

Hidden 101

Chapter 101: Fancy Little Carp Prince

After returning to the room, Ning Xi suddenly remembered that she had forgotten to do something very important — after causing a stir with that video, she had yet to check how things had developed after that.

It was all Jiang Muye that guy's fault, ever since coming back, he had created a lot of trouble for her.

Ning Xi booted up her laptop and quickly skimmed all related news.

Last night, the video of Jia Qingqing's 33 NGs had been pushed to the top of the list of hot topics. The comments below were filled with criticism, while Ning Xi, who had surprised people with her exquisite acting, received a lot of positive comments. Instantly, one after another, people started to suspect that the online post about Ning Xi sleeping her way up was untrue.

Soon after that, anonymous side accounts disclosed how Jia Qingqing took advantage of filming to act out her personal grudge: she slapped Ning Xi on purpose during filming; in private she was arrogant and domineering, and had slapped her assistant; she acted like a diva on set and made things difficult for the staff...

Eventually, artistes and staff who couldn't stand Jia Qingqing all joined the battle as they shared similar experiences, thoroughly destroying the fake mask which Jia Qingqing put on in front of her fans.

Stylist Amy: At the beginning I hated Ning Xi, because Jia Qingqing usually targeted her, and to make things difficult for Ning Xi, she would take out her anger on us staff. Similarly, to make Ning Xi wait, she would find non-stop excuses to make me redo her makeup over and over again; this happened almost everyday. At first, I thought I suffered because of Ning Xi, so I hated her for a long time. In fact, she did nothing wrong at all.

I know by saying this, I will definitely get in trouble with some people, but I would feel guilty if I didn't say anything. That day when Jiang Muye's fans created trouble on set, if it wasn't for Ning Xi directly using her own arm to help block a rock thrown in my direction, my face would've been ruined!

Production assistant Xiao Li: What 'frank and outspoken'; abhor sin and lies, Jia Qingqing is an arrogant and domineering diva, the cancer on the production crew. She is late almost everyday, and leaves early without telling anyone. She's always ordering us around arrogantly, and completely doesn't see us staff as human. I can't count how many times she makes me run around doing things for her in a day, does she think I'm her servant?

As for Ning Xi, even though she's usually on her own, and looks a little aloof, she is always polite to us staff, and always thanks everyone each time filming wraps up. Even though we were biased towards her and never replied, she still did this every time.

Assistant director: I'm nobody, but I still want to clarify something. The only time that someone sent gifts to Ning Xi was on the first day of production, and I've never seen Ning Xi act intimately with any guy. It's normal for a beautiful woman to have a few admirers, who knew the news would change and spread like that!

Director of photography: Ning Xi's professionalism is faultless, the camera favors her, and she knows what to do. Unless it is because of other people, she basically completes all her scenes in one take, so filming her is the most relaxing for me. As for Jia Qingqing... she is probably every DP's nightmare! She's had too much plastic surgery, her nose is a weird shape, and she always complains it's because my skills are terrible. Does she think I have to photoshop everything for her?

Director Guo Qisheng: The rumors online about Ning Xi are all untrue. This is an insult not just to Ning Xi, but also to the whole production. At first we planned to wait until the movie was released, so that everyone who saw Ning Xi's acting would be clear about the truth. But now since things have escalated to the point that it is seriously affecting the filming progress, we are releasing an early tidbit, so you can see for yourself! [video]

Producer Wang Taihe: Sigh, since everyone has expressed their opinions, I'll also say something! I have seen so many people say that our movie suddenly received an additional fifty-million yuan investment because of a sponsor backing Ning Xi. To clear up this rumor, I obtained permission from the investor to reveal his identity as @Fancy Little Carp Prince.

...

Ning Xi had anticipated that for a lot of people in the production crew, their tolerance of Jia Qingqing had already reached the limit. It only took one person saying something first, then everything else came pouring out. But she hadn't thought that as they condemned Jia Qingqing, they would also give Ning Xi some praise, which was an unexpected bonus. After all, it was always nice to have one's efforts recognized.

Wang Taihe's post intrigued her, and she hurriedly clicked on the Fancy Little Carp Prince ID to see who the investor was...

Chapter 102: Fake Daughter, Real Mistress

In the next second, Ning Xi's head was covered with black lines.

The Fancy Little Carp Prince ID was verified as: CEO of Glory World Entertainment, Lu Jingli...

You are the boss of a big entertainment company, can you not use such a lame ID? It's like some freaking 13-year-old!

Who knew the last-minute investor would turn out to be Lu Jingli, but it wasn't unexpected, and in fact it made sense. After all, this was Jiang Muye's first film after returning from abroad, it was natural for Glory World to give him full support.

But fifty-million for a mere second male lead, no wonder people said Glory World was the richest company in the industry.

Wang Taihe's Weibo post cleared up the situation, and all the stains on Ning Xi's reputation had been completely wiped out. Jia Qingqing ended up with the reputation as a difficult diva and trashy actress. Anyone with good sense could see that it was Jia Qingqing who had been secretly slandering Ning Xi, it was a shame there was no concrete evidence to prove it.

Up to this point, everything had gone according to Ning Xi's expectations, but she never thought that there would be even more shocking developments after this.

In the early hours of the morning, Jia Qingqing's manager Han Ying put up a Weibo post.

Han Ying posted evidence that Jia Qingqing had hired her water army to slander Ning Xi, even arranging for people with side accounts to infiltrate Jiang Muye's fanbase and rile them up, to use the fans to attack Ning Xi.

What was even more shocking, Han Ying actually exposed the fact that Jia Qingqing wasn't the daughter of the rich man she called her father, but his mistress!

The rich man Jia Qingqing spoke of as her father was not her real father at all, and instead was her sugar daddy. He was even married with kids.

Han Ying's Weibo post contained plenty incriminating chat records and scandalous photos. No matter what Jia Qingqing said, she wouldn't be able to deny it.

There was only one road for Jia Qingqing now — retirement.

Even if she could still make a comeback, in the entertainment industry, where the new was always replacing the old, her chances of making a comeback was next to none.

After violating the professional code by exposing the private life of an artiste under her care, Han Ying's own career as a manager was also ruined. Who knew what kind of conflict she had with Jia Qingqing, that Han Ying would take her down with her in such an intense way.

After the issue blew up, Starlight Entertainment attempted to delete all posts, topics, and comments, but there were too many to be able to do so; furthermore, this only made online users even angrier.

So to appease public anger, Starlight could only release a statement saying that they would seriously investigate Jia Qingqing for her role in maliciously slandering Ning Xi. As for the matter of Jia Qingqing being a kept woman, the company so far was tight-lipped. They had released a neutral statement about investigating that matter further, but obviously, they were reluctant to give up on Jia Qingqing, for the big money they had spent on her.

Ning Xi didn't have any scenes today, and at first she was prepared to rest at home for the day, but because this issue had blown up so much, she received a call after breakfast to go to the company.

In the meeting room, Ning Xueluo, Chang Li, and Jia Qingqing were all present, along with the Director of Public Relations, Feng Haoyang.

Jia Qingqing had her head down, and there were huge dark circles under her eyes. As soon as she saw Ning Xi walk in, she stood up in extreme agitation. "Ning Xi, you b*tch! Now are you satisfied? I won't let you get away with this!"

Ning Xi picked helplessly at her ear; it was more or less the same speech each time, she was getting callouses from listening to it so many times.

"Shut your mouth, don't you think you've caused enough trouble?" Feng Haoyang rebuked her impatiently.

Jia Qingqing was extremely unwilling, but she only could sit down feeling aggrieved. Her cowardly sugar daddy had disappeared after the truth of their relationship had been revealed. Her entire fate now lay in Feng Haoyang's hands.

"Sit." Feng Haoyang said shortly to Ning Xi, his had expression full of hesitation, as if he was still deciding something.

At this moment, Chang Li spoke up. "Ning Xi, you should already know what happened last night. Here's the thing, in a short while, Qingqing is going to post a public apology for slandering you. When you respond, say that you were also at fault; be a little more generous, and say that you've forgiven her."

Chapter 103: Whose Fault Is It When a Mad Dog Bites Someone?

Ning Xueluo also spoke up to persuade her. "Sister Ning, I know you're not comfortable, but after all, you really were at fault, you can't drag the company down because of this personal drama between the both of you! The only way to resolve this now is to minimize the impact!"

Ning Xi looked at Ning Xueluo, who appeared as if her main concern was to protect the company, and murmured, "Senior Sister, if I remember correctly, from the beginning to the end, it was Jia Qingqing who targeted me and framed me. I have always been mindful of Sister Chang's teachings to not embarrass the company and to always prioritize the company. I suffered in silence until now; even when I was being slandered, I didn't dare trouble the company, until some kind-hearted online friend stood up for me, only then was my reputation wiped clean!

Now what the online users and fans are angry over is Jia Qingqing being a mistress. Clearly, Jia Qingqing is the one who is not thinking about the company, framing an artiste from the same company and tarnishing the company's image, right? Senior Sister, are you saying that if a mad dog chases someone down and bites him, and in the end falls into a ditch and dies, it is still that person's fault?

If she posted on Weibo forgiving Jia Qingqing, all her hard-won efforts to regain her reputation would definitely crumble at this last hurdle.

To indulgently forgive this type of person during this furore, did they think she was stupid?

Ning Xueluo almost choked to death at Ning Xi's words. What kind-hearted online friend, it was clear that Ning Xi was the one who had released that blackmail material, yet she could say all that with calm innocence.

On the side, Jia Qingqing, who hadn't been quiet for every long, immediately exploded at these words. "Ning Xi, who are you saying is a mad dog! Say it clearly! You..."

Seeing that Jia Qingqing was getting worked up again, Feng Haoyang spoke up to cut her off. "No need to put up a public apology."

"Really?" Jia Qingqing was instantly happy, but in the next second, she heard Feng Haoyang continue, "Qingqing, write a statement to say you're leaving the entertainment industry."

Jia Qingqing immediately screamed. "What? You're making me leave the entertainment industry? Why should I leave?! There's no way I'm writing that kind of thing!"

Feng Haoyang became impatient. "I'm already giving you face by letting you write that statement yourself! Don't take my last kindness for granted!"

"Don't tell me it's because of being a kept woman! There are so many female stars in the entertainment industry who are kept women, so many who become mistresses, why should I be the one to leave?!" Jia Qingqing wasn't convinced.

"Because you are the only one dumb enough to let the whole world know about it!"

"What's that got to do with me, it's all because Han Ying that b*tch betrayed me! Why haven't you gone after her?!"

"How can I, when she's already resigned? Han Ying was the most easygoing manager in the whole company, so ask yourself, besides her, who else would have been able to tolerate your temper? It was bad enough that you were always yelling at her, but when her son had a fever of more than 40°C and she wanted to take him to the hospital, you wouldn't let her go no matter what. In the end, when she rushed there in the middle of the night, her son was so sick he had to be admitted into the ICU! So far he is still in critical condition!" Feng Haoyang listed her misdeeds. It wasn't just Han Ying, he had already long been fed up with having to deal with Jia Qingqing's mess non-stop.

Jia Qingqing didn't think she was wrong in the slightest, and said in a careless manner, "He didn't die, right? There are doctors for that sort of thing, what use would it have been even if she went? She would destroy me over something like that?"

Jia Qingqing still didn't understand how someone with a timid personality like Han Ying could suddenly do something like this. She was divorced, and her son was a chronic invalid. Every month, she spent so much on medical expenses. Without this job, how could she make a living?

She could never have guessed that a powerful figure like Liang Feixing would deal with a nobody like her personally.

Chapter 104: Who Doesn't Have Dirt On Themselves

Feng Haoyang pinched the skin between his eyebrows and finally gave up on communicating with her. Trying to compete with a fool was the most idiotic thing to do.

The company had spent a lot of effort on Jia Qingqing, but because of this matter, things were beyond recovery. However great the loss was, she could only be discarded.

Seeing that Feng Haoyang had made up his mind, Jia Qingqing rushed to Ning Xueluo, clutching at straws. "Sister Xueluo, help me! Let Sister Chang manage me! I guarantee I'll definitely be obedient! I promise that I'll post a letter of apology!"

When Chang Li heard this, she instantly became frightened. Get her to take over Jia Qingqing? Ning Xueluo wouldn't trap her like that, right?

Of course, Ning Xueluo wasn't as brainless as Jia Qingqing, so she put on a troubled expression and she lamented regretfully, "Qingqing, it's not that I'm not helping you. You heard Ning Xi's words just now, she's not willing to help. Besides, this is the company's decision, I also have no choice."

After this issue had come out, she knew Jia Qingqing was finished, but she still wanted to use her to the very end to drag Ning Xi down with her. It was a pity that Feng Haoyang had realized early on that an apology would be completely useless, and might also drag another company artiste into trouble; in the end, he just directly gave up on Jia Qingqing.

She had thought Jia Qingqing would be a good knife to use in dealing with Ning Xi, who knew she was stupid enough to get pulled in herself, and even make Ning Xi's popularity soar. There was no way she would continue wasting energy on this type of person.

"Ning Xi! You b*tch! B*tch! B*tch! Wait and see! Even if I die, I'll drag you down to die with me!" Jia Qingqing finally lost hope, and took her anger out on Ning Xi, until Feng Haoyang called security and she was dragged away.

Towards this kind of person, Ning Xi didn't even bother to hate her, and could only pity her; even until now, she still didn't know that she had been used as cannon fodder.

Feng Haoyang looked at Ning Xi with a far more relaxed expression on his face. "Ning Xi, act well in this movie. If the outcome is good, the company will focus on cultivating you. But what Ning Xueluo said just now makes sense. You should keep your head down for now, and don't stir up unnecessary trouble."

The whole affair was simply the perfect public relations crisis management scenario, from Ning Xi being knee-deep in scandal to being washed completely clean, and instead Jia Qingqing being forced to leave the entertainment industry.

Although Feng Haoyang suspected that someone was working behind the scenes, he couldn't find the slightest flaw, and could only attribute it to Ning Xi's good luck.

"Thank you, Director Feng, I will." Ning Xi pretended to be surprised and nervous.

After coming out of the meeting room, Ning Xi went to the washroom, and Ning Xueluo followed her in.

Ning Xueluo crossed her arms over her chest and sneered at her. "Ning Xi, you're so good at digging up dirt on other people, aren't you afraid your own unsavoury past will be exposed one day?"

Ning Xi's eyes narrowed slightly and turned cold. She turned around, and said unconcernedly, "Who doesn't have dirt on them, in this industry? You don't? Eldest Miss Ning!"

Ning Xi deliberately emphasized this form of address, Eldest Miss Ning, then pretended to be suddenly enlightened. "Ah! I've just realized, Jia Qingqing's title 'fake daughter, real mistress' unexpectedly is also very suitable for describing you! When the time comes for me to expose you, doesn't it save me the trouble of finding a title for you?"

This hit Ning Xueluo's sore spot, and she immediately got furious. "What false daughter real mistress! Since I was born, I've always been part of the Ning family. I'm the only daughter Father has recognized. As for Su Yan, you're the one who was useless and couldn't keep his heart. Do you think anyone would believe your nonsense?"

Ning Xi heaved a long sigh. "Then... shall we test it? Go ahead and expose that dark part of my past! There are so many people out there, so I haven't been able to find the whereabouts of the two male hookers you bought off. Who knows, perhaps the general public might help me strike unexpected gold."

Chapter 105: Buy Buy Buy For Little Bun

This time, Ning Xueluo's face changed completely, and she almost screamed out. "Ning Xi, you lunatic!"

She wasn't afraid of Ning Xi, who was getting ahead of herself, competing with her for status or a man. The thing she was most afraid of was that she would reveal everything in order to ruin her.

"Hehe..." Looking at how Ning Xueluo had turned white with fear, Ning Xi couldn't help laughing, and patted her shoulder with a relaxed expression. "Eldest Miss Ning, relax, I'm just kidding. It's not worth dying together with scum like you..."

At this point, Ning Xi's unconcerned gaze suddenly became incomparably cold. She lowered her voice, her tone like that of a devil which had crawled out of hell in Ning Xueluo's ears. "But if you threaten me with that again, I cannot say for sure that I'll be able to control myself from doing something terrible. To use the words of your pig teammate, even if I die, I'll drag you down to die with me! Jia Qingqing that idiot was just all talk and couldn't back it up, but I'm different!"

After she was done, Ning Xi let go of Ning Xueluo's shoulder and walked out with her head high.

Ning Xueluo, who had meant to threaten Ning Xi, was the one who had been threatened instead. The instant Ning Xi left, her whole slumped to the floor. Then her face became very dark, and she kicked the door hard.

No, she had to think of a way to completely destroy Ning Xi!

Otherwise, as long as she existed for even just one day, all the things she had could disappear at any moment! She would never allow this to happen!

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After leaving the company, Ning Xi had nothing on in the afternoon, so she got ready to go to the shopping mall, since last time, she had promised to buy clothes for Little Treasure.

The moment she thought of Little Treasure, her gloomy mood instantly became sunny, and she happily went shopping.

When Ning Xi arrived, she went straight to the children's clothes section.

There were so many different types and styles of children's clothes, as far as the eye could see. Ning Xi simply dove right in; as if she had been injected with stimulants, she went even crazier than when buying clothes for herself.

Having said that, some aspects of her life had really changed a lot since she met Little Treasure. Before, she would detour around stores selling baby products, children's clothes, and other similar places. But now she associated them not with her suffocating memories, but with the adorable Little Bun.

As long as she saw cute, interesting things, she wanted to buy them for him. It felt the same as being in love!

All the things in this mall were of famous brands, and were generally very expensive. It was the same for the children's clothes. But because they were for Little Treasure, she was naturally very willing to buy them. She just had to buy less makeup, and she would be able to afford them.

Today, Ning Xi was wearing a dress by a designer she liked very much, but who wasn't very famous. Although it looked good, it couldn't compare with a big LOGO.

The sales-girls liked to judge based on appearance, so they ignored her, and instead, they gallantly followed behind a lady dressed in full Chanel.

Ning Xi walked around, and finally, in one corner, saw something that really excited her.

It was a little sapphire blue suit. It wasn't just the color that was dazzling; on the breast pocket, there was also an adorable printed badge of the Superman S logo. Most importantly, she had many Superman-themed clothes, so she could wear matching parent and child outfits with Little Treasure at any time.

The words "parent and child outfits" popping suddenly into Ning Xi's mind made her stomach drop a bit. She was startled to suddenly realize that this feeling which was similar to love, of always wanting to give your partner the best things, was actually also how parents treated their children.

Ning Xi's mood was complicated, and she was silent for quite a while before she came back to reality. Then she went to look for a salesgirl. "Miss, I'll take this suit, please wrap it up for me."

The salesgirl didn't respond immediately, but instead, pointed out in a cold tone, "This suit costs 12,000 yuan."

"I know, I saw the tag. Help me wrap it up."

Only then did the sales-girl's face become a little more pleasant, and she smiled slightly. "Do you need me to help you pack it in a gift box?"

Before Ning Xi could respond, a hand with a jade bracelet on it suddenly shot forward and snatched the outfit. "Oh, this is not bad! I'll take it!"

Chapter 106: Encountering One Of A Kind

"Um, I'm sorry, this lady has already taken a fancy to this outfit." the salesgirl pointed out apologetically.

The woman who had grabbed the outfit happened to be the lady who was wearing Chanel. When she heard this, she raised her chin unhappily. "Has she paid for it?"

"That, not yet..."

"As it hasn't been paid for, no one owns it. I'll take it. Give me the bill right away!" Chanel ordered, as if it was a matter of course.

But right after she spoke, her hand was suddenly empty, and the outfit was back in Ning Xi's hand.

Chanel instantly got furious. "What do you think you're doing, snatching my clothes!"

Ning Xi's tone was even more matter-of-fact than hers had been. "Didn't you say that since it hasn't been paid for, no one owns it? What, you can snatch it away, but no one else can?"

"You..." Chanel was about to blow her top, but suddenly she stopped and stared at Ning Xi's face in surprise and doubt. "Ning Xi... are you Ning Xi?"

As if she had discovered something really funny, Chanel dragged her companion over. "Xuanxuan, quick, come here and see who it is. That Ning family country bumpkin is actually in this type of place fighting me for clothes!"

"Did you say Ning Xi? Impossible..." Seeing the woman in front of her, her companion was surprised. She had long, black hair with natural curls, and her classic makeup was perfect. She was wearing a light purple strapless dress that wasn't a famous designer brand, but which specially showcased her disposition. Her whole being gave off a proud and noble air. There wasn't even a shadow of the timid and spineless country wench from before.

"It's her! I won't mistake that face, a peasant girl is a peasant girl. She might have changed her wardrobe, but she's still inferior stock!" Chanel said in a sure tone.

Her companion looked again carefully, and realized that that face really did belong to Ning Xi. Actually, five years ago, Ning Xi had had a good foundation, but she completely didn't know how to make herself up, and was always dressed in uncool styles. At the banquet that year, she had worn an A-line dress that was obviously one size too big and in an old-fashioned color, which left a deep impression on people.

"Why is she buying children's clothes? I haven't heard that she's married!"

"Who knows which wild man the kid belongs to. Maybe it was an illegitimate pregnancy! Wasn't the reason Su Yan dumped her before was that she had been having an affair with another man?"

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As the two women traded words back and forth for a long time, Ning Xi finally remembered who they were.

Chanel was called Ying Fanglin, and her companion was Jin Xuanxuan. They were both socialites in that circle, Ning Xueluo's group of girlfriends. Back then, these were the two who had laughed at her the most.

Later on, she heard that Ying Fanglin had married well, and in the first year, she had given her husband a son, so she had become even more arrogant. Jin Xuanxuan also had a fiancé from a well-off family.

Who knew she would encounter these high quality goods, wandering around the children's clothes section?

It seemed that these two didn't know that she had entered the entertainment industry, and Ning Xi didn't want to quarrel with other people in a public place, so she directly ignored them and said to the salesgirl, "Miss, the bill, please."

Although those two didn't look easy to deal with, it was Ning Xi, after all, who had seen the suit first, so the salesgirl hurriedly gave her the bill and swiped her card.

But a problem popped up with the card.

The sales-girl's face looked a little ugly. "I'm sorry, Miss, you have insufficient balance on your card."

"Ah?" Ning Xi looked at her blankly.

Only then did Ning Xi recall that last month, she had switched out the engine in her beloved car for an imported one, so there wasn't actually much money on her card...

When Ying Fanglin saw the situation, she immediately started to laugh mockingly. "Hahaha, you're really killing me, you have no money, but you still want to bite off more than you can chew!"

Jin Xuanxuan also shrugged her shoulders disdainfully. "I would have thought in these last few years studying overseas, you would have progressed a little. As expected, a pheasant is still a pheasant, and will never ever become a phoenix!"

Ying Fanglin looked smugly at the salesgirl. "Miss, can you give this outfit to me now?"

"Yes, madam!" After replying, the salesgirl was about to take the outfit out of Ning Xi's hands.

Ning Xi held on and refused to let go.

Ying Fanglin immediately yelled, "What, you have no money and you're still trying to act tough? Do you think this is the country?"

With the outfit in one hand, Ning Xi used the other to rummage around in her bag and take out a black card, which she passed to the salesgirl. "Swipe this one."

Chapter 107: A Man In Love

At first, Ning Xi had been prepared to pay with her own money, and buy it for Little Bun as a gift. She never expected this awkward situation to happen.

She really liked this outfit, and thinking how something that was meant for Little Bun would be snatched away by someone like Ying Fanglin, her whole body couldn't bear it. In the end, she took out the black card which Lu Tingxiao had given her.

When Ning Xi took the card out, it was the salesgirl and those two women's turn to stare dumbly.

The salesgirl was very experienced and knowledgeable, and with one glance she had recognized the card. Ying Fanglin and Jin Xuanxuan had never seen the real thing before, but women in that circle were inherently sensitive to this kind of thing, so they also instantly recognized that this was the "King of all cards", only a few of which existed in the world, the legendary Infinite Black credit card.

The limit on this card was extremely high, and the annual fee was shocking, but the cardholder would receive first-class service worldwide. As a result, it wasn't available to the public, and you couldn't apply for it. Only 1% of Platinum card holders were selected and invited to hold this card, so even the wealthy couldn't necessarily hold it. The only ones who could obtain this card were important politicians, billionaires, or celebrities in society.

Ying Fanglin's face was stiff, and she hmped coldly. "It's probably a fake card! Miss, you have to check it properly!"

While the salesgirl had seen it before, it had actually only been once. She took the card cautiously, and then started the process of swiping it.

After ten seconds, the salesgirl instantly had a megawatt smile on her face, and she gave Ning Xi a 90-degree bow. "Miss, you're all set, I'll wrap the suit up for you right away."

Ning Xi nodded. "Thank you."

Ying Fanglin and Jin Xuanxuan stood there in shock. They exchanged looks, and stared at Ning Xi like they had seen a ghost.

Ning Xi picked up the wrapped outfit and straightaway turned around to leave.

Seeing Ning Xi leave in her high heels, Ying Fanglin gnashed her teeth, her face full of malice. "So what, it's definitely because she's become some rich man's mistress! Does she think if she gives birth to a son, she can marry into blue blood?"

"That's right, the real wife will definitely make her suffer to death one day!" Jin Xuanxuan echoed the sentiment.

...

After leaving the children's clothes section, Ning Xi passed by the men's section on the floor below.

Mm, that over there looked like the brand Lu Tingxiao usually wore.

It was totally Lu Tingxiao's style, mainly in shades of black, white and grey, and looked aristocratic yet restrained.

After staring at it for a bit, her gaze fell on a newer brand which had become quite popular in recent years. Comparing them, the newer brand had more vibrant colors and trendier styles.

Ning Xi stroked her chin, and suddenly wanted to buy some clothes for Lu Tingxiao.

That was women for you, they'd go out intending to just buy a pair of shoes, but in the end, come back with a pile of other things like clothes, bags and accessories.

So after buying something for Little Bun, she couldn't help the urge to fix Lu Tingxiao's style.

After hesitating for three minutes, Ning Xi decided, buy!

So she entered the shop and straightaway bought the suit off the mannequin at the entrance, which was in the same shade of sapphire blue as Little Treasure's clothes.

At the same time, in the CEO's office at Lu Corporation, Lu Tingxiao, who was listening to Lu Jingli's reports, received two text messages.

Checking them, they were message notifications from his bank.

Ning Xi had used his card?

A contented smile suddenly appeared on Lu Tingxiao's cold face.

Seeing that expression, Lu Jingli understood clearly. "A text from sister-in-law?"

Lu Tingxiao: "No."

"No?" That was strange!

Curious, Lu Jingli approached the table for a look. Hmm, wasn't this two message notifications from the bank? And they were expense notifications, not income notifications! Did he have to look so contented over them?

Aiya, it was really hard to understand a man who was in love!

Chapter 108: Don't Put On Any Clothes

Once night fell, Ning Xi returned to the Lu residence with her purchases.

Seeing the old butler watering flowers at the entrance, Ning Xi greeted him in a hurry. "Grandpa Butler, where's darling Little Treasure?"

The old butler was in a black tailcoat, with a neat bowtie. Seeing Ning Xi, he said respectfully, "Miss Xiao Xi, you're back, Little Young Master is drawing in the garden."

"Ah, he's drawing, then I won't disturb him. Then, where is Mister Lu?"

"Eldest Young Master is upstairs."

"Okay, thank you!" Ning Xi went upstairs happily.

Looking at the energetic back of the girl, the old butler was in a complicated mood. In the time that he had come to know her, no matter how guarded he had been, he couldn't help developing a good feeling about this girl.

A beautiful girl with good manners would be welcomed anywhere. What was unexpected was that she was mindful of her actions. She never tried to cross the line with the eldest young master, and even at times didn't pay any attention to her image at all.

It was actually very easy to see if a woman had intentions towards a man; at the most you could hide it for one or two days, but certainly not for very long.

Likewise, it was also very easy to see if a man had intentions towards a woman.

Perhaps other people couldn't tell, but he had seen everything from the beginning to the end, so he was the one who was most clear on this matter. The eldest young master obvious had feelings for this girl. He had actually designed the guest room she was staying in himself, even personally picking out the bedsheets and curtains, and the clothes and accessories in her closet. Not only that, the first day she arrived, he had told the chef about her eating habits, and always had some food saved for her each time she came back late. There were other similar details, too many to count...

Even if it was because she had saved the little young master's life, the eldest young master's meticulous actions seemed a bit too much.

Actually, if she was a nice young lady with a spotless background, it would be a happy thing if they became a couple. After this young lady had moved into the house, the eldest young master had become

more animated and the little young master more cheerful. The old butler had watched the both of them grow up, so naturally he was overjoyed to see all this.

So, what he was worried about now was not that Ning Xi had wicked intentions, but that she didn't have any at all.

Upstairs, Ning Xi couldn't wait to show off her purchases, so she straightaway opened the door to Lu Tingxiao's room.

"Lu..."

As soon as she opened the door, her vision was filled with flesh — Lu Tingxiao's hair was wet and he was half naked, a white towel wrapped around his waist. Water drops slid down his toned abs and into his V-line...

It was a scene you couldn't turn away from, so her first reaction was not to close her eyes, but to open them wider.

She was a little put off by the idea of sex, but that didn't stop her from appreciating beautiful things.

Maybe the trauma after being betrayed that year had been too much; she herself didn't know when she had changed. Five years ago, she would have blushed to see a man even in a simple tank and underwear. Aside from Su Yan, she had never spoken to any unfamiliar men, and no matter how good-looking they were, she never paid any attention to them...

It was probably a full five seconds before Ning Xi regained her senses, and with a "swoosh" she turned around and covered her eyes with her hands, still carrying the two shopping bags. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I forgot to knock!"

Lu Tingxiao laughed lightly. "My fault, I forgot to lock the door."

In reality, he hadn't forgotten, he had left his door unlocked even since she got back.

"Did you need something? Wait a moment, I'll put on some clothes first."

The girl had stared at him for a short yet long time, and it had felt like a fire burning his skin inch by inch. Fortunately, she had turned away in time, otherwise, the uncontrollable reaction of a certain part of his body would have given him away.

Lu Tingxiao was about to open his closet to get some clothes, but behind him, Ning Xi suddenly shouted, "Ah, no! Don't put on any clothes!"

Chapter 109: Don't Bring Men Back Here

Never expecting that the girl would make such a request of him, Lu Tingxiao was obviously taken aback. He looked at her back and asked lightly, "Why?"

Even though he was very happy to satisfy such a wonderful request by this girl.

Realizing that her words were too ambiguous, Ning Xi quickly made a "Pei" sound. "Don't misunderstand! I meant it literally, there wasn't any deeper meaning! Er, actually, the literal meaning also seems very dirty... cough, in short, what I meant was I bought you some clothes when I was

shopping today, do you want to try it on? Trying it on now saves you having to change clothes and take them off and change again. Aren't I clever?"

Lu Tingxiao looked a little surprised at her words, and seemed a bit overwhelmed by her consideration. "You bought it for me?"

He thought that she had definitely bought them for Little Treasure.

"Yes, but, cough cough, I used your card!" Ning Xi looked a bit embarrassed as she scratched her nose. "Actually, I was prepared to use my own money, and to buy it as a gift for Little Treasure. But who knew after getting a new car motor last month, my card would have no money on it, so I had to use yours. Then, on the way back, I saw a man's suit in the men's section which perfectly matched the color of the clothes I bought for Little Treasure, so I couldn't help buying it!"

"I see." Even though she hadn't specifically intended to buy something for him, it was enough to cheer him up.

"I asked the salesgirl, if you try it on and don't like it, you can return it. Quick, go try it on and see whether you like it or not!" Ning Xi rushed him.

Lu Tingxiao didn't hesitate at all: "I like it." She bought it herself, and it was the first time she bought him clothes, how could he not like it.

"You haven't even seen what it looks like!" Ning Xi muttered, before stepping back and handing him one of the shopping bags.

Lu Tingxiao took the bag. "You only bought for me and Little Treasure, you didn't buy anything for yourself?"

Ning Xi sighed. "Eh, I don't have money, wait 'til I earn some, then I'll buy."

Just as Lu Tingxiao was about to say that she could swipe his card, Ning Xi took out a black card from her bag. "Oh, right, here you go! Using this was just so cool! Today, it made a woman who was fighting me for the clothes I wanted to buy jealous to death!"

Lu Tingxiao could only sigh and say, "Keep it, I'm usually too busy to have time to buy things for Little Treasure. If you see anything suitable, buy it straightaway. Of course, I would be very happy if you helped pick something out for me."

"Are you that confident in my taste? Then don't change your mind later when you try it on!" Ning Xi didn't stand on ceremony with him, and took the card back straightaway. "Then I'll give this back to you when I move out. I'll leave you to get changed!"

Just as she was about to go, behind her, the man suddenly grabbed the hand that was free.

That startled Ning Xi, and she was about to turn around again when she remembered that Lu Tingxiao was still half naked, so she could only remain in that twisted position, her arm caught behind her. "What is it?"

Lu Tingxiao tightened his grip on her hand slightly. "Ning Xi, Little Treasure's condition has improved a lot recently, and he's not always bothering you anymore. He listens well, doesn't disturb you, and

doesn't disrupt your work. As long as everyday, he can see you, wait for you to come home, and know that you're sleeping in the next room, he's very happy and calm...

I know I no longer have a reason to keep you here, but as Little Treasure's father, I haven't done enough for him at all, and I really hope for this kind of happiness to last a little longer for Little Treasure.

Three months, can you stay for three more months, at the most? If you want to leave after that, I won't force you to stay. During this time, you can treat this place as your own home; do whatever you want, you don't have to be polite.

You can swear when you're angry, eat durian and garlic, drink at a bar and come back late... I only have one request. In these three months, can you show some restraint, and don't bring men back here?"

Ning Xi had almost been moved to tears by the first part of his speech, but by the end of it, she almost vomited three liters of blood.

The more she listened, the more Lu Tingxiao sounded like a gentle and virtuous wife, while she was the scummy, degenerate husband.

Chapter 110: You Can Become a Groom Straightaway

Ning Xi said sullenly, "Lu Tingxiao, are we really going to talk in this kind of position? Why don't you put some clothes on first?"

Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to focus on the issue!

"Fine." Lu Tingxiao finally said behind her.

It was as if Ning Xi had been given a pardon, and she hurriedly fled the room.

Sigh, Lu Tingxiao was certainly a natural public speaker. In a few words, he had managed to pull at her heartstrings, especially when it was related to Little Treasure.

It was just that if she continued to stay here, and for three more months at that, she was afraid that it really would be a little inappropriate...

As she was debating the issue, she suddenly felt something soft on her leg. Looking down, she saw it was Little Treasure, who had come running without her noticing. As usual, he hugged her leg, and in one hand he held a painting.

Ning Xi bent to hug the little guy. "Darling, you've finished drawing?"

Little Treasure nodded.

"What did you draw? Can Auntie see it?"

Little Treasure instantly gave her the picture.

With one look, Ning Xi's eyes filled with tears.

It was her in the picture.

The colors in the painting were bright and dreamy. She was lying on a small bed with a storybook in her hand. Little Treasure had drawn it from his point of view, as if he was lying next to her and looking up.

The whole painting radiated Little Treasure's happiness and satisfaction at being glued to her side as he lifted his head to listen to her tell him a story.

"Darling, this is amazing!" The scales in Ning Xi's heart had completely tipped to one side.

She drew a deep breath to calm herself down. Then she kissed the little guy on his forehead and said happily, "Auntie bought you new clothes, do you want to try it on?"

Little Treasure nodded with sparkles in his eyes.

After Ning Xi helped Little Treasure change and was just about to look for Lu Tingxiao, Lu Tingxiao walked out of his room after also getting changed.

Ning Xi had been confident with the outfit she had picked out for Little Treasure, but she hadn't been as certain with Lu Tingxiao's outfit. After all, she had never seen Lu Tingxiao wear anything that was not black, white or grey, let alone a vibrant color like sapphire blue.

But after seeing Lu Tingxiao in the outfit, she was completely dumbstruck.

This... this fit him too perfectly...

At first she had thought it might look too out-of-place or awkward; she never expected such an amazing result. The suit showed off his wide shoulders, narrow hip and long legs perfectly. Most importantly, his heavy and solemn temperament had instantly become brighter, and even made him look a lot younger.

Lu Tingxiao was pleased by the admiration in the girl's eyes. "So?"

Ning Xi nodded, "So handsome! Pin a big red flower to your chest, and you can become a groom straightaway!"

Lu Tingxiao: "... The way this girl praised people was really unique.

"Little Treasure, don't you think so? Isn't your papa handsome?" Ning Xi lowered her head to ask the little bun, who was a mini-version of Lu Tingxiao.

Even though Little Treasure didn't care too much for his dad, he had to admit that this version of his daddy looked much better than the normally black one, so he nodded generously.

Ning Xi was instantly pleased with herself, and she snapped her fingers, "I never realized my eye was that good! Of course, CEO Lu already has a good foundation, you look handsome in anything! But I think you should wear bright colors like this more often, it'll lift your employees' moods, and they'll become more productive!"

Hearing the words "good foundation" and "you look handsome in anything", Lu Tingxiao couldn't help curling his lips. "Mm, in the future, if you see anything else suitable, buy it for me."