

# Full Marks Hidden Marriage: Pick Up a Son, Get a Free Husband

## Chapter 51: It's Her Ex Again

“Have you found out who they were?” Lu Tingxiao’s expression spoke of hunting down the perpetrators without mercy once their identities were found.

Lu Jingli knocked on the table, “That’s the main point I was going to talk to you about. Even with my information network, I couldn’t find out who those two people were. It looks like you’ll have to wait for them to do it again before we have the chance to find out who they are.”

The evil demon king’s gaze was enough to kill right now, how could he wait for them to do it again?

Lu Tingxiao immediately dialed a number, and with a cold tone as frosty as the wind blowing off a glacier, “Cheng Feng, investigate two men for me.”

Lu Jingli’s face was filled with surprise, “Wow, even your secret troops have been mobilised!”

His brother’s information network wasn’t something his gossip network could match up to, because if you left a single clue, they would be able to dig up everything about you mercilessly.

“Bro, I’ve already told you that Ning Xi’s past is complicated. You finally believe me, right? I think you should just let Cheng Feng investigate Ning Xi while you’re at it!” Lu Jingli sincerely and earnestly advised.

“There is no need for that.” Everyone had skeletons in their closet. He wouldn’t touch the parts that she didn’t want others to find out. If she wanted to tell him, then she would tell him herself.

At six in the evening, filming finally ended for the day.

The most important scenes today had been between the male and female leads. However, although Ning Xi did not have many scenes, she still had to appear in the background, so she had acted like an ornament for the whole day.

It was tiring enough to act as an ornament. However, she still had to wear such a heavy costume, her neck was about to break, and rashes caused by sweat were starting to appear on her body.

After changing out of her clothes and removing her makeup, she put on a surgical mask and prepared to take the subway.

She wasn't all that famous right now, so no one would recognise her. Taking the subway was convenient, and she wouldn't get stuck in traffic.

As she was walking towards the bus stop, a black Maserati stopped next to her.

The car window rolled down, and Su Yan smiled as he looked at her, "Xiao Xi, I'll send you home!"

Ning Xi: "..."

Her ex...

Why was it another ex again...

Couldn't they let her live in peace just for a bit?

"No need." Ning Xi continued walking straight, she didn't want to look at the face that made her want to puke.

However, Su Yan slowly drove after her, unwilling to leave, "Xiao Xi, can we talk?"

Ning Xi sneered, "What's there to talk about with you? Do you think I don't have enough scandals around me? Are you waiting for someone to take a photo of us and create an even bigger scandal?"

Su Yan frowned, he wasn't used to getting cold sarcasm coming from the girl who used to listen to his every wish, "Xiao Xi, that's not what I mean. I really have something important to talk to you about!"

If she continued exchanging words with him like this on the road, they were definitely going to be photographed.

This idiot's car was so eye-catching.

Ning Xi looked left and right, making sure that there was no one around, before quickly getting on and closing the door.

After half an hour, in a private room of a certain restaurant.

Su Yan ordered a bunch of dishes after calling the waiter over, and most of them were things she liked to eat, "Xiao Xi, long time no see. I don't know if your tastes have changed, have you been well while you were overseas these few years? I sent you money, but you returned it all, and you even changed your account..."

“If you have something to say, say it.” Ning Xi propped up her head with one arm as she focused on sending a text message to Little Treasure, informing him that she would be back a little later tonight.

Su Yan had no other choice but to push a check to her.

Ning Xi looked at the check for 8 million from the corner of her eyes- then narrowed them, “What’s the meaning of this?”

Su Yan’s expression was severe, “Xiao Xi, don’t do something you’ll regret.”

Ning Xi put down her phone, and looked at him with a fake smile, “Oh? Do tell me what I’ve done?”

“Then tell me, how did you get this role?” Su Yan’s tone suddenly turned even more serious.

## **Chapter 52: Healing Kisses**

“How do you think I got this role?” Ning Xi crossed her arms and leaned back in the chair, indifferently returning his question with another question.

Su Yan looked like he was on the last of his patience, he slammed his hand on the table, “Ning Xi! You should know better than I do about the kind of trouble a girl like you could meet in the entertainment circle! Why are you so intent on stepping into murky waters like that!”

“Heh, a girl like me...” Ning Xi smiled, “Young Master Su, I wonder what kind of relationship we have, for you to be lecturing me like this?”

If it had been Ning Xi from back in those days, she would have become hysterical upon hearing such words.

Back then, Su Yan had kept saying that he hoped his future wife would not enter the entertainment industry. However, when it came to Ning Xueluo, he was fully supporting her. Even so, he was actually sitting here and trying to dictate her life.

“Xiao Xi, even though we’ve already broken up, I still treat you as a little sister. I’m only trying to help you, could you stop being so stubborn? Take this money, break the contract with Starlight and leave the entertainment industry!” Su Yan persuaded her earnestly.

“Heh, is this trying to help me?” Ning Xi’s indolent gaze suddenly turned bone-piercingly cold, “Speaking of which, I do have a favour that Young Master Su could help me out with! I hope Young Master Su could help me tell the Ning family the truth, and testify in court that Ning Xueluo paid off two men to rape me. Would you help me with this favour?”

“Xiao Xi, I...” Su Yan’s face turned deathly white, “If I do so, then Xueluo’s life will be over... and back then, Xueluo can only be charged with the attempt. You entered the wrong room, and the one you had relations with was someone else...”

Even though she had expected his answer, Ning Xi’s heart still throbbed in pain. She spoke with a taunting expression, “So what you mean is, any wrong you committed back then has been erased? Getting raped after getting drugged was my fault, and getting pregnant with a bastard and giving birth to a dead baby was also my fault!”

Su Yan frowned, “Xiao Xi, that’s not what I meant! Xueluo and I have already apologised to you for this incident, and we’ve been trying our best to make amends for this many years. Why can’t you forgive and forget?”

Ning Xi grabbed her bag and stood up, “Heh, you actually want me to forgive and forget all of that? Come back and plead with me again when you can happily shake hands with and smile at someone who rapes and impregnates your Xueluo with his spawn!”

Su Yan’s expression suddenly changed, “Ning Xi! How could you say something like that!”

“Oh! I was only talking about a hypothetical situation and you’re already feeling this sorry for her? So when it doesn’t happen to you, you can’t feel the pain, right? You’re still hoping for me to forgive you? I’m not a saint!” Ning Xi tossed out a sentence and then strode away.

That was really unlucky!

She shouldn’t have talked so much with Su Yan. It was so disgusting that she lost her appetite for dinner tonight.

She needed to return home quickly and hug her little bun to recover.

Ning Xi had just walked to the door of the Lu residence, when she saw a cute, white, little bun running towards her.

It looked like he had been sprawled at the window seat and waiting for her for quite a while.

Ning Xi was immediately healed, and she gave a super big kiss on the cheek to little bun as usual.

“Darling, have you eaten yet? I sent a message to tell you not to wait for me and eat your dinner, did you listen to me?”

Little bun nodded twice.

“Good boy!” Ning Xi kissed little bun again as a reward.

“Play by yourself first, auntie’s going to shower and change out of these clothes!”

Little bun nodded.

The two of them held hands and walked towards the main door.

At the second story window, watching the scene outside, Lu Tingxiao's face showed quite a bit of depression. He had never known that he was someone who got jealous easily.

He was even starting to get jealous of his own son.

Ning Xi had kissed his son the moment she had come back, and she had even kissed him twice.

While he could only watch from afar.

After returning to her own room, the first thing Ning Xi did was to. Take. Off. Her. Bra!

On such a hot summer day, wearing something like that was practically torture, okay?

She reached behind her to undo the clasp and was about to pull out her bra. Halfway through pulling it out, the door behind her was pushed open with a creak.

“Ning...” Lu Tingxiao had only said one word when he was stunned to the point of staring blankly. His hand was still in the midst of pushing open the door, and he looked at the scene in the room with astonishment.

TL Note: Adding ‘Xiao’, which means ‘little’, in front of any part of a name turns it into an affectionate nickname. So ‘Xiao Xi’ or ‘Auntie Xiao Xi’ refer to Ning Xi~ :3

## **Chapter 53: Were You Pleased by Me?**

Ning Xi remained in that awkward position. Taking it out didn't seem right, but shoving it back in didn't seem right either. It was really tragic.

To make matters worse, the bra she was wearing today had been specially ordered. A triangular Superman logo was printed on both sides, it was extremely eye-catching.

Lu Tingxiao had obviously noticed it. His brow ridge went up, but like a gentleman, he didn't display any other sign of shock, he coughed lightly before saying, “Sorry, I saw that the door wasn't closed...”

He prepared to leave when he finished speaking.

“It's fine, it's fine. It's my fault for forgetting to close the door!” Ning Xi deliberately acted calm and just pulled her bra out before stuffing it under a blanket. She fanned herself with one hand,

“Um, it’s just too hot in the summer. You guys wouldn’t understand the troubles women face! Uh, were you looking for me for something?”

“Why did you come back this late? A date?” Lu Tingxiao asked, seeming like he didn’t particularly care about the answer.

“What date! I just met an especially loathsome person, and talked for a bit!” Ning Xi grumbled with a wretched expression.

Listening to her tone, it was clear that it wasn’t a date. Lu Tingxiao’s expression relaxed slightly, “I left dinner for you, come and eat when you’re done with your shower.”

“Actually, I can settle my meals myself…” Ning Xi said in embarrassment.

“It’s just one more place at the table.”

“Uh, okay then.”

After Lu Tingxiao walked away, Ning Xi hurriedly locked the door.

She had forgotten that she wasn’t at home and had actually made such a rudimentary mistake. She would have to take note of that from now.

After having a shower and dinner, Ning Xi bundled up comfortably in bed and started to read the latest news on the web. Little bun was sprawled over the table, hugging a large book.

“Ning Xueluo reveals her handsome and rich boyfriend, screen king Zhao bursts out in jealousy on the scene”

“Ning Xueluo is full of praises for junior Ning Xi’s beauty and acting skills”

“Ning Xi fully deserves the title of #1 Beauty in the entertainment circle, suppressing Jia Qingqing”

“Meng Changge outshines the other beauties at ‘Land Under Heaven’’s opening ceremony (photos)”

“First day of filming for ‘Land Under Heaven’, Ning Xueluo’s handsome and rich boyfriend comes to visit”

“Counting down the number of rich admirers for pretty rookie Ning Xi, red roses piled on the set on the first day of filming (inside photos)”

……

The headlines were still rather normal at first, but towards the end, they got a little strange. Topics like “Ning Xi is being kept as a mistress”, “Ning Xi’s rich sponsor”, “Ning Xi’s cheating on how many men?”, “The mess in Ning Xi’s private life” started appearing...

While on set, she had already been prepared, so she could stay rather calm upon seeing these.

She knew that she would have gotten rumours like this sooner or later with an image like hers, even without Jiang Muye and YS’s interference that day.

The tabloids were sitting on the fence right now, since there wasn’t any concrete evidence. What she was worried about was that people would start to believe the rumours if they were mentioned often enough, regardless of whether they were true or not.

“Do you need any help?” Lu Tingxiao’s voice sounded by her ear.

Ning Xi hugged her notebook and sat up. Propping up her chin, she smiled and said, “Big Boss Lu, are you going to get rid of all the online rumours for me?”

“Why not?” Lu Tingxiao passed her and Little Treasure a cup of milk each, “Yours is low-fat.”

“Thank you!” Ning Xi was overwhelmed by the unexpected care, and took the cup carefully. She spoke up, “Thank you for your good intentions, but there’s no need for that. I believe time will prove everything.”

“I believe in you.” Lu Tingxiao said.

Ning Xi was dazed for a moment before helplessly holding her forehead, “Lu Tingxiao, has anyone ever told you that you’re really good at wheeling!”

“Wheeling?” Suspicion flashed across Lu Tingxiao’s face, he clearly didn’t know what this internet term meant.

“Um... It means that you’re good at coaxing girls to be happy!” Ning Xi gave a simplified explanation.

A smile rippled in Lu Tingxiao’s eyes when he heard so, “I’m happy with your evaluation. Does this mean you were pleased by me?”

The atmosphere turned pink.

Ning Xi’s cheeks were burning in an instant. She was vexed at herself in her heart: who told you to have such a loose mouth! Your loose mouth led to such a dangerous topic!

Luckily, Lu Tingxiao always knew when to step back, “I’m going to look at some documents in my study. Remember to rest early, both of you. Good night.”

Ning Xi: “Good night~”

Little Treasure: “...”

Although little bun didn't say anything, his intentions were clearly written on his face: “Hurry up and go, don't disturb me and Auntie Xiao Xi~”

## **Chapter 54: Calling His Sister-in-law**

The morning of the next day.

After Ning Xi left, Lu Tingxiao couldn't stop worrying and called Lu Jingli.

“Send someone to watch the set.”

“Bro, are you worried that someone's going to bully sister-in-law? Actually, these are all things that one must experience on the road to becoming famous, it's good for her to get used to it! If she doesn't face these obstacles, how else is she going to stand on her own!” Lu Jingli copied the tone that Lu Tingxiao usually took when lecturing him.

Lu Tingxiao: “She doesn't need it.” The meaning in his words, was that he was there to protect her.

Lu Jingli: “...” Heh heh.

A desolate wind blew in Lu Jingli's heart from his own brother's biased treatment.

He thought in his heart, that wasn't what you said back when you threw me into that shithole Golden Age without saying a word and preventing anyone from helping me!

“Fine fine fine. I'll send someone to watch the set! I'll make sure she won't miss even a single strand of hair!”

“I'll give you a week's holiday for next week.” Lu Tingxiao suddenly said.

“What... Bro, what did you say?” Lu Jingli thought he had hallucinated, “You're actually giving me a holiday, and it's a whole week! You haven't let me take a break for the past three years!”

“You don't want it?”

“I do, I do, I do! Of course I do! But... why are you suddenly treating me so well?” Lu Jingli couldn't understand no matter how hard he thought. He recalled the words he had said earlier.

Finally, he felt that the issue had come from something he had said at the start: sister-in-law.



He got a break just because he had called Ning Xi sister-in-law?

This break was making him both happy and sad...

“Eldest Young Master, Dr Qin is here.” A maid reported from outside the study.

A lanky man stood beside the maid, dressed in casual clothes. His appearance was warm and kindly, and his smile was like a refreshing breeze, he looked very friendly.

Lu Tingxiao hung up and turned towards the arrival, “You’ve come, please take a seat.”

Qin Mufeng set down the bag in his hands and sat on the sofa, “What happened? How’s Little Treasure’s condition?”

“You can see for yourself, he’s in the kitchen.” Lu Tingxiao replied.

“The kitchen?” Qin Mufeng raised an eyebrow, then stood up to stride to the kitchen.

After just a moment, Qin Mufeng was back, and he smiled, “When did Little Treasure pick up the hobby of making fruit juice? And I see that he seems to be in good spirits! Did something happen?”

“Something did happen recently. A few days ago, I was too busy at work and I wasn’t able to take care of Little Treasure, so Jingli secretly took him to a bar...”

Lu Tingxiao explained everything to him simply.

Qin Mufeng’s expression kept changing as he listened, before he finally said happily, “At least it was a blessing in disguise for Little Treasure! I’ve said this before, Little Treasure is currently too lifeless. If there were some driving force that could make him feel interest in life, then it would help his recovery greatly. Furthermore, this is a living person! You didn’t keep the girl as a nanny or home tutor for Little Treasure?”

Lu Tingxiao: “She’s going to be Little Treasure’s mother in the future.”

Qin Mufeng coughed three times in succession. He looked at Lu Tingxiao’s expressionless face in surprise, “What did you say? Are you doing it for Little Treasure, or for yourself...”

Lu Tingxiao’s chilly expression seemed to have melted. He looked out the window, and said slowly, “Dr Qin, I think your previous verdict was right.”

“Have you... fallen in love with this girl?” Qin Mufeng was extremely agitated upon hearing so, “I knew it, my verdict couldn’t be wrong. How could you be asexual! Quick, tell me what the situation is. Does your heart beat faster, does your blood boil, do you want to get closer to her, do you want to make love to her?”

Lu Tingxiao lowered his gaze and thought about it seriously for a while, then nodded, “You’re basically right!”

## **Chapter 55: Everyone Wants to Teach Him to Flirt**

He had once asked Qin Mufeng what it felt like to be in love with someone, and Qin Mufeng had said, “You’ll know once you meet that person.”

Back then, he had thought that those words were full of nothing.

It was only when he met Ning Xi that he finally realised that they had been true.

“Congratulations! You should know that many asexuals never meet someone like that in their whole lives!” Qin Mufeng sincerely congratulated his old friend.

Other than heterosexuality, homosexuality and bisexuality, there was another sexual orientation in this world called asexuality.

Being asexual didn’t mean that they had some sort of physical condition or that their sexual orientation was undetermined, and it also wasn’t due to fear of intimate relations. Simply put, it was ‘disinterest towards sexual love’.

It was due to this ‘illness’ that his mother had urged Lu Jingli to drug him five years ago...

“This could be called ‘fortune comes in pairs’. So, when do I get to drink wine at your wedding?” Qin Mufeng teased.

“I’m working on it.” When it came to this topic, a thread of unease appeared on Lu Tingxiao’s face. He was too used to things sailing smoothly.

Qin Mufeng was surprised, “You mean you’re still working on it? I thought that with the great CEO Lu at work, it was already a done deal. A girl that can attract you is indeed different from most! So this time you’ve come looking for me to get me to teach you how to chase a girl? Although my practical experience pales in comparison to Jingli, I’m pretty good at theory!”

Why was it that everyone wanted to teach him how to woo girls?

Lu Tingxiao’s expression turned black, “That’s unnecessary. I called you here to confirm the influence her appearance has had on Little Treasure.”

Once he was done with the jokes, Qin Mufeng got down to business, “It’s like this, there are two sides to every matter. Although this is a good thing, as you’ve said earlier, Little Treasure wrecked the house just for the sake of meeting her. So the most important thing to do is to see how to guide him.”

“It doesn’t matter whether you did it for selfish reasons or not, temporarily keeping her here is the right thing to do. For the next step, I suggest that you get that girl to help out. Bring Little Treasure out for walks more often, and when the time is right, you can even send him to school. Let him start living a normal life step by step. I spent two years and never managed to do it, but maybe she’ll be able to...”

“Understood, I’ll try it.”

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In the movie city.

The moment Ning Xi entered the set, the whispers in the surroundings immediately stopped, and everyone stared at her with strange expressions.?

It seemed like the rumours had already spread.

In the corner, someone whispered in a peculiar tone, “What’s this, she’s just a rookie and yet she came in so late. Doesn’t she see that Teacher Ning is already here?”

Actually, it wasn’t that Ning Xi had come late, but Ning Xueluo had come too early.

“Teacher Ning, you’re in the same company as Ning Xi, are those rumours spreading online true?”

“Someone even said that she slept with a lot of people in our crew for the sake of getting this role!”

“That’s too shameless! Doesn’t Starlight care about this kind of dishonest competition?”

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Facing the crowd’s questions, faint helplessness appeared on Ning Xueluo’s face as she sighed, “We each use our own abilities, so the company won’t care...”

After saying so, she seemed to have realised that she had said something wrong and quickly added on, “I mean that my junior didn’t really do those things, you can’t trust rumours on the internet!”

However, it became even more conspicuous when she tried to cover it up, which made everyone even more sure that the rumours were true.

It wasn’t until the director came over to urge everyone to start work that the idle gossipers dispersed.

The pure and innocent look on Ning Xueluo's face also faded instantly, and she called over the assistant at the side, inquiring in a low voice, "How's the task I assigned to you?"

"Xueluo-jie, don't worry, everything has been prepared! Didn't you say that she's allergic to metal? I put metal powder in the makeup artist's kit when no one was looking, her whole face is going to be ruined..."

## **Chapter 56: Like a Punch on Cotton**

Ning Xi was going to film a dancing scene today. Unlike the heavy formal court clothing from yesterday, the costume for today was much lighter, so she could finally breathe.

After entering her dressing room, Ning Xi stared blankly for a moment. She hadn't expected to see Jia Qingqing.

She thought Jia Qingqing wouldn't be coming.

Since Jia Qingqing had not made the cut for the second female lead, the director had invited her to act the third female lead, Consort Xian.

The third female lead was also a disaster for the country, but had lesser screen time compared to Ning Xi. Furthermore, she was tortured quite badly by Ning Xi in the movie.

Although the manager had accepted the invite on Jia Qingqing's behalf, she was still extremely unhappy. She hadn't even appeared at the opening ceremony, and had spread out news that she was going to quit the role.

Ning Xi guessed that she had most likely heard of the rumours that the project had gotten a huge sum of investment, and had come obediently today.

It was a billion dollar production after all.

Jia Qingqing was getting her makeup done. Upon spotting Ning Xi behind her through the mirror, she immediately scowled, completely not hiding her loathing towards Ning Xi.

Like Ning Xueluo, she had a rich father to support her, so she had always acted arrogantly on set. It gave her a bad reputation, but thanks to the netizens in her camp, all the rumours had been twisted to paint her as someone who was straightforward and genuine. They even made up the title of 'Entertainment Circle's #1 Beauty' for her.

Therefore, Jia Qingqing hated Ning Xi to the bone, not just for stealing her role but also her title.

“Oh, isn’t this the number one beauty in the entertainment circle? With so many sponsors supporting you, why are you coming to squeeze with us little artistes in this dressing room?” Jia Qingqing said mockingly with a malicious expression.

Ning Xi stayed calm and found a chair to sit on without a care. She started reading the script, completely unaffected.

She had a little quirk. Once she reached the set, she would concentrate fully on work and wouldn’t let anyone affect her mental state.

“Ning Xi, what’s the meaning of this? Are you ignoring me?” Jia Qingqing slammed the comb in her hands down.

Ning Xi continued reading her script, and it seemed like she hadn’t even heard her.

At this moment, the makeup artist at the side could no longer keep watching. She coughed lightly and said, “Ning Xi’s wearing earphones, so I’m guessing she can’t hear you!”

It was only then that Jia Qingqing saw the two little white earbuds in Ning Xi’s ears. She suddenly felt like she had punched cotton.

This bitch, who knew if she had really heard, or if she had been acting!

Ning Xi had done it on purpose, of course.

When she had first spotted Jia Qingqing, she had immediately put on her earphones and pretended not to hear.

Because in this kind of situation, if there were any conflicts, it would only be detrimental to her no matter who was in the wrong. She had to avoid trouble where she could!

“Miss Jia, I’m done with the makeup, could you see if you’re satisfied with it?” The makeup artist spoke in a careful tone, clearly knowing that she was serving a difficult master.

“I’m not satisfied with this! Do it again!” Jia Qingqing didn’t even look at the makeup before saying so.

“May I ask which parts you’re dissatisfied with?” The makeup artist asked.

“Everything!”

The makeup artist’s expression was frozen stiff, but she could only obediently redo her makeup.

Jia Qingqing was raging inside after seeing Ning Xi completely ignoring her, so she kept taking it out on the makeup artist.

The makeup artist didn't dare to show any sort of negative expressions to Jia Qingqing, so she could only stare resentfully at Ning Xi in the corner.

She knew that Jia Qingqing was trying to make things difficult for Ning Xi, and she had only been dragged into it.

Only the male and female leads had their own personal dressing rooms. Everyone else shared a dressing room, so as long as Jia Qingqing wasn't done, Ning Xi could only sit there and wait.

In the end, it was only when Jia Qingqing's manager had come in to rush her that Jia Qingqing left reluctantly. She didn't forget to glare fiercely at Ning Xi even on her way out.

## **Chapter 57: That Aggrieved Feeling**

When it was time for Ning Xi to put on her makeup, the makeup artist moved the containers around noisily before putting on a cold expression and shouting, "Ning Xi, it's your turn!"

Ning Xi put down the script and walked over, "Sorry for the trouble."

As the makeup artist was about to reluctantly begin putting on her makeup, Ning Xi glanced at her makeup kit and suddenly raised her hand to stop her.

"What are you doing?"

Ning Xi said in an amiable tone, "Amy-jie, can I use my own makeup? My skin is quite sensitive, I might have an allergic reaction if I use other brands..."

"No way, that's not how we do things here. If it turns out badly, are you going to take responsibility? Weren't you just fine yesterday?" Amy's expression was full of impatience, clearly thinking that she was way too busy to entertain such requests.

Ning Xi brought out a red packet from her bag and stealthily placed it into Amy's palm, "Amy-jie, please accommodate me... since actors depend on our faces to work, I'm just taking precautions..."

Amy felt the thickness of the red packet and coughed lightly. With an act of reluctance, she said, "Fine! But if there are any problems, you'll have to tell the director that you're taking responsibility!"

"Of course! It won't affect Amy-jie!"

There were no eternal enemies in this industry. After receiving a huge bonus, Amy was much happier and took extra care when applying makeup for Ning Xi. It even turned out better than yesterday's.

When the makeup artist left, Ning Xi crossed her arms and examined the costume for today. She then took out a large magnet from her bag and carefully swept it over the costume like she was conducting a safety inspection. After doing so, she did the same to her shoes.

Good, there weren't any problems.

Ning Xi kept the magnet and stuck out her tongue. She thought to herself, how unprofessional! There should be a needle sewn into the clothes, which would stab until you hurt everywhere. You wouldn't even be able to find where the problem was. A small thumbtack should have been embedded in the sole of the shoes. There wouldn't be any problems while walking on even ground, but once they had to move vigorously, then there would be that aggrieved feeling...

Compared to Ning Xueluo, who had been protected in cotton, Ning Xi had been crawling about the lower levels of the industry for so many years. She had already seen all the tricks in the book, how would she be unable to see through such small tricks?

Although she had no way to test the makeup products, but Ning Xueluo knew that Ning Xi's skin was sensitive to metals, so there was an 80% chance that she would do something along those lines.

After Ning Xi was done changing, the dance instructor that the director had hired was already waiting outside. While other people were filming their scenes, Ning Xi followed behind the instructor and learned the movements for the dance.

When they were done filming on the other side, the director walked over to check the results, "Ning Xi, how did it go? I saw on your profile that you've learned dance before, so I think half the day should be more than enough. If it's not, then I can give you a few more days."

"There shouldn't be any problems..." Ning Xi didn't want to over promise on things.

Guo Qisheng looked towards the dance instructor, "Teacher Zheng, what do you think?"

The dance instructor chuckled and said, "You'll see for yourself later!"

"Alright, then let's start now!"

Scene 13: Consort De's Drunken Dance.

Characters: The Emperor, Consort De, Consort Xian, various concubines, eunuchs and servants.

They had just finished the Grand Selection, and a new batch of fresh young girls had come in. The emperor had called a bevy of concubines and consorts to his resting palace for drinks and entertainment.

The emperor's heart was on the new girls, and even the most favoured Consort De had been left to one side.

The most favoured consort before Consort De had come was Consort Xian. Upon seeing that Consort De had also been abandoned, Consort Xian was filled with joy at her misfortune, “In this palace, it has always been ‘the new people smile and the old people cry’, did she think that she had enough beauty to keep the emperor’s heart to herself for his entire life? This consort wants to see if she can continue being so pleased with herself for a few more days!”

It’s most likely because Consort De was played by Ning Xi, Jia Qingqing, who normally had average acting skills, actually played her part skilfully. Seeing this, the director was very pleased.

## **Chapter 58: As of Old, Invade My Dreams Again**

Ning Xi leaned sideways on the chaise longue, drinking wine. Her surroundings were bustling with noise and clamour, but it seemed as if she was living in a world of her own.

The strong alcohol slipped past her dark red lips and slid down her elegant, slender neck, rolling down the collar of her clothes and inviting wild thoughts...

That scene was extremely beautiful, causing all the men present to stare fixedly.

The cameraman intentionally pushed the camera nearer for a close up.

“The storm envelops the river, rain darkens the village, the four mountains sound like ocean waves...” Ning Xi read the poem out loud in a haze of intoxication, while standing up shakily.

In the next second, she tossed the wine goblet away with a clatter. With messy steps, she began to dance, “The fire burns soft and warm, my cat and I are unable to leave the house...”

That slender waist was like a willow branch, bending to its limit before fiercely springing back up. A light gauze fluttered along with her movements, her gaze turned charming and coquettish.

“Abed, motionless, in a lonely village,

For myself I sorrow not.

All I seek’s defence of my country’s frontier,

And to me a station there allot...”

She picked up the wine pot on the table and took a gulp.

Those dazzling movements could be called a dance, but it seemed even more like a war dance for the battlefields. From a bewitching fairy into a general who had led armies into campaigns, the difference was breathtakingly stunning.



Consort De's true identity was the female general Meng Changge. The Meng family had gone on war expedition after war expedition for the sake of the country, but it had resulted in the execution of all of her family members, leaving her alone. She had entered the palace, not just to kill her enemies, but to topple this kingdom further...

Close by, the emperor didn't seem to have noticed the danger. He was entranced by the beauty of the scene. Holding a wine goblet, he couldn't react for a long time, he was totally drawn in.

Seeing the wild infatuation rekindled in the emperor's eyes, Consort Xian and the new concubines were full of jealousy and resentment.

"Lying in the depth of the night I listen

To the winds blowing the rain,

And iron-clad horses o'er frozen rivers,

As of old, invade my dreams again...

As of old, invade my dreams again...

As of old, invade my dreams again..."

Ning Xi spoke the last line three times: the first time absent-mindedly, the second time with sorrow, and the last time was filled with clear resolution.

Once she finished speaking, she leaned into the emperor's embrace alluringly, bewitching the ruler of the country, determined to continue on her path of revenge...

When the scene came to an end, the director almost forgot to shout cut.

"Cut! That was great!" Guo Qisheng was the first to applaud, "Ning Xi's dance was good, very professional. The hardest part was conveying everything I wanted, everyone's expressions were good as well. Old Feng, I don't need to mention you, but the rare one was Qingqing, that expression was extremely on point!"

Jia Qingqing's expression was as dark as the bottom of a wok. How could it be off point? That was real jealousy and hatred there.

The actor playing the emperor, Feng Yibo, was an experienced actor who specialised in playing the emperor. He had acted alongside countless beauties, and at this moment, he couldn't resist smiling, "Director Guo, I was stunned for real there, I wasn't acting!"

"I told you earlier that my junior's skill isn't ordinary!" Ning Xueluo, who had been watching from the side, gave her praise as well. However, in actuality, she was about to grind her teeth into powder.

Once they finished filming for the day, Ning Xueluo pulled her assistant to a side for interrogation.

“What’s going on? It’s been an entire afternoon and she hasn’t had any reaction at all!”

The assistant showed panic in her expression, “I poured it in myself, and I even put a bit of it in all the makeup: blush, eyeshadow, highlighter... Maybe it’s a late reaction?”

Ning Xueluo glared at her, “That’s not possible, the moment she touches something like that, she should start having red spots within half an hour!” That was how she had made Ning Xi look bad at a birthday banquet previously.

“Then maybe she didn’t use those products...” The assistant said weakly.

“Useless! Why didn’t you do something to her clothes as well, just in case?”

“I didn’t think of it back then. Xueluo-jie, please don’t be angry, I won’t make such a mistake the next time!”

Ning Xueluo suppressed her anger. It was just an unexpected mishap this time. There were so many opportunities ahead. Maybe she wouldn’t need to make a move herself, the look in Jia Qingqing’s eyes when she looked at Ning Xi earlier revealed how much hatred she bore for her.

Heh, Ning Xi, did you think that you could rest easy in this role?

I’ll push you up higher so you will fall even harder!

TL Note:

The poems that Ning Xi read are called by Lu You.

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The first poem:

??????????????

??????????????

The storm envelops the river, rain darkens the village,

the four mountains sound like ocean waves,

The fire burns soft and warm,

my cat and I won’t leave the house.

—  
It talks about a storm raging in a village, being warm and cosy at home and not wanting to leave the house. (So relatable >u>)

I couldn't find an official translation for this, so I tried to translate to the best of my ability. ovo;;

—  
The second poem:

????????????????

????????????????

Abed, motionless, in a lonely village,

For myself I sorrow not.

All I seek's defence of my country's frontier,

And to me a station there allot.

Lying in the depth of the night I listen

To the winds blowing the rain,

And iron-clad horses o'er frozen rivers,

As of old, invade my dreams again.

This pretty translation was written by Wang Zhihuan! (Source:  
<http://www.en84.com/dianji/shi/200912/00000398.html>)

It talks about patriotism, which is why Meng Changge was so emotional while reading it. Her family was loyal to the country, and she was surely raised to be patriotic too, but now she's on the path to destroying the country for revenge...

## **Chapter 59: The Super Handsome Second Male Lead Who's A Huge Star**

Although Ning Xi had proven her acting skills this time, she still hadn't salvaged her reputation. On the contrary, because she'd done too well, people actually believed even more that she was a

bewitching vixen. They didn't even think this was acting, but just an unveiling of her true personality.

The director was worried that her emotional state would be unstable and ran over to comfort her before she left. "Ning Xi, don't worry, your male lead will be joining the cast next month. The good scenes are yet to come!"

Ning Xi smiled wryly, "Director, just who is my male lead? You've kept a tight lid on it since the start of filming and won't drop a hint at all. It's one thing not to tell the media in order to build up some suspense, but why won't you tell us either?"

"I can't say it, what if you guys let it leak? All I can say that the second male lead is a huge star!" Guo Qisheng had a mysterious expression on his face.

Jia Qingqing was passing by when she caught wind of this and muttered disdainfully, "For a second male lead, what kind of big star could he be? Could he possibly be as famous as screen king Zhao Sizhou? Wouldn't you say so Xueluo-jie?"

Ning Xueluo smiled and didn't say anything, obviously also thinking that the director was exaggerating.

Ning Xi ignored Jia Qingqing's sarcasm as she stuck herself firmly behind Guo Qisheng. "Then is he handsome? You can tell me that at least, right? The second male lead in the script is so handsome that all the heiresses in the city are willing to feign sickness for him!"

She had many intimate scenes with the second male lead. Not only did she have to flirt with and tease him, but there were many bed scenes as well. Hugs and kisses were par for the course, so she couldn't help but be more concerned about this.

"Of course he's good looking! I'm sure you'll be satisfied! Just don't faint with emotion when you see him!"

"Seriously? Don't lie to me Director Guo! I'd believe it!"

.....

The days passed swiftly, and it was August in the blink of an eye. It'd been two weeks since she'd taken up residence in the Lu residence. Her relations with Little Treasure were becoming better and better, and filming progress was satisfactory.

Ning Xueluo and Jia Qingqing had formed an alliance. They would get up to some tricks every now and then. Although Ning Xi saw through them all, it was still too tiring to be on her guard all the time. She was preparing to find the right timing to put things right once and for all.

It was also a bit odd, she felt like someone seemed to be helping her from the shadows. She received very subtle hints the few times she had overlooked one of the alliance's tricks. Was it

likely that there was someone who couldn't abide Qia Jingjing's tyrannical attitude? Ning Xi thought nothing more of it.

Her biggest headache was needing to pick up a certain irritating fellow at the airport tonight.

That guy had called her around a dozen times in a row while she was on set today.

Ning Xi returned to the Lu manor after she wrapped up work for the day. She needed to pick up some gear.

"You're back. A nice hotpot place just opened up recently. Let's go there tonight with Little Treasure?" Lu Tingxiao was reading a newspaper on the couch. He called out to her in a completely natural voice when he saw her return, as if he was talking to his wife.

Ning Xi was a bit shocked by her thoughts. It'd only been half a month, but she was already used to interacting like this with Lu Tingxiao!

The two of them and Little Treasure, they really did seem like a family of three.

Ning Xi shook her head and dispelled her strange thoughts. She said a bit awkwardly, "I'm afraid I can't go tonight. I need to pick someone up at the airport and I won't be back until late. If Little Treasure wants to eat hotpot, then why don't you take him?"

"He won't leave the house if you're not here."

"Eh... alright, then let's go together next time!"

Lu Tingxiao put down the newspaper and looked at her with a fathomless expression, "Picking up a friend?"

"Eh, you could say that..." Ning Xi nodded her head with difficulty.

"Is it a man or a woman?"

"Eh..." Wasn't this question a little out of bounds?!

## **Chapter 60: I'll Love You for a Thousand Years!**

It wasn't that Ning Xi had not felt Lu Tingxiao's different attitude towards her, but every time, he would stop right at the boundary of good friends. If she reacted too drastically, then it would seem like she was imagining feelings when there weren't any.

Thus, when Ning Xi heard this very ordinary question, she answered it in a normal manner: "Male!"

Lu Tingxiao's unfathomable gaze narrowed imperceptibly, "Are you coming back tonight?"

These questions... were getting more and more...

Ning Xi used her acting skills and pretended not to have noticed the hidden meaning of the question, she replied nonchalantly, "I'm not too sure yet, I'll give you a call then! It's almost time for me to go, I'm going upstairs first!"

There were definitely going to be some unexpected situations popping up later. What if she couldn't hold back and beat up that kid, Jiang Muye, for the whole night?

Ning Xi hurriedly grabbed a large, black duffel bag from upstairs, then hugged and kissed the little bun goodbye.

Watching the girl practically fly off, Lu Tingxiao's face was like snow in August.

Other than Ning Xi, the little bun was completely uninterested in anything else, including his own daddy. However, upon seeing his daddy trying to suppress the gloominess in his expression, he bent his head to write something on his notepad, then reached out to poke him with a tiny finger.

Feeling the small pressure on his arm, Lu Tingxiao lowered his gaze and saw the question mark that his son had written on his notepad.

"You're asking me why I'm unhappy?" Lu Tingxiao raised a brow, then paused in deep thought for a moment. He finally spoke up faintly, "If your Auntie Xiao Xi becomes someone else's someday... If she calls someone else darling, kisses someone else good morning, good night and goodbye, eats hotpot with someone else... and you're no longer anyone to her, without even the right to question her or get angry with her... would you be happy?"

Little Treasure was dazed for a moment before his expression instantly changed to one that looked as if the sky had fallen.

Thus, a certain daddy became a little calmer.

With tears trickling down his cheeks, Little Treasure snatched away his heartless daddy's phone and complained to Auntie Xiao Xi.

He sent a crying emoji to Ning Xi: (>?<)?

Ning Xi, who was hurrying to the airport, thought that the little bun was upset because they weren't going to eat hotpot. She immediately gathered a bunch of sweet words to console the little bun: Aiyah, darling, what happened? You're not happy? Don't be upset, if you're sad, then auntie will be sad too! Auntie really has something to do today, I'll definitely accompany you to eat hotpot tomorrow, okay? Xoxo! I'll love you for a thousand years! I love darling's smile the most!

Little Treasure looked at Ning Xi's reply, and his tears turned into smiles. He even proudly showed the phone to his daddy.

Lu Tingxiao glanced at the sweet words Ning Xi had sent, "..."

He felt like he had been stabbed in the heart...

Two hours later, at Beijing Airport.

Although Ning Xi had already been prepared before she had come, she was still scared silly by the scene before her.

"AHHH! Jiang Muye! Jiang Muye! Jiang Muye!"

"Hubbie look over here! Hubbie I love you! Hubbie I want to give birth to your kids!"

"Muye, Muye, you're the coolest! Yezi will always support you!"

.....

Teenage girls were the most numerous amongst the fans, she even saw some middle-aged women and quite a few male fans. They were all shouting at the top of their lungs. All the security guards at the airport had been deployed, but they still weren't able to control the situation.

"My dear wives, could you keep it quiet? Don't disturb others! Shhhhh!"

A sexy voice sounded from the crowd, and all the fans suddenly went silent, before they burst out into screams that almost burst through the roof. The scene had not calmed down at all, but turned even more lively.

Ning Xi hid behind a pillar and looked on from afar, her head full of sweat drops.

This guy deserved to get cut up by a thousand knives, he was definitely out to kill her!

If she went out to pick him up at this time, could she even live past tonight?

Luckily she came prepared...