

## Hidden 1751

### Chapter 1751: Chase Away All The Gloom of This World

"Innocent? Ziyao, you really think... that they're innocent?" Mo Lingtian clicked on the second recording right away. The Guan family's blatant words all poured into the sealed private room.

After the recording ended, there was a dead silence in the room.

"Lingtian..."

Before Guan Ziyao could justify herself, Mo Lingtian continued to say, "Back then, at my father's birthday banquet when Ning Xi was pushed into the water and almost drowned, that was all arranged by you guys, wasn't it? Huh, I actually believed you up till now that that was just an accident..."

Guan Ziyao broke down as she stared at him. "No matter what they did, they are my father and my brother! What was I supposed to do? Watch helplessly as the Guan family's everything be destroyed and not care?"

Mo Lingtian felt his back stiffen. His eyes watered. There was disappointment and hostility that she had never seen before. "Ziyao, all the things your family did... You knew about all of it, didn't you? But you never stopped them!"

"Huh..." As she faced by Mo Lingtian's interrogation, Guan Ziyao suddenly laughed grimly under her breath. She looked up and stared at him as she said word for word, "Why would I stop them? That woman doesn't even suit Tingxiao! If Tingxiao hadn't been deceived and bewitched by that woman, our two families would have long been combined through marriage. Based on our Guan family's capabilities, if our two families combined forces, that illegitimate son would've been nothing to fear about. All of this wouldn't have happened, and Little Treasure wouldn't have been kidnapped! But now Tingxiao wouldn't spare both sides the suffering just to defeat the Guan family! All of this is caused by that woman!"

Mo Lingtian stared at the woman in front of him. There was suddenly a strong sense of powerlessness in him.

He loathed Guan Ziyao's stubbornness extremely, yet he could not say a word to her because... was he not like that to her too?

He knew clearly that it was impossible. He knew that she liked someone else, yet he still could not let go...

In the past, no matter what happened or what he faced, as long as he could see her, as long as he could hear her speak, he would be incredibly contented. He was willing to do everything for her.

Especially after she returned to the country, he felt that his entire being was reborn. No matter what he did, he was filled with drive. He thought of countless ways to make her happy. Even if it was not reciprocated, he was glad to endure it.

However, now, every time they met, there was only a stifling sensation that made it hard for him to breath...

That girl in his memories who had made him palpitate with an eagerness to do things was moving further and further away from him. She was becoming more and more blurry, and he had almost forgotten how the girl he liked was. Was it the same person as this one before him?

Mo Lingtian's heart started to ache tremendously.

At this moment, his phone buzzed slightly. It was an overseas number sending him a picture.

On a quiet lane, the girl wore a light green floral dress as she squatted by the roadside and was teasing a tubby little orange kitten. The expression on her was so gentle as if it could chase away all the gloom of this world. Even the suffocating sensation that nagged him at this moment had suddenly faded away...

Tianxin...

Tianxin...

When he realized that this name suddenly flashed across his mind repeatedly, Mo Lingtian's expression suddenly changed and he hurriedly put his phone away.

He liked Ziyao. He loved Ziyao. He swore that he would only like this woman in his entire life, but now, what was he doing!?

This feeling as if he had betrayed himself made him suffer even more...

"Lingtian, we're indeed wrong in this. No matter what my brother did, he shouldn't have touched Little Treasure, but at least he never thought of hurting Little Treasure. Little Treasure was alright then, and that woman had always had Tingxiao protecting her. We didn't do any damage to her, did we? The fact that she's now hurt has nothing to do with us Guans! Tingxiao's trying to take his anger out on us has gone rather excessive! Lingtian..."

Mo Lingtian took a deep breath and interrupted her, "Ziyao, for your father, I can help you find someone to lighten the sentence as much as possible, but about the company... I'm sorry, I can't get involved."

### **Chapter 1752: I'm Done As Well**

Guan Ziyao could not believe it when Mo Lingtian said he could not get involved.

This man was always willing to do anything for her. Moreover, she was in a critical period now.

"Lingtian, since Tingxiao released those words, I can only ask you of this. Only you can help me to speak a few words to him for me. I'd never come and trouble you if I had other choices left..."

Mo Lingtian numbly said, "Ziyao, the three of us grew up together. You're my friend. Tingxiao is my brother. The Guan family is at fault this time, and this is as far as I can help you. It's also... the last time I'm doing anything for you."

Moreover, Ning Xi was not just Tingxiao's lover. She was also... Tianxin's cousin...

Guan Ziyao clenched her fists. "What do you mean?"

Mo Lingtian closed his eyes and told her, "Ziyao, I understand how strongly you feel for Tingxiao because it's the same for me towards you."

"Lingtian, I just know that you'd understand me..."

Mo Lingtian ignored her words and interrupted her, "But, Ziyao, I love you. I make advances properly and have never hurt you or anyone beside you. I've also never forced you to do anything. As for you and Tingxiao, it's not love anymore. Loving someone doesn't mean you have to be with them or even use underhanded tactics! Do you understand?"

Mo Lingtian was not sure if he was saying those words to Guan Ziyao or to himself.

Still, he felt somewhat relieved after saying those words.

He remembered what Lu Jingli told him. Some people were not who they seemed to be...

He thought the person he loved was the most special one, that she was different from all the other girls, shining ever so brightly. He trusted that she could really let it go...

He thought that she was the one he had in mind. He kept on living in his memory, submerging himself in his own fantasy...

He should have realized it a long time ago. She always said that she would let it go, but she would grab onto any chance to be near Tingxiao. The whole time, his only value to her was being Lu Tingxiao's buddy. She probably did not even see him as a friend.

However, he did not want to see the girl he loved in such a negative light. He also did not want to believe that the girl he liked for so long had become someone he hated...

After Mo Lingtian was done, he stood up and left.

Guan Ziyao sat there in shock. She looked at the direction the man was leaving. At that moment, she realized that she had lost something.

The next moment, she stood up quickly and chased Mo Lingtian. She held onto his arm and said in a trembling voice, "Lingtian, I'm sorry... I know I've disappointed you. I know I've lied to you. I've never given up on him, but I don't have a choice... I can't help it... I love him..."

"I really can't let the Guan family to get destroyed in my hands. Please, just one more time... okay? I'm really done this time. I won't bother him anymore..."

Mo Lingtian looked at the girl's hand without saying anything.

After a short while, he shook the girl's hand off his arm. "Ziyao, I'm done as well."

Guan Ziyao's face went pale.

"I've made too many mistakes for you. I've also hurt a lot of people. So, I'm sorry."

### **Chapter 1753: Might Have Went To Look For Tianxin**

A week later.

There were blisters all over Lu Jingli's mouth all because he had been talking his brother out of it, but nothing worked.

He really missed the times when Xiao Xi Xi was around. He would do anything as long as she said it...

He was on the verge of crying just remembering it.

As Lu Jingli was sighing, his phone rang. He took a glance and noticed it was from the Mo family.

"Helly, Aunty Mo?"

Kang Shuhui's anxious voice came through the moment the call connected. "Jingli, have you seen Lingtian for the past few days?"

"Bro Tian? Nope! What's wrong?"

"We haven't seen Lingtian for a week! We can get through to his phone but no one's picking up. I've been asking around, but no one knows where he is! I'm worried sick!"

"What? Gone?" Lu Jingli's expression changed.

A week ago...

Was it not the day he told Bro Tian the truth?

"Could something have happened to him?" Lu Jingli mumbled mindlessly.

Kang Shuhui almost went crazy. "Jingli! What did you say? What happened? Do you know something? You have to tell Aunty about it! Lingtian... Ever since the incident with Tianxin last time, he has been very obedient. He comes back on time, but now he's disappeared for such a long time..."

Lu Jingli was worried something had happened, so he told her the truth. "A week ago, Bro Tian came to ask me about what happened between my brother and the Guan family..."

"Then? I knew it'd be related to that woman again! He'd only behave this way whenever she's involved! People from the Guan family came over and begged Lingtian's father, but we didn't do anything since we're not sure what happened!"

"Then, I just told him the truth, mainly about how the Guans have been playing dirty tricks behind our backs and have been trying to harm my brother's girlfriend. They even almost harmed Little Treasure... I think Bro Tian wasn't really involved this time. He probably just needed some time to accept it..."

Lu Jingli then comforted her, "Don't worry, Aunty. He won't be in trouble so easily. He probably just felt depressed and wanted to be alone. I'm always like this when I'm not happy myself!"

"Really?"

"Really, don't worry. I'll help you look for him as well!"

"Okay, okay... Thank you, Jingli..."

...

Kang Shuhui told Mo Jianzhang about it after she hung up.

Mo Jianzhang then said, "Just let him cool down for a few days. Why are you so anxious?"

"How can I not be!? You know just how crazy your son is towards that woman! What if he can't take the shock? It's been seven days! We've lost our grandchild. Do you want to lose your son too?"

Mo Jianzhang realized his wife was getting overly worried. "We've already sent people to look for him! Be patient, alright? I wonder where that brat went to. Even I can't find him!"

Suddenly, Kang Shuhui thought of something. "Do you think... Lingtian might have gone to look for Tianxin?"

"Tianxin?" Mo Jianzhang's expression froze. "Isn't Tianxin overseas right now?"

#### **Chapter 1754: Relieved**

Kang Shuhui thought that it was possible. "I've been looking actually. Lingtian isn't as heartless as he thought towards Tianxin. It's just that he didn't realize it himself. Didn't you notice that he's not really himself after Tianxin left? In addition to the shock from the incident of Guan family this time, he might have really gone to look for Tianxin!?"

Mo Jianzhang started to waver as well. "What if he didn't? It's inappropriate for you to just look for her out of a sudden!"

Kang Shuhui hesitated. "I don't want to bother Tianxin as well. I'm too embarrassed to call her... Fine, we'll wait until tomorrow and see if there's news..."

...

A night passed.

Mo Lingtian was still nowhere to be found.

Kang Shuhui finally broke down. She could not care about anything else anymore. She punched in Tianxin's number with her trembling fingers.

"Hello?"

Kang Shuhui could not hold it in anymore when she heard that gentle voice. She sobbed, "Tianxin... I... I am Lingtian's mother..."

"Madam Mo?" She sounded surprised.

"Am I bothering you resting?" Kang Shuhui was apologetic.

"No, it's afternoon around here, but you... It's really early... What's happened?"

Kang Shuhui felt even guiltier after she heard the girl's gentle and polite words. She felt a heat sear across her face. She would understand even if Tianxin hung up on her call right now, but this girl was just as kind as ever even after going through so much.

"Tianxin, I'm really sorry to bother you. I'll state my matter quickly. Did Lingtian look for you in the past few days?" Kang Shuhui asked anxiously.

There was a short silence when Mo Lingtian's name was mentioned. "No."

"No?" Kang Shuhui's expression froze when her last glimmer of hope faded. Her heart sank.

When she heard sobbing, the girl quickly asked, "Madam Mo, are you alright?"

"I'm okay... It's Lingtian... He suddenly went missing. I'm worried that something might've happened to him. We can get through to his phone, but no one's picking up... If possible, can I ask you to give him a call, or even just a text message? Ask him where is he. Maybe he'd reply if it's you..." Kang Shuhui begged as she cried.

"Well..."

"I understand that I'm imposing this on you, but I've run out of all options. If it's too much trouble, it's alright..."

"I'll try, but I think... it won't be of much help..."

"Really? That's great! Thank you! Thank you, Tianxin! Thank you very much!"

...

In Los Angeles, America.

Ning Tianxin sat on the bench in her campus quietly after she hung up. She stared blankly at the sky.

She had agreed just now because Kang Shuhui was crying.

However, after she calmed down, she realized that it was ridiculous for her to get involved.

After some thoughts ran through her mind, she gave Ning Xi a call.

"Hello, Xiao Xi..."

"Hello, I'm Ning Xi's manager, Ling Zhizhi. Are you Ning Xi's cousin?" The voice from the other side of the phone was not Ning Xi.

"Yes."

"I'm sorry. She's in the midst of working right now and isn't really available to take calls at the moment. Can I have her reply to your messages later?"

#### **Chapter 1755: Go With The Heart and Instincts As Long As The Conscience Is Clear**

"Ah... There's no need. It's not an emergency. Don't disturb her."

When she heard that Ning Xi was busy, Ning Tianxin hung up. She fell silent for a while before she started to shake her head gently, and found the whole situation rather absurd.

They were already unrelated anyway, so why should she care about what he would think. Why should she care about whether she was acting ridiculously?

Go along with the heart and natural instincts as long as my conscience is clear.

Ning Tianxin felt relieved, then she opened her Wechat and very quickly sent a message over. She picked up her book and continued towards the direction of her class.

...

On an island in City S.

The small island was all alone in the middle of the sea. On the island was a villa with a unique design. It was cut off from the rest of the world, making the beautiful scenery even more exclusive and exotic.

However, at this moment, it was a total mess in the wine cellar.

The thick curtains had completely blocked out all sunlight. The entire wine cellar was practically hollowed out. The floor was strewn with empty wine bottles, and the place was filled with the pungent smell of alcohol.

The man lay in the middle of the wine bottles and fragments of glass, his body emaciated and his stubble-covered face sunken in. There was not a glimpse of light in his defeated eyes. He was like an animal nearing death...

The phone beside him was in silent mode and only lit up occasionally, lighting up the dim space.

It was not sure how long had passed before the man robotically got up. He simply took another bottle of wine from the wine rack that was already emptied by half.

He tripped over something and he clumsily fell to the ground all of a sudden.

The man did not care either and just lay there in despair.

At that moment, the phone beside him lit up again.

The man could barely see anything. He did not even so much as glance at it, but he did seem to be annoyed by the glare right beside his eyes. It was too irksome, so he finally found that bit of energy...

The instant his fingers clicked on the power button, the man's numb and defeated eyes suddenly burst open as if there were raging flames that sparked in them. His entire body suddenly sat right up and he looked in disbelief at the name on the screen.

Tianxin...?

Because the main screen only displayed the sender and not the content of the message, Mo Lingtian instantly attempted to unlock his phone with trembling fingers.

However, it was right at that moment that his phone automatically shut down because it was out of battery.

"Damn it!"

For seven whole days, the wine cellar was devoid of any human contact, but now the man's furious curses rattled away under his breath.

He turned the entire villa upside down, but he could not find the charger.

The man immediately ran out of the door and raced his yacht away from the small island.

The nearest shore to the small island was a fishing village. He tore at a flying speed towards the local grocery store.

"Boss... Charger... Do you have?"

When the shopkeeper suddenly saw this shabby man with messy hair and a smudged face, he was frightened. "You..."

Before the shopkeeper could say anything, Mo Lingtian slammed a hundred bucks onto the table.

"We do! We've got it! We have whichever type you want!"

"Can I charge it here?"

"Can. Look beside your foot. Yes, there's a power socket!"

Mo Lingtian took the charger that was offered and sat right down on the floor, then he inserted the charger into the socket.

One second... Five seconds... Ten seconds...

"Why's it so slow?"

"Hehe, it's a counterfeit. How could it be fast? Just wait for a while more!" The old man curiously examined him. "Young man, were you duped into those multi-level marketing things? Do you need me to help you call the police?"

"No." Mo Lingtian's eyes did not blink for a second as he stared at the red progress bar on the phone.

He waited for three whole minutes before the phone could finally be switched on.

Mo Lingtian was about to click into his WeChat app, but he suddenly paused. His fingers clenched then relaxed again repeatedly before he finally opened the app and read the message.

### **Chapter 1756: The Only Thing I Can Do For You**

[Tianxin: Where are you? Your mother's very worried about you. If you see this, please call her back.]

When Mo Lingtian read her message, the blood rush and the turbulent emotions in him instantly quieted down.

It was not an illusion...

It turned out not to be an illusion...

The old vendor was humming songs and arranging his stocks. From the corner of his eye, he saw the young man, who was squatting at his door to charge his phone, suddenly stiffen his back as his fists tightened into balls. He was staring at his phone. Moments later, water droplets fell onto his handphone screen...

"Hey! Young man, what's wrong? Are you sure you don't need help?" The old man ran over to ask a little worriedly.

The man did not look up. "Give me a packet of cigarettes."



"What kind do you want? I don't have any good ones here. In fact, I'm worried you won't be used to them..."

"Anyone. It's fine."

The old man sized him up as he hesitantly grabbed a pack of cigarettes for him from the stock rack, and passed him a lighter.

Mo Lingtian lit up the cigarette, took a drag, and suddenly coughed profusely from the nose-piercing stench of tobacco.

The old man guffawed. "Strong, isn't it?! Our cigarettes are powerful enough, eh?!"

This place went with the folkways and was simple. The old man was probably worried that he was burdened by problems, so he kept talking to him. His words were long-winded and rang by his ear. Nearby, on the surface of the sea, the sky turned brighter, and the sea breeze that came with a salty humidity caressed his face...

Mo Lingtian read the message on his phone quietly over and over again.

It felt as if something in his body had suddenly been filled with a huge amount of power. All of sudden, this power broke through from underneath the soil that had been dark and lonely without any daylight.

Time passed quietly...

The man did not move as he stared at the message. His finger fell onto the reply button, yet in the end, he still did not do anything.

When his phone had a little more juice, Mo Lingtian pulled up his contact list and called home.

"Hello, Mother..."

"Lingtian... Lingtian! It really is you! You brat! Where've you gone? Do you know that you've really frightened your mother to death?! What's wrong with your voice? Are you sick? Where are you ill? Where are you now? Where've you gone these past few days?" Kang Shuhui suddenly fired a whole barrage of questions.

"Mother, I'm sorry. I'll be going home right away. I won't make you worry anymore."

"Child..." When she heard her son's raspy and frail voice, Kang Shuhui felt her heart ache.

"Mother, please call Tianxin back and just tell her I'm fine," said the man.

When Kang Shuhui heard this on the other end of the phone, she was stunned. "Tianxin contacted you? Why don't you tell her yourself? Lingtian, tell me honestly. Do you feel something towards Tianxin?"

"Mother, no." The man's voice held no hesitation, then he added, "Please help me reply her. My phone is running out of battery."

Kang Shuhui did not doubt him. Plus, she wanted to see her son sooner, so she quickly replied, "Oh, oh, okay... Then quickly come home, alright?"

"Mmm."

...

After he finished the cigarette, the man slowly stood up. "Thanks, the cigarette's pretty good."

The old man chuckled. "Isn't it? Those who've tried my cigarettes say they're good indeed! Young man, have you... run into some problems?"

The man gazed quietly at the sea not too far away. "I just suddenly understood some things."

He finally understood and was willing to admit that in those long years and companionship, he had fallen for another girl.

Only, when he finally realized this, it was already impossible between them.

The only thing I can do for you is one thing.

To not disturb you...

### **Chapter 1757: Call Xiao Xi Too**

At the Ning Residence.

"Madam, the lady is home!"

When she heard the servant's announcement, Zhuang Lingyu, who was on the sofa, was instantly overjoyed as she got up to receive her daughter.

Ning Xueluo passed all her bags to the servant and sweetly called out, "Mother!"

"Hey, quickly come in! Look at you all sweating! You must've been so busy the whole day! You have to run to our company and prepare to list your own company on the stock market. You're already so busy. Why have you come running to me!?"

"Mother, I missed you! I especially got someone to help me get some collagen and bird's nest for you. Their quality is really good. You should eat more of these daily to supplement your health!"

"You should keep these for your mother-in-law!"

"I did give some to her too."

Zhuang Lingyu pulled on her hand with concern. "How's it? Has it been good at the Su residence? How's Zheng Minjun's attitude towards you?"

Ning Xueluo forced a smile. "Even though it still can't compare to before... It's already much better..."

As she looked at her daughter's reaction, she knew that she must have been mistreated at the Su residence. Zhuang Lingyu could not help but look unhappy.

Ning Xueluo quickly comforted, "Mother, don't worry about me. I'll definitely work hard and not let anyone crush me. I'll let everyone know that you've raised a good daughter!"

Ning Xueluo's words completely hit Zhuang Lingyu in the right spot. She was instantly calmer and she praised, "Good, Xueluo you're already amazing. It's just those self-interested ones who can't see things clearly!"

Ning Xueluo was about to say something when she saw Ning Zhiyuan walk in from a distance with a walking stick. She quickly stood up and greeted, "Grandfather!"

"Mmm." Ning Zhiyuan nodded slightly and did not say much. He was about to continue to his room when he suddenly thought of something. He paused in his steps and said, "Tomorrow night, Wenno is returning to the country. The whole family should get together. Call Xiao Xi to come over too."

Zhuang Lingyu's expression sank. "Father, you know that girl. Did you forget what she said before? She doesn't even care about having any relationship with us Nings! Why do we still have to show warm feelings and be met with cold rebuke!"

At this moment, Ning Yaohua walked over and cleared his throat. "Lingyu, the child was just speaking out of anger. There are some things that we haven't done right either. She'd feel wronged. It's best if the whole family is harmonious. Why should you stoop to the child's level!? I think tomorrow night we should call Xiao Xi to come as well!"

Ning Zhiyuan nodded with satisfaction, but he seemed not to believe him. He just stood there and challenged, "Then, make the call right now."

Ning Yaohua shook his head helplessly. "Father, do you still not believe me? I'll call her right now!"

Zhuang Lingyu was anxious by this and she kept trying to hint Ning Yaohua.

Ning Yaohua lowered his voice to say, "Father's health hasn't been great. Don't anger him because of this. It's just a meal. Besides, even if we don't invite her, Qitong will definitely call Xiao Xi. Why should we keep letting her be the good guy, and drive a wedge in our family?"

On the side, when Ning Xueluo heard Ning Yaohua say "our family", gloom flashed in her eyes.

In front of the elder, Zhuang Lingyu could not say much and Ning Yaohua was quite determined too, so she could only let him make the call.

"Hello, Xiao Xi... Tomorrow night..."

When Ning Yaohua got through to Ning Xi's handphone, he was about to act like a loving father when he was disrupted by the formal robotic voice on the other end.

"Hello, may I know who's this? I'm Ning Xi's manager. She's currently working and can't come to the phone right now."

Ning Yaohua was stunned for a moment, then he said arrogantly, "I'm her father. Tell her that she will pick up."

### **Chapter 1758: Tempted**

"Are you her foster father, Mr. Tang Shan?"

"Foster father? I'm her biological father!"

"Sir, as far as I know, Ning Xi has broken off contact with her biological parents."

Ning Yaohua stormed away and spoke quietly, "You're her manager. How can you listen to that nonsense? Get Xiao Xi on the phone right now!"

"I'm sorry, Sir, everyone around her knows that Ning Xi won't take private calls when she's working."

...

Ning Yaohua was enraged when the line went dead.

Ning Xueluo saw a light of hope when she noticed the darkened expression on Ning Yaohua. "Father, what's wrong?"

"Nothing..." Ning Yaohua would never reveal how a little manager had just talked back to him over the phone. He changed the topic quickly. "Xiao Xi's not free to pick up my call right now."

Ning Xueluo acted like she understood. "Sister's really popular now. It's not odd that she's busy. It'd probably be difficult for her to join us..."

Zhuang Lingyu let out a cold laugh. "She's acting all high and mighty after starring in just a few movies. She was still a nobody when Xueluo was famous! Now, she's forced you out of the industry and taken over all your resources. How dare she do this to us?"

Ning Zhiyuan stared at them unhappily. "It's fine. Just let it be if Xiao Xi's busy. Why the fuss?"

"If you lot told everyone about Xueluo's matter from the very beginning instead of lying, Xueluo wouldn't have ended up this way! Things would've turned out vastly different if you guys had nurtured the relationship with the Tang family properly. What a shame to the Ning family!"

"You lot brought these consequences upon yourself. Don't blame everything on Xiao Xi!"

Ning Yaohua comforted him, "Please don't be angry, Father. We won't mention the past again. As for the family gathering tomorrow... I think she won't be coming because of some tiny misunderstanding, but I also think that she might come along together with Qitong and Wenbo."

Zhuang Lingyu was already upset that the elder was on Ning Xi's side, and she got even angrier when Ning Yaohua was speaking for Ning Xi as well.

She knew what was happening. Ning Yaohua was not concerned about the elder's health at all. He was thinking that he might be able to get something good out of Ning Xi since she was affiliated with the Zhuang family now and his greed tempted him.

The Zhuang family was terribly selfish. They were willing to abandon their own child out of reputation. How could they pick up that girl?

Even if the Zhuang family really took her in, that girl would have told the whole world about it already instead of keeping quiet all this time.

...

The next night.

In the banquet room, Ning Yaohua, Ning Yaobang, and Ning Qitong were present. Beside Ning Qitong was her husband Guo Wenbo, who had just come back from abroad. Ning Xueluo and Su Yan were there as well.

When they were about to start, Ning Xueluo asked with a concerned tone, acting natural, "Are we not waiting for Xiao Xi?"

Su Yan was taken aback when he heard Ning Xueluo's question. He unconsciously looked over at the door. Except on TV and newspaper, he had not seen her since the Golden Film Award.

Ning Qitong replied, "Xiao Xi's busy today. She won't be coming."

### **Chapter 1759: Who Else Is An Outsider?**

"Oh..." Ning Xueluo put on a surprised expression. "Father called her, but her manager said she's busy, I thought if Aunt called, she would surely come..."

Zhuang Lingyu smiled. "That girl's busy crawling her way up. She'll forget about the Ning family very soon!"

Ning Qitong looked at her coldly. "I'm happy that Xiao Xi is doing well on her own. Who wouldn't tell me that my niece is pretty and capable wherever I go? Every day, so many people come to me and ask for her autograph, or even to visit her at work!"

Ning Xueluo's expression tightened as her fingernails dug deep into her palm. Zhuang Lingyu hid her anger. Ning Qitong had been on her toes, and every time she aimed, it hit wherever it hurt the most.

She knew that Xueluo had left the entertainment industry and she was saying all these to trigger her!

"Alright, let's eat!" The elder coughed lightly and the heavy atmosphere dissipated forcefully.

"Wenbo, how long are you going to stay for this time?" The elder made some small talk.

Guo Wenbo put his chopsticks down and replied gently, "Not for long. I'm mainly here to meet a client and to settle some matters for Qitong."

Settle some matters?

Ning Yaohua squinted his eyes sensitively.

As expected, Ning Qitong spoke up, "Isn't Chen from the financial department going to retire soon? We'll need a person to fill in the CFO role. I've asked Wenbo to help hire a person from abroad!"

Before Ning Yaohua could say anything, Zhuang Lingyu could not hold it in anymore. "Hire? You're just putting your people inside, aren't you?! Yaohua has already left the position of CFO to Xueluo. She can fill the position after a short probation period, so you don't have to worry too much!"

Ning Qitong replied, "I'm worrying too much? Don't you forget, Sister-in-law, while I don't have a position in the company, I'm the largest stakeholder of the company."

Ning Xueluo had not gotten any shares. Even after Ning Yaohua transferred all his shares over to her, she only held 15% of shares.

As for Ning Qitong, she had 10% on her own, and with the addition of the 10% Ning Xi had given her, she had 20% of shares in total, making her the largest stakeholder of the company at the moment.

Zhuang Lingyu was antsy. "You don't have that authority to make that decision on your own! You don't get to put your people into such an important position of the company!"

Ning Qitong raised her eyebrows. "Oh? So, you do have someone?"

Zhuang Lingyu replied in disdain, "Xueluo's not an outsider!"

She meant to imply that Ning Qitong was just an outsider.

Ning Qitong laughed out loud. "Ha... Sister-in-law, are you joking? Who else is an outsider here except for her?"

"Ning Qitong! That's too much!"

Ning Yaohua's expression darkened. "Qitong, you've overstepped your boundaries. Yes, you have the most shares, but I'm the President. You don't get to decide the human resources in the company!"

Ning Qitong sternly retorted, "I see, President. What a fancy title! A president without any shares? Let me tell you, I have the right to put Ning Xi in that position if she's willing to! Try me if you don't believe me!"

#### **Chapter 1760: Fair Competition**

She had to take up the responsibility since Xiao Xi had transferred the shares to her. She would never allow these people to mess up the company.

"You..." Ning Yaohua fumed.

Ning Yaobang was watching the show happily as he enjoyed the alcohol.

Su Yan felt a little awkward, but he was here today for some other reason anyway. He was obviously not focused the whole time.

Su Yan would usually back her up under circumstances like this, but the man beside her did not say anything at all. Ning Xueluo bit her lips aggrievedly, but he did not even notice it.

For quite some time, he had been giving less and less attention to her.

Of course, she realized what Su Yan was thinking about. It was that witch who seduced him...

Thud—! Ning Zhiyuan hit the ground loudly with his walking stick. "Enough, shut up! Do you guys want to destroy the home before I die?"

There was silence across the room.

Ning Zhiyuan was panting. After a while, he took a deep breath and started talking, "Xueluo's still inexperienced. It is indeed inappropriate for her to take on this role. It'd be difficult for the other employees to obey her too. Qitong, no matter how amazing the person you hire is, it'd be useless if that person doesn't understand the status of Ning International!"

"So, what do you mean, Father?" Ning Yaobang asked as he gleefully hoped for more chaos to ensue.

The elder glared at Ning Yaobang, then he continued, "Qitong, it's okay for the person you hire to join the company, but he has to start from the bottom like Xueluo. They'd then have a fair chance at competing. After judging their performance, we'll hold a poll in the next stakeholder meeting."

While both parties were unhappy about the decision, they could not do anything about it. Ning Yaohua and Ning Qitong did not say any thing, and agreed tacitly to the elder's idea.

The dinner was finally over.

Zhuang Lingyu was still grumbling on the way back, "Fair competition? Father was obviously biased towards Ning Qitong. Not only does she have more shares than us, she also has Wenbo to help her! How can Xueluo fight against her? It's all that damned brat's fault for giivng Ning Qitong all the shares out of her hatred towards us! We wouldn't be in such an awkward state otherwise!"

Ning Xueluo comforted, "Don't get angry, Mother. Bro Yan will be helping me, right, Bro Yan?"

Su Yan finally nodded and said something after a whole night of keeping mum, "Of course."

Zhuang Lingyu's expression softened. She put both their hands together. "You are both great. It'd be better if you guys have a child soon. Then, the elder will focus on you guys more!"

"What are you talking about, Mother?" Ning Xueluo looked embarrassed.

Zhuang Lingyu urged her, "It's an important matter. Listen to me, the both of you! Su Yan, isn't your mother longing for a grandchild?"

Su Yan coughed lightly, "My mother is alright. She's respecting our wishes."

His mother was actually longing for a grandchild way before his marriage to Xueluo, but after they got married, his mother suddenly stopped looking forward to it and did not really say anything about it afterward...