

Hidden 1621

Chapter 1621: I Want A Kiss and A Hug

In the end, he did not think that once he got down from the plane that he would receive such news that frightened him stiff.

"Thank you, Boss! The doctor just checked me. It's just a bruise. It's nothing too serious!" Oh! I am in so much pain! I want a kiss and a hug!

Even though Ning Xi was calling him "Boss", her gaze already completely betrayed her coquettish ways. Lu Tingxiao almost could not hold back and was about to lose control.

Orlando's Mandarin was not too shabby. When he listened to their conversation, he realized that this man who had suddenly appeared was unexpectedly Ning Xi's boss.

Orlando looked solemn as he turned towards Lu Tingxiao. He instantly bent over and made a 90-degree bow towards him. "It turns out you're Xi's boss! I always hear Xi mention you. She says you're someone she admires very much! This was my fault from the start to the end. It was I who didn't safeguard the gun properly, which led to the gun getting replaced by someone. It was I who caused Xi to suffer such dreadful harm... Please don't worry. I'll definitely take responsibility for this!"

Based on just the way Orlando looked at Ning Xi, Lu Tingxiao knew that this person was the Casanova that he had heard through the phone last night. There was a layer of dense frost across his face.

"Responsibility?"

Orlando shyly took a peek at Ning Xi, then he continued in Mandarin, "I've decided that I want to marry Xi!"

While his Mandarin was clearly not the best, he did not differentiate between "to marry" and "to take a wife", but he seemed to have noticed that after he finished, so he corrected himself, "I want to take Xi as my wife! The point is that I'll get married to Xi!"

Lu Tingxiao was speechless.

Ning Xi had no words too. Brother, what hatred and resentment is there between us? Was it not enough for you to hit me with the gun? I'm already like this, yet you still don't want to let me go?

Even Martin could not bear to watch it any longer. "Orlando, shut up!"

He had almost killed her, yet now he wanted to take her as his wife. What logic was this?

In fact, he was not sure whether he was having illusions. He kept feeling like Lu Tingxiao's appearance was rather odd. It could not be as coincidental as purely finding out about this when passing by, so he was worried that idiotic Orlando would say the wrong things.

Unfortunately, Orlando did not heed anyone's advice. He looked emotionally towards Lu Tingxiao and continued, "Mister, you must believe my sincerity towards Xi and be the witness to my promise today! None of my words are untrue! Ever since the day I first met Xi, I had fallen for her. It didn't matter if it was the way she beat me up or her expression as she looked at me coldly... All of it made me believe without a doubt that she's the one I've been looking for! I ask of you to hand Xiao Xi over to me!"

Ning Xi was speechless. I just barely escaped death. Am I going to be angered to death by this dude now?

She already... dared not look at Lu Tingxiao's expression at all...

In the air was an odd silence.

Orlando stubbornly continued to watch Lu Tingxiao attentively.

Lu Tingxiao replied, "You can't."

"Why?!" Orlando instantly frowned. "I'm sincere towards Xi. In fact, for the sake of her career, I can keep our relationship a secret..."

Lu Tingxiao's gaze skimmed Martin and the rest. "I'd like to trouble everyone to leave for a moment. I have some things to say to this mister in private."

Martin already had a barrage of questions, yet in the end, he had been interrupted by Orlando and did not get the chance to ask. As he watched the way things progressed, he could only helplessly walk out with the rest first.

"Why not?" After everyone had left, Orlando continued to ask without wanting to listen to any excuse.

Lu Tingxiao looked at the girl on the sick bed, his long fingers caressing her chin. In the next second, he leaned over and covered the girl's lips with a loving French kiss.

"Because she's mine."

Chapter 1622: So Cool It Gave Her Butterflies

Orlando stood there, flabbergasted. He looked as if he had been struck to ashes by lightning.

With his messy hair, his mouth opened then closed as if he wanted to say something, yet he had no words for a long time. Some time passed when finally an awkward Chinese proverb had jumped out from his mouth, "You... You, you you... You embezzled!"

Ning Xi was speechless. If your Mandarin isn't great, just stop trying hard to show off, okay?

Speaking of which, she really had to lament, her darling's cruel romance-destroying skills were getting better and better! It was so cool that it gave her butterflies!

Ning Xi cleared her throat and corrected his words, "It should be a harmonious couple. Senior, I've told you previously that I already have someone I love already."

Orlando stared lifelessly at Lu Tingxiao. It seemed like his outlook on life had been overturned in a huge way. "This is impossible! How could there be girls who like someone as cold as you?! I'm more handsome, more charming, more sweet-talking, cuter, more passionate than him... Xi, are you being coerced by him? Because he's your boss?"

Ning Xi replied, "It was I who confessed to him and asked him to date me."

When he heard the girl's protective words, Lu Tingxiao's expression was incredibly gentle.

Orlando was on the verge of collapsing as he held his bruised heart, yet he still did not give up. He suddenly remembered something and emotionally said, "He... I heard he has a son! He even has a son! He isn't pure anymore!"

Isn't pure...

Ning Xi was even more inarticulate when she heard this. He spoke as if he himself was very pure. This coming from someone who had so many girlfriends before...

"Senior, people who love each other won't care about these things."

"How could this be...?" Orlando had a gloomy cloud above him as he squatted in the corner in disbelief. "This can't be true... I don't believe it... I won't give up..."

Finally, all of the crew members including Orlando were invited over to cooperate in the investigation with someone assigned by Cheng Feng.

Instantly, the ward was only left with Lu Tingxiao and Ning Xi.

Ning Xi started to soothe him, "Lu Tingxiao, I'm really okay... One second before Orlando pulled the trigger, I noticed that the gun looked real in time, so I evaded my vital parts... The bullet only grazed me. It looks frightening, but it's just an external bruise and it'll heal very soon..."

Lu Tingxiao remained silent, his expression unhappy.

What if she had not evaded it? That shot would have hit her right in the heart!

He did not even dare think about the possibility.

"It looks like someone wants to kill me..."

However, there were too many suspects and she had no clue at the moment...

Ning Xi frowned as she recalled Orlando's performance from the start to end. "In this period of time, based on my interaction and understanding of Orlando, he should indeed be oblivious. Also, that gun had always been with me and shouldn't have passed through anyone else's hands. It's weird..."

"Don't think about it. Rest well, leave all of this to me."

"Oh." Ning Xi was obedient.

"Let's get you home." Lu Tingxiao immediately lifted the girl by her waist. Even though his tone was harsh, his movements were incredibly gentle.

When Ning Xi heard him, she immediately said, "Huh? But this was my last scene. What do we do?"

She had almost lost her life, yet she still thought of her work?

Lu Tingxiao's face remained cool. "With special effects."

As she looked at Lu Tingxiao's frigid expression, Ning Xi immediately did not dare to ask more. She thought about it. Up till the end, she was still in the scene. The shot where the bullet hit her heart and her falling off the cliff would be enhanced by special effects, so it set her mind at rest...

Chapter 1623: Truly Enemies On A Narrow Road

Lu Tingxiao did not delay for another moment. He immediately used a private plane to send Ning Xi home.

Orlando was still leaning on the little window, waiting to look for Ning Xi after the investigations were done, not knowing that she had long left Sichuan City.

"Sleep for a while."

On the plane, Lu Tingxiao carefully covered the girl with a blanket.

In order to finish shooting early and leave as soon as she could, Ning Xi had indeed felt worn out in this period of time. Her energy was beyond depleted. Now that Lu Tingxiao was by her side, she instantly relaxed completely. She nodded in a daze and fell asleep very soon.

Lu Tingxiao's movements were tender as he undid the girl's clothes. He studied the gauze on the girl's shoulder and his expression darkened even more.

...

At Imperial, after they returned, Ning Xi temporarily stopped all of her work under Lu Tingxiao's orders. She was incredibly obedient as she stayed at home to heal. Only until the gauze was removed and her wound had formed a scab was she allowed to leave the house.

At night, she met up with Ning Tianxin in a restaurant.

Because Ning Tianxin did not want to trouble her so much, she went home when she was closed to complete recovery.

In the period of time that Ning Xi was occupied with filming, Ning Tianxin was busy preparing to leave the country, so it had been quite a while since they last met.

"Xiao Xi, is your wound okay?"

"It's just a small wound and it's already healed. You, on the other hand... How's your body? Did you continue taking the meds that Annie prescribed you?" Ning Xi asked.

"It's fine. Annie's meds are very useful and I've been taking them on time. The doctor said I'm recovering very well," said Ning Tianxin proudly.

Ning Xi was a little more assured when she heard this though, of course, she also knew that Ning Tianxin was more or less consoling herself. How could there be no problems at all? Even Annie had stated that her situation was not something that could be healed in a short period of time. As for whether or not she would be able to have children in the future, it was all still unknown.

"Are you all done with the procedures to go abroad?"

"Almost," Ning Tianxin said with a teacup in her hands. She seemed rather hesitant. "I initially wanted to bring my mother with me. That way, it'll be easier to take care of her too but she's unwilling to go, saying that she wouldn't be used to the life abroad..."

"It's like that. In fact, when one is older, they're less willing to move. Second Aunt has already moved out to live alone and there aren't many messy things to deal with. You should hire a reliable housekeeper. When I'm free, I'll make frequent trips to visit Second Aunt. Don't you worry!" Ning Xi consoled.

"Xiao Xi, thank you. If it was not for you this time..."

"Look at you! You're starting to be courteous with me again!"

The two chatted for a while until Ning Xi noticed that Ning Tianxin was turning pale. She immediately asked with worry, "Sis Tianxin? What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?"

Ning Tianxin's fingers lightly held her underbelly. Her brows furrowed and she shook her head. She said softly, "It's fine, Xiao Xi. I'm just having my period today, plus maybe because this is the first time I'm having it after my abortion, it feels like the reaction is slightly worse..."

Ning Xi felt her heart ache so much upon hearing this. She quickly stood up and walked over to hold Ning Tianxin, blaming herself as she said, "Then, quickly go home and rest! If I had known that, I wouldn't have asked to meet you today!"

When she saw Ning Xi looking like the sky was going to fall, Ning Tianxin said helplessly, "It's just period pain. It's nothing huge anyway."

"Just? You're already turning pale..." Ning Xi held Ning Tianxin as they slowly walked outside.

Ning Tianxin herself had not expected that her reaction this time would be even worse than usual. Her body really could not bear the strain, thus Ning Xi had to hold her as they left the restaurant.

The two had just walked out when they unexpectedly bumped into two people...

It was Mo Lingtian and Guan Ziyao, of all people...

When she saw the two of them, Ning Xi's expression instantly darkened.

This was truly a case of enemies on a narrow road!

Chapter 1624: She's Not That Kind of Person

Opposite them, Mo Lingtian was also confounded when he saw Ning Xi and Ning Tianxin. Especially when he looked at Ning Tianxin that he bumped into directly, he stood there stunned without any response for a long time.

Ning Tianxin's gaze slowly swept past Mo Lingtian and the woman beside him, her expression only frightened ever so slightly. There was no reaction to be seen on her face.

Earlier, when Ning Xi was chatting with Ning Tianxin, she intentionally did not mention Mo Lingtian at all because she was worried that Ning Tianxin would recall the past, yet who would have thought that right as they were leaving, they would bump into them directly. Forget bumping into them; it had to be Guan Ziyao beside Mo Lingtian of all people!

Ning Xi thought this was fooking incredulous. She resisted the violent urge to walk away at the sight of Mo Lingtian. Her expression was cold as she pulled Ning Tianxin past the two people to leave quickly without a word.

Behind them, until Ning Xi and Ning Tianxin had already left, Mo Lingtian was still frozen in his earlier position.

"Lingtian... Lingtian..."

Until Guan Ziyao's voice was heard, Mo Lingtian came back to his senses. "What?"

"Are you okay?" Guan Ziyao asked she looked behind her towards the two people who had walked far away. "Earlier, the one beside Ning Xi... Was that she... That woman? The one who previously threatened you with a child?"

"Shut up!" Mo Lingtian suddenly said. In fact, his voice was unusually cold and his face was covered with frost.

Guan Ziyao had never seen Mo Lingtian act this coldly towards her, so she was instantly dumbfounded.

When he noticed Guan Ziyao's hurt expression, Mo Lingtian pinched the space between his brows and softened his voice as he started to explain, "Ziyao, I've told you that she's not that kind of person. It's my fault. Don't say things like that ever again."

Guan Ziyao frowned, but in the end she did not try to defend herself. She only revealed a slightly hurt expression and mumbled, "Sorry, I got it."

...

In the car, Ning Xi drove as she carefully observed Ning Tianxin's reaction through the rearview mirror.

"How unlucky that we had to coincidentally bump into that trash!" Ning Xi could not help but mutter, looking very upset.

What made her even angrier was as she pondered the reason Sis Tianxin had to be hurt so badly while that trash was all ruddy with a beauty by his side like he was a free man.

She was saying that at the start, he had been boisterous about wanting to see Sis Tianxin every day but after that, they heard no more from him. It turned out that he had settled on his true love!

Bloody hell! Where was her knife!?

She should not have held back earlier...

"He's living pretty happy and freely despite having hurt you so badly..."

As Ning Xi was indignantly muttering, she noticed that on the front passenger seat, Ning Tianxin had shut her eyes and seemed to be asleep. Cold sweat had broken out on her forehead.

Ning Xi quickly sped up. It looked like Ning Tianxin's condition was quite severe. It was best to go straight to the hospital for a check-up.

As she was about to switch lanes, beside her came Ning Tianxin's weak voice, "I don't want to go to the hospital... Xiao Xi, send me... Send me home, okay?"

Ning Xi was hesitant.

"I have meds at home... I'll be fine after I rest for a while..."

Since Ning Tianxin was against going to the hospital, Ning Xi had no choice. In the end, she still sent her home. "Okay, we won't go to the hospital. I'll send you home. Rest at ease in the car for a while!"

...

In the restaurant, there was the melodious sound of a violin by his ears. The air was filled with a strong fragrance of flowers.

Opposite him, Guan Ziyao was wearing Chanel's latest couture gown in white. It lined and hugged her slim waist, her skin smooth as butter and her bosom prominently on display. She was oozing with nobility and pride from top to bottom. She sat there silently, yet she was akin to a shining being, stealing everyone's attention.

Chapter 1625: I'll Be Here To Accompany You

Many men around looked enviously towards Mo Lingtian.

However, the man on the chair opposite her was leaning back at the moment, his arms casually across the armrest. There was aloofness and alienation in his eyes. Even though he was still sitting right there, his expression clearly showed that he was distracted in his own world.

Guan Ziyao obviously noticed that Mo Lingtian had started to become odd since he saw that woman.

In reality, after that incident had happened, Mo Lingtian had been quite out of it.

Because that woman once had his child, so even if he did not like her, it still would not be the same?

Even if she did not actually like Mo Lingtian, as she watched the way his attitude towards her changed, especially earlier when he had spoken to her that way because of that woman, she still felt unease in her heart.

Since they were children, Mo Lingtian had never uttered a harsh word to her. Every time he saw her, all of his gaze and attention would be on her, yet now...

Guan Ziyao tried very hard to make herself ignore the heaviness in her heart. "Uncle Lu and Aunt Lu have actually organized some socialite tea party behind Tingxiao's back, and even let Little Treasure help him choose the woman... It really is unfortunate... but this time, the Lu family's situation is rather sticky. It's no wonder Uncle Lu and Aunt Lu would be so worried!"

When she thought about how one batch of women after another had racked their brains to sidle up to the Lu family, Guan Ziyao felt indifferent.

Using this kind of way to let people nit-pick as they wished was really a drop in class.

Mo Lingtian's long fingers stroked the glass in his hand. There was a gloominess in his eyes. This was undoubtedly the woman he loved the most in this lifetime opposite him, yet it was like he had gone crazy. His head was filled with what he had seen earlier, which was the image of another girl.

Originally, when he had first found out that Tianxin had aborted the child and he had seen that security footage for himself, he had badly wanted to see her. Later, logic made him regain control of himself and he did not bother her anymore.

Even if he suppressed it more, his urge of wanting to see her had become even stronger.

He would never have thought that today he would bump into her in such a way with absolutely no preparation.

She was much skinnier. She had already been gaunt back then, but now she looked even frailer. When she saw him, she had been very calm...

He noticed that she did not look too well. She was very pale. Could she be feeling ill?

Opposite him, Guan Ziyao was saying something. He barely heard anything. When he thought about this, he could not sit still any longer.

With the squeaking sound of the chair rubbing against the floor, Mo Lingtian took out a brown file holder from behind him and placed it in front of Guan Ziyao. "This is the thing you want. Sorry, I've got something to do. I need to leave first."

"Lingtian..." Guan Ziyao was shocked as she stood up and wanted to ask more, but Mo Lingtian was already gone.

...

"Sis Tianxin, are you sure you really don't need to go to the hospital?"

Ning Xi had given Ning Tianxin painkillers, then followed Annie's prescription to brew a dose of medicine for her, but she was still worried.

"It's just an old problem. I'm well aware of how it is. I'll be fine after sleeping."

"Okay then. I'll stay here to accompany you," Ning Xi said as she tucked her in.

After Ning Tianxin fell asleep, Ning Xi walked to the balcony and softly gave Annie a call.

"Hey, Annie..."

The call had just gotten through when Annie's worried voice came through from the other end. "Bro Xi! Bro Xi, I heard that you got hurt. Are you better now? I wanted to go see you, but it's a mess here on my end..."

"What's up on your end?" Ning Xi quickly asked.

Chapter 1626: Honest Body

Ning Xi had not been online much to focus on healing herself. She was not aware of what was happening around her.

Annie hesitated, "Bro Xi... Don't you know? Bro Shen was arrested by the police..."

"What?" Ning Xi's expression changed. "When did this happen?"

"Three days ago..."

"Why was he arrested?"

"They said he's suspected of possessing drugs. He was brought to the station for investigation and he's not back yet... Bro Xi, I know you're in an awkward position... but... can I please ask you a favor? Please go and take a look at Bro Shen. He's not willing to see anyone now. No one knows what happened to him... We're very worried..."

Drugs?

Drugs were a very good way to get rich quickly. Almost all underground organizations dealt with it, but Yun Shen was an arms dealer. He hated people who did drugs and he also forbade anyone in his organization to get involved with drugs.

Now that things between Yun Shen and the Lu family were so intense, his arrest might have been caused by people from the Lu family...

Ning Xi was in an awkward position indeed. She decided not to get involved after knowing the relationship between Yun Shen and Lu Tingxiao, but it was Annie who was asking her. Annie, who had helped her countless times...

"Annie, don't worry. Master is still around. He won't leave him alone... It's really hard for me to be involved. I can only help to take a look at him if he's willing to see me, that is."

The problem was... That guy was such a delicate person. If he rejected seeing anyone at a time like this, then he might not see her too!

Annie was grateful. "Thank you, Bro Xi! Bro Shen will definitely meet you! I'll arrange with Bro Ye now... Oh right, I almost forgot, what did you call me for?"

"Nothing much actually. It's about my cousin. She's having her period today and she had quite a bad reaction. She's having really bad cramps, but she's not willing to go to the hospital. I'm a little nervous..."

"This is normal. I expected this. She can only endure through it. I've given her a prescription to counter this situation. You can follow it and make it for her."

"Mmm, I've already made it."

"She just did a full body check and has been recovering well. Let her get a good night's sleep and after she drinks the medicine, she'll be fine."

"Alright, I got it, thank you, Annie!"

...

Ning Xi was much more at ease after the call with Annie.

After she took the medicine and fell asleep, Ning Xi spent some time on her phone to look through the news. She was accompanying Ning Tianxin when suddenly her phone rang. It was Ling Zhizhi.

Ning Xi picked up the phone. "Hello, Sis Zhizhi?"

"Xiao Xi, are you feeling better now?"

"I'm alright now."

"That's great. Can you come over to the company? There's news... about Director Jiang's movie!" Ling Zhizhi did not tell her the results directly. It seemed like there was something more to it.

"What?" While she prepared herself to bid farewell to this movie, she was alert the moment she heard the about the movie.

Although she had said no, her body was honest...

She actually liked the script and genuinely wished that she could get it. Moreover, she could work with Song Lin in this movie.

As Ning Xi looked at the fast-asleep Ning Tianxin, who was already regaining her pallor, she replied, "Alright, Sis Zhizhi. I'll be there right away!"

Chapter 1627: Not Bother Her

After Ning Xi made sure Ning Tianxin was alright, she left her a note and went off.

By a big tree near the apartment, Mo Lingtian lit up a cigarette. He hid under the shadow of the tree, staring at the window of Ning Tianxin's unit. Suddenly, the door opened from the inside.

Mo Lingtian freaked out and quickly extinguished his cigarette as he hid behind the tree. He tried to suppress his breathing.

Ning Xi seemed like she was in a rush and was not really paying attention to her surroundings. She got into her car and left.

Mo Lingtian only came out from behind the tree after the sound of the engine rumbled far away. It was just a short while but his back was already covered with sweat.

After Ning Xi left, Mo Lingtian stood there for a long while. It was quiet inside the apartment and there was no sound at all.

She had not looked too well earlier. Was she sick?

Then again, since Ning Xi left, she should be fine, shouldn't she?

Mo Lingtian was extremely anxious. No matter if it was money or any other method, as long as it was able to make it up to her and calm him down, he would do anything. He did not want to become a person he himself did not recognize anymore.

Unfortunately, the only thing he could do now was to not bother her.

...

At the Glory World Entertainment office.

"Sis Zhizhi, what did Director Jiang say? Has the role been finalized?" Ning Xi asked directly the moment she reached the office. She was panting while asking, obviously having rushed over.

"Sit down first." Ling Zhizhi got her a glass of water.

After Ning Xi recovered, Ling Zhizhi tried to find the words to tell her, "The results were actually out several days ago. I didn't tell you about it to avoid disturbing your recovery."

Ning Xi's heart sank when she heard that. "So, what's the result?"

"You didn't pass the audition. The female lead is Jiang Xinyi," Ling Zhizhi revealed.

Ning Xi's expression looked down. As expected, she had not passed.

Jiang Xinyi, one of the iconic artistes from the Capability Camp, had received a nomination for the Best Female Lead Award at the Berlin Film Festival before. She was 30 this year, married, and had a pair of cute twins with her husband. She was especially talented at acting tragic scenes, so she was suitable for the movie "Mother" in each and every aspect.

Ning Xi thought Ling Zhizhi wanted to talk to her about other scripts, but Ling Zhizhi gave her a surprise instead. "From what I know, it was supposed to be Jiang Xinyi, but afterward she was called to try out several scenes. Director Jiang wasn't really happy with it. I heard the news that there might be a second audition."

"A second audition?!"

This turn of events was making Ning Xi anxious.

"Yes, I heard about it from some internal connections that I know. It's a reliable source. If nothing goes wrong, they'll be arranging the second audition in these coming few days."

"What about the people shortlisted for the second audition?" Ning Xi asked.

"There are five people and you're one of them," Ling Zhizhi replied as she observed Ning Xi's expression. "Think about it if you want to go for the second audition. Whatever it is, I'll respect your decision."

Obviously, Ling Zhizhi noticed Ning Xi was behaving quite oddly this time.

While she was hoping to get it, she would still respect Ning Xi's wishes. If there was some issue with her, it would not reach her expectations even if Ning Xi somehow managed to get this role.

As Ning Xi was hesitating to answer, Ling Zhizhi's phone rang.

Chapter 1628: Second Audition

"Mmm... Mmm... Okay, I got it. Thank you, thank you very much. I'll discuss with Ning Xi about it. I'll reply to you soon!"

Ling Zhizhi looked at Ning Xi after she hung up the phone. "It's a call from the crew. It's been set. 8 a.m. tomorrow morning is the second audition. They've informed you to go. This was much sooner than I expected..."

Ling Zhizhi did not say anything else afterward, giving Ning Xi some time to think.

Ning Xi sat on the sofa, staring into the distance blankly. After a while, she looked at Ling Zhizhi. "Sis Zhizhi, I'll go. Please reply to the crew for me!"

"Okay." Ling Zhizhi was not sure if she should be relieved or hope that Ning Xi was not pushing herself too much.

However, since she knew Ning Xi really well, she knew the girl must have made the decision after some serious thought.

"I'll go with you tomorrow." Ling Zhizhi was still worried.

"Thank you, Sis Zhizhi!"

...

After she finished speaking with Ling Zhizhi, Ning Xi drove right back to Peachwood.

On the way back, she received a call from Annie.

"Hello, Bro Xi! Will tomorrow morning work?"

Ning Xi was still a little disoriented, then she suddenly remembered that she had promised Annie to take a look at Yun Shen. "What time tomorrow?"

"9 a.m.," Annie replied.

Ning Xi frowned. "I have an audition tomorrow at 8. If it's 9, I might not be able to make it, but I'll try my best..."

"Alright, I'll go and let Bro Ye know. Thank you, Bro Xi!"

...

Ning Xi did not do anything else after she went back. She did not look through any videos or the script. Instead, she went right to sleep after dinner.

She did not dream of anything that night.

It was 6 in the morning when Ning Xi woke up. She had breakfast and got ready, then she met up with Ling Zhizhi and reached the audition venue half an hour earlier.

She realized that the four other artistes thought just like her too. No matter their position, all of them arrived half an hour earlier.

Everyone looked nervous, especially Jiang Xinyi, who looked terrible.

It had been supposed to be her, but now the role had to be auditioned for again. How humiliating!

If this was some other director and not Jiang Xingzhou, she would have already made a big scene!

It was not the first time Jiang Xingzhou was particular on role selection. There was once when the chosen artiste was not able to live up to his standards halfway through the filming, so he insisted on changing the person even if he had to breach the contract. He did not care about anyone else.

Jiang Xinyi assessed her other competitors carefully. All of them were not on her level. If not, Jiang Xingzhou would not have picked her back then.

She was really unhappy about the second audition because she felt it was unnecessary, but of course, it was her last chance as well. If Director Jiang was still unsatisfied this time, there would never be a third chance.

The five of them picked their sequence numbers. Jiang Xinyi was number four and Ning Xi was the last one.

Ning Xi frowned when she saw the number she had picked. She glanced at her watch. The police station was strict with their visiting time. If she was not there by 9, then she would not be able to see him...

At 8 o'clock sharp, Jiang Xingzhou and Song Lin's group arrived.

After they went into the room, the producer sat down and mumbled to Jiang Xingzhou, "Director Jiang, is it really necessary to have this audition? The results of the first round were obvious. The other four can't make it. Only Jiang Xinyi can do it!"

The scriptwriter went along, "Actually, Jiang Xinyi was really not bad!"

Jiang Xingzhou looked at him coldly. "Not bad? You call that not bad? Are you guys working with me for the first time?"

Chapter 1629: Last Chance

"Cough, cough..."

As they were hit with resentment from Jiang Xingzhou, the producer and editor were instantly embarrassed and dared not to speak up anymore.

However, they really thought that Jiang Xinyi's performance had reached the pinnacle. If this was still not enough, what was it that he wanted?

After all, even the scriptwriter was very satisfied with Jiang Xinyi's performance...

Song Lin's expression was indifferent as she watched this scene. She did not say anything throughout. Only she knew that Jiang Xingzhou's audition this time was held for just one of them.

He wanted to be sure that the person's acting was not just that. It was something that she could see, so Jiang Xingzhou could obviously see it too.

There was no way he could not have noticed that Ning Xi's performance the last time was not her level best.

Jiang Xingzhou was a strictly impartial and incorruptible person. It was important to have the skills, but to reject all interference and completely display one's acting skills was also an important element of an artiste. Otherwise, it would be useless to just have acting skills.

Thus, even when Jiang Xingzhou had seen through what she was going through, he did not say anything.

Until Jiang Xinyi's performance had failed to achieve the effect he had envisioned multiple times, Song Lin pretended to be careless as she took the opportunity to mention some things about how Ning Xi had not seemed to give it her all at the first audition...

Song Lin's fingertips lightly tapped the table's surface as she looked contemplatively towards the door...

Director Jiang had given her one more chance, but this was also the sole opportunity.

If Ning Xi could not seize it this time, then this show would be completely impossible. Even if she had been hinting by Jiang Xingzhou's ear, it would be useless.

Outside the audition room, the staff had explained the day's agenda for the audition to Ning Xi and the rest.

It was not a random draw. Instead, it was a fixed scene they all had to play out. It was scene 37, The Loss of A Son On A Rainy Night. The five of them only needed to audition this particular scene.

The staff had very efficiently arranged everything well, then the few artistes had gone in for the audition in order.

The audition process was even quicker than Ning Xi had thought. First one, second one, third, the combination of all the three people did not surpass ten minutes. On average, each of the them came out after about three minutes. In fact, based on the expressions of those three, it seemed like it had not went very well.

Finally, Jiang Xinyi, who was before her, was called in.

Jiang Xinyi had gone in for a very long time. Ning Xi took a glimpse at the time. She had particularly recorded it, and she noticed that she had gone in for 18 minutes already.

On the side, Ling Zhizhi patted Ning Xi's hands, indicating for her to not be nervous.

Another two minutes passed. Finally, Jiang Xinyi came out.

Jiang Xinyi pushed the door open to walk out, then she took a deep breath. Her face appeared as if she had a weight taken off her mind.

Jiang Xinyi was originally the best performer among them, and this time, she experienced Jiang Xingzhou's personal grinding. The fact that she had performed well this time was within everyone's expectations.

"Last one, Ning Xi!" The staff member shouted outside.

"I'll leave first. Good luck to you!" Jiang Xinyi smiled at Ning Xi, then she just turned around and left. The way she acted was as if she already had victory within her grasp. If she had even the slightest worry, she would not have left immediately then. Instead, she would have stayed to wait and see the results were after Ning Xi was finished.

Ning Xi did not mind. In reality, she did not pay any attention to what Jiang Xinyi had said at all. After the staff called for her, she got up and immediately walked into the audition room.

"Director Jiang, now you should be satisfied, shouldn't you? Xinyi's understanding of the role this time was very spot-on!"

"After all, she's a mother herself. With her age right there, she also has ample experience. Imagine if it was her own child that left her. It would be even more immersive!"

...

Chapter 1630: Staking It All!

When Ning Xi went in, she heard the few judges discussing. It looked like they were very satisfied with Jiang Xinyi's performance. However, Jiang Xingzhou, who sat right in the middle, did not say a word at all. When he saw Ning Xi come in, he then looked up to say, "Begin!"

"Okay." Ning Xi nodded.

"Already out of breath...," the staff member read out the script.

Ning Xi's face was blank. There was no expression on her face at all.

A few seconds later, it was as if she suddenly fathomed that person's words. She walked slowly towards the child step by step, then carried the child in her embrace.

Her blank and lifeless eyes widened. She looked at her child as if she had been removed of her soul. For minutes, she just continued to look on expressionlessly.

She just sat there without moving as if she was a weathered statue.

She had not actually done anything. There was even no expression on her face. However, in a split second, the atmosphere in the entire audition room was suddenly stifled to an extreme point. Initially, those judges, who thought Ning Xi was just someone who would not pass, instantly straightened up. Their spines tensed up as they held their breaths and stared straight at the girl who sat motionless lay on the cold floor.

Jiang Xingzhou did not seem to have a change in expression, but his hand which held a pen had obviously tightened quite a bit and his thin lips had tensed into a firm line.

Like the stifling air before a rainstorm, the entire sky was covered by haze and dense clouds.

Finally, when this atmosphere had been repressed to the extreme point, the girl lowered her head and her shoulders started to subtly tremble softly. Her arms that hugged her child tightened bit by bit...

Suddenly, the girl embraced the child firmly to her chest.

"Ah!!!" Her screaming and crying started to ring through the air.

"Ah—"

A sense of urgency, hopelessness, and of falling apart overwhelmed her.

Her entire world was crumbling before her eyes...

Her child...

Her child, whom she had beared for 9 whole months... They had relied on each other. He had still been lively the previous second, yet now he had become a cold, dead body...

Her only kin in this world, her only spiritual sustenance...

She had nothing now...

It was not sure how long had passed.

As if the rainstorm had just come to a halt, the girl's emotions finally started to calm down a little. She embraced the child and remained sitting in the same posture as before.

However, everyone did not know that it was no longer the same inside her. She could no longer go back. All of the life in her had been drained with the loss of this child. Only an empty shell was left right there...

"Director Jiang..." In the end, it was Song Lin who had spoken up to call for everyone's attention. Only then did Jiang Xingzhou and the rest of the judging panel come back to their senses as if they had just woken up from a dream.

Ning Xi's scene had ended.

The producer's widened his reddened eyes as he blankly stared at her. He took a deep breath and mumbled in awe, "This girl... is truly remarkable..."

While the scriptwriter on the side had tears streaming down her face right from the start, hurriedly, she took out a tissue to wipe her tears away.

She finally understood why Jiang Xingzhou had persisted.

Even she herself had initially felt that Jiang Xinyi's performance was the pinnacle of excellence.

However, when she saw Ning Xi, she finally knew what real acting was.

The last time, after Ning Xi had finished acting, she had immediately removed herself from the scenes. This time, despite having already finished acting, she remained seated blankly on the floor, the child prop still in her embrace.

"Quickly get up. The floor's cold." Song Lin stood up and walked over to help Ning Xi up.

Ning Xi's expression remained a little stunned as she robotically turned her head to look at Song Lin.

That look made Song Lin feel a pang of heart ache. This girl was staking it all!

Even if she wanted to immerse herself in the scene, she should leave some leeway in any case.

She was an actress too, so she understood the aftermath of completely immersing oneself in such a story line.