pockets and bent down slightly and lean closer to her. "It's my money I'm losing, why are you distressed over it?"

Lu Ning's cheeks were as red as a tomato. Only then did she realize what she had said. She was concerned about his money!

Her long fan-like lashes fluttered violently as she stumbled to explain, "Who... Who's upset about your money? What I mean is your gambling behavior... is not good. As my superior, you did not lead a good example"

Being in close proximity, he could see that her skin was really smooth and supple, and it had a pearl-like glow. She looked so adorable when she was nervous, and it made him want to devour her.

Over the years, she had changed a lot. She had become brave, confident, and independent. She was a modern woman who did not need to rely on anyone to live her own life. However, there was one thing that did not change.

She was still extremely skittish around him.

A few years ago, she saw him as he came out of the bathroom after a shower and accidentally dropped the porn magazine in her hands as she turned away. She was as nervous and helpless as she was now when he walked behind her to help her pick up the magazine.

Chapter 1440: The Ball

She did not know that when she was nervous, she was like a frightened rabbit, hiding everywhere. However, the more she hid, the more his heart itched to hold her in his arms and tease her slowly.

“And... and, our families... we are family friends after all. My second brother is now... the Head of the Special Forces, specializing in fighting crime. If he finds out about your... gambling behavior, he will come... and arrest you. When that happens... I don't care...” Lu Ning muttered incoherently.

“Yes,” Yin Zhihan nodded and mimicked a childish child. “He seems to be very powerful.”

“Of course, he...”

Yin Zhihan suddenly closed the gap between them and lightly pecked her rosy red lips.

Lu Ning's brain exploded at the intimate contact. Did he kiss her?

He kissed her!

“What are you doing?” She widened her beautiful eyes.

He gave her another peck and said hoarsely, “I secretly kissed you. Does your second brother control this?”

She could no longer think. All she could see now was him with a salacious look on his face. She stuttered, “Humph, wait till I see him, I will definitely tell him!”

Yin Zhihan thought that she looked really cute. He reached out to stroke her hair and said, “I will send a small boat to send you back to the shore. The people here are very complicated. Don't stay here.”

Her beauty was too remarkable. It was dangerous for her to stay on.

“Are you leaving?” she asked foolishly.

Yin Zhihan smiled. “Why should I leave? This yacht is mine.”

Lu Ning knew that she was being silly. She frowned. “Since you're not leaving, then I'm staying too. I have an invitation, you have no right to ask me to go.”

“Lu Ning, don’t be willful!” Yin Zhihan furrowed his brows.

“What does my willfulness have to do with you?” Lu Ning pushed him away and fled.

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Everyone who received the invitation was accorded their own rooms. As Lu Ning and Xiao Qiu went back to their rooms, Xiao Qiu said, “Ah Ning, hurry up and change your clothes.”

“Change my clothes?” Lu Ning was bewildered. “Why do I have to change my clothes?”

“Because the ball is about to start. You’re not going to wear pants to the dance, are you?”

Lu Ning looked down at her sweater and jeans. She was quite pleased with her pure and innocent look.

However, she knew she could not attend a ball dressed like this. Someone would probably chase her out.

“But I didn’t prepare a dress.”

Xiao Qiu smiled mysteriously. “Ah Ning, I supposed you didn’t buy any dresses in Hong Kong when I asked you to, right? Don’t worry, I’ve secretly bought a few exceptionally gorgeous ones for you. Am I not a good friend?”

Xiao Qiu took out the dresses.

“Wow.” Lu Ning’s eyes lit up as she looked at the dresses spread on the bed. There were all kinds of styles and colors. “Xiao Qiu, when did you buy them? They are really pretty but I don’t like these bright colors.”

“Ah Ning, I don’t understand you. You’re so beautiful. And you are just 24 years old. This is the best time of your life to doll yourself up. These colors complement your complexion and accentuate your figure. I guarantee that when you wear these to the ball, you will attract the attention of all the men present!”

“Why do I have to dress like this to attract men’s attention?” Lu Ning muttered.

Xiao Qiu rolled her eyes. She was really defeated by Lu Ning. After all, it was a woman’s vanity to attract men’s attention.