

Daddy CEO 321

Chapter 321 Start Of Steffanie's Doom (2)

Why was this happening to her? Steffanie was certain that what happened that night never got exposed to any third parties aside from her father. So why was it leaked?

Her previous manager, Shi Lian hid herself away as soon as the deed was done, she was even scared of seeing the sunlight and had all the drapes pulled to close so the outside world could not be seen by her own eyes.

Steffanie didn't suspect Shi Lian and didn't think that she would leak what she had done to Ran Xueyi to the media either. That would be suicidal.

As for her father, he would never put his own company down and would be the first to step forward to deny the allegations if the media decided that it was done by Steffanie. Even if he was angry at her own daughter, he would never give her up either!

Steffanie became more erratic as she reached the restroom and saw Jia Yi smoking a cigarette.

"You..."

Jia Yi noticed her and offered a cig to her. "Want to take a drag?"

Steffanie frowned. "You smoke?"

"Everyone can drink and smoke. It's a person's choice to do it or not. Besides, in our stressful life as an entertainer, isn't it only natural for us to have one or two stress-relievers?" Jia Yi laughed at her as if the question was too obvious. "Well? Do you want one?"

Steffanie didn't refuse anymore and took one cigarette stick from the small box before putting it between her lips. Jia Yi smiled at her and offered to lit the end of the cig with a lighter. Steffanie leaned forward and took a long drag. It was just what she needed.

But now that she thinks about it, was Jia Yi this talkative before? As far as she remembered, Jia Yi was the silent type and never got too close with any other stars. She always kept a distance and

that's also the reason why many actresses didn't really like her and became pretentious whenever they interacted with her.

It was the same for Steffanie, who looked down on Jia Yi, a third-tier actress, who had to beg her company for resources.

However, that silent and unsociable actress was inside the restroom with her right now, taking a drag from her cigarette stick as if it was something very natural to her. This made Steffanie think that Jia Yi was yet another pretentious actress who kept another image of herself in front of other people to hide her real nature.

Jia Yi saw her sweaty forehead and pulled a tissue from the tissue box against the wall. Then, acting as if she didn't notice Steffanie's inquiring gaze, she said, "I've seen the news. That video is all over the internet around the world. It makes you think that Ran Xueyi is really a superstar, isn't she?"

Steffanie was once again reminded of the humiliating video she saw. Although her face wasn't in the video, Shi Lian was still her manager and people could easily connect the links from there.

Jia Yi continued to speak: "It makes everyone envious of her. She already had a wealthy family, a good educational background, at her career's peak, and the country hailed her as this industry's savior even though she just returned. Isn't it ridiculous that everything was handed out to her as if it was very natural for her to live like this."

"Well, if this is a film, she'd be the female lead while both of us are the villains and cannon fodder, right?"

Steffanie stared at her, her nose flaring with anger. Hadn't Jia Yi reminded her, she might have not thought about it, but her words really hit the target.

"But if I'm definitely the cannon fodder and you are the villain," Steffanie suddenly said, making Jia Yu turn her head at her.

Jia Yi narrowed her eyes on her. "What do you mean?"

Steffanie took a step forward. "Stop acting like you don't know what I'm talking about. Just remembering it makes me want to slap your face. Wasn't you who accidentally told me that Ran Xueyi stole Sister Jingjing's role through a sugar daddy? It was also you, who released the photos of

Ran Xueyi getting inside that car, riding on my cloak after I posted that post in my status. Thinking about it, everything that happened to me would've never happened if you hadn't said those 'harmless' words you said to me at the party."

Jia Yi's eyes flashed coldly. She scoffed in a mocking manner and said, "Are you trying to transfer the blame on me? I never said those words. Stop accusing me." She paused for a bit before continuing, "And even if I said those words to you, it's not up to me what you do after that. You took advantage of my words to ruin a person's image in public and because you're losing, you're now shifting the blame to me. Isn't that a bit too much, Steffanie?"

Steffanie had nothing to say to that. Jia Yi was right. Even if Jia Yi harmlessly said those words to her without any other intentions, it was still her own initiative to ruin Ran Xueyi because she was upset that she couldn't work together with Bai Jingjing in a TV drama.

And even if she confessed to everyone about this, nobody will blame Jia Yi. They will treat it as ladies chatting and gossiping amongst themselves and that's it. They won't pursue Jia Yi because Steffanie did post that status and accused Ran Xueyi of being kept by a sugar daddy. It was all her own actions that led to this ending.

Jia Yi smiled, feeling satisfied seeing the despair starting to fill in Steffanie's eyes. Ah, this was what she wanted to see in Ran Xueyi's beautiful eyes. Unfortunately, she can only make do with Steffanie now that she's not in any position to go after Ran Xueyi with her past still being used as hostage.

Chapter 322 Start Of Steffanie's Doom (3)

"If I were you, you should call your previous manager and have her confess already. Though prison life isn't as good as life outside, it should still be better than staying locked up somewhere." Jia Yi left as soon as she said this.

Steffanie stood in the middle of the restroom, feeling the ground softening underneath her feet and slowly swallowing her up.

The feeling of despair, helplessness, and vulnerability that she used to mock other stars to step down on their dignity was now something she could also feel. How ironic is this?

--Riing!

Steffanie was startled by her phone ringing and was about to hang up when she saw that it was her father.

,m "Daddy! Save me!" Steffanie knew that there was no way she could get out of this situation with her own power so she could only beg her father for help. He was his only daughter, it was natural for him to help her out, right?

"Daddy, help me. I'm your only daughter, will you be able to take it seeing me being bullied by others like this?"

"Oh? What do you think I should do then?"

Her father's tone was a little bit strange, but at this moment, Steffanie didn't notice the strangeness and quickly said, "Daddy, use your position as the president again and tell those arrogant media reporters to not appear in front of my apartment again! Tell them, you'll fire them if they don't do it and they should delete every news they write about me on the internet! Your daughter really needs you, Daddy!"

Mr. Chang's cold voice rang through the speaker: "Daddy? You still know you're my daughter? Then, why didn't you listen to everything I told you?! I told you to lay low for a while and not act like this anymore after graduating from high school. Look, now the company directors are demanding me to step down from my position as the president!"

Sadly, this time, her position as her father's only daughter could not save her father either.

Earlier this morning, Mr. Chang received several phone calls and messages from different directors in the company, demanding answers from him. Steffanie's name wasn't revealed to the public yet, but it was already exposed that the person in the video was Shi Lian, Steffanie's previous manager.

"What?!! No, how is that possible! Daddy, you own the company, why are they ordering you to step down as president!" Steffanie couldn't believe what she had just heard.

Mr. Chang, however, coldly laughs at his daughter. "What were you thinking by posting that video? Do you think you haven't caused that much trouble in the company and decided to go all-in?"

Steffanie quickly said, "I did not post that video!"

"Then who did?! A ghost?!"

Steffanie was silent. The video of Shi Lian talking to Ran Xueyi and running away with tears all over her face was spread across the internet. It was a harmless video and if people didn't think too much, one would assume that Ran Xueyi bullied the little manager to tears and ran away from her.

To others, this was another tarnish in Ran Xueyi's reputation posted by someone who wanted to bring her down. But a lot of stars and film crew came out to denounce the accusation and praised Ran Xueyi's honest and humble character. Those who worked with her in the past and even from the international industry came out to prove that Ran Xueyi would never do this.

Of course, that didn't mean that nobody sympathized with Shi Lian, the 'victim' in that one minute long video.

But those, who were in the know of what happened, knew that that video was simply a warning.

'I know what you did, but I'm going to release it one by one.'

Ran Xueyi was slowly telling everyone in the entertainment industry that she was not a small fish in a pond where any fisherman could hook and take as they pleased. She was warning the entertainment industry to not mess with her and that she was not the prey, but the predator at the top of the food chain.

And the meaning of the one-minute and that four-minute videos were just two omens that something bigger will happen.

As for what it was, only Steffanie and Mr. Chang knew that their lives are in danger.

Mr. Chang took a deep breath and calmed the rage boiling inside of him. He then said, "Steffanie, I raised you the way I did because I thought you'd be able to climb to the top and become successful like me. But you failed me horribly by doing repetitive failures like this."

"Daddy..."

"As your father, the only thing I can do is save you from further embarrassing yourself. So, just don't do anything."

...

[The next news we're reporting today is the video that has been going viral on the internet and on We*bo. Many have been confused by this video and debated whether the actress Ran Xueyi said something to this woman who was seen in the video was crying and running away after speaking to her.]

[We will ask an expert of the authenticity of the video and another expert in psychology and facial expressions will help us in determining the video's content.]

In the studio, an older man in a striped shirt sat beside the newscaster and introduced himself as the video expert. Beside him was a woman wearing formal business attire and she also introduced herself to be the psychologist invited to analyze the video in today's hot showbiz news.

The newscaster felt slightly strange having two experts in the studio and looked at the director behind the monitor again. The director didn't say anything and so, he could only continue today's news and ask several questions to the experts.

"Mr. Liu, you are one of the country's best experts in video and audio analysis. I also heard you're helping the National Police in their jobs. Can you please tell us what you think about the video? Is it an authentic and not fabricated video?"

Mr. Liu, the audio and video analyst, looked at the screen in front where the short one minute video was playing.

He said, "It is real. I see no fabrication nor enhancement in the video. However, there is indeed some bit of manipulation."

Chapter 323 Experts Exposing The Truth

"Manipulation?"

Mr. Liu nodded and continued to explain, "The video was edited from a surveillance camera. Based on the video, it should be from outside of a building and the time it was taken was when there are not a lot of people outside. And the video should be no more than 20 minutes long. However, only two parts were cut and merged into one video before it became one minute long."

Mr. Liu deduced that the person who cut the parts and merged them together had some intentions behind this. Showing only the part where the other woman in the video was seen speaking and crying and not what happened in the middle of it was evidence enough for his deduction.

But he didn't need to say this out loud.

"What about you, Ms. Li? Can you please tell us what you noticed and analyzed in the video?"

The psychologist and facial expression expert was named and said in a professional tone, "The video is a bit too short and dark which could cloud anyone's view of this video. However, as an expert, this wouldn't be a hindrance to us and with a bit of tuning and zooming the video on pause, I can tell that the tears in that woman's face are real."

The newscaster looked at the director again but still did not receive a signal from him. So he could only continue to ask out of curiosity, "Then... does this mean that we can assume that the actress in the video really did something to the other person?"

Everybody who was watching this news live was tense and sat on the edges of their chairs, wishing they could replace the newscaster and ask a few more questions.

Li Shixian shook her head under everyone's eyes. "That is not something I can determine with this video alone. However, it is true that the tears are real, but there are different kinds of tears brought by several emotions. Sadness, joy, excitement, and intense anger."

"Then, what kind of emotion is behind her tears?"

"Anxiety and panic." Li Shixian revealed what she saw and explained when the newscaster showed a confused expression. "Look, right now, you're showing a confused look because you can't understand why I said those two emotions. The woman in the video was crying, not because she was sad because of unfairness or injustice. It was anxiety and panic for fear of the consequences of her actions. It's the same feeling we all feel when we are guilty of stealing from our mother's wallet."

...

Back inside the hospital, Ran Xueyi pressed the remote control and the screen turned off.

Adelle walked towards her and gave the documents sent to her by Wu Qi. She said, "The company's legal department is already working to take this matter to the next stage. Senior Wu is only waiting for you to say the go signal and the police will arrest Steffanie and Shi Lian for libel, slander, spreading false information, and felony after attempting a physical assault."

"In this case, with all the cases stacked on their heads, they will be given 5 to 7 years for all the first cases. As for felony, the court will base it on the severity of the crime committed. Using an extremely harmful chemical acid in order to disfigure your face, I think they will receive another 5 years of jail time."

Ran Xueyi nodded and looked at the documents in her hand.

With only her hand, she could destroy Steffanie's life forever. A signature from the victim was this powerful if it was used correctly.

"But where did you find those experts in the live news? How much did you pay for them to appear on the news?" Adelle sat down and stared at her phone where the live news was still being broadcasted. "We released that short video after sending another video to the entire filming crew to confuse everybody and make them think that you're the one at fault here. But I never expected that you even hired experts to counter the situation."

"I never hired them." Ran Xueyi's voice sounded indifferent.

"Huh?" Adelle was shocked. "You...you didn't? Are you sure?"

"Yes."

"Then, who did?"

At this time, Song Yu Han stepped inside the room and answered, "It was me."

After saying this, he walked towards Ran Xueyi and sat next to her very naturally.

Guo Yun, who was following Song Yu Han, saw Adelle, who wanted to know more but too afraid to ask the big boss and explained, "Boss saw the video Madam released. So, he thought that many people will question the authenticity of the video and assume many things and tarnish Madam's name and reputation. In order to not let that happen, he spoke to Mr. Liu and Miss Li personally to ask them to appear on the news station and analyze the video in front of everyone in the country."

Ran Xueyi silently stared at the man sitting next to her and sighed. "There's really no need to waste money to hire experts to tell the truth."

"I didn't give them money. I spoke to them and told them to do me a favor. Mr. Liu and Miss Li were very kind to listen to their student's favor and did this for my sake." Song Yu Han filled the glass with water and handed it to her. "Of course, I don't mean to take advantage of their kindness and not give them anything. They will receive something else."

"But still, I had everything under my control." Ran Xueyi really didn't want Song Yu Han to take care of her matters in the entertainment industry. She could handle them herself and if she really couldn't, she would personally ask him to help her. This was their agreement.

Song Yu Han knew what she was thinking and readily replied, "I also don't mean to intervene, but Xiao Zhanzhan was worried and told me to help you or he won't sleep at all. And you know, I can't defeat our son when he decides on something."

Ran Xueyi knew her son's character well the most. If Xiao Zhanzhan said that he won't sleep then he really won't sleep. Even she had a hard time coaxing him to sleep when he decided on something.

But Ran Xueyi thought that, at the very least, Song Yu Han could reign over their son's stubborn character. Sadly, it seems that Ran Xueyi was thinking too much.

Even the Alpha male and tyrant can be defeated by the little king of stubbornness.

Chapter 324 Final Confrontation: Ran Xueyi And Steffanie (1)

After Ran Xueyi sent out two videos anonymously to the public, she waited for a whole day to pass before she sent out the entire unedited video. The media quickly caught on to this and shared it on their Weibo accounts, and many people saw it.

This time, even if Steffanie wanted to use the short video to her advantage and accuse Ran Xueyi of bullying her previous manager to whitewash herself from her sins, she couldn't do it. Because the whole video revealed the actual events that took place that night. It would be a big slap to her face if

she went for it and used the short video against Ran Xueyi only to find the whole uncut and unedited video was posted to prove her accusations wrong.

Steffanie was at her wit's end. She had never fought with anyone like this before.

Previously, those who think they're someone big and better would show their attitude and fearless character at first, but when Steffanie targets them, they will instantly hide inside their shells like a turtle.

Hence, Steffanie was used to getting what she wanted and achieving the desired result.

But from now on, she might not have any chances to bully other people anymore.

Standing in front of the hospital where she heard Ran Xueyi was hospitalized, Steffanie became more overwhelmed by the sense of her pride being trampled upon by someone who stood higher than her. This feeling must be the same as those other stars she bullied in the past must have felt before.

But she had no choice.

She was the loser in this war, and the loser should bow down to the victor, no matter how embarrassing and humiliating that was.

As Steffanie was about to take a step forward into the hospital, a tall man in a black suit arrived at her side.

His face was devoid of any expression as he said, "Miss Chang, please follow me. I will guide you to the room."

He knew who she was. Steffanie wondered if her face was already spread around the country to everybody who recognized her. Funnily, for the first time in her life, she became a superstar who everyone could recognize at a glance. In the past, she had to make some waves to attract the public's eyes.

"Miss Chang?" Seeing her standing there instead of following him, Guo Yun stopped in his tracks and turned back to look at her.

After a long time, he heard her say, "It's nothing. I'll follow you."

As they made their way to the VIP area of the hospital, Steffanie and Guo Yun did not waste on a simple conversation, nor did they ask each other any questions. Especially Steffanie, who was forced to come to meet Ran Xueyi after the whole uncut video was released that morning and endangered her father's company and position.

As the elevator dinged to indicate that they had arrived at their desired floor, Guo Yun stepped two steps forward and warning said, "Before going inside the room, we would like to inspect your things."

Steffanie followed his line of sight and blushed slightly. She couldn't help it. The man in front of her was by far the most handsome man she'd ever met. He could even pass as a beautiful vase* (has good looks but not good at acting) in the entertainment industry. Why was he working under Ran Xueyi?

But this man... he just told her to inspect her things. Does it mean he had to do it personally? The thought somehow decreased the unease and discomfort in her heart. Having a handsome and tall man inspect your body doesn't seem like a bad idea before going to prison, right?

Steffanie thought for a while before saying, "Should I take off my blazer?"

Guo Yun didn't even blink as he replied, "No. There's no need to."

After saying this, he signaled for a female bodyguard to come forward and use a metal detector to check Steffanie's body. After a full body inspection and not detecting any harmful object attached to her body, Steffanie was finally allowed to walk through the corridor and stand in front of the room where Ran Xueyi was inside.

Many thoughts ran through her mind as soon as she stood in front of it. Shi Lian repeatedly told her that she succeeded in disfiguring Ran Xueyi's face and refused to come out of the house; her reaction also seemed not fake. Ran Xueyi's face must be wrapped with bandages, right?

On the other hand, these past few days, Ran Xueyi never showed her face to anyone and didn't intend for the public to find her whereabouts. This cemented the idea inside Steffanie's mind that Ran Xueyi was too devastated and ashamed to show her 'new' face.

Steffanie stepped back a bit, focused her attention on Guo Yun, and asked, "Is... is it really okay to go inside?"

It was an inquiry, but Steffanie's expression was a bit too weird for someone asking a very concern-sounding question. It was as if she was anticipating a negative answer to her question.

A strange color flashed in Guo Yun's eyes, and he didn't even think as he responded, "We've already done a full body inspection."

Her question was left unanswered, and she could only step forward.

Steffanie's heart made a loud thumping sound. The excitement and joy she will feel when she sees Ran Xueyi's disfigured face would erase all fears she will eventually feel when she is sent to prison.

...

The door opened, and the first thing that Steffanie saw was the grandiose hospital room that did not lack anything. The room was even more similar to a five-star presidential suite than a hospital room for a patient. There was even a fridge, small kitchen, long sofa set, queen's bed that would fit three people and still have ample space for another person to sleep in, and a 70-inches TV that showed today's news of Steffanie's atrocities and lies.

And on that queen's bed, a woman was sitting on it and reading a book on her lap. She seemed to be entirely immersed in what she was reading, but under those eyes, they appeared to be a little bit of absent-mindedness that couldn't be concealed.

The image of a fragile beauty was laid upon Steffanie's eyes, and she couldn't help but feel mesmerized by it.

Until — the woman looked up.

Steffanie had guessed more or less that the woman in front was Ran Xueyi, but it still shocked her.

Because the woman in front of her was contrary to what she was expecting.

There was no bandage, no disfigurement on her face. None of the things she anticipated seeing came true; instead, Ran Xueyi looked even more ethereal than the last time she saw her.

—— A smile appeared on Ran Xueyi's lips. It was the welcoming and friendly smile, unbefitting for someone vicious like Steffanie.

The smile on Ran Xueyi's lips deepened: "You're finally here. Sit down."

Chapter 325 Final Confrontation: Ran Xueyi And Steffanie (2)

"No need to sit down. I won't take long anyway." Steffanie refused, trying to take a grasp on her remaining pride.

Ran Xueyi was indifferent to her words. "Sit down."

Steffanie stared at her, at a loss for words. The other person's tone was very authoritative and compelling.

Ran Xueyi was unfazed by this and closed the book on her lap. She said, "Even a dog knows when to take orders from the person who owns them. In this case, you're lower than a dog, to my eyes. Steffanie, I think it is wise for you to take my advice and sit down."

It was the same thing she heard last time. What did Ran Xueyi tell her? A friendly advice, was it? Then, Steffanie ignored that and did something far worse than she could have ever done. Now, she was in this situation.

Although Steffanie wanted to obey her, the shame and unwillingness that was innate to her bones as an heiress and being spoiled rotten by her parents made her hesitate and reluctant to do as Ran Xueyi told her.

Ran Xueyi, at this moment, was very patient towards this new pet she gained from this game. "Your father and Lullaby's fate depends on me. As someone who has no more worth to your father and is no longer an heiress to the company, shouldn't you at least show some bit of sincerity in your actions?"

"Just reminding, I didn't send you here. It was your father who wanted you to come and find me so you could ask for forgiveness."

"I'm waiting for that sincere apology."

A few moments passed until the silence between them broke.

Steffanie glanced at Ran Xueyi and sighed. "...I'm sorry. I did those things to you because I was angry. I was blinded with rage because I thought you stole Sister Jingjing's role and ended up targeting you. If I had known this would happen, I would have never appeared before you."

Her words and tone were sincere. Even a passerby would really think so. But it was useless to Ran Xueyi, who grew up living in the entertainment industry and thought of acting as a hobby.

"Pfft!" Ran Xueyi released a short laugh. "Rejected."

Steffanie looked on coldly at her. "Why? I already said sorry. Is that sincerity not enough?"

"It's not about your sincerity not being enough or enough. It's my choice to forgive you and not forgive you." Ran Xueyi flipped the blanket away from her and slowly stood up from the bed. "And what's with that apology? Is this some kind of script reading?"

"What?" Steffanie was enraged by her words. "I really feel sorry for what I did to you!"

Ran Xueyi slowly held a finger on her lips to stop her from speaking further. Her slender finger looked pale and beautiful against the pale redness of her lips, which were hooked up carelessly, and with the deepness of her eyes flashing with delight.

With a cold and enchanting smile, she said, "Are you sure? I could have sworn your apology paled compared to what an elementary student would write on their self-reflection paper."

Humiliated after being compared to an elementary student, Steffanie almost burst into flames and shot at Ran Xueyi. Thankfully, she still had some of her common sense and knew that she couldn't attack Ran Xueyi now that her father's and her own fate were in Ran Xueyi's hands.

After a long time, Steffanie breathed through her flared nose and said, "What do you want me to do then?"

Ran Xueyi looked at her in surprise: "Shouldn't you know that? Why are you asking me?"

On second thought, Ran Xueyi showed a bit of pity for her. "I can teach you."

Steffanie glanced at her warily, which made Ran Xueyi laugh once again.

Ran Xueyi then instructed very patiently, step by step: "First, bend your knees and kneel in front of me... Spill some tears into your eyes... And kowtow before me while confessing your sins..."

"You should know what to do. After all, you're also an actress."

Even though Steffanie did not want to do those humiliating things in front of anyone, she had no other choice.

She really kneeled in front of Ran Xueyi. On both knees, she sang her sins one by one, and whenever she made a mistake, Ran Xueyi made her repeat her words from the very beginning until Steffanie's mouth was parched and dry like the desert. This was torture that she had never anticipated.

According to what other people said, Ran Xueyi was praised for her humbleness, kindness, compassion, and tender heart. Steffanie took those words to her benefit and thought that Ran Xueyi would forgive her if she listed out some words of sincere apology she wrote last night, and everything will be fine.

Sadly, Steffanie never asked the people who offended Ran Xueyi and was punished by Ran Xueyi and was misled by these beautiful words.

And now, she was paying for it greatly.

All the people praised Ran Xueyi for her sympathetic and warmhearted character. They had never seen Ran Xueyi in a negative way. And many believed this facade because no matter what other people said to her, Ran Xueyi's face never changed.

—So, what the hell is going on?

The room was filled with overpowering pressure, and the sweat continued to drop down Steffanie's brow to her cheeks as she continued to sing her sins as if she was in a church, confessing her sins to God.

This continued on until Steffanie heard Ran Xueyi telling her to stop and leave. This delighted her a lot. That several minutes of suffering was worth it if it meant she was forgiven and her father would be saved.

Steffanie did not waste her time and weakly trudged towards the door to leave without looking back. The door in front of her became the door to heaven, shining brightly towards freedom.

Ha! People are so easily deceived. If you pretend to be sincere and suffer a little bit, they will pity you and forgive you. That's why good people can never stay in history. They will constantly be overtaken by evil people.

Ran Xueyi looked slightly cold, and her eyes stayed on Steffanie's back as the door was pulled open by her.

——Suddenly, a slight smirk appeared on her lips.

When the door to her freedom was fully opened, Steffanie thought that things would continue to shine brightly, but when her senses came back again, she saw two policemen standing in front of her, seemingly bored of waiting for her to come out.

Steffanie silently and tremblingly glanced at the policemen before turning back in surprise, "What's the meaning of this?"

Ran Xueyi shrugged indifferently: "What else do you think it is? The good officers are arresting a criminal."

"RAN XUEYI!!!"