

Daddy CEO 436

Chapter 436 Malicious Intent

The sky in the capital was filled with twinkling stars. Feng Huai, who had just left the bathroom with a towel wrapped around his waist and wiping his wet hair with another towel, walked towards the floor-to-ceiling glass windows of the hotel he was staying in.

Ever since he had been promoted from a small assistant to an agent managing Zhang Yiqing, his path had been smooth. The people who had mocked him for trying to lick the boots of Zhao Fei were stumped out of words when they saw him doing well.

"Huai Ge, are you really sure about this?" a young man was sitting on the sofa and raised his head to look at him.

Turning around, Feng Huai threw the towel he was using on his hair to the ground and said: "Why? Are you scared, Xiang Lin?"

They had already seen the article about Chestnut collaborating with YH Group. However, Feng Huai refused to believe that such a prominent and huge corporation would actually be hand in hand with a small company like Chestnut.

Chestnut was incomparable to YH Group and they shouldn't even dream of collaborating with them. He was sure that this was a method Zhao Fei had thought of after Ran Xueyi was caught up in a dating scandal with Mr. He.

However, Feng Huai didn't know that this was not Zhao Fei's idea nor was it Ran Xueyi's. Rather, it was Song Yu Han, the owner of YH Group's selfish decision to protect Ran Xueyi.

Unfortunately, he only knew that Ran Xueyi once had dated a wealthy man before she left the country, but never realized that she had married YH Group's chairman, Song Yu Han.

Xiang Lin paused thoughtfully before shaking his head: "It's not that I am scared. I'm just worried that you'll end up in big trouble if you continue to do this."

Feng Huai replied in a huff, "Don't worry about these small matters and focus on contacting my brother-in-law. He needed the data we have for his promotion."

Once Gong Chun gets a promotion, Feng Huai can transfer to Dauntless. He doesn't have to stay at a small company like Chestnut anymore.

Two years ago, his sister married Gong Chun, an editor from Dauntless. The couple had been living a happy life together and Feng Huai was proud to have his sister marry someone who worked at the top entertainment company in the country.

However, it was inevitable that he and Gong Chun would be compared to each other whenever there was a family gathering. At first, it was subtle and nobody really took it seriously. However, Feng Huai saw the disparity in his treatments from his parents and relatives in contrast to how they treated Gong Chun.

Feng Huai believed that it was all because of his incompetence. After all, even after working in the industry for a couple of years now, he still hasn't left Zhao Fei's shadow and continued to be her assistant.

And at another family gathering, Gong Chun suddenly shared his thoughts to him and told him that it was such a pity that a capable man like Feng Huai was just being used as a stepping stone for Zhao Fei. He invited him to quit Chestnut and join Dauntless.

At that time, Feng Huai didn't want to betray Zhao Fei or Ran Xueyi. For he shared enjoyable and unforgettable moments with them. But the seeds of doubts had already been planted inside him. Feng Huai slowly became greedy.

And on his sister's birthday, Feng Huai was drunk and got tempted with Gong Chun's offer and his sister's incessant persuasion to join Dauntless. Finally, he could no longer stop himself and said yes.

But despite him saying that he would join Dauntless, he didn't quit Chestnut. Instead, Gong Chun told him to gather anything he could use for his promotion so that he could clear a position for Feng Huai to take when he joined Dauntless as his current position didn't allow him to let just anybody in Dauntless.

Feng Huai initially hesitated and refused to do it. He knew it was a malicious thing to do this. But one day, he and Zhao Fei had fought; he tried to keep his temper in check, but it still led him to stealing some of Chestnut's artists personal data that was on Zhao Fei's computer. After he stole the data and important documents from the computer, Feng Huai sent them to his brother-in-law while

hoping that it would be enough to promote Gong Chun to a higher position so he could finally enter the leading entertainment company in the country and not become a laughing stock anymore.

"Huai Ge, should we stop your brother-in-law from using Yao Chuan's personal information from being exposed to his maternal family? I heard Senior Wu warn everyone to never let his maternal family know about his whereabouts. Won't they become suspicious of us?" Xiang Lin asked with worry and snapped Feng Huai's thoughts of how he had gotten into this situation where he had to be a spy from Dauntless.

The reason why Yao Chuan was being harassed and chased by his maternal family was because Feng Huai's brother-in-law got hold of this piece of information and told his maternal family where he used to live.

"What else can we do? Isn't this a good thing for Zhang Yiqing's development? Yao Chuan's popularity and fans are increasingly growing stronger. If I don't do this, Zhang Yiqing will be left to the dust!" Feng Huai still had a bit of his concerns about the future of Zhang Yiqing, the artist under him.

"But Yao Chuan and Zhang Yiqing are different." Xiang Lin still wanted to remind him that one of them was an actor and the other was a solo singer.

However, Feng Huai refused to listen to him and glared at Xiang Lin: "Are you going to compile the information we gathered and give it to my brother-in-law or are you going to preach to me about what I should do? If you're still afraid, you can get out now and stay at Chestnut!"

Xiang Lin had the thought to leave and stay in Chestnut, but he was afraid that Feng Huai would target him. He was just a little assistant that joined Chestnut a few months ago and got pushed into becoming Feng Huai's secondary assistant. In the end, Xiang Lin sat still and continued to compile the data on the computer.

After finishing editing and compiling, Xiang Lin bid Feng Huai farewell.

"Don't forget that we still have to meet Editor Chang and give him the USB tomorrow. Don't be late!" Feng Huai closed the door to his face, leaving a stunned Xiang Lin standing in the hallway.

Xiang Lin sighed and turned around. He made his way to the elevator and heard the sound of his phone chiming. When he retrieved his phone from his pants pocket, he saw that it was a message from his younger sister.

[Ruyiyi: I received the money, brother! Thank you! <3]

Seeing his younger sister's short message, the dark clouds around Xiang Lin's head dissipated. That's right. Even though he was being treated unfairly and slaved by Feng Huai and Gong Chun, he shouldn't forget that he still has his younger sister to provide for. They paid him money to keep silent of their malicious exchange of private data and for his own betrayal to Chestnut's generosity of accepting him into their office even though he lacked the qualifications to enter any entertainment companies in the country.

[BigBrotherLin: Take care of yourself and make sure to buy yourself a good meal!]

Xiang Lin sent his heartwarming message to his younger sister. When he was about to lock the screen of his smartphone, a push notification of a new message was sent to him.

[Senior Wu: I booked a flight ticket for you to go to Paradise City tomorrow. The flight will start at 8 in the morning.]

When he saw Senior Wu's message, Xiang Lin's soul almost escaped from his body. But upon inspecting further, he frowned and sent a reply.

[XiangLin: Did you send this to the wrong person, Senior Wu? This is Xiang Lin from Feng Huai's team overlooking Zhang Yiqing's management.]

Xiang Lin barely saw Senior Wu as he was usually stationed at the top floors of Chestnut. Someone like him, a secondary assistant, shouldn't even be able to talk to Senior Wu. Yet, he actually received messages from him?

[Senior Wu: I know. I didn't send it wrongly.]

This time, Xiang Lin no longer believed that Senior Wu had mistaken him for someone else. However, he still couldn't understand why he was suddenly being sent to Paradise City.

When he questioned Senior Wu about this, he received another reply from him that almost had him tripping on his foot.

[Senior Wu: Zhang Yiqing just arrived at Paradise City, but the assistant with him has to go back ahead of him. As his secondary assistant, you need to accompany Zhang Yiqing to meet the President.]

Pre...Pre —President?!

Xiang Lin exclaimed in his heart and was extremely shocked. Did he see it right? He repeatedly read the message he got from Senior Wu and couldn't calm down instantly.

Chestnut Entertainment's President was never revealed nor was it posted on their official website. Nobody had seen the President up close but they knew she was a woman. She was even more unusual to meet than Ran Xueyi, the top actress in their agency. And Senior Wu was the person who would deal with the president whenever she was in the office building.

Xiang Lin was uncertain whether Feng Huai knew the identity of the company's president, but he was seduced to find out. If he could gain another Chestnut's secret, he might be able to please Gong Chun and enter Dauntless without being Feng Huai's slave, right?

But... He has to meet with Editor Chang of Dauntless tomorrow with Feng Huai to give him the USB containing the recent data they took from Zhao Fei's computer.

Chapter 437 Ran Xueyi's Trap

Xiang Lin got ready so early in the morning. He packed his things in a huge backpack and made sure that he looked good in his casual attire. He had never prepared and felt so nervous as today ever since his first date a couple of years ago.

The boarding station for the bus was full since it was the weekdays so he was prompted to take the taxi and pay a bit more for his fare. But he was not feeling stingy that day as he was going to do an important job that could lead to his own goal.

When the time for his plane to arrive and start boarding passengers, Xiang Lin pulled on the nervously glanced at the time. It was almost 8 in the morning. The flight will take at least two hours to reach Paradise City. And within those two hours, his meeting with Editor Chang and Feng Huai will happen as well.

That's right. Instead of going over to their usual meeting and handing over the USB he had in his hands, Xiang Lin decided to follow Senior Wu's instruction and fly to Paradise City to accompany Zhang Yiqing. It wasn't that he disregarded his own cooperation with Feng Huai to dig up as much

personal information of Chestnut's artists, but he just couldn't pass up the opportunity to meet the President of Chestnut Entertainment, who has been blurred in the background.

Accompanying Zhang Yiqing, of course, was his second course of action. He will diligently handle all Zhang Yiqings needs after seeing the president. Xiang Lin still wants to experience being someone who can stay beside an artist and act as their assistant, which he was unable to do because he was a secondary assistant destined to be Feng Huai's slave.

The plane he will board that day arrived earlier so all passengers boarded it. It took 2 long hours to arrive at Paradise City.

It was Xiang Lin's first time in another city and he felt quite anxious. He didn't know where to go and who to call, but then he remembered Senior Wu's number. Should he reach out to him and call him?

Just as Xiang Lin was about to press the call button, a car blew their horn in front of him. It was an expensive nanny van in shiny black paint. As soon as the car parked in front of the entrance of the airport, a lot of people turned their heads at their direction.

"Hey, isn't that the new and limited edition of the car brand Panda?"

"Mommy, I want to buy that car!"

"You're right! What the heck, I heard that it sold around 12 million to 15 million. Could that man know the owner of that car?"

Xiang Lin felt embarrassed at their question as they pointed at him and whispered in their low voices.

A lot of passersby who came out of the airport like Xiang Lin were in awe of the car, but Xiang Lin, who stood in front of the car, felt so awkward. He stepped to the side so he wouldn't block the door and wanted to stay out of its way.

But who would have thought that the moment he stepped a foot away from it, the car door slid open and the insides of the car was revealed. The expensive and beautiful interior of the car almost blinded the people seeing this.

On the other hand, Xiang Lin couldn't keep his eyes away from the car. Because in front of him... isn't this the number 1 star in the company, Ran Xueyi?!

Even though she was wearing a cover up disguise to not get recognized, Xiang Lin still knew who the foreigner sitting beside her was. It was Adelle, Ran Xueyi's manager. There could be only one artist who could sit together with Adelle, and it was Ran Xueyi!

"Xiang Lin?"

Xiang Lin still hasn't snapped out of his shock and stared at Ran Xueyi with his jaw slacked.

Ran Xueyi paused for a second and looked at Adelle, who shrugged. Then, she repeated, "You're Xiang Lin, right?"

Of course, she already knew who was standing in front of her in the reports that Uncle Wu had compiled for her to review.

Xiang Lin, age 32. He had a thin and short build. His height stopped at 172 cm and currently living in the apartment building that Ran Xueyi bought for her employees to live in. He had a younger sister who he was taking care of after his parents died. And according to the reports, he didn't graduate from the university he used to go to.

There wasn't much to see in his personal data. Xiang Lin was a normal guy who had experienced being responsible and taking care of his family at such a young age. The only notable thing about him is that he had a little bit of knowledge in hacking computers.

Xiang Lin finally recovered from his daze and exclaimed, "Yes! It's my great honor and pleasure to meet you here, Miss—!"

"Alright, you don't have to scream so loudly." Adelle interjected before he could finish his words. She waved for him and ordered, "Just get inside the car for now so we can arrive at our destination quickly."

Xiang Lin did not refuse, or more precisely, he couldn't refuse. He was on cloud nine when he got into the car. Was he really sharing a car with a superstar like Ran Xueyi? Is this really alright for him to sit in the same space and breathe the same air as her?

But wait...

"Uh... Did Senior Wu send you to get me?" Xiang Lin asked, wondering how did they know about him?

Adelle nodded. "We were on our way to meet Zhang Yiqing anyway so I told him that we don't mind having you on board with us in our car." She paused for a bit and looked at him. "What? You don't like being with us? Is that it?"

Xiang Lin instantly shook his head as if he was a hen picking corn on the ground. "Of course not! Please don't misunderstand!" The latter part was said to Ran Xueyi, who was leaning her back against the back of her chair and seemingly resting.

But it was Ran Xueyi, who should have been resting, answered him, "Adelle is just messing with you. Don't be afraid." She turned her head slightly so she could face him and asked, "I heard you are working directly under Xiao Feng. It has been a while since the last time I've met and talked to him, but how is he?"

At her words, Xiang Lin stopped speaking for a short moment. He didn't know why but when this question was directed at him, he felt that he was forced to swim in ice.

He was afraid that what he and Feng Huai had been doing would be found out, so he tried to make an excuse by saying, "Huai Ge is doing well. But we don't see each other that much."

"Oh? How so?" Ran Xueyi asked without being suspicious.

"Just that... He's quite preoccupied with some matters regarding Zhang Yiqing's development so I don't see him much." Xiang Lin told half truths and half lies. It was true that they didn't see each other because Feng Huai only came to him whenever he wanted him to compile documents.

"I see." Ran Xueyi looked away and just when Xiang Lin was about to feel relieved, he heard her speak, "How about you? How was it working under Feng Huai?"

Xiang Lin paused and looked at Ran Xueyi, but because the back of the chair was in the way of his line of sight, he could only see a part of her head and face.

He hadn't even responded to her question when Ran Xueyi continued nonchalantly, "I heard that he's quite outstanding in his job. The president of the company mentioned to me last time that Xiao Feng might get another promotion to a higher position in the company... Xiao Lin, what are your thoughts about this?"

"I need your opinion since you're someone that worked closely with Xiao Feng. Should I say a few good things to the president?"

Xiang Lin felt sweat coming off his forehead and back. The air conditioner inside the car was great, but his shirt was being soaked with cold sweat.

When he heard that Feng Huai might get a promotion in Chestnut Entertainment, he couldn't help but feel extreme envy. How could he not? Feng Huai was already betraying Chestnut and sailing on Dauntless' ship without much guilt. Yet, he is actually getting a promotion to a higher position?!

Xiang Lin didn't know whether Feng Huai's ancestors had done a good life in the past for him to experience such good karma. He was actually getting promoted in Chestnut and offered to transfer to the top entertainment company in the country!

Although he knew he shouldn't do it, Xiang Lin couldn't stop his mouth from saying, "I... I think Feng Huai is also great. He knows and works a lot so the promotion is something to celebrate if it was given to him..." There was a long pause and after much hesitation and thought on his part, he finally added, "But I think he is not deserving."

How can Feng Huai actually get all the good things in this world? Even if fate allowed him, Xiang Lin certainly wouldn't allow that from happening!

At his words, Ran Xueyi unknowingly smiled. What Xiang Lin didn't know was that he was actually falling in a deep pit of trap she made for him.

Chapter 438 Chestnut's Big Boss Is...

Ran Xueyi didn't have Xiang Lin fly over cities just to have him sit around like this. She already knew that Xiang Lin had been working with Feng Huai in compiling personal information of artists in the company.

And through Song Yu Han's help, she also found out the dealing between Feng Huai and Gong Chun, who actually turned out to be his brother-in-law. As it turns out, Feng Huai was not content with his current position, wanting to become a phoenix and fly to the sky. He wanted to get to a higher position, but because he was just a junior agent, he could only be promoted to being Zhang Yiqing's manager while Zhao Fei became the Chief Agent of Chestnut.

Originally, Ran Xueyi looked back at their friendship and his capabilities, and wanted Feng Huai to take up a higher position, but who could have thought that this betrayal would actually halt her plans.

If Feng Huai knew about her desire to have him promoted, would he feel regret?

Ran Xueyi didn't want to know nor was she interested to find out whether he will feel regret or not. For someone who could backstab the hand that feeds them, there will be no retributions nor second chances. She'd rather pick a rabid dog in the street and have them stay beside her.

"We're here." Adelle announced as soon as the car rounded a corner and stopped at a famous hotel in the city.

The three walked inside and stopped at a restaurant. They entered a private room and as soon as they entered, Zhang Yiqing was sitting right next to the window and wearing a thick fur coat.

Zhang Yiqing heard the door opening and turned to them. A big smile was on his lips as he greeted them first.

"Xueyi Jie, you're here?"

Ran Xueyi nodded. "It's been a while, Xiao Qing."

Ever since that day at the club where she saved Zhang Yiqing from making the same mistakes as his group members, the two treated each other as if they were real siblings.

And to Zhang Yiqing, Ran Xueyi was not only his big sister, but also someone who had become his savior.

"You're here too, Lin Ge." Zhang Yiqing noticed the second-ranked assistant in his team and was surprised. He wanted to ask why they brought Xiang Lin to their meeting, but seeing Ran Xueyi's eyes glancing at him as if telling him to not say a word, he quickly clamped his mouth shut.

Adelle called a waiter into their room and once they arrived, she ordered a couple of dishes that were renowned at the restaurant. A couple of minutes later, their order arrived with two servers pushing a wheeled table which had warm and steaming food on top of it.

After the servers were done placing the plates of delicious food on their table, Adelle finally said, "Well, why don't we eat first?"

"Ah?" Xiang Lin suddenly muttered.

"What is it Xiang Lin?" Adelle asked.

"Um... I heard from Senior Wu that we're meeting the company president today. Are we not waiting for him?"

Adelle smiled. "Don't worry about this matter for now. I'm sure the company president wouldn't mind the employees eating first, right?"

Receiving the end of Adelle's gaze, Ran Xueyi silently nodded and picked her chopsticks. She grabbed two barbeque glazed wings and some vegetables before putting them into her bowl.

Seeing this, Adelle and Zhang Yiqing also picked up their chopsticks without a word.

With them being like this, Xiang Lin, who thought to use this meeting as an opportunity to get a head of Feng Huai, was completely lost. He never saw any subordinates who could act like this towards their boss.

Even Ran Xueyi, who was the company's number one artist and favorite, was unbridled. Is it really alright to eat ahead of their company president?

Soon after finishing the several foods on their table, Ran Xueyi noticed that Xiang Lin's bowl was untouched and clean. She raised her brows at him and asked, "You just got off the plane, are you sure you don't want to eat?"

Xiang Lin thought about it but still shook his head. He really didn't want to show bad behavior on his first meeting with the company president. "Thank you, Miss Ran. But I still want to wait. It would be bad if he is the only one who will eat when he comes."

Ran Xueyi smiled but didn't respond to his words. He didn't mention who he was waiting for, but Adelle and Ran Xueyi knew. It was Chestnut's president.

At least, Xiang Lin still has some thoughts of respecting the president even though his intentions behind this display of respect was unclear, he at least wanted to keep appearances in front of other people.

In front of other people, he's showing how much he respects the company president. But if nobody's looking, how much is he going to respect the president?

While Ran Xueyi was appraising Xiang Lin's worth, Zhang Yiqing, who was drinking a lime tea, was staring at Adelle. His stare held the meaning of 'Is it alright for me to be here?'

Adelle slowly nodded at him as if replying 'Yes, so stay seated.'

Zhang Yiqing didn't know the reason why he was brought there. He first got a call from Ran Xueyi to head over to Paradise City for a short notice of his cameo on a film. As an artist from Chestnut and knowing that Ran Xueyi was not only his savior but also his boss, he dropped everything else and flew over without a second thought.

But nobody told him that the second-ranked assistant in his team would be brought over during their meeting. Did he perhaps do something wrong and had to be scolded along with his assistant?

Zhang Yiqing replayed the things he had done over the past three years while Ran Xueyi was gone. But in the end, he got nothing because he had done nothing wrong!

While Zhang Yiqing was worrying about this, Xiang Lin diligently waited for the 'president' to come. However, even thirty minutes after they finished their meal, no one pushed the door open and entered their room.

"Uh... Are they perhaps running late?" Xiang Lin finally spoke, feeling slightly embarrassed being surrounded by big stars like Zhang Yiqing and Ran Xueyi.

Adelle didn't even look at the time or her phone, and replied, "No."

Xiang Lin was even more confused. What do you mean by no? It was almost an hour, but the president was still not there!

Zhang Yiqing heard their conversation and asked, "Are we waiting for someone else?"

Xiang Lin replied before anyone could, "They didn't tell you?"

Xiang Lin saw Zhang Yiqing's eyes widening as if shocked at his words. Xiang Lin thought that Zhang Yiqing already heard about this, but could it be that he was brought to Paradise City without knowing he was meeting the big boss?

He turned his head to sweep both Ran Xueyi and Adelle at a glance and wondered why they didn't tell Zhang Yiqing.

As his assistant, Xiang Lin felt aggrieved for him. But he couldn't do anything. He thought Zhang Yiqing knew about their meeting with the company owner so he didn't mention it to him.

Even though he was forced to betray Chestnut and help Feng Huai, Xiang Lin didn't want to blame nor drag Zhang Yiqing in the dirty puddle. He should paint him in a good way in front of the company president so that Zhang Yiqing could still get bigger opportunities.

Seeing him still looking perplexed, Xiang Lin comforted Zhang Yiqing, and said, "Don't worry, Zhang Yiqing. Just stay put and be obedient when they arrive. I'll also do my best as your assistant."

Zhang Yiqing felt that something was not right.

"What do you mean, Lin Ge?" he said with a frown.

Xiang Lin sighed and finally revealed, "We're meeting the company president. Senior Wu was the one who told me."

He casted a seething glance at Adelle, who returned it with a bright and shameless smile.

Just when he thought that Adelle and Ran Xueyi were grouping up to bully Zhang Yiqing by not telling him that they were meeting the president, he heard Zhang Yiqing speaking...

"What are you saying, Lin Ge? The company president is here."

Xiang Lin thought he was asking, but then the tone that Zhang Yiqing used was not to question him whether the president was here or not. Could he have heard it wrongly?

Zhang Yiqing sighed when Xiang Lin showed a clueless expression on his face. He pointed his hand towards Ran Xueyi and said, "This person is our president. Boom!

As if a bomb exploded in his mind, Xiang Lin had a hard time understanding what was happening. White noise was heard in his ears and interrupted his thoughts.

"Zha –Zhang Yiqing, what are you talking about? Who did you say is our co–company president?" Xiang Lin stuttered.

Zhang Yiqing scowled but patiently repeated what he had just said, "Ran Xueyi is the company owner and president of Chestnut Entertainment."

Bam–!

This time, a real sound was heard. It came from Xiang Lin who couldn't keep seated in his chair. He felt like his butt was just poked with a burner as he glanced at the three people seated at their table. They all had an expression that said that everything Zhang Yiqing revealed was true.

"You are the president?!" Xiang Lin exclaimed after a minute of calming the pacing of his heart.

Ran Xueyi slowly nodded her head.

Chapter 439 A Pawn

The air in the room was stifling and thick. As he hadn't eaten anything, Xiang Lin felt like fainting. Unfortunately, the dizzy spell one would feel when their stomach was empty didn't happen. In front of the president, no, Ran Xueyi, he didn't dare faint or keep his eyes away from her.

Who could have known that the number one artist in the company and currently, the actress who has the highest and hottest traffic nowadays, was actually her own agency's president.

No wonder... No wonder she was able to keep her status even after being riddled with varieties of difficulties hurled at her. Usually, those who were embroiled in these issues would have to stay behind closed doors and let the controversy rest for a few months, even years before they could get back on the stage.

Ran Xueyi, on the other hand, never backed down. She didn't even lower her head to anyone.

"You're really the president?" Xiang Lin asked.

Ran Xueyi nodded once. "Yes."

Adelle suddenly stood up from where she was sitting and gestured for Zhang Yiqing to leave the room with her. Zhang Yiqing was still confused by the strange situation, but he still had some tact to not become a light bulb and sit around there while they discussed an important matter.

Xiang Lin noticed that the two other people in the room left and once again, the heart that has been pacing quickly returned. He felt breathless like a track athlete running for the gold in the Olympics. But he guessed that there would be no gold nor monetary reward at the end of the goal waiting for him.

"Miss Ran... I," he started to speak but in the middle of his words, he found that he had nothing in his mind. He didn't know what to say to her. Finally, after a minute of pause, he asked, "May I ask why you brought me to Paradise City? Zhang Yiqing really didn't need a new assistant to accompany him to meet the president... I mean you, right?"

"If I could be presumptuous, is it alright for me to assume that the reason why you called me here is because of what we discussed in the car?"

He took a long drag of air before he said bitterly, "It's about Feng Huai?"

Ran Xueyi raised her eyebrows and didn't say a word even after being questioned by him. From what she can see Xiang Lin wasn't the naive and helpless type he portrayed himself to be in front of Feng Huai. Even though he didn't finish his studies, he could still understand his situation and even guess why she brought him there rather than trying to make an excuse and pretend ignorance towards the matter.

Ran Xueyi didn't quickly answer him and placed the glass of tea in front of her lips. After taking a sip, she stared at him for a long moment and put the glass down.

She clasped her hands together and said, "It's about you and Feng Huai." She paused to see his reaction. Ran Xueyi wanted to see whether he would seek forgiveness or fake innocence.

Contrary to her expectations, Xiang Lin did neither. He stayed on his seat and looked at her with regret and acceptance.

"You don't want to defend yourself?" she asked and saw him shake his head. Ran Xueyi was no longer surprised with his reaction. "I know Feng Huai coerced you to act on his will. He let you compile and break into Sister Zhao's computer to get the information you wanted. Then, you will use it to enter Dauntless and get promoted if they think it was worth the risk of having you change ships."

"Your sister's studies were far too important to you so you were driven into a corner to accept Feng Huai's help without knowing that it would hammer the nails on your coffin and betray Chestnut."

When he heard her speaking of the events that happened where it all began, Xiang Lin didn't show any surprise on his face. If Ran Xueyi could find out about his cooperation with Feng Huai then, it wouldn't be such a shocking thing if she also found out about their connection with Dauntless.

When thinking about it, he couldn't stop feeling embarrassed and filled with regret.

However, things had gone this way already. There was no need to cry for spilt milk. Besides, he was not without mistakes.

"I did what I had to do. I won't ask for forgiveness because I am unworthy. I just wanted to know if I can still get my salary for this month?" Xiang Lin asked. "I know I am being shameless, but I need

that money for my sister's future even if it's not that much. Please allow me to have it and I will repay you in another way."

He could no longer hide his shame and bowed deeply to her.

"Are you sure that's what you want? I never said anything about quitting or firing anyone though?" Ran Xueyi tilted her head.

Xiang Lin frowned.

But Ran Xueyi continued, and said, "I will never forgive those who betray me. I always make them pay a thousand times then I will make them suffer till they die."

Xiang Lin finally raised his head and shuddered when he saw her eyes. It was filled with sincerity and danger as if she didn't lie.

However, Xiang Lin had expected this already. If he were in her shoes, he might also not forgive the people who betrayed him no matter how light or heavy their betrayal turned out to be.

"Are you going to send me to jail? Leaking personal data and colluding with a rivaling company. Hacking the company's system will at least give me several years in prison."

Ran Xueyi didn't think that Xiang Lin would have thought this far. He already calculated how many years he would spend in prison if she were to report it to the authorities. It was as if he had already looked forward to it.

But why? If he really wanted to save to take care of his younger sister's future, Xiang Lin wouldn't even think of going to prison. Rather, the first thing he would do was to hack the system and even fabricate his own evidence to get away from his crimes.

But he didn't. The expression on his face showed what a person who had given up on their life would look like.

Ran Xueyi scoffed as she took out an envelope with a check inside it and placed it on the table, "I'm not that blinded with anger and revenge that I wouldn't recognize those who can still be valuable to me. This check is a blank check. There is no limit to how much you can take from it, but let me

remind you that you will need to think thoroughly what to do with the money. Xiang Lin, do you understand what I'm saying?"

"It's all up to you and your decision what to do from now on. Feng Huai, nor I, can do anything to what you've set your mind to do after this meeting."

Xiang Lin looked at the envelope on the table as if it was the sun in the sky. It was heavy, pressuring, and burning.

...

"Is that really alright? You let him leave with a blank check without assurance that he will repay this favor. Ran Xueyi, will this really let you get what you want?" Adelle asked her.

"A blank check?" Zhang Yiqing, who sat next to the manager, couldn't stop exclaiming. "You –you gave him a blank check? Ran Xueyi did?"

What the... Why did his assistant receive a blank check from Ran Xueyi? Why can't it be him?

Turning his head to look at Ran Xueyi, he scooted forward on his chair and leaned his upper body, "Xueyi Jie, do you still have a blank check with you? I'm not asking because I want one... I just want to know."

Adelle rolled her eyes and Ran Xueyi laughed.

Ran Xueyi replied, "That blank check is my bait for the pawns I'm ready to discard at any time. Zhang Yiqing, are you a pawn?"

Zhang Yiqing didn't know why she asked that, but he somewhat understood what she meant with her words. He fell silent and shook his head. After chatting with them for a while, he left the room to go to his hotel and said goodbye to them.

On their way back to the set to meet Director Daren, Adelle kept her eyes on Ran Xueyi and kept on sighing.

Naturally, Ran Xueyi was not completely ignorant and finally looked at her, "If you keep looking at me, my husband will think you fell in love with me and feel jealous."

After being teased by her, Adelle reluctantly took her gaze away from her. "At least tell me what you planned to do with Xiang Lin. I thought you had him come to Paradise City to threaten him and scare him for what they did. But you didn't. You actually gave him a blank check! Are you not afraid that he'll run away with that money or spend it with Feng Huai?"

A blank check where one can withdraw whatever amount of money they want. Even Adelle wanted to have one. Yet, Ran Xueyi gave it to someone who joined hands with the traitor, Feng Huai.

No matter how much Adelle thought about this, she couldn't find a good reason why Ran Xueyi had to do this.

Ran Xueyi smiled wickedly, "What do you think will happen when a dog that has been locked up will do when it finally comes out of their cage? Will they be tamed or will they end up rebelling?"

Adelle thought about it and answered truthfully, "If they stayed too long inside the cage, of course, they will be tamed and obedient."

Ran Xueyi shook her head but didn't say anything when she heard Adelle's answer.

For someone like Xiang Lin, he would definitely rebel against the person who made him suffer the most.

Chapter 440 Start Of Another Filming <Unholy Desires>

The way back to the filming site took at least four hours for them to arrive.

The filming was arranged at Rongqing province where there was a small village with few people in it.

When Director Daren announced the name and address of the place where they will film everything, Ran Xueyi didn't expect that it would be a secluded place. The village was just at the foot of a mountain and the people in the village lived in harmony.

The car finally stopped in front of a narrow alley. The driver turned his head to them and said, "We can't pass here. We might need to walk to where the site is."

Adelle exchanged a few words with the driver and the car parked nearby. The driver followed them with their suitcases in both his hands.

Soon, they arrived at the site where Director Daren told them to stay. It was a hotel.

"Director Daren."

Ran Xueyi greeted as soon as she saw him standing by the entrance of the hotel.

The young director happily hopped towards her and greeted back, "Miss Ran, you're finally here! Come in, come in. I've arranged everything for you."

Ran Xueyi nodded.

They toured the hotel for a while before arriving at a room on the third floor.

"The hotel isn't that big. But it has everything that we need when we start filming. We will use the East Wing of the hotel as the place where Crystal will live and encounter Wu Yao." Director Daren pointed a finger towards the building next to where they are currently in. "This place has fifty rooms in total and a big swimming pool. The East Wing has twenty rooms but it'll be treated as an apartment to suit the plot of the film."

Ran Xueyi obediently listened to their young director. She couldn't help but feel a little bit surprised. Daren Wang was younger than her in terms of age yet, the way he acted and talked was similar to how veteran directors would speak.

What was even more surprising than his way of speaking was his meticulous way of thinking as a director. Right now, Daren Wang was showing why he was awarded in the whole Filming University for his short film.

Sadly, that short film was involved in a controversy. It would have gotten an award or nomination from a prestigious award ceremony if it were to be released outside.

"Your room is here. Mr. Song picked this room for you." Director Daren handed the card key to her.

Ran Xueyi looked at the card key and the room number 520: "..."

"Miss Adelle's room is right next to yours and the room on your left is vacant so you can have your own privacy." Director Daren handed another card key to her manager and his expression looked normal.

"Thank you, Director Daren."

"No need for thanks. I wouldn't have been able to rent this whole place for four months if you two didn't find an investor who is willing to give money to a no-name director like me. Anyway, I'll go downstairs at the pool to meet with everyone. When you're done cleaning up, you can go down too."

Director Daren moved towards the elevator but heard Ran Xueyi calling out to him. "Wait."

He stopped and turned around.

"You don't have anything to say to me?" Ran Xueyi pulled away from her room to approach him.

The young director guessed what she was meaning to say and shook his head. "If you are talking about your relationship with Mr. Song, I'll be honest. It was shocking. But considering how you two got familiar so quickly when we first rehearsed, I thought it wouldn't be unexpected anymore."

Besides, the uncanny similarities between Song Yu Han and the little boy Ran Xueyi brought with her when they first met... Others might not realize it, but Daren Wang had his doubts already.

"I'll go down now." He paused slightly and added before leaving, "Don't worry. I won't reveal anything about this matter to anyone. My roommates are also people who can keep secrets to their deaths."

Ran Xueyi was actually not worried about this. Not because she trusted them. It was because she thought it was useless to keep this secret hidden forever. What she was concerned about was what the young director would feel when he found out?

Knowing that Ran Xueyi and Song Yu Han were married. And it was highly likely that she was the one who pushed Song Yu Han to invest in his film and surprisingly, auditioned for the role for the male lead, one might feel dissatisfied and upset being dragged by the couple's whims.

Thankfully, Daren Wang was not the type to think too much of people's intentions and focused on his character as the director. He only looked at their suitability to the film and the role they are playing. And at this moment, no one could play Crystal and Wu Yao better than Ran Xueyi and Song Yu Han.

After cleaning up, changing the sheets, and opening the windows in their rooms to let the fresh air in, Ran Xueyi and Adelle went down to meet the other cast members.

When Ran Xueyi reached the pool, she saw several people sitting at a long table near the pool.

"Have all the cast members arrived?" a voice came from beside her. And when Ran Xueyi turned around, she saw Song Yu Han walking in wearing a white shirt and black pants.

"I think so," she nodded and then asked, "I just checked in my room. What room number are you staying in?"

She remembered that the room he picked for her was numbered 520 and her lips twitched a little bit. This man never ceased to confess his love for her in many different ways.

Song Yu Han walked together with her and said, "I'm not staying here. I had Guo Yun talk to a real estate agent to buy a villa in this place. He found a seaside view villa with safe security. We can stay there while filming."

Ran Xueyi: "...Isn't this place okay? I think it's alright for us to stay here. We can be around everyone in the crew."

Song Yu Han looked at her expressionlessly and said, "Well, if you want others to hear us, I don't mind. But, do you?"

It took Ran Xueyi three seconds to understand what he meant. Her cheeks burned with embarrassment because of his shamelessness. She wanted to say something to scold him, but Director Daren reached where they were. So, she could only pinch his side.

Director Daren led them towards the long table where everyone was sitting, and officially introduced everyone. "This is assistant director, Director Qing. He is a vagabond director who will provide us with his expert knowledge in directing. I am still young and lacking so having him by our side will certainly help us greatly."

"Xiao Daren doesn't have to humble yourself too much." A long haired middle-aged man with a beard stood up. He waved his hand at everyone, "I am Qing Luo. I will be Director Daren's assistant director."

Ran Xueyi raised her eyebrows and looked between Daren Wang and Qing Luo. She heard the name Qing Luo before. It was quite renowned between artists and directors in the past. Qing Luo was known as the vagabond director because he was not affiliated to any entertainment company. He likes to create his own films with his own money and production team.

"This is Tie Lin, who plays the landlord of the apartment building."

"This is Yu Ruo, who plays as Crystal's step sister."

Director Daren continued to introduce everyone to each other.

Finally, he pointed at Ran Xueyi and Song Yu Han, and said, "Everyone already knows who this talented person is, but I think a proper introduction is needed. Everyone, let's all welcome Ran Xueyi, who will play Crystal."

A round of applause was heard and some cheered after Ran Xueyi was introduced.

There was no way someone could have not known Ran Xueyi, who had been the talk of the country ever since she announced her marriage with a mysterious man. Recently, she was also rumored with Mr. He, the former prime minister's cousin and a wealthy businessman.

Moreover, she was a paragon of acting in the entertainment industry! There was no way someone would say they didn't know who she was.

"Ahem... Let us also warmly welcome Song Yu Han. He plays the lead role Wu Yao." Director Daren felt nervous on behalf of this man. He was unlike Ran Xueyi, whose name was influential

and carried some weight. The young director expected that everyone would not recognize who he was.

But in contrast to his expectation, there were some people who knew Song Yu Han.

Aside from Ran Xueyi and Adelle, who already knew him and clapped with everyone. there's still someone else, who fervently stared at Song Yu Han with a crazy obsession in their eyes.