

Daddy CEO 516

Chapter 516 Premiere Interview (2)

The host was satisfied with his response. Su Zixi did great and learned how to maneuver out of troublesome situations.

Next, the host targeted Miao Li and asked, "Miss Miao, you also have the role of a policewoman. Did you have a hard time training for your role?"

"It's not hard, it's not hard. I didn't go through extensive training like Brother Su, I can only train under my grandfather."

At her answer, the crowd smiled. Even the host was speechless.

Who didn't know that Miao Li's grandfather was a renown military general?

Being trained personally by a retired veteran general, was it truly not hard?

"Sister Miao, you're making me lose face here." Su Zixi quickly said as if he was hurt.

Miao Li side-eyed him and said, "Don't worry, I'll ask my grandfather to train you next time!"

Su Zixi straightened his posture and waved his hand signaling there was no need. Who wants to be pulled into an intense training under a veteran? Should he just quit being an actor and become a soldier instead?

Seeing the two bicker and laugh, their fans were relieved. At first, when it was announced that Su Zixi and Miao Li will appear in one film, they were worried about their chemistry. But now, they do not have to worry anymore.

The host asked the two some other questions, and Su Zixi and Miao Li answered them professionally. There were some mistakes but it was not noticeable.

It was finally Ran Xueyi's turn. She's the main focus of today's interview according to the script the production team had given to him. The reporters below the stage were also eagerly waiting for her turn.

"Miss Ran looked really radiant tonight. When you showed up from backstage, I was slightly distracted and thought that I was seeing a goddess descend from the sky." The host then asked, "Have you ever stood in front of the mirror and asked yourself how you can be so beautiful?"

"I never stood in front of the mirror to ask this question before. Rather, I ask my hair and makeup stylist to make me beautiful in front of the cameras and my fans to not disappoint them," Ran Xueyi replied without stuttering.

The host was very satisfied with Ran Xueyi. No wonder she was one of the undefeated veteran actresses in the entertainment circle!

"We never heard of you joining the film until the official announcement for the premiere was announced. Can you please introduce us to your role and let us better know Ruan Jiaojiao?" The host continued to ask her.

In order to pull in more viewers, the PR team decided to withhold Ran Xueyi's appearance as one of the antagonists in the film. When Ran Xueyi became the public's focus, everyone thought they didn't make a mistake with their decision. The result after the official premiere announcement was posted skyrocketed.

Many Ran Xueyi fans didn't expect her to show up in the film <The Invitation>. It was not a top-tier film, after all. Rather, it was slightly under-budgeted compared to other top-tier films that were directed by nationally renowned directors. Su Zixi and Miao Li were not even top-listers celebrities. They were below the top-listers and were too young and inexperienced. Why did Ran Xueyi agree to shoot the film?

"I cannot spoil the film, but I can assure you that my role in the film will bring great surprise to everyone. Especially my fans who have followed me through my years as an actress. Ruan Jiaojiao will receive contradictory emotions from everyone. And I did my best to execute Ruan Jiaojiao to become alive."

"It's really hard to not say anything. But I'll be scolded by everyone if I said anything about Ruan Jiaojiao," Su Zixi inserted his own comment and praised, "Goddess, uh, Sister Ran's Ruan Jiaojiao still appears in my dreams."

Miao Li also showed her support for Ran Xueyi and said, "When I first saw Ruan Jiaojiao become a living person through Sister Ran, I felt chills through my spine. I fell for her at first sight!"

"Hearing you say this, I'm even more curious to know what Ruan Jiaojiao has in store for us." The host had a big smile on his face at this moment.

The main leads of the film were praising Ran Xueyi's role, Ruan Jiaojiao. Just how great could Ran Xueyi act for them to react like this?

Naturally, the fans were even more heated and enthusiastic to know. They just wanted to end the interview and go to the theater so they could watch the premiere of the film!

Their desire to know about Ran Xueyi's role exceeded their expectations.

The host could not neglect the directors and producers of the film. He asked them some film-related questions. The directors and producers were not celebrities, but they still have to rein in some of their words and actions.

There were still 10 minutes before the interview was over. The host let the reporters who were earnestly waiting below the stage take their turn to ask questions.

In order to not make any loud commotion, the host would pick the reporters in front of him. Only then can they ask their questions. Those who were unlucky and were not picked could only beat their chest in defeat.

The host knew what they wanted to know most, but he was not one who would let these ravenous reporters focus on one artist only. So, he chose those who wanted to ask other people in the cast some questions first.

When there was only five minutes left, he finally relented and chose a reporter who reserved his question to Ran Xueyi.

"Miss Ran, you have been involved in two scandals this year. One is with the former prime minister's nephew and now, there was a post saying they saw you out in the mall with a man. Can you please clarify and tell us honestly the truth?"

As one had expected, the incident that had occurred a few days ago was asked

Chapter 517 Curse of Method Acting

The hall in which the premiere interview was being held right at this moment fell into utter silence, as if a beast had sprung into the center of the crowd and everyone was too stunned to speak.

But none was wiser to interrupt or to stop the reporter who had just spoken the things that everybody wanted to know the answer to.

The directors and producers who were sitting on each side of Ran Xueyi held their breaths. They had a bigger reaction than Ran Xueyi, who had been asked this question. But neither stepped in to defend her or avert the reporter to inquire something else.

Even Su Zixi and Miao Li could not open their mouths. They were already oriented by the film's PR team to not do anything once these types of inquiries were asked. It was all for the sake of the film's future exposure and benefits everyone will receive.

Despite hiding their skyrocketing curiosities, Ran Xueyi knew that even the film production team and cast members would like to know how she would answer. How could they not? Ran Xueyi was now inside the eye of the storm, involved with two men after she confessed to be married to an unnamed man.

If she doesn't respond appropriately and satisfy them, rumors are bound to resurface with an even stronger flame.

Ran Xueyi knew that the entertainment industry was a forest surrounded with shadows creeping in the dark. She was long used to it, thus this type of situation that could make even the strongest person in the world bow down in fear and anxiety did not deter her.

"Normally, I would have said 'no comment'. But this has something to do with my reputation as well as my marriage with my beloved. Being involved with such an excellent man such as the prime minister's nephew is a mere coincidence." Ran Xueyi's smile pierced through the crowd, fearless and undaunted. "So, I hope that everyone won't link me up to the generous man as he is engaged with his lovely fiancée."

Everyone calmly listened with both ears. Her voice drowned the overwhelming tension in the air. Ran Xueyi's gaze flits quickly across cameras with their lens pointed at her countenance.

Ran Xueyi quickly added before anyone could interject, "As for the one issue where they saw me shopping at the mall with someone. I can tell you that it's real. However, the truth was distorted as that man is not a parvenu. He's far from that."

A parvenu won't describe what kind of identity Song Yu Han has. He was far more dangerous, wealthier, handsome, and younger to be a simple third-rate wealthy old man.

The reporter took her hint and asked, "Then, who is that man?"

"My husband."

...

Ran Xueyi went into the private theater with the other cast members and VIP guests who were invited to the first premiere of the film <The Invitation>. They were all seated in the front while the fans and many online film critics occupied the seats in the back.

As soon as the lights dimmed and the beam coming from the cinema projector hit the front of the stage, the crowd, who were still unable to take their minds off the interview, hushed and silence reigned the entire place.

Now, the country will focus on doing a manhunt rather than watch our film."

Miao Li, who sat on her right, couldn't contain her excitement and her gleeful smile. "Sister Xueyi ah, Why did you have to do that? Now, the country will focus on doing a manhunt rather than watch our film."

She said it jokingly and Su Zixi, who could hear her, nodded in agreement.

"It's true. As your fan, I'm more eager to go and take my phone out to search for this mystery man who took you away."

Ran Xueyi sighed but she didn't comment as the film soon started in front.

The film's goal was not mainly focused on the blossoming romance between the main lead roles. The victim's stories, the goal and driving point of the villains, as well as how the entire process of saving one's life were the essence of the entire thing.

Both Su Zixi and Miao Li displayed what a pair of lovers working at the police department should look like. It was not as smooth-sailing as many TV and films showed. There was a lot of tension, more suffering between the line of work and lovelife. Especially, when the antagonists started to drive a heavy wedge between the two protagonists.

When Ran Xueyi's character, Ruan Jiaojiao, came into the projection screen, her fans gripped the handrest of their seats, looking as if they would stand up if they were so much as poked by someone.

Previously, they assumed Ran Xueyi would play as a secondary main lead, where they would support the main leads to a staggering development.

Instead, they saw Ran Xueyi playing as an antagonist!

A f*cking villainess!

They had never seen this type of Ran Xueyi for a long time. The viciousness that was long forgotten came out and struck them straight into their hearts.

Usually, a two-faced villain would draw the audience's hatred and disgust. But Ran Xueyi bordered in between. They hated her yet they couldn't help but love Ruan Jiaojiao for her realistic views and emotions.

When Ruan Jiaojiao was shot after she had killed the teacher who had molested and tortured his victims, the crowd couldn't stop the tears that fell from their eyes. They mourned her death more than feeling the resonance of justice that the main lead's served for the greater good.

However, they couldn't deny that what the main leads had done was only right.

Ruan Jiaojiao was not a good person. Fighting fire with fire will only result in a bigger explosion and greater suffering. No matter what, she had killed the criminals in a cruel way.

After her character died, Ran Xueyi smiled in satisfaction. She had done great in pulling Ruan Jiaojiao into this world. Albeit, there was a huge risk of losing herself in the process of making Ruan Jiaojiao.

As a method actress, Ran Xueyi trained herself to immerse her body and soul to become Ruan Jiaojiao. A long process of practice was done to completely embody her emotions and movements. Until now, Ran Xueyi could feel Ruan Jiaojiao inside of her.

If not for the fact that Ran Xueyi was inside the theater with several other people, she would have gone to the dressing room now and ripped off the dress she wore to ease the pain and suffering she was currently feeling. Seeing Ruan Jiaojiao in front of her relived her emotions, throwing herself into discordance.

As the film continues, Ran Xueyi felt lightheaded and dizzy. She only realized that she had been sweating when she unclasped her hands and opened it to see a crescent moon-like dent had appeared in her palms.

She needed to get out of her. Fast.

She thought she had gone better. That her acting won't affect her anymore. But Ran Xueyi overestimated her capabilities. How laughable it was that she thought she could escape the curse of method acting.

Withholding her breath, Ran Xueyi lowered her gaze from the silver screen and closed off her senses, trying her best to keep the remaining threads of her control tethered.

The thought of Song Yu Han and Little Zhanzhan eased the warring emotions inside of her. But it was not enough. Ran Xueyi knew that.

She needed something more. Something tangible she could hold.

"Sister Xueyi?"

Ran Xueyi heard the voice of Miao Li, who sat next to her, but she couldn't utter a reply. Sweat soaked the small of her back, her fine brows furrowed tightly as she unsuccessfully calmed herself down

Miao Li seemed to perceive her restlessness and wanted to reach out to her.

However, before she could touch Ran Xueyi, someone placed a baseball hat on top of her head.

Miao Li glanced towards the hand that was outstretched from behind Ran Xueyi. The thick and sinewy forearm led towards broader shoulders covered in black shirt, slender neck, and a sharp jawline that framed that handsomely contoured face.

A sudden blush crept in her cheeks as instantaneous as her eyes laid on the man sitting behind Ran Xueyi.

Song Yu Han nodded at her, but his eyes glittered as it focused around the person seated in front of him.

He leaned forward, folding his long legs in order to fit himself between cramped space, and whispered, "Close your eyes and listen to my voice. I'm here."

Ran Xueyi flinched in surprise. An urge to turn her head to glance over at him was smoothed when she felt herself relaxing. The tension and trembling of her body slowly dissipated like shadowy swirls of evil darkness retreating from the glaring light.

Unconsciously, she listened to his voice. Her eyes closed and her ears listened to his rhythmic and calm breath sound from behind the back of her head.

He was always there for her when she needed him to.

Chapter 518 Princess-Carried Behind The Theater

Song Yu Han's hand was placed on the back of her neck, the cold and rough skin of his palms, somehow gave her a contradicting gentleness and warmth. The shadows that lingered around Ran Xueyi crawled back to a place that the light could never reach again.

Ran Xueyi knew that what he was doing right now might throw everything into chaos. The moment her fans and the people nearby noticed Song Yu Han's little movement, there was no way to escape. Ran Xueyi should warn him about it as they had no plans of revealing each other to the public tonight. But her mouth was tightly closed and a slight anticipation of being found grew tremendously inside of her.

No words were exchanged between them, only a slight touch of skin. However, a thousand unspoken and comforting words seemed to slip through his hands.

The film was coming to an end. The fans were becoming more and more heated by the sudden progression of the climax. The villains were vicious, but there seems to be a touch of humanity in them that many ignored. Of course, there are some evil people who don't have any morality left in their souls.

Finally, the main leads played by Su Zixi and Miao Li got the justice everyone wanted. Their romance also bloomed beautifully across the silver screen, allowing everyone who had watched them develop their love while shifting between working and stress, feel as if they were injected with sweet candies.

When the beam of light coming from the projector dimmed and the sparks of lights coming from the ceilings were turned on, the audiences couldn't contain their excitement and started talking about how the film had captured them.

Some fans expressed their sadness. Some mentioned being scared by the villains. And most sang their praises for the film's cinematography and the characters inside it.

Eventually, the film satisfied everyone's tastes.

When everyone was free of the restraint that held them down on their seats, Director Sun, Su Zixi, and Miao Li were confused where Ran Xueyi go.

"Where's Ran Xueyi?"

"Huh? Wasn't she sitting beside me?"

Miao Li looked at the two empty seats for a second before guessing what had happened. A mysterious smile was on her lips as she said, "Sister Xueyi told me earlier that there's some urgent thing she needed to do and saw her leave with her manager. Why don't you call her, director?"

Director Sun nodded and took out his phone. He looked through his contacts, found the right number, and pressed call. A few seconds later, it was connected.

"Ran Xueyi, is there something wrong? You left the theaters so quickly." His brows were tightly knitted together.

However, a man's deep and low voice answered him, "Something urgent happened. My wife will be taking her leave."

"Ah?"

Wife? Director Sun was flabbergasted for a second there. Then, he snapped out of his daze before he realized what was going on. Sh*t, the person who answered the call is Ran Xueyi's husband!

Director Sun quickly said, "Oh, then she probably won't be able to attend the after party, right?"

Song Yu Han replied, "Yes—"

"Wait, I will attend."

Suddenly, the voice on the phone changed. Now, it was Ran Xueyi who was speaking to Director Sun.

"I'm sorry, director. I wasn't feeling well just now. I'll be late but I'll definitely be present at the after party."

"Oh, it's alright. You don't have to force yourself—"

Director Sun didn't even finish his sentence when the deep voice of a man sounded again.

"I'm taking you to the hospital."

"I don't need it. I can just rest for a bit then I'll be okay."

"Stop being stubborn, Xueyi."

"I'm not. I really do feel better now."

"Really? Should I put you down then?"

"No! Carry me to the dressing room. You're not allowed to put me down!"

Director Sun: "..."

Miao Li and Su Zixi were still waiting for director Sun to finish speaking to Ran Xueyi and saw the strange expression on his face as if he had just swallowed a whole lemon.

Director Sun, who just swallowed a big serving of dog food, spoke to the phone, even though he knew the other side might not hear him anymore, "Well, I'll hang up now. You can come to the after party anytime you want."

There was no reply. The other side was definitely distracted and completely forgot about him.

Director Sun slowly took the phone away from his ear and glanced over at it. In a daze, he wondered if he was dreaming.

So, Ran Xueyi is really married?

He was surprised.

When Ran Xueyi confessed being married to someone, a lot of people didn't believe her. Actresses and actors had several ways to keep their popularity to the top. Scandals, gossip, and even leaked private information could be used by them and their PR team just to gain fame and keep on being a top star.

The most tragic thing for a superstar and a celebrity was having no scandal or even news about them. That could only mean that their careers have ceased to exist, and are no longer salvageable.

And Ran Xueyi's timing was too coincidental.

Thus, many people believed that Ran Xueyi had lied and only used the disguise of being married to someone to protect herself from scandals. They already expected her to announce her divorce from her 'fake marriage' soon after the storm had calmed down.

But Director Sun did not expect he had the first one to be shot at by this unexpected truth.

Ran Xueyi didn't lie about her marriage. She really has a husband!

"Director?"

"Director Sun, are you okay?"

...

At the same time.

Being princess carried by someone had some advantages and disadvantages. But the gains, naturally, outweigh the losses.

When Ran Xueyi started to feel her body calming down, Song Yu Han didn't waste any second to carry her. Thanks to the sudden dim of the projector light as the film ended, nobody had seen them as they entered through the personnel only door.

His legs were too long and he walked fast enough before the lights on the ceilings were turned on. So, they were not seen by anyone inside the theaters.

But they weren't so lucky when they entered the backstage hallway that leads to several rooms and doors. Several staff members, theater team, and managers saw a tall man carrying a woman wearing a baseball cap above her head.

Song Yu Han ignored the inquiring gazes that were sent to them as he made his way straight to Ran Xueyi's dressing room when the call stopped him mid-walk in the corridor.

After the call, Ran Xueyi shamelessly ordered him to continue carrying her even though he quite vocally expressed his desire to send her to the nearest hospital.

Closing the door behind him, Song Yu Han gently placed her on a leather couch inside the dressing room. His legs did not stop walking as he carried another person in his arms before placing the little figure of their son on top of Ran Xueyi's lap.

Adelle watched them in silence. The timing was not too great for her to interrupt the couple. She also noticed the grimness of Song Yu Han's expression and thought it was better to keep her questions to herself for now.

Then, they saw him ordering people through his phone.

"Get Doctor Chu and have him come to the address I just sent to you. Tell him to wait there for me to come"

"Bring a blanket as well and make sure that the room is clean."

"Also, contact Marilyn Grace and tell her that the remuneration for the dress will be delivered to her later."

A string of orders came out of his lips very naturally.

The poor lad on the receiving side definitely has it hard. But Ran Xueyi knew that she had already expended most of Song Yu Han's patience.

It was his first time seeing her having an attack due to her method acting. It wouldn't be strange for him to overreact like this. If it was her in his shoes, she would do the same, too.

Behind the table, Adelle signaled to her and asked what was going on. Ran Xueyi replied with a silent gesture that it was because of her method acting.

Understanding flashed across her manager's eyes. Then, Adelle mouthed to her if she wanted some privacy between her and husband.

Naturally, Ran Xueyi didn't refuse this, and nodded.

Once Adelle left, Song Yu Han finally opened his lips. "Since when did it start?"

Song Yu Han was not stupid to not guess why Ran Xueyi was acting like that during the premiere of the film. The moment 'Ruan Jiaojia' appeared on the screen, she started to tremble and her face turned so pale it was already a miracle she didn't faint.

Ran Xueyi bit her lips and stared at him, then said, "When I was nine years old."

It was the first time she developed her method acting. It was also the start of her curse.

Chapter 519 After Party (1)

Ran Xueyi started acting at a very young age. At that time, she was still an amateur child actress and didn't know any better that the world of acting could be so dangerous. She was awed in the splendors and benefits it would give to her and her family.

At first, she was unable to meet the director's requirements. She made a lot of mistakes during her scenes, the scolding she received could not be counted with her fingers. There were too many things she couldn't do as a young child.

However, with practice, Ran Xueyi slowly began to develop her skills in acting. She impressed the directors who worked with her.

Unfortunately, the directors who have higher standards and requirements refused to work with her, telling her that her acting skill has no depth and was too superficial.

Having been told that, Ran Xueyi was depressed for a long while. She didn't take any project for half a year. But within that half a year, she discovered another way to give life to her roles and make those who watched her immerse in her roles' stories.

That's when Ran Xueyi found method acting.

It was not easy to do it. Rather, it was more difficult than just acting and pulling your emotions to match your role. Method acting had to do with becoming one with your role rather than matching it. A lot of people lost themselves through this method.

Ran Xueyi received a lot of warning from her mentor. That if she didn't stop using it, she might lose her real self, living in the shadows of her own characters. But being an actress for a long time, Ran Xueyi couldn't give it up.

It was not easy. A habit that needs to be tamed and couldn't go away easily and quickly.

Listening to her recount when she first got her method acting and the effects of it in her life, the lines between his eyebrows became even more prominent.

Song Yu Han did not hide his concern from his face. The more she talked, the more he felt that she should meet some experts who could heal the effect method acting left on her.

However, he did not ask her this. Not because he didn't want to help her. Rather, it was because he knew that Ran Xueyi would refuse it. And with all the years that had passed, Ran Xueyi must have sought experts. Who would want to be left with a scar inside that remained for the rest of your life?

Although he didn't express his desire to have an expert look at her, Song Yu Han was already looking through his memory to see if some of his acquaintances and friends knew someone who could help Ran Xueyi.

But for the time being, he and Little Zhanzhan needed to be by her side at all times and keep her from her nightmares.

Time passed quickly. When Ran Xueyi's throat became parched from talking, Adelle, who left, returned with Guo Yun.

Guo Yun did not look very good as the rim of his eyes were slightly red and he had dark circles below it. He stepped inside the room. He glanced between Song Yu Han and Ran Xueyi before he went to pick up Little Zhanzhan as if it was his birthright to take the little guy from his parents.

"I'm taking him back to the hotel," he said.

Ran Xueyi knew she was not in the right state to take care of her son, so she let him take Little Zhanzhan away. Song Yu Han took off his coat and wrapped their son with it before saying, "If he wakes up and cries, call us."

Little Zhanzhan would be surprised to see that both his parents weren't beside him. Song Yu Han couldn't tell him that Ran Xueyi was in her vulnerable state. Children were the most perceptive and sensitive. He didn't want Little Zhanzhan to be troubled by this and affect his health.

Guo Yun nodded his head before turning to the door to leave.

Adelle couldn't get in between Ran Xueyi and Song Yu Han so she left with him while reminding Ran Xueyi about the after party.

"The party already started fifteen minutes ago. If you want, I can tell them you won't be able to come due to an urgent business."

Ran Xueyi shook her head.

"Thanks, but I need to be present to the after party."

Once again, she received a disapproving look from Song Yu Han. But instead of feeling guilty, she flashed him a grin to which he sighed exasperatedly.

Once they were the only people inside the dressing room, Song Yu Han had to kneel before Ran Xueyi, who was sitting on the couch. His eyes looked into hers as he pressed his forehead against her own.

"I wish I met you earlier."

Ran Xueyi closed her eyes and listened to his voice tremble.

"Then, I would be there for you earlier and keep you from any harm."

It sounded like a dream. If Song Yu Han was really there for her when she was in that weakened state, she might not have been through those painful experiences and sufferings.

But...

"My pain isn't greater than yours. I'd rather be there for you."

What Song Yu Han had been through, Ran Xueyi couldn't imagine it. However, she could tell how much agony and torment he got from all those years. She would exchange a part of her to ease his misery.

Song Yu Han leaned forward and pressed a kiss on her lips.

When it was finally time to go to the after party, Ran Xueyi changed out of her dress. As she wore more comfortable clothes to wear to the party, she remembered what Song Yu Han said earlier, and paused.

She turned towards him and said, "Did you order someone to pay for my dress?"

When she saw him nod, she almost couldn't keep a straight face.

"You don't have to pay for it. That dress was a gift from the brand after I became their ambassador. Though, I'll have to apologize to her, there's no need to pay for it." Becoming an ambassador for a brand has a lot of perks in it. Aside from getting paid by the brand, she will receive free dresses and items from them, too. That's why Ran Xueyi didn't need to worry about compensating Marilyn for the ruined dress.

However, Song Yu Han ordered someone to pay for it.

If she remembered correctly, the dress should cost about 27 thousand dollars. It might not be a huge amount of money, and compared to Song Yu Han's accumulated wealth, 27 thousand dollars was just a tiny drop in a barrel.

Still, there was no need to pay for something that was already free.

Hearing her, Song Yu Han was slightly disappointed. He liked to spend his money on both Ran Xueyi and Little Zhanzhan, but Ran Xueyi usually did not want him to uselessly spend his money on her.

"There's still some time before the party ends. I'm going now."

Ran Xueyi picked up her small bag and made her way to the door. However, She sensed Song Yu Han following her which made her raise her eyebrows in response to him.

Song Yu Han stared back at her.

"Why are you following me?"

"Why not?"

"But I'm going to the after party."

"Me too."

He said it matter-of-factly, that baffled Ran Xueyi.

Seeing the dumbfounded look on her face, Song Yu Han patted her head, and said, "I'm worried about your state. So, I'm going with you."

After saying that, Song Yu Han slipped out of the door before she could stop him.

Ran Xueyi stood on the same spot for a few seconds before chuckling amusedly before following him.

The after party was held at the same hotel that they were temporarily staying for the next few days. Because it was an after party dedicated to the film <The Invitation> only those who worked in the film, close friends, and families could attend. The sponsors and investors were present that night.

Inside the function hall, the actors and actresses who appeared in the film dressed comfortably, but expensively. The directors and producers first greeted the investors and sponsors of the film before introducing them to the cast members.

There were several servers in black bows, ties, and skirts rounding each table to serve the guests.

Sitting behind a table, the main stars of the film, Su Zixi and Miao Li, did not go to the middle and met the investors and sponsors, who were being crowded by extras and small artists. They sat properly in their seats but their mouths were busily gossiping.

"Did you know that Director Hao invested 10 million yuan to the film to get his niece in?" Miao Li said while sneakily glancing towards the woman wearing a tight black dress and standing beside Director Hao.

Su Zixi briefly swept his eyes at them. "Who knows if she's really his niece. My company's president met Director Hao's nieces. It's the seventh time he introduced his niece to the president."

Miao Li smiled but she suddenly felt annoyed. "Argh, I wish Sister Xueyi is here."

At this moment, the door to the function hall was pushed open and two people strode in.

Chapter 520 After Party (2)

A few minutes earlier.

The function hall was a sea of movement and noise, with people weaving in and out of groups and chatting animatedly. Laughter and snippets of conversation filled the air.

As Director Sun and the producers of the film made their way through the crowd, their faces lit up with wide, eager smiles. They approached a small cluster of individuals, one of whom was a stout, balding old man who stood out in the crowd. It was Director Hao, one of the investors of the film as well as one of the head directors in Light Source Ent.

Director Sun's heart sank at the sight of Director Hao. He had been hoping to avoid him all night. As Director Hao stepped forward, Director Sun braced himself for the inevitable conversation.

"Director Sun!" Director Hao's voice boomed above the noise of the crowd. He stopped directly in front of Director Sun, blocking his path.

With a forced smile Director Sun turned to face the other. "Director Hao, it's nice to see you here tonight."

Inwardly, Director Sun was struggling to contain the urge to groan. He had been looking forward to a relaxed evening without having to deal with Director Hao's endless demands and criticisms.

Director Sun was pleasantly surprised when Director Hao's secretary had informed him earlier that he wouldn't be attending the after-party. But now, as he stood face to face with the man, he realized that he had spoken too soon.

Director Hao beamed at Director Sun, oblivious to the changes in the other man's expression. "Sorry about that," he said, his smile widening. "My secretary made a mistake and told you I wouldn't be attending. I've already dealt with her for making a decision without consulting me."

He cleared his throat and gestured to the woman standing behind him. "This is my niece, Claire Chua," he said, pulling her closer to Director Sun. "She's quite naive and foolish, but I noticed she has some talent in acting. I almost couldn't bring her tonight because she's too shy to come out of her comfort zone."

Director Hao continued, "Please, Director Sun, help my niece explore the world of acting. I know you can do it."

Director Sun's expression darkened as Director Hao spoke. He knew the man was lying to him. How could he have yet another niece interested in acting? He had introduced several already, all with varying degrees of talent and experience that Director Hao 'accidentally' stumbled upon.

Director Sun's eyes narrowed as he listened to Director Hao's proposal. Despite Hao's practiced smile and well-rehearsed words, Director Sun could sense something sinister behind them. Hao was known for his underhanded tactics in the entertainment industry, using his wealth to cover up his unsavory actions.

Who knows if tonight, he would introduce one niece to Director Sun, and tomorrow, he would bring a nephew or niece to another director.

Despite his suspicions, Director Sun knew he couldn't afford to anger Director Hao. He was an influential investor in the film, and the producers held him in high regard. Not because of his own talent, but because his older brother was a board member of the highly respected Triple Crown Organization, which hosted the coveted Triple Crown Award ceremony that many actors and actresses coveted.

Moreover, the award ceremony is soon to begin.

Director Sun forced a smile, feeling his patience wear thin. "I'll certainly consider what roles may be suitable for her in the future," he replied, careful not to make any promises.

Director Hao beamed, turning to his supposed niece. "You hear that, Claire? You should thank Director Sun for his generosity."

Claire stepped forward, her smile bright and her eyes sparkling. "Thank you so much, Director Sun. I've always admired your work and I can't wait for the opportunity to work with you."

Although he was irritated that the conversation didn't end there, Director Sun couldn't dislike it when he hear people praise him and his works.

"Oh really? Which one is your favorite?" he asked, turning to Claire.

Claire's face contorted in confusion, looking to Director Hao for help. But even he couldn't recall any of Director Sun's films. Director Sun shook his head in disappointment. It was clear that Claire hadn't done her research and was simply praising him without any real knowledge of his work.

Feeling disheartened, Director Sun looked down, reflecting on the state of the entertainment industry. It seemed that more and more people were able to enter the industry solely through money and connections, rather than talent. And even those with talent were often just average compared to the true craftsmen of acting.

Unfortunately, talented individuals often don't get the chance to take the spotlight because it's already reserved for those with money and connections.

Director Hao noticed that someone from the key cast members was missing and asked, "Where's Miss Ran? Did she not attend the party?" Getting no response, he continued, "Don't tell me she didn't come tonight?"

Director Sun replied, "Miss Ran is a busy person."

"I'm also a busy person, am I not? Besides, she's the main attraction tonight. Why would she not attend?" Director Hao persisted.

Director Sun's face distorted. While Ran Xueyi was an important member of the cast, tonight's after-party was meant to celebrate everyone's hard work and to congratulate all the actors and actresses who had worked hard to make their roles shine in the film. Yet, with just a few words, Ran Xueyi had become the center of attention. If other people heard Director Hao's words, they would surely think that Ran Xueyi was a despicable person.

Although it wasn't true, Director Sun couldn't control the way everyone felt. But he could already tell that this would stain Ran Xueyi's reputation in the acting circle.

Looking around, he saw that the investors and sponsors who came tonight were also dissatisfied. It didn't matter if they didn't see Ran Xueyi, since it was normal to forget about someone. However, when reminded that someone was missing and it was an important member of the film, they somehow couldn't accept it.

"Where is she?"

"Shouldn't she be here since she's also a main cast member of the film?"

"Is she treating the industry like her playground?"

"Somebody call her agent and have her attend the party. It doesn't matter what they have to do, just drag her here!"

If nothing was done, rumors would soon spread that Ran Xueyi was turning into a villain in the industry for ignoring and belittling her peers, as well as neglecting her duty.

Director Sun opened his mouth to speak in Ran Xueyi's defense, but just as his lips parted, the crowd fell silent and the sound of the doors opening echoed throughout the hall.

The noise drew everyone's attention towards the entrance where two people walked in, side by side.

They walked with smooth, elegant and powerful strides, emanating an overwhelming aura that seemed to force the heads of the onlookers to lower, as though deities from heaven had descended in front of them. Yet, their eyes couldn't stop straining to follow their every movement.

The footfalls of the two people who barged into the bustling hall stopped in the center. The woman, wearing a black dress with a white floral embroidered design, turned her head from side to side, as if she was looking for someone. The man leaned over to her ear and whispered a few words that made the woman's eyes sparkle like the stars in the sky.

The spectators watched them as if they were lovers taking a stroll in the park, their lips stretched into a smile. Then, the woman walked forward towards Director Sun. "I'm sorry, I was late. I had some urgent matters to attend to."

Director Sun had already been informed earlier, and he didn't scold Ran Xueyi for being late. He nodded his head slightly before turning his gaze to the man standing beside her.

Ehm... is this the husband?

He pondered before swiftly glancing over the man that could beat all the actors and models in the country.

Noticing his gaze, Song Yu Han turned to him and raised an eyebrow..

Director Sun suddenly felt an inexplicable emotion. He felt his blood climbing up to his cheeks.

Handsome.

Too handsome.

This man is too beautiful for his own good. Is he even real?

Not that Director Sun thinks that the man before him was a doll or a robot, but how could anyone be so beautiful yet remain masculine?

"Director Sun?" Ran Xueyi's voice brought him back to reality.

Director Sun snapped out of his daze and unconsciously blurted out, "I'm married!"

Crap.

He realized his mistake immediately.

"I—"

The instant his voice settled down in the already silent hall, several heads turned to look at him.

During the time he was staring at Song Yu Han, Ran Xueyi had already apologized to the investors and sponsors of the film. She had also greeted the other actresses and actors with whom she had worked. She also spoke to Director Sun.

But he was too stunned to say anything or even reply to her.