

Daddy CEO 546

Chapter 546 First Release

546 First Release

A few days later, the movie <The Invitation> was soon released in theaters.

Due to the effect of the critics and reviewers who watched the first premiere, everyone who had read their posts and reviews couldn't stop wondering if the film was truly marvelous.

Many theaters expected a surge of audiences as soon as they opened. Thus, they carefully raised the security level. Although the number of audience members who would come to the first viewing of the movie was uncertain, they still wanted to be prepared.

Thankfully, they were prepared. Who would have thought that as soon as their doors were opened, a crowd soon came rushing in?

Not only that, the moment it was already ten in the morning, the lines outside many theaters in different cities were filled with people!

Those who came to watch the movie out of interest arrived very early. But those who came because they were passing by got dragged into the line in the end due to their interest rising.

"Is this film really wonderful?" someone in the crowd whispered.

As soon as their words fell, the people nearby turned and looked at them.

"Did you not watch the number 1 hot search videos last night?" the person who asked was embarrassed as they scratched their head. "What video?"

An older woman glanced at the person before sighing and said, "The film showing today is predicted to be nominated internationally. It's not confirmed what award it will get, but from the high reviews and comments it received from high-profile film critics, the award should be exceptional!"

"That's right, that's right! I saw a video of a foreign actor praising the film too!"

"I also heard that the actors this time consist of not only new actors and actresses, but also veterans! I'm really excited to find out what the film is all about."

Several people had already sung their praises for the film even before watching it. Some people who didn't know better were skeptical and doubtful. Could a film be so outstanding as they said? These people weren't paid to exaggerate the film, right?

Even though a lot of people were still unconvinced and chose another movie to watch that day, the moment they saw the line outside for the film <The Invitation> did not decrease at all, they all changed their minds and watched it.

At the same time, the production and promotion team behind the film <The Invitation> were intensely monitoring the public response to the film. The members couldn't sleep at night, and when the first public premiere was finally released, their spines couldn't stop tingling. Even the actors who played in the film were nervous.

The reason behind this was very simple.

<The Invitation> was a film that showed a very controversial perspective of murderers and how their minds work. It wasn't only a one-sided display of justice and righteousness.

Naturally, the characters who played as the 'defender of justice' weren't the only highlights of the film, but also the murderers who displayed the ugliness of humans who have broken away from the light and hope, letting themselves be swallowed up by darkness and do things that disrupt peace.

Of course, the film didn't break any film regulations set by the National Film and Television Administration. However, because the theme was a bit darker than what people were used to, it was easier to expect that there would be a notice sooner or later to take down the film.

Fortunately, the administration gave all the checks and allowed the film to be released.

Now, all that was left was for the audiences to give them reactions.

At this moment, Ran Xueyi didn't really want to bother herself with the reactions and reviews the film would receive from the public.

Because she was more concerned about the mess in the living room.

Looking at the ruined sofa, wall, and floor carpet, she wondered if a burglar got into their place.

She turned to the 'main suspects' who caused this mess and asked with a blank face, "How did this happen?"

Song Yu Han replied, "Zhanzhan played a little bit."

"This is a 'little bit' to you?" she questioned him. The room was not only messed up, even the TV was not spared!

She approached the TV and looked at it closely. There really was a hole.

Turning to face her husband and son, Ran Xueyi narrowed her eyes at them and said coldly, "If you don't explain to me what exactly happened, you better not think of sleeping in the same bed with me for a month."

In a blink of an eye, the two males—one tall and one short—instantly straightened. Then, Little Zhanzhan, who had kept his silence all this time, finally raised his hands.

Ran Xueyi: "!"

She looked at her son and then at Song Yu Han, whose face now had cracks in it. His eyes panicked for a split second before he took the item from his son's hand.

"Is that a painting knife?" Ran Xueyi asked in a confused manner after she recognized what was in his hand. Yet, she still couldn't understand how they messed up the room.

Song Yu Han didn't expect Ran Xueyi to return so quickly. She told him before she left that she was going to meet a director for a variety show she was invited to be a guest. So, he thought he had

bought himself and his son some time for themselves to try painting seriously to prove to her that they could also do it.

Unfortunately, the two of them were too engrossed in 'painting' that they ended up spilling the paints all over the living room.

But the painting knife that Little Zhanzhan picked up and threw away was the last surprise they gave her. It actually hit the TV and poked a small hole in it.

It was around the time Ran Xueyi arrived that Little Zhanzhan picked up the painting knife and hid it behind his back.

After hearing them explain the chaotic event that took place in the room, Ran Xueyi didn't know whether to cry or laugh.

But one thing was for sure.

They needed to be punished.

"From today until the end of this month, my room and bed are off-limits!" Ran Xueyi finally told them. Song Yu Han and Little Zhanzhan showed expressions of protest, but faced with her fury, they could only close their lips and swallow their words.

Even though she appreciated their effort to give her a surprise, it was absolutely not alright for them to make a mess and protest when they were given punishment!

She still wanted to scold them and emphasize the importance of not being wasteful when her phone suddenly buzzed.

Ran Xueyi picked up the call and frowned.

The voice trembled as it spoke: "Xueyi... run. Don't let them find you!"

It was a familiar voice.

It was Alina, her best friend from Ren Country.

Chapter 547 A Mysterious Call

547 A Mysterious Call

Ran Xueyi snapped out of her daze as she stared at the phone. The call had already been disconnected, but the words Alina had told her before it was cut off shouldn't be an illusion.

Facing her husband, Ran Xueyi no longer cared about the ruined living room or the hole they punched through the TV.

Although it had been a long time since she spoke with Alina after returning to Hua Country, she still received updates about major events that happened in Ren Country. Additionally, Alina's voice when she warned her and told her to run was too real.

Seeing her only staring at her phone and not ready to answer him, Song Yu Han took their son in his arms and walked towards their bedroom. He made the little boy take his clothes off, ran the water in the bathtub, before turning it off when the water was just at the right height and warmth. Then, he told Little Zhanzhan to stay there and wait for him.

Little Zhanzhan was spoiled by his parents, and hearing that he would be bathing with them made him extremely happy, so he didn't even notice the oddness in his mother's expression.

Not long after, Song Yu Han returned to the living room. He frowned in worry when Ran Xueyi still stood in the middle of it, unmoving and seeming way too distracted to even hear him walk to her.

"Something happened. What is it?" Song Yu Han asked.

Ran Xueyi's eyes contracted slightly at his sudden closeness before relaxing, knowing it was him who stood behind her. Turning to face him, Ran Xueyi presented her phone to him, letting him see the screen still displaying the number and the name registered under it.

"I don't know what happened to her. Yu Han, I'm scared that something bad will happen to her." Her shoulders slumped down as her head fell on his sturdy shoulder. "What should I do?"

Although he had never talked to this friend that Ran Xueyi had mentioned to him in the past and had only seen her from a moderate distance, Song Yu Han stayed in the mansion next to the mansion this person named Alina lived in, together with his wife and son.

So, he naturally had an impression of this woman called Alina. The background check he conducted on her also reported that she was not an ordinary woman.

Alina was a mafia heiress. Her family was not a simple mafia organization either. They ruled the Southern and Eastern part of Ren Country and had a strong influence in the mafia world within the country.

For someone so young, Alina shouldn't have been able to lead the mafia organization her father left behind at such a young age. However, she proved that even a young teenager could be an expert in leading numerous people to success.

Most importantly, she's the person who looked after Ran Xueyi and Little Zhanzhan when he couldn't.

Song Yu Han would never underestimate or belittle someone like her.

"She... she told me to run. That they'll come and find me." Song Yu Han wrapped his arms around her, making sure that she would feel his presence so that she wouldn't despair more. He patted his hand on her back as he said, "It's alright. I'm sure your friend will be fine. I'll have someone locate her and send my people to protect her."

Song Yu Han paused as his eyes turned deep and colder than the ice in Antarctica. "Did she tell you who is looking for you?"

Ran Xueyi shook her head and replied, "No. She didn't tell me because the call was suddenly disconnected."

It was strange. So strange that Ran Xueyi wondered if everything that happened a couple of minutes ago and what she heard from the call were even real.

No matter how much she thought about it, the people that Alina was warning her about, who will find her, were shrouded in mystery.

Not only that, she had too many enemies, past and present, that she couldn't tell who would do this to her.

Besides, aside from Song Yu Han and Adelle, no one knew that she lived with Alina in Ren Country.

"A'Yu, Mommy, are you done talking?"

Coming from the bathroom, their son's sweet and childish voice echoed throughout the room.

Ran Xueyi and Song Yu Han looked at each other, before the latter let her go and told her, "Go and accompany Zhanzhan. I'll make a few calls and join you in a bit."

Ran Xueyi also knew that she couldn't let their son figure out that something was wrong. The little boy is too hypersensitive, especially when it comes to his mother, and he would immediately act differently from his actual age, pretending to be an understanding adult.

"Coming!" Ran Xueyi erased the last bit of worry and frustration from her face, and took a few breaths in and out to calm her palpitating heart.

She looked at Song Yu Han and said, "How do I look?"

Song Yu Han lifted his hands and wiped the tears staining her cheeks. "Beautiful."

Ran Xueyi obviously didn't want his personal commentary about her face. She furrowed her brows until Song Yu Han sighed.

"You don't look like someone who just cried." His attempt to make her smile failed.

Ran Xueyi finally nodded in satisfaction, turned around, and walked towards the bathroom.

Soon afterward, the sound of his wife and son playing inside the bathroom was transmitted inside his ears.

Unlike the calmness he showed to Ran Xueyi, as soon as her figure disappeared inside the bathroom, web-like cracks appeared on his calm face.

His eyes turned colder while his fist clenched tightly until the edges were painted white.

A full minute after, he reached into his pockets, retrieved his phone, and called Guo Yun.

"Get our men ready. Find someone for me and ensure their safety is secured."

To make his wife cry and worry so much, Song Yu Han hoped that whoever made this happen had several necks for them to wash as he wouldn't let them off so easily.

Chapter 548 Explosion, Guns, and Chaos

548 Explosion, Guns, and Chaos

Ren Country. Alina crouched behind an abandoned car. Under the moonlight, the bruises and cuts on her face looked miserable on her pale skin. "Ugh...!" Alina rasped as she placed a trembling hand on her side, feeling the warm blood oozing out from the open wound she took from a gun while she was running away. Just a couple of days ago, Alina was on her way to attend a meeting with the other Underground Lords in Ren Country. The other mafia lords had already answered to the invitation that they will attend, and as someone who was also at the top of the food chain, Alina's attendance was inevitable. Unfortunately, just when she got inside the gate of a private villa where the other underground lord was already inside, a loud explosion reverberated across and blew the villa apart, taking down everything that was within the range of fifty meters. Naturally, Alina and her men could not avoid it. They were thrown away from the force of the explosion. It was a relief that she and her men only sustained minor injuries, and they also ruptured their eardrums. But just when they could think they were lucky to have been able to get away from the blast of explosion, numerous cars surrounded the gates of the villa, gunning at them with revenge. "They're still alive! Shoot them!" Someone from the group of men shouted an order. Alina tried to get a clear look at the person, but because of the smoke and dust mingling with the wind, she could only see the silhouettes of several men before the sound of something piercing and slashing through the wind showered in their direction. "Sh*t! Get the Donna to safety!"

"Donna, get behind me!" Alina heard her subordinates scream as they pulled her to their center, circling around her like a human wall. 'Bang!'

'Bang!'

'Bang, bang, bang!'

Countless sharp and booming sound of bullets rained down at them. Alina remembered how her men held her in their arms, protecting her and dragging her to safety, even if it meant their lives would cease to exist. At last, she was forced to sit inside a car that was safe from the explosion together with one of her men, who didn't even glance back as he drove away from the chaos, leaving her men, who sacrificed their lives, at the mercy of these unknown enemy. But who would have thought that even if they got away, the people who came to take life as if they were the Grim Reaper's armies, still caught up to them.

In the end, Alina lost another of her men, pulled out of the car, and placed in an underground basement where nothing and no one could find her. And the last thing she heard before darkness took her vision was...

"If you have someone to blame... Blame Ran Xueyi for getting too close with you." ***

"Ssst!" Alina gasped as she leaned her shivering body against the scrapped car and lost the strength from her legs. Warm blood was still coming out from the hole in her waist. But at this moment, she could only welcome it as it was the only evidence that she was still alive. The grip she had on the phone she stole from these men almost slipped from her hand because of the sweat and blood. Swallowing hard, Alina tremblingly pressed a few times. But because of the sweat and pain, she missed a couple of times and couldn't press the right number. It was at this moment.

"Did you find her?" "She's not here!" "F*ck! That Demon will kill us if we don't find her before he comes back!" Alina flinched as she heard voices coming from a distance. She didn't know where they were standing, but she assumed they were a couple of meters away from her.

That does not bode well for her in any way. When she was moved to an underground basement, Alina didn't know how long was she passed out. But during the time she was in between the state of unconscious and awake, she got a bit of information from them. These men call their boss the 'Demon'. It was unknown whether it was just an epithet these men created or the boss they worked for was a real 'Demon', but Alina knew this person is extremely dangerous. Far more dangerous than anyone she met. And they have a deep hatred toward Ran Xueyi. Or... they wanted something from her.

Alina held her breath and forced down the shivers her body was making as she heard the men move a bit closer to where she was hiding. "She can't run away far. I shot her with a gun. She's probably hiding somewhere. If not, she'll just die from bleeding out." "Idiot! Do you think that 'Demon' will be happy and praise you if you killed her? He specifically told us not to kill her. If she dies, it's not

only your neck, but ours too!" Suddenly, a chime sounded. Alina's heart almost dropped as she thought that it came from the phone she was holding. Thankfully, the noise came from them. "F*ck! They're already on their way here! Quick! Find her before they get here!"

Alina heard the men scrambling to their feet as they did their best to find her. There was really no time left for her. Alina already knew that. But she couldn't allow herself to surrender now. So, she used up all her strength to dial the number that she memorized beforehand. It was Ran Xueyi's. Finally, she typed it correctly and pressed to call. 'Riinng...'

'Riiing.'

It rang a few times, then it connected. Despite feeling the excruciating pain on her side and her sights failing her, Alina had a smile on her lips as the call connected—

"Look, they're back!"

"She's here!"

Almost at the same time, the men shouted out loud as three black cars came to stop near them. And Alina was found by one of the men who was looking for her. The call was answered. Alina felt rather than heard the men approaching her quickly. And as they reached out to her, she anxiously spoke to the phone: "Xueyi...run! Don't let them find you!"

Chapter 549 Departure

Alina struggled and fought back as the men dragged her out of her hiding spot. Her side was hurting, and the pain was drilling into her, but she did not give up on the last hope of escaping and conveying her message to Ran Xueyi. "F*ck! Why is she still fighting back?"

"Just kick her until she gives up!" The men threw her into an open space, away from the scrapped cars surrounding them. They raised their foot to deal with her...

But the blows coming from their feet did not come. Instead, when Alina, who was already weakened, opened her eyes, the first thing she saw was a pair of designer dress shoes right next to her face. It was so close. So close that she knew if she raised her face a bit, she'll see the face of who that pair of shoes belonged to. Unfortunately, the fatigue and blood loss had already caught up to her, splashing a white flash in her eyes as she soon lost her consciousness before she could get a

proper look of the man that made everyone in that place quiver in fear and stop their movements. 'thud'.

A soft thud sounded as her head fell on the shoe that was moved to soften her landing.

Then, a cruel and rough voice sounded across the field. "I'm giving you ten seconds to explain to me what happened."

The men who were chasing after Alina lowered their heads in fear. It was the same fear they had when facing the previous leader they used to serve. It was the terror that one would feel when a monster who could swallow a person in one bite. "Ten."

"Nine." "Eight..."

The man started to count. But what could these men tell him? That they let the woman escape from their watch, shot her, and even caused a scene for him to see?

"Three." The man smiled brutally as he skipped the numbers. "One."

'Bang!'

One of the men fell to the ground. A hole that oozed fresh blood in the back of his head was visible, even with only the moonlight as their source of illumination.

"Care to tell me what happened now?"

In Hua Country. Ran Xueyi had to see her husband off the airport. "I'll call you as soon as we landed," Song Yu Han told her as he cupped the back of her head and leaned close to her. Ran Xueyi nodded and forced a smile. Song Yu Han pressed a kiss on her forehead, then he heard a voice from an extremely close distance say, "Where's my kiss?" Little Zhanzhan, nestled in his arm, glanced up at his father adorably. Chuckling at him, Song Yu Han ruffled his son's dark hair and kissed him on both cheeks.

"Ugh! I didn't tell you to kiss me there!" Little Zhanzhan complained, but he didn't wipe his hands on his cheeks. Seeing the two's playfulness, Ran Xueyi did not want to ruin this moment by showing sadness, and genuinely smiled. "Take care, hubby." The time for him to leave was here. But, Song Yu Han did not move from his position. "What is it?" Ran Xueyi asked him, wondering if he remembered something he forgot. However, Song Yu Han stepped close to her and leaned forward until their forehead was touching. "Are you forgetting something?" he said, and his breath warmed up her cheeks. Ran Xueyi stared at him for a second, before blushing as she realized what he meant. Then, she raised her head and kissed him on the lips. Finally satisfied, Song Yu Han reluctantly parted from her lips and stood straight. He turned to Guo Yun, who stood beside Ran Xueyi and said, "Look after my wife and son. Call me if anything happens."

"Yes, sir." Guo Yun nodded his head seriously.

After he ordered Guo Yun, Song Yu Han said to Ran Xueyi, "Don't worry about your friend. I already have some people who are searching for her in Ren Country. Besides, nothing dangerous should happen to her in the meantime."

Ran Xueyi knew he understood her too well. He could even tell she was still worrying and scared for her friend.

Alina's call was too sudden and shocking that it has been repeating in her dreams when she sleeps and Song Yu Han would comfort her and hug her tightly until she falls asleep again.

But Song Yu Han was right. It was not the time to be filled with anxiety and sadness. Even though Ran Xueyi wanted to fly to Ren Country so badly right at this moment. She couldn't do it because of the mess that hadn't been resolved with the Cao and Song family. She couldn't possibly leave when, at any moment, they could use it as a chance to ruin her. Ran Xueyi could take the risk alone. But she couldn't allow any harm going in her son's way. And Song Yu Han forbid her to go because he knew she was the target. Thus, she could only watch as her husband leave for Ren Country to find her friend. "Mommy, A'Yu will come back, right?" Little Zhanzhan, whose face was filled with longing and sadness, looked up at her. She could see tears filling her son's eyes. He tried to force himself not to cry, but the more he tried to stop crying, the more tears spilled from his eyes. Ran Xueyi then remembered this was the first time that Little Zhanzhan had been away from Song Yu Han. Ren country was too far, and the flight was too long. Hence, it will take some time for Song Yu Han to return...

"Of course he will! Your father loves us dearly. He'll certainly return."

Ran Xueyi couldn't understand what the emotion she was feeling. Her heartbeat was beating wildly and the tips of her hands were cold.

She was trying to comfort her son, but why was she feeling restless for? Nothing should go wrong, right?

Chapter 550 Eyewitness

550 Eyewitness

Ren Country. In the lavishly furnished room, Song Yu Han's demeanor exudes authority and confidence, a force that command respect from the men inside the room. With his leg crossed over the other, Song Yu Han's dark eyes — devoid of any fluctuation and warmth he only showed to his wife and son, swept over the men. Song Yu Han, who had just arrived in Ren country, listened to his subordinate report their findings. "We looked for the woman as you ordered. But..." Song Yu Han raised his eyes to glance at the man. "But?" "Even after we scoured the entire country and looked for her, there's not a trace of her in or going out of the country. It was as if... as if she just disappeared." The man recalled how lost they were when they finally got to the end of their search. Due to their boss placing extreme importance on this matter, they also did not go easy and used every means to find the woman named Alina. Unfortunately, they still yield no answers to the woman's exact location. But their search was not without fruit. Rather, they found something intriguing. The man hesitated for a bit before he finally said, "Although we still don't know where she is right now. We found some things that may help us find her." Song Yu Han received the tablet and looked down on it. On the tablet were several photographs of a luxurious villa in the middle of nowhere. The words 'Don Alejandro's villa' written on the photograph. He swiped to the next photo.

But this time, the villa was no longer a view that could behold anyone who had seen it. Instead, one might be gripped with fear and uncertainty as the photos revealed the destruction and remnants of Don Alejandro's villa after an explosion hit it. The man continued to report what they had found to Song Yu Han. "When our men got there, there's only these things left there. Bodies and bloodstains were everywhere. After a close investigation, it seems the explosion happened approximately five days ago." The photos showed numerous mutilated bodies, torn apart and surrounded by crows feasting on their decomposing remains. Such gruesome scenes could easily induce a person to keel over and empty their stomach on the spot.

But no one inside the room felt uncomfortable because every one of them was already used to this kind of hideous and repelling sights.

Song Yu Han listened to his subordinate without interrupting and swiped his slender finger across the screen again. He moved to the next picture. He kept switching from the previous pictures to the one he had just stumbled upon. And couldn't help but feel like the differences between them were huge. Unlike the previous photos, where the corpses were obviously victims of an explosion, the

pictures that he was looking at right now did not bore any signs of being involved in an explosion. Rather, they were full of holes caused by guns being shot at them. "Where did you find their bodies?" Song Yu Han voiced out his question. The man, guessing what his boss was pertaining to, readily gave an answer. "It's near the gates. We already verified their identities. They're all Miss Alina's men." He paused when he saw his boss's gaze darkening. Andrew was the fifth member of the White Snake Troupe, a notorious group known for their mercilessness and code of ethics as a group of extremely deadly assassins. But at this moment, Andrew felt afraid towards the man before him, Song Yu Han, the man who tamed and take in the entire ten member group, White Snake Troupe, under his wings. "And did you really not find her?" Song Yu Han asked, but his thoughts recalled the look on his wife. The worry, fear, and sadness of his wife made him uneasy. He knew if Alina died, his wife would will never forgive herself. Andrew said, "No, we couldn't find her. Alina seemed to disappear out of nowhere. There was no sign, no trail—nothing, not even a single strand of her hair, was discovered from where she was last seen. I planned to have my men look around outside the country. However, Zagan suggested I do a deep search underground." He paused for a brief second before he continued. "Finally, we had some leads."

Four days of their search was spent in looking around the entirety of Ren country. Aside from the traces that were left behind by Miss Alina before she left for Don Alejandro's villa, they really found nothing. But, after taking what Zagan, another member of White Snake Troupe, told him to do. Andrew took his men to the underworld, where anything could be unearthed or atleast heard about.

As expected, on the fifth day, Andrew finally got a result of his search. In one of the clubs that was ruled by another underworld gang, two men drunkly mentioned that their friend bought an expensive car after completing a gig that pays off handsomely five days ago. Andrew was skeptical if the gig they were talking about was the same as what had happened with Don Alejandro's villa, but he didn't want to let go of their only possible 'eyewitness'.

But approaching the only clue they have will only beat the bush and scare away the snake so, Andrew did not question the two drunk men, only following them in secret until he found the 'friend' who bought a car. Song Yu Han tossed the tablet to the couch next to him and stood up. "Take me to the man. I'd like to talk to him," said Song Yu Han in a frosty tone.

In an instant, as if pulled by a string, the men that were standing silently within the room straightened their backs and followed behind him.

Andrew gestured for one man to lead them in to a separate room, where the friend of the two drunk men was being held.