

FMH Marriage 1461

Chapter 1461: Are You Sure You Want Me To Go?

Recently the progress of “Nine Realms” had been going very well. Apart from the filming, Ling Zhizhi also arranged for Ning Xi to attend some suitable events.

The filming period of a series would take at least several months. Being away from the public eye for such a long period of time would easily have her be forgotten, so she would still need to ensure that some attention was still on her.

Ning Xi’s popularity had been increasing. As more and more people liked her, there were a lot of critics as well, accusing her and making up gossip, but thanks to Ling Zhizhi and the support of the company, they were not really any real threats. Instead, it fueled her high-rising popularity.

As she had been working hard on her career, the one thing that Ning Xi had been doing consistently was charity work.

What she could do before this was limited, but in her current position, she could do much more.

Ling Zhizhi agreed and supported her, actively approaching non-profit organizations and setting up a charity fund under Ning Xi’s name.

“The ceremony for the launch of the fund set up has been arranged. It’s on the 8th of this month, and you don’t have any scenes on that day,” Ling Zhizhi said.

“The 8th?” Ning Xi’s eyebrows raised a little.

“Do you have something up on the 8th? Here’s the list of guests. Take a look.”

“Okay!” Ning Xi nodded and browsed through it. They were all celebrities in the entertainment industry and there were also some important partners. “Looks alright.”

...

Ning Xi’s phone rang the moment she came out of Ling Zhizhi’s office.

Ning Xi slid her finger across the screen and answered the call before she could see who was calling, Ning Yaohua’s voice came through the phone. “Hello, Xiao Xi. Don’t forget about Xueluo’s wedding tomorrow!”

“I have something on the 8th.”

“You have something on? What else could be more important than Xueluo’s wedding?” The person speaking was now Zhuang Lingyu.

“Are you sure you want me to go?”

Ning Xi’s tone put Zhuang Lingyu on alert. Of course, she did not want her to go!

Who knew what could happen again if she turned up?

“Do you think I want to do this? It’s a big day for Xueluo. Not only you, even Tianxin isn’t coming. Are you guys trying to tell the whole world that our family is at a discord?” Zhuang Lingyu said in an annoyed tone.

“Whatever. Let her be. It’s not a big deal...” Ning Yaohua mumbled, then he tried to say carefully, “Xiao Xi, what are you up to on the 8th? Actually, let the past be the past. You can’t force a relationship after all... I think CEO Yun is pretty good...”

His tone sounded like he thought she was trying to stir trouble out of jealousy. Furthermore, Ning Yaohua had not forgotten about Yun Shen as well.

He had treated her much better recently because of the value he saw in her now. However, it only made her feel disgusted.

“CEO Ning, you can look at my schedule on the official website or call my assistant.” Ning Xi then hung up.

...

The 8th came very soon.

The entrance to the Imperial Exhibition Centre was congested. Nearly half of the entertainment industry, as well as the rich and famous among the guests from various industries, were gathered there. It was comparable to an awards ceremony.

Most celebrities would hold their wedding in a hotel or on a small island, but there were simply too many guests at the wedding of Ning Xueluo and Su Yan, so they had to have it in the Imperial Exhibition Centre.

Chapter 1462: His Lucky Star Indeed

Ning Xueluo and Su Yan were greeting guests at the entrance, looking every bit like they had come straight out of a beautiful painting. Their bridesmaids and best men were all young, glowing celebrities as well, making the whole posse a very attractive sight.

“Congratulations, CEO Su!”

“Thank you, CEO Li. Welcome in!”

“Congratulations, Xueluo, best wishes! You look very beautiful today!”

“Sis Lin, you’re the beautiful one today, alright? I might not even measure up to you even as the bride!”

...

Inside the wedding hall, Ning Yaohua was happily greeting the guests and chatting with some older CEOs in the top industry.

At that moment, he was relieved that he had made the decision to give his portion of the 15% of shares to Ning Xueluo.

Xueluo was his lucky star!

Back in the day, the Zhuang family had looked down on him and was strongly against their daughter marrying him. He wondered what they would think if they were to see this scene today.

Based on these thoughts, he did not raise any objection when Xueluo sent the Zhuangs her wedding invitation.

If the Zhuang family were to change their attitude, he would not mind letting go of his grudge...

After a long time, most of the guests had arrived.

“Xueluo, Su Yan, leave it to us here. You guys should go in now. There’s a rehearsal later!” Zhuang Lingyu smiled kindly at her.

Ning Xueluo frowned ever so slightly. “It’s alright, Mother. Some guests aren’t here yet, we’ll stay for a little while longer!”

“Okay, don’t wait for too long.” Zhuang Lingyu then went back inside.

Ning Xueluo waited for a while longer. Only a few late guests arrived, but no one from the Zhuang family turned up.

Damn it...

She had gone out of her way and invited them, but it was not working.

Was the Zhuang family really this heartless?

She had given them the perfect opportunity. She had even told Zhuang Keer so much. If they had even the slightest intention to make up, they would have appeared today.

“Xueluo, is anyone from your maternal grandfather’s side coming?” Su Yan’s mother went over and asked with a concerned expression.

“Not yet, they’ll probably be late. Let’s go in first!” Ning Xueluo smiled, but there was a slight darkness in her eyes.

Su Yan’s mother was really concerned about the Zhuang family. If she screwed up performing the first task in her marriage, how could she take a firm stand in the Su family?

She had to make someone from the Zhuang family come no matter what, even if it was to just show them face.

It seemed like she had to use her last resort...

...

At the same time, in the military area, Zhuang Keer put on a dark-colored formal outfit. She took her bag and was about to leave home.

“Keer, are you meeting your friends? Is it a boy or a girl?” Meng Linlang asked from the living room sofa, her eyes brimming with expectation.

Zhuang Keer answered exasperatedly, “Mother, I’m going to support Xiao Xi today!”

“Xiao Xi? What does that child have going on today?” Meng Linlang probed.

“Xiao Xi’s charity fund is being set up today. As her good friend, of course, I have to go!” Zhuang Keer replied.

Meng Linlang nodded. “That child is really nice. She’s not blinded by fame. She never forgot about her roots as expected...”

“Mother, as expected of what?”

As they were talking, the nanny came in with a black box in her hands.

“Miss, did you put this bracelet in the car?”

“Bracelet? What bracelet?” Zhuang Keer was confused.

The nanny replied, “Old Zhang found it when he was washing the car. It looks pretty expensive, Miss. Be careful with your belongings. It’s not safe putting them in the car...”

Chapter 1463: Not So Simple

Zhuang Keer opened the box and took a look. She insisted on confusion, “This isn’t mine!”

The nanny was perplexed as well. “Not yours? Then, is it Madam’s? But from the style of the bracelet, it looks like it’s made for young girls...”

“It’s not mine. I’ve never seen it before,” Meng Linlang declared.

“That’s weird... No one has sat in my car before...” Zhuang Keer studied the bracelet again. It was obvious that this bracelet would cost at least a few million dollars.

Zhuang Keer then suddenly remembered something. “Could it be...Ning Xueluo?”

“Keer, who?” Meng Linlang frowned a little when she heard the name.

“She’s the daughter of Ning family. Her father is Ning Yaohua, and her mother is called Zhuang Lingyu. I just recently found out that she’s my cousin...”

“Cousin?” Meng Linlang frowned deeper. “How is she your cousin?! Wait... How did you know about this? Who told you?”

“Ning Xueluo told me herself.” Zhuang Keer tried to remember what had happened the other day. She told her mother about her meeting Ning Xueluo at the spa centre.

Meng Linlang listened quietly, then she laughed coldly. “She can really talk! Would Zhuang Lingyu really put the picture by her bedside and miss us? If she actually had a conscience, she wouldn’t have done something so terrible back then!”

“Mother, what exactly happened? I asked Father but he’s not willing to tell me anything. He also told me not to mention it in front of Grandfather.” Zhuang Keer felt troubled.

Meng Linlang dismissed the nanny before continuing, “Do you know why your grandfather didn’t agree to the marriage of Zhuang Lingyu and Ning Yaohua?”

“Because our families aren’t compatible? It shouldn’t be that simple, right? If that’s the reason, the worst that could’ve happened would just be some argument. It wouldn’t have blown up to become this serious, would it?” Zhuang Keer said.

Meng Linlang did not look well, and did not seem very willing to talk about this matter. However, after some consideration, Meng Linlang told her, “Actually, the Ning family wasn’t a bad match even back then. Although they aren’t from any government organization or super rich, they did have a company of their own. Despite it not being really big, you could somewhat call them rich. Ning Zhiyuan was still the head back then, and the company was growing well. He sent both his sons out into society for two years in order to train them.

“Sadly, the Ning boys were the worst. The second son, Ning Yaobanghe, was always drinking his life away, and the eldest son, Ning Yaohua, started a small company of his own. He looked like he was doing well, but he was using his good looks and paved his way by seducing different ladies. It was not his first time taking advantage of women.

“After your father made a thorough investigation about him, he told Zhuang Lingyu about it, yet your ignorant aunt was totally blinded by love. She did not listen at all, and accused us of simply going against her will, and even...”

Meng Linlang looked worse for wear when she reached this point. “Ning Yaohua even tried to have a go at me, but he did it very subtly. There isn’t any evidence. I told your father about it, and since your father is a straightforward person, he went and told Zhuang Lingyu about it. You can guess what happened. Not only did she not believe it, she accused me of seducing her man... Ugh, my taste isn’t that bad!”

Chapter 1464: See Through The Trick

Zhuang Keer was really taken aback. Now, she understood why her father did not want to talk about it. Matters about the elders was pretty difficult to share with the youngsters in the family.

“Ning Yaohua then started using Zhuang Lingyu, who came back and messed with your grandfather. She wanted your grandfather to help him with his business. At that time, she was so naive and thought it would be a really simple matter to get a piece of land. The higher-ups were really strict at that time. In addition to your grandfather’s righteous principles, he never even gave his son any special help. Everything your father has achieved was all through his own abilities.”

Meng Linlang had probably hold it in for far too long, so her words rushed out all at once. “In the end, after she was rejected, Zhuang Lingyu secretly used the family name and committed bribery. Afterward, your grandfather’s political opponent found out, and this matter almost cost your grandfather his career and reputation. Your grandfather was furious and severed ties with her...”

Zhuang Keer gaped in shock. “So, that’s what happened!”

Meng Linlang sneered, “After he severed ties with her, your father was still a kind person. He went to warn Ning Yaohua with a gun to make him promise that he would treat Zhuang Lingyu well. Otherwise, why do you think Ning Yaohua would always treat Zhuang Lingyu so kindly even when she didn’t bear him a son?”

Zhuang Keer finally understood. “Then, what Ning Xueluo said...”

Meng Linlang laughed coldly. “When we met Zhuang Lingyu a month ago, she was still having that arrogant attitude towards me and your father. She didn’t even want to look us in the eye. What makes you think she’d regret what she had done? While Ning Xueluo is young, she’s really cunning. She just wants to gain some fame from us!”

“Then, what about this bracelet? Could she intend to get on my good side but was afraid that I wouldn’t accept it, so she left it in my car?” Zhuang Keer was confused. Her explanation did not seem to make sense.

“She wanted to trick you to attend her wedding!” Meng Linlang looked at the time. “You can give it some time. She’ll call you soon and say she accidentally left her bracelet in your car. She’ll make up various excuses about you having to return it to her personally!

“If you go, even if it’s just to return the bracelet, the others might not know that and will interpret it as you attending her wedding, even giving her an expensive bracelet as a gift. People will recognize you as the daughter of the Zhuang family, and that you’re representing all of us! Thus, Ning Xueluo could boost her value by using us!”

Meng Linlang knew her daughter too well. She only looked cold on the outside, but if Ning Xueluo truly wanted to trick her, there was an 80% chance that she would fall for it.

Fortunately, she had found out about it just in time.

Zhuang Keer bit her lip in disgust as if she had just eaten a fly. “This woman is terrifying...”

First, she tried to build a family bond, then to avoid her from not taking the bait, she had purposely left her bracelet in her car. How cunning!

Meng Linlang looked sharply into the distance. “Good one, Ning Xueluo. We haven’t looked for her yet and she dares to use us!”

She then stood up and turned to Zhuang Keer. “Did you just say Xiao Xi is setting up her charity fund today?”

Chapter 1465: Going Along With The Plan

“It’s today. What about it?”

“Where is it?” Meng Linlang asked.

“It’s on the top floor of the International Exhibition Center. I remember Ning Xueluo’s wedding is at the same venue as well. She reserved the largest floor of the whole building!” Zhuang Keer replied.

The exhibition center always had a lot of events and meetings going on. The middle floor was the largest of the halls, and most of the time, only important national meetings or really large-scale events were held there. Most of the other events would be hosted in the smaller hall on the top floor.

Zhuang Keer was a big fan of Ning Xi’s. She had seen on her official website a long time ago that Ning Xi’s charity fund was going to be set up today. The venue and time had been announced back then as well, long before Ning Xueluo decided on her wedding date.

What a coincidence for them to be at the same venue on the same day!

At that moment, Zhuang Keer’s phone rang. It was Ning Xueluo! On the day they had met at the spa center, Ning Xueluo had exchanged numbers with her.

Zhuang Keer looked at her mother questioningly.

Meng Linlang smiled sarcastically, then she said, “Pick it up. Let’s see what she’s going to say.”

“Mmm.” Zhuang Keer nodded and picked up the phone, then she turned on the loudspeaker.

“Cousin! Can I trouble you for something? I lost a bracelet that I have to use for my wedding today. I can’t find it at all. I think I might have left it in your car the other day. Can you help me look for it? I’m really sorry!” Ning Xueluo sounded genuinely worried.

What she said was exactly the same as Meng Linlang had predicted.

Zhuang Keer was really incensed, especially when she called her “Cousin” because despite the endearment, she was actually planning to trick her.

Meng Linlang hinted to her daughter to agree to what Ning Xueluo said.

Zhuang Keer replied, "Wait for a while. I'll look for it."

"Okay, thank you so much!"

Zhuang Keer hung up. "Mother, what do you want to do?"

"Tell her that you'll send it over later. I'll make the arrangements," Meng Linlang said.

"Alright."

After waiting for a few minutes, Zhuang Keer called Ning Xueluo back. "I found it! It's in my car."

"That's great! This bracelet is really meaningful to me. It's my lucky item... If I had really lost it on my wedding day, I really don't know what to do..."

Ning Xueluo sounded relieved, then she changed her tone and asked hesitantly, "Cousin, I'm really sorry to ask this, but are you free now? I might have to trouble you again! My wedding is starting soon. I probably can't make it if I send someone over now... Could you... Could you please bring it to me? I'm really sorry!"

A wedding was such an important day for a girl. Furthermore, with the fact that the bracelet was so important to her and was obviously worth at least a few million dollars combined with her urgent tone, Zhuang Keer would have sent it over personally if she had not known anything.

Zhuang Keer went along. "I'll send it over to you."

"Thank you, Cousin! I'm beyond grateful!" Ning Xueluo thanked her several times.

Chapter 1466: True Support

After she hung up, Zhuang Keer had a lingering fear in her heart.

If she really went over to pass the bracelet to Ning Xueluo, everyone would talk...

Even if gossip such as the Zhuang family joining Ning Xueluo's wedding and even presenting a precious gift got to her, Ning Xueluo could just claim that the guests had misunderstood and dismiss all responsibilities...

On the other hand, Zhuang Keer would not have gone to the extent of explaining and clarifying the actual situation to every single one of the guests there...

Meng Linlang looked at her daughter's expression and sighed.

Her daughter was good at everything, but her thought process was just too naive.

However, when her straightforward husband had heard his daughter talk about Ning Xueluo looking for her, he did not bother warning her either.

Fine! It was best for her to do such things by herself! Since she had long planned to do it, she only had to bring it forward now.

Taking advantage of the opportunity today, she would like them to see for themselves how cheering someone on truly looked like and what truly supporting someone was!

Meng Linlang picked up her phone and made a call. "Hello, Section Chief Zhao, what have you been busy with recently? Hehe, what else can I be up to? I've been transferred back to Imperial, so I'm a little not used to suddenly being quite free. I've mainly been doing some charity recently..."

Next up, Meng Linlang continued making quite a few calls.

Zhuang Keer realized something and she picked up the phone to start inviting the people within her circle of friends too.

Even though she did not usually have many friends, there were countless people who wanted to suck up to her. With just a single word, people would definitely be willing to come and support her.

Moments later, Zhuang Keer wore a little black dress with a handbag in her hand and a delicate gift bag. Meng Linlang wore a solemn, dark outfit too. The mother and daughter got into their car and made their way towards the exhibition center.

At the same time, inside the wedding hall in the middle of the exhibition center, Su Yan's mother had already been urging Ning Xueluo quite a few times. There were subtle signs of impatience between her brows too.

Ning Xueluo had just finished talking to Zhuang Keer on the phone, and there was a smug happiness across her face. She walked quickly to Su Yan's mother and said confidently, "Mother, don't worry. I've just called my cousin. She's already on her way!"

"Really? That's great then! Quickly have people greet them at the entrance!" Su Yan's mother was overjoyed.

"I've already sent them over!"

"That's good then. Will your cousin be coming alone?" Su Yan's mother questioned.

"Well, probably..."

"Oh, well... That's good! It's great enough that your cousin can make it!" Su Yan's mother looked pleased as she kept glancing towards the entrance in anticipation.

After Ning Xueluo spoke to Su Yan's mother, she walked to Zhuang Lingyu.

She was worried that Zhuang Lingyu would ruin things, so she worriedly clung onto Zhuang Lingyu and spoke softly, "Mother, later there will be someone from the Zhuang family coming over... I hope you won't bicker with them. Otherwise, you'd worsen your health, and that won't be worth it..."

Zhuang Lingyu actually already knew that they had secretly invited the Zhuangs. She had been turning a blind eye to it, but when she heard this at that moment, she said, "I understand. It's your big day today and I'm in a good mood, so I won't bicker with them much."

Of course, she had her own considerations as well. Even though she definitely would not forgive her brother and father for the things that they had done years ago, she could not deny that if the Zhuang family could join Xueluo's wedding, it would benefit Xueluo greatly. She would just force herself to attend to them later.

Chapter 1467: They Have Strong Support Too

At the wedding banquet, among the guests who attended the celebration, almost everyone in the entertainment circle had come to show their support. There were even quite some people from the rival company, Glory World Entertainment.

After all, even though they were attached to Glory World, the company's opposing stances could not limit their private relationships.

Two female celebrities from Glory World were discussing softly in a corner.

One of the female artistes in a yellow outfit said worriedly, "Sigh, based on Starlight and Glory World's situation, wouldn't it be to our disadvantage for us to be attending Ning Xueluo's wedding? Recently, Ning Xueluo and Ning Xi's relationship seems to be quite tensed too..."

The female artiste in red was quite unbothered. "Otherwise? If you don't come for such an important occasion, would you rather run to that unpresentable small hall upstairs to join some nuisance charity donation ceremony? If you want to go, you can go yourself!"

"Huh? I'm just saying... Speaking of which, Ning Xueluo... Ning Xi... Do these two have some kind of blood relation? Their surnames are both Ning..."

Long ago, when Ning Xi was still at Starlight, Ning Yaohua had already completely shut Ning Xi out from the Ning family just in case, so Ning Xi's identity in the entertainment circle was still unknown till now. Then again, the walls had ears, so it was inevitable for that bit of rumor to leak out.

When the artiste in red heard the hypothesis, she said, "There is this rumor. It's probably just a baseless claim. If Ning Xi were really related to the Ning family, the Nings won't need to directly go against her as they have done previously. For Xueluo, they withdrew their investments and even chased her out of Starlight. Didn't you notice that Ning Xi didn't appear at such an important occasion today?"

"That's true..." The artiste in yellow nodded, feeling much more reassured.

"In fact, the Nings aren't just people who do business as you see on the surface. They have strong support behind them too!"

"Oh? What do you mean?"

"I heard that today even Imperial's famed Zhuang family will come! The founding state general, Zhuang Zongren. That Zhuang family! Now, do you understand? Pfft... I'm not talking to you anymore. I have to get down to business!"

The artiste in red hastily touched up her makeup, then she stood up and sashayed towards one of the old CEOs that she had long been watching.

Ning Xueluo's banquet had amassed almost all of Imperial's rich and powerful, and they were all cash cows in most people's eyes. It was such a great opportunity that only a fool would refuse to attend.

Ning Xi had only been reigning as queen after Su Yimo had fallen from Glory World Entertainment and there were no other tigers in the mountain. She was not like Su Yimo who bore the scary title of "Lady Boss of the Lu Corporation" and had an entire backstage supporting her.

Ning Xueluo did not need to give Ning Xi any face to the extent of giving up such a great opportunity...

...

These kind of occasions were most suitable for all sorts of networking. It was also the best opportunity to make connections and discuss collaborations. Basically, everyone had the same goals as the female artiste in red.

As for the news that the Zhuang family was coming, many of the guests present had heard it too.

Now, many people had gone to find out the truth from Su Yan's mother.

"Madam Su, we heard that there'll be someone from the Zhuang family coming. Is it true?"

Su Yan's mother had already received the confident answer from Ning Xueluo, thus she was smiling from ear to ear at this moment as she said, "Yes, that's true! Earlier, Xueluo just told me that Ms. Zhuang is already on her way!"

"Eh, Xueluo? How did Xueluo get to know people from the Zhuang family? Madam Su, your daughter-in-law is quite remarkable!"

...

Now that Su Yan's mother was surrounded by a group of people, not too far away, Su Xun and his wife looked gloomy, yet they had to force themselves not to express their dismay. Who would have thought that Ning Xueluo would suddenly pop up with such a huge supporter!?

Chapter 1468: An Unexpected Surprise?

As Su Yan's mother listened to the praises around her and looked at that bastard Su Xun's miserable expression, she felt satisfied and said delightedly, "Sigh, actually, it's because the Zhuangs are our in-law's parental home..."

When they heard this, everyone around was even more startled. They thought that it was just some friendly connection between the younger generation at most. Unexpectedly, there was a layer of blood ties!

The Zhuangs were Zhuang Lingyu's parental home?

But... why had they never heard of this before?

The crowd looked at each other in confusion, yet they knew not to ask any further.

At this moment, some of the older people suddenly realized something and talked among themselves. "There really is such a thing... Back then, the eldest daughter-in-law of the Ning family was old General Zhuang's youngest daughter. However, later she had a fall out with them. They haven't kept in touch for many years. By the looks of it, they might have reconciled!"

"After all, it's one own's flesh and blood, so it's normal to reconcile, right?"

"So, that's what it is! Tsk tsk, the Su family is really fortunate this time! I initially thought that a fake phoenix has been taken in as a wife..."

"What fake phoenix? I think it's just Ning Qiutong having ideas about the Ning family's property business and causing issues. Didn't Ning Yaohua already hold a press conference to deny it?"

...

As the crowd was discussing spiritedly, at this moment, someone from the crowd shouted in disbelief, "The one at the entrance... That... Isn't that the lady from the Zhuang family?"

In an instant, everyone subconsciously looked towards the entrance.

At first glance, they could not notice anything.

Soon, the crowd unexpectedly saw not only a young girl but an older, dignified woman with a composed manner beside her. The two of them seemed to be saying something to the welcoming committee.

They saw that woman had maintained herself rather well. She wore a navy blue embroidered cheongsam, and she did not look like the mother standing beside the girl. Instead, she looked like her older sister. Even though she did not wear any precious or impressive accessories, her aura naturally upheld a certain grandeur.

Immediately, several people recognized the two of them. "That's right... It's the lady of the Zhuang family! And Madam Zhuang!"

"What? The one beside the girl is Madam Zhuang?"

"Oh my God! I didn't expect that even the general's wife would come! Madam Zhuang has never appeared at such an occasion!"

"It looks like the blood ties between the Zhuangs and the Nings are real... They would not have placed any importance on this occasion if they weren't their in-laws..."

...

With the appearance of the two ladies, almost all of the guests' attention was fixated on the entrance. Not too far away, Ning Xueluo and Su Yan's mother, who had been long waiting, exchanged a look before they walked up quickly to greet them.

They did not expect for even Madam Zhuang, also known as Meng Linlang, would have come too!

Ning Xueluo was especially surprised because she had only asked Zhuang Keer to help send over the bracelet. She did not think that she would have brought Meng Linlang with her too.

It looked like it was not just about delivering the bracelet. Could it... Could it be that the Zhuang family had finally changed their minds at the final second and agreed to attend her wedding?

If that was the case, it would be more than wonderful!

Ning Xueluo looked towards Zhuang Lingyu with a begging expression. Zhuang Lingyu looked quite reluctant on the surface, especially when she saw Meng Linlang. She seemed tight-lipped and pale. However, for the sake of her daughter, she fixed the hair around her temples and still followed Ning Xueluo to walk over together.

Ning Yaohua was even more overjoyed, especially when he saw Ning Yaobang's face filled with utter jealousy that he was practically hopping mad.

Earlier, Ning Yaobang had still been complaining that he had given his shares to a daughter that was not even blood-related and called him a moron. He warned him to be careful of wasted efforts that led to futility. Now, he could prove how right his strategy was!

Chapter 1469: To Steal A Chicken and Lose The Rice Used To Lure It

However, Ning Yaohua's status was very different now. Even if he were delighted in his heart, he maintained a reserved look. When he saw that Ning Xueluo and Zhuang Lingyu had walked over to them, he did not rush to walk up. Instead, he responded to the praises of the crowd as he waited for the congratulatory wishes from the Zhuang family.

Under all of the guests' watchful scrutiny, the bride, Ning Xueluo, had personally gone over to greet them at the hall entrance, she intimately called out, "Cousin, Aunty... This way please..."

When she finished, she did not forget to introduce them to Su Yan, "Bro Yan, this is my cousin and my aunt. I've told you about them before..."

Cousin!

Aunt!

When the other guests who were still not familiar about the Nings' and the Zhuangs' relationship heard Ning Xueluo's address, there was the unmistakable rise and fall of gasps.

In fact, this time, Ning Xueluo was very high-profile. She did not hold back voice when addressing them too as she was practically afraid that the others would not hear it.

Initially, if it were just Zhuang Keer who had come, she would be afraid that the others would know about the truth of why she was there. In turn, she definitely would have been more low-profile and

bring her to a place where no one would not hear them speak. She would have made it more obscure and ambiguous. It was best for others to misunderstand if that were the case, but now, she did not need to do that at all!

Su Yan's mother was eager too. "Madam Zhuang, what a surprise to see you here too. Ms. Zhuang is really getting prettier by the day..."

At the entrance, just as Ning Xueluo and Su Yan's mother were enthusiastically making small talk, Meng Linlang finally spoke.

Meng Linlang glanced past the people before her indifferently as she would look at a stranger, then her beautiful brows wrinkled slightly and she turned towards Zhuang Keer beside her. "Keer, who are they? Do you know them?"

Zhuang Keer was further bewildered, but she put on an innocent expression. "I don't know either. I don't know them... Mother, let's go, if we're any later we won't be able to make it!"

Meng Linlang nodded, then allowed herself to be pulled away by Zhuang Keer. They made their way upstairs without turning their heads back at all...

Ning Xueluo, Zhuang Lingyu, Su Yan's mother, Su Yan, Ning Yaohua... and all the guests behind them were speechless.

There had been at least more than ten seconds of silence before the huge hall of people who had been ditched started to react...

What... What was going on?

Did Madam Zhuang and Miss Zhuang just say that they did not even know them at all?

In fact, the two of them were not even there to attend Ning Xueluo's wedding. It seemed that were only passing by when they walked to the entrance!

Su Yan's mother was confused and seemed to not be able to regain her senses from the unforeseen scenario. She could not even mask her tone that was filled with anxiousness as she shouted at the waiters at the entrance, "What did Miss Zhuang and Madam Zhuang say to you earlier?"

The waiters were dumbfounded as well but they nervously answered, "N-nothing... Earlier, Madam and Miss were just asking for directions..."

What? Asking for directions?

This scene from earlier was heard clearly by everyone present. Very soon, amidst the whispers, all the guests found out that Madam Zhuang and Miss Zhuang were not even there to attend Ning Xueluo's wedding.

"Oh my God... What is happening? I'm completely confused..."

"Don't you understand? The Zhuang family is not related to the Ning family at all. Hmm, okay, whether or not they're related, based on the Zhuangs' attitude, the point is that they definitely aren't planning to be related to the Nings. From the start to the end, it was just the Ning family's own wishful thinking!"

“Pfft, this is funny... Even if Ning Xueluo wanted to put a feather in her own cap, she didn’t need to tell such lies, did she?”

“Who knows!? It could also be possible that the Zhuang family did actually agree, but they backed out halfway through. It’s even more likely that purely because the Zhuang family is hostile towards the Nings, they intentionally embarrassed the latter with their show of strength!”

“Haha, this is truly a case of trying to steal a chicken only to end up losing the rice used to lure it [1]...”

...

[1] “trying to steal a chicken only to end up losing the rice used to lure it” – an idiom to mean: to try to gain an advantage only to end up worse off

Chapter 1470: Getting Out Of Hand

“What did Miss Zhuang and Madam Zhuang say to you earlier?” There were a lot of people present who did not like Ning Yaohua’s arrogant attitude anyway, so they were all secretly gloating at the moment.

The Nings and the Sus had responded by saying that it was a mistake and tried to brush it off. It was a happy day after all, and the guests did not make it difficult for them. Everyone just had smiles pasted on their faces.

However, after today, who knew what people would say over their private dinners?

The wedding ceremony was about to begin, so the two families took the chance and went back into the hotel room.

Su Yan’s mother could not hold it in anymore. The moment they closed the door, she started complaining, “Xueluo, what’s the matter? Didn’t you say that someone from the Zhuang family would come? While they did come, they were here to mock us!”

Ning Xueluo did not know what had gone wrong as well, but she did not have any other choice. Her tears flowed down. “Mother, I don’t know... I really don’t know... Things were alright when I was on the phone with Cousin... I don’t know why it would turn out like this...”

Zhuang Lingyu was angry when she saw Su Yan’s mother’s attitude. “How can you blame Xueluo? Do you think Xueluo would still ask them to come if she knew this would happen? And to be fair, if it weren’t for you wanting Xueluo to invite the Zhuangs, the incident earlier wouldn’t have happened!”

Su Yan’s mother laughed coldly. “So, now it’s my fault? Why do you think I wanted you guys to invite the Zhuang family? It was all...”

Seeing that his mother-in-law and mother were about to fight, Su Yan also glanced at the poor Ning Xueluo. He pinched the space in between his eyebrows. Before his mother said anything worse, he interrupted, "Mother, it's not the time to talk about this now. There might be some misunderstandings. Let's find out after the wedding!"

Ning Yaohua and Su Hongguang looked extremely unwell, but they could only bite their tongues. "The ceremony is starting soon. Go and prepare yourselves, and don't let anything else go wrong!"

...

After the short conversation, both the families went out and greeted the guests once again because it would be suspicious if they left the hall for too long.

Currently, things in the wedding hall were getting out of hand.

"Oh boy, did you guys hear that just now? Ms. Zhuang said something about going to be late. They seem to be here for some other event!"

"An event? The largest floor in the exhibition center has been reserved by the Su family. The top floor is just a small hall. What kind of event could the general's wife and her daughter be attending personally?"

"That's odd..."

...

As the crowd was discussing about it, people had been getting phone calls one after another and they answered the calls quietly.

"What? Charity fund... Section Chief Zhao... Upstairs?"

"Even Minister Liu? Are you sure? Don't joke with me! I've been trying to get in touch with Minister Liu for three months and it didn't happen!"

"That doesn't sound possible. Okay... I'll go and take a look..."

"I didn't get any invitation. Is it alright to just go? What? No invitation needed? I just have to donate? It's alright then... Got it..."

...

With the calls drawing the attention away from the wedding reception, there were lesser and lesser guests...