

Hidden 31

Chapter 31: You Really Have Sharp Eyes!

Director Guo had an expectant look on his face after he finished speaking.

Naturally, the reporters turned to look in the direction Director Guo indicated, and were all stunned silly.

Ning Xi was wearing a magenta dress made of lace today. The cut of the dress perfectly emphasized her mesmerizing waistline, and the neckline exposed her elegant collarbone. The color was even harder to pull off than pure red. Although the design was exquisite, the dress would only look tacky or even scary on most people.

But the dress looked as if it had been made just for Ning Xi — it made her so beautiful, she dazzled everyone.

Ning Xi had personally felt that she couldn't pull off the dress when the stylist had picked it out for her, and she had only been convinced after she put it on.

As expected of Glory World's Godly Hand, his eyes were just too keen. Just one look at her and he already knew her better than she knew herself.

Although it was Ning Xi's first time at this type of event, she was, after all, an actress. She had taken on various roles and personas, which naturally included celebrities, so walking the red carpet was not difficult at all.

Each step, each smile, and her every action was just right. She found the best camera angles, and gave the perfect expression.

The reporters froze for a far longer time than Director Guo had before they came back to their senses.

This... this was the actress for Meng Changge, Ning Xi?

A no-name rookie with no experience worth mentioning?

This... isn't she too beautiful?!

There were no words that could describe her, she was simply stunning!

Just a moment ago, they had actually tried to push Director Guo into declaring who was the bigger beauty between Jia Qingqing and Ning Xi. No wonder Director Guo's expression hadn't seem right, they now realized how ridiculous their question was.

Before an unparalleled beauty like Ning Xi, even an attractive celebrity like Jia Qingqing was practically just another face in the crowd.

Ning Xi posed for the cameras in the middle of the red carpet, before turning around to pick up a pen from the tray to sign her name on the wall.

Her turning around caused another wave of gasps and the sound of camera shutters.

The dress was designed to be backless; when the stylist had chosen it, the aspect had factored heavily into his decision.

Ning Xi's shoulder blades were too perfect; one could say that they were the sexiest part of her body, and it would be a real waste to cover them.

Female celebrities who walked the red carpet tended to especially reveal cleavage to attract attention, but Ning Xi had taken an alternate route, elevating her far above the rest.

After burning through countless rolls of film, it was time for the interview.

The reporters today were very pitiful.

They had initially prepared questions like: "Do you think your looks are good enough for the role of a vixen like Meng Changge?", "Who do you think is prettier, you or Jia Qingqing?", "Rumor has it that you received the role through unofficial channels, what was the reason for it?"...

Now they couldn't use any of those questions...

Anyone who wasn't blind could tell that nothing had happened behind the scenes — her face was convincing enough.

She was the most suitable person for the role of Meng Changge.

The reporters started asking questions.

"Miss Ning, if I may ask, the dress you're wearing is a Karl Lagerfeld design, is it a custom piece?"

Ning Xi froze.

This dress was designed by Karl Lagerfeld?

She had actually casually put on a dress worth millions?

Demon King Lu, can you not be so devious!

But what was even more terrifying was still to come, when the same reporter then asked, "Miss Ning, was this outfit styled by Arthur?"

You can even see that?

You really have sharp eyes!

Chapter 32: Troublesome Exes

"That's not right, I must be seeing it wrong..." Luckily, without waiting for Ning Xi to respond, the reporter took back his question.

It was probably because he remembered that Ning Xi was an artiste under Starlight, so how could the personal stylist to Su Yimo from Glory World Entertainment possibly style her?

Ning Xi let out a sigh of relief. Afraid they would continue asking similar questions, she opened her mouth first to say, "Today is the opening ceremony for <The World>, everyone should ask questions related to the drama!"

"That, Miss Ning, if I may ask, is this your first drama?" someone from the crowd asked.

"Of course not, I already started acting when I was in university, but I didn't have many scenes, so no one recognizes me," Ning Xi answered honestly, not at all minding that her résumé was rather lacking.

Any reporter could dig out her past if they tried, so why not respond humbly?

"What kind of roles has Miss Ning played in the past?"

It was a very normal question, but a bit awkward for Ning Xi. However, since it had already been asked, she couldn't not reply.

"Some of the roles I've done..." Ning Xi began listing all the roles she'd played since returning to the country from overseas.

When she had been studying overseas for the past four years, she had spent nearly all her free time acting. She had had a few roles in quite a number of well-known dramas and films. Considering that countries abroad usually disliked using Chinese actors, for her to have such a résumé was really not easy.

The reason she avoided bringing up her overseas acting experiences was because of her relationship history from that time...

Although it had been nothing immoral and had just been normal dating, the identities of her ex-boyfriends stood out too much.

Right now, what she needed most was a role that she could publicly lay claim to. If her debut was shrouded by gossip about her previous relationships, the public focus on her personal life might give her a moment's popularity, but would stunt the potential growth of her career.

Ning Xi tried hard to recall all the roles she had done since her return to the country, but the reporters were speechless at the list.

These roles were rather... ah...

A mistress, fox spirit, demoness, country bumpkin, brain-dead eldest miss, even an evil old woman...

For such a beauty, why did she have this kind of preferences?

Why did she like these sorts of roles?

In the end, someone finally asked, "Why are all your roles of villains?"

Ning Xi obviously couldn't point her finger at Chang Li in an event like this, so she replied blandly, "I never really noticed. Acting is what I love doing most, and every character, every role has its own charm, whether they're small roles or big ones."

The reporters asked several more decent questions, and even without the guidance of a manager, Ning Xi answered all of them perfectly.

Guo Qisheng nodded his head as he watched. "This girl is not bad! With such quality and intelligence, why has she only come this far after being in this industry for a year... Old Wang, what do you think?"

The producer, Wang Taihe, said heavily, "Either the upper echelons of Starlight Entertainment are blind, or..."

Trailing off, he gave Director Guo a knowing look.

Clearly, someone in Starlight was purposely suppressing her exposure.

Director Guo looked sympathetic. "What a pity for such a promising seedling!"

"If it's gold, it'll shine eventually. If not, doesn't she have you?" Wang Taihe laughed.

At that moment, Ning Xueluo's nails were digging into her palms; her face twisted at this intolerable scene.

When she'd had Chang Li deliberately notify Ning Xi of the ceremony just an hour before it would start, she'd never imagined that not only was she not late and did not make a fool out of herself, she had even arrived looking flawless enough to stun everyone.

Damn it, the outfit Ning Xi was wearing was worth several millions. Where did she get that much money?

Clothes could be rented, but then who had styled her?

I actually underestimated that country bumpkin!

Chapter 33: Want To Trip Me? Not A Chance!

"Xueluo, Ning Xi is your junior. What are your thoughts towards her acting as Meng Changge?" A reporter asked Ning Xueluo.

Ning Xueluo immediately switched back to an easygoing and elegant expression as she replied, "My junior sister has a lot of talent. I believe she won't disappoint everyone..."

When asked about Ning Xi, Ning Xueluo was all praises and compliments.

Anyone who didn't know would assume she was only promoting her junior, but Ning Xi knew very well what a schemer Ning Xueluo was.

She wasn't really helping her, but setting her up for a fall instead.

The opening ceremony hadn't begun yet, but Ning Xueluo was already complimenting her to high heaven — with such high expectations for her, even the smallest mistake would cause severe disappointment.

Unfortunately for Ning Xueluo, Ning Xi wasn't going to allow her nasty plan to work.

After training hard these past five years when it came to acting, she had confidence that she could sincerely convince everyone.

Want to trip me? Just you wait and see!

After the interview segment was over, Ning Xi let out a breath of relief, only to be confronted by Chang Li.

"Ning Xi, where did you get this outfit? Don't think the company will cover the costs! You're only a second female lead, how can you steal the spotlight like this? Don't you know the rules?" Chang Li berated her as soon as she saw her.

Ning Xi played with a loose strand of her raven black hair as she casually said, "I didn't want to either, but who told Sister Chang to make me late for the event?"

"You..." Because there were a lot of people around them, Chang Li could only forcibly hold her tongue. "You better behave at dinner later. Don't spout nonsense that will embarrass the company. Xueluo can't hold her liquor, so remember to drink on her behalf! Do you hear me?"

Ning Xi couldn't help but laugh. "You want me to drink for her? Miss Chang, are you dreaming? You should be glad already that I don't pour wine over her!"

Chang Li was on Ning Xueluo's side, so even if she grovelled and begged, Ning Xi wouldn't fall for it. Ning Xi could become more resolute in her refusals and Chang Li wouldn't dare overstep in retaliation.

Chang Li was enraged. "Ning Xi, you're really too much, it's just a minor second female lead role and you've already completely forgotten your place?"

Ning Xi lacked the patience to deal with her, and turned around to leave.

Chang Li watched Ning Xi as she left; even though it was just a silhouette, she was still mesmerizing.

She suddenly felt anxious.

Even before, she already had had a sense of foreboding, and she was scared they couldn't rein Ning Xi in any longer.

This woman was born to be an actress.

Once her star started to rise, there was no way Ning Xueluo would be able to compete with her.

Since things had come to this point, she could only continue to suppress her as much as possible and deny her any chance to grow.

After the opening ceremony was the evening dinner.

All the cast members were gathered in the banquet hall, eating and drinking and getting to know one another. The atmosphere was very relaxed and lively.

Noticing Ning Xi's arrival, the screenwriter, Ye Linglong, was the first to stand up and pull her over to sit beside her. One could tell how pleased she was with her.

"Speaking of coincidences, our two cast beauties come from the same company with the same last name!" The assistant director Zhang Rui expressed enthusiastically.

Ning Xi smiled coldly.

Haha, really a coincidence.

The same company under the same manager; however, their situations were completely different.

One was the star of Starlight while the other was clawing her way up from the very bottom.

As they were speaking, the producer and director suddenly stood up and headed towards the door. The reason was because their biggest sponsor, the chairman of the board of directors of Ning International, Ning Yaohua, had arrived.

Chapter 34: A Good Show Between A Benevolent Father And Filial Daughter

"I never thought Chairman Ning would take time out of his busy schedule to come to our opening ceremony! It really is such an honor!" Director Guo exclaimed.

"Come, Chairman Ning, sit over here!" Producer Wang offered his seat so that Ning Yaohua could sit next to his daughter.

Ning Yaohua's expression was filled with fatherly love when he looked at Ning Xueluo. "You're too polite, Director Guo. My daughter is under your care."

"Chairman Ning, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, and your daughter is already so outstanding, she doesn't need my care at all!"

"This child is usually so busy, I rarely see her. If it wasn't for my trip here today, this father would never see her at all!" While Ning Yaohua might sound annoyed, the expression on his face was indulgent.

"Hahaha, Xueluo is so hardworking, you should be happy. But Xueluo, you're also in the wrong, no matter how busy you are, you should still go home to visit!" Director Guo scolded.

"Yes, Director, I'm wrong! Dad, don't be mad. Tomorrow night, I'll come home for dinner!" Ning Xueluo cajoled as she hugged Ning Yaohua's arm, acting like an obedient daughter.

"See, even I need the director to say some words on my behalf for her to find time to visit!"

"Dad, there's so many people here ah, give me some face!"

"Yes yes yes, you're a big star now, I can't say anything anymore!"

...

Ning Xi thought she had already steeled her heart, but seeing this good show put on by this benevolent father and filial daughter, her chest felt so stuffy that she wanted to run away.

While her emotions were in turmoil, she thankfully was able to maintain a serene expression. She breezily engaged the screenwriter sitting beside her in conversation, as though she had not noticed the commotion.

She could pretend not to have noticed, but some people didn't feel the same. Ning Yaohua's gaze was like a knife stabbing through her. Her appearance at the opening ceremony was an embarrassment to him.

In the end, Ning Xi escaped the room by excusing herself to the restroom. She walked to an open window at the end of a hallway for some fresh air.

She grabbed some cigarettes and a lighter from her bag, but contemplated for a while before putting them back.

She was trying to quit smoking.

Today was the first time in a while she felt the urge to smoke.

The night breeze blew on her face and made her feel a bit better.

At that moment, there were footsteps behind her.

Ning Xi's back stiffened, but when she turned around, her expression was impenetrable, like a mask. "Chairman Ning came looking for me?"

Ning Yaohua looked at her with a severe expression, extremely unhappy with the way she was dressed.

Ning Xi looked down with a small smile. "Ah, Chairman Ning, back in the other room, you kept staring at me. Aren't you afraid others will misunderstand that gaze?"

After all, to outsiders, he was a sponsor and she was a beautiful, small-bit celebrity. It was very easy to develop false impressions about their relationship.

"You bastard, what do you think you're saying?" Ning Yaohua was immediately enraged.

Ning Xi furrowed her brow. "Obviously I'm speaking in a human language. Does Chairman Ning not understand human language?"

"You..." Ning Yaohua lifted his hand.

Before it could fall, a delicate hand grabbed and held it in place.

There was no way she would let Ning Yaohua hit her again.

He had no right.

Ning Yaohua was almost angered to death and snatched his hand away. "You better quit this role right now. You would just be an embarrassment to me if you continue like this in public!"

Ning Xi's expression went cold. "I got this role honorably, how is that an embarrassment?"

"You always have to copy whatever Xueluo wants to do. Look at you, you can't possibly compete with her. Rushing into the entertainment industry, are you just waiting for someone to find out about that incident to shame my Ning family?" Ning Yaohua glared at her, his eyes filled with extreme disdain.

Chapter 35: That Youth No Longer Exists

To this day, there were still people who would joke about how Ning Yaohua's daughter had drunk the lemon water meant for washing hands, and how she had worn counterfeit clothes to a banquet. If people were to find out about the incident from back then, would he still have any pride left?

At Ning Yaohua's words, Ning Xi went pale.

That night, that stranger, that dead baby...

This was her weakness.

That year, the Ning family had hushed up everything for fear of the shame, and Ning Xueluo kept quiet for fear of being exposed herself, but that was still Ning Xi's darkest nightmare.

"I'm giving you face letting you leave on your own terms, but if you refuse to, then don't blame me for not acknowledging our father-daughter relationship."

"Oh, so there's actually still a father-daughter relationship between us..."

"Dad, Xiao Xi... what's going on?" Ning Xueluo's astonished voice came from behind them.

Noticing Ning Xueluo, Ning Yaohua immediately switched to a loving expression. "Nothing for you to worry about. When you go back later, ask your company if they can find a better second female lead.

The meaning behind his words being that Ning Xi should be replaced.

Ning Xueluo was pleased, but put on a nervous face. "Dad, why? The role of second female lead has already been given to Xiao Xi ah!"

"It's good enough if she can do small roles and cameos, but how can she possibly play such an important role? I didn't invest 30 million yuan into this drama for her to fool around!"

"But dad, Xiao Xi put in a lot of effort to get the role..."

"Xueluo, don't defend her anymore. I've told you before not to help her, but you never listen! You still actually complimented her in front of the reporters! Does she even deserve all that praise?"

"But Xiao Xi is still your..."

"Be quiet, such things must never ever be mentioned. I've already said it before, you are my only daughter!"

"Dad, don't be mad. I won't say anything else, alright?"

"I still have business to attend to, so I'm leaving first. When you have time, help me persuade her to stop being stubborn!" Ning Yaohua gave Ning Xi one last cold look that told her to behave herself before turning around to leave.

After Ning Yaohua left, Ning Xueluo's sweet and obedient expression changed, as she said innocently, "Ning Xi, don't say this time that I wanted to make things hard for you. Originally, I was going to give you a chance. What a pity..."

"Ha..." Ning Xi couldn't help but laugh, but it was a sorrowful sound.

Who could possibly have guessed that in the end, the person to destroy all her efforts and throw her back into the dust would be her own father.

She had worked hard for so long, devoted herself to preparing for the role, but for what?

Just like that, everything was gone...

When the opening ceremony ended, it was a little past eleven.

Looks like it's true that it's easy to get drunk when you're upset.

Ning Xi felt that she hadn't drunk that much that night, but when she got up, she was unsteady and her head throbbed painfully.

So of course it was right at this moment that she saw the one person who would make her feel even worse...

Su Yan...

Beside her, the cast and crew, especially the ladies, were loudly expressing their surprise when they saw the person approaching.

"Ah! It's Young Master Su! He's so handsome! He's actually a hundred times better looking in person than what rumors say!"

"He must be here to pick Ning Xueluo up! I'm so jealous, she has a great acting career, comes from such a good family, and her boyfriend is so handsome! As expected of the Winner at Life!"

"These types of people were already winners since they were born, we don't even have the right to be envious!"

...

Ning Xi used the wall as support, her gaze frozen on the man walking towards Ning Xueluo.

The Su family had done well in recent years. Su Yan's status was like a boat on a high tidal wave, while Ning Xi was a faded shadow of his past.

The boy back then who had been convalescing in the countryside due to his lung illness, who had become her warm and gentle Brother Yan who would always read to her — that boy had already died with the passing of time.

Chapter 36: Which God of Fortune is This?

"Brother Yan, why did you come? Didn't I say you didn't have to pick me up?" Ning Xueluo was like a little bird as she fluttered happily over to her man.

"I was worried. It's raining outside." Su Yan took off his jacket to drape over her, his gaze unhappy. "Why are you wearing so little?"

Ning Xueluo's expression was as sweet as honey. "Oh you, how old do you think I am, you still treat me like a child!"

Ning Xi was unsteady as she pressed against the icy cold wall, and felt that she was really unlucky.

All night, if she wasn't witnessing the parental love directed at Ning Xueluo, then she was a spectator to Ning Xueluo's love life.

As if this wasn't enough, Ning Xueluo purposely grabbed onto Su Yan's arm and led him towards her, saying warmly, "Junior Sister, I can tell you've drunk a little too much. How about we leave together? I'll have my boyfriend drive you back!"

Ning Xueluo intentionally emphasized the word 'boyfriend'.

Only then did Su Yan notice Ning Xi. The moment he saw her, his pupils contracted.

Ning Xi...

It had already been a long time.

They hadn't met even once during those years that she was gone overseas, and after her return, he had only seen her from afar when he picked Xueluo up from the company a few times.

He was not prepared for what he saw — she had changed so much that he almost couldn't recognize her.

That girl who had always worn braids and floral dresses in the past had somehow become a woman who could capture the hearts of all men...

Noticing Su Yan's gaze on Ning Xi, a trace of hostility flashed through Ning Xueluo's eyes as she tugged on his arm. "Brother Yan, what do you say?"

Su Yan then came out of his reverie and immediately nodded his head. "Yes, let's go together."

"Junior Sister Ning... Junior Sister Ning? Are you alright?" Ning Xueluo pretended to be worried.

Ning Xi waved her hand and shook her head. Because of the alcohol, her mind was growing more muddled, her heart was beating faster and her blood was rushing backwards. It felt as though there was a beast roaring inside her body, wanting to break out and tear the two fake faces before her to shreds.

"No need..." Ning Xi stumbled in the direction of the bathroom before she lost control.

Ning Xueluo smirked at Ning Xi's sorry-looking escape, but when she turned around to face Su Yan, her expression was one of hurt. "Brother Yan, Xiao Xi doesn't seem like she wants to forgive me... I already worked so hard to make it up to her. In the company, I tried to take care of her, and yet she shows me a face like that. I really don't know what else I can do..."

"Don't worry, Xiao Xi is always like this. Give her time and she'll eventually forgive you!" Su Yan consoled her in a soft voice.

Outside the hotel, ladies from the crew were excitedly admiring Su Yan's high-end car.

"I just checked, this Maserati is worth at least 10 million, it's so expensive!"

"I also want to find a rich boyfriend, just how many years will it take me!"

"More importantly, he's so handsome! So many celebrities marry rich, but they're all too fat, middle-aged men, seeing that really turns my stomach..."

...

While everyone was gossiping, they all saw Su Yan and Ning Xueluo leave the hotel together.

A good-looking couple standing together really drew the eye.

Everyone watched enviously as Ning Xueluo, with Su Yan's jacket draped over her, stepped into the luxurious car, and only after the car was out of sight did they release longing sighs.

But not long after the car had left, there was a sudden piercing sound as a silver-white silhouette appeared and drew closer. It was a sports car speeding over, stopping right at the entrance of the hotel.

More importantly, this car...

This car was too dazzling!

Such a handsome, low chassis, a smooth body and cool scissor doors — it was a work of art...

Even more importantly, the price...

"F*** me, that's the Bugatti Veyron SuperSport, the world's most expensive sports car. It costs approximately over a billion yuan... mother... which god of fortune is this..."

Chapter 37: Entering the Women's Bathroom to Find Someone

In the car, Little Treasure was staring at the cellphone with a heavy expression.

Lu Tingxiao released his safety belt. "I'll go in to look, wait here for me."

Little Treasure immediately tugged on his father's sleeve, indicating he wanted to go as well.

Lu Tingxiao glanced at his son. "If by chance she is drunk, do I carry you or do I carry her?"

Little Treasure puffed up his cheeks, expressing his disagreement. He didn't need anyone to carry him.

Lu Tingxiao's expression darkened. "How unfortunate, after what happened last time, my trust in you has hit rock bottom. I don't believe that you can take care of yourself. If it happens again, even I cannot handle the consequences. Do you understand?"

Little Treasure drooped his head, looking dejected.

Realizing that he had been too harsh, he tousled his son's hair. "I'll be back soon."

"Old Zhang, drive the car to the underground parking."

"Yes, Young Master."

Under the gazes of the crowd standing at the hotel entrance, a car door opened and a man stepped out.

He was wearing a whole suit of steel grey and his body was like that of a jade statue, exuding tremendous pressure.

"Ah — it's Lu... Lu Tingxiao ahhh! Just now we were wondering which god of fortune it was going to be, who knew it was really the God of Fortune! I say, besides the God of Fortune, who else can drive such a luxurious car! Compared with Master Xiao, the Su family is practically nothing!"

"My god, hold me. I'm so shocked, I'm about to faint... I only saw him once in a magazine, who knew that by coming here, I would see the real thing! I really want to get a signature! Sign my panties!!!"

"Those famous, good-looking actors can only kneel down before our Master Xiao. If he ever entered the entertainment circle, who would even bother with those small fry!"

"Dream on, just encountering him like this from afar is already worth a person's entire lifetime of luck, you even want him to enter the entertainment circle so you can admire him everyday?"

...

Even after that person had entered the hotel, the crowd standing outside the entrance still did not disperse and was still gossiping like before.

"Big Boss Lu has never gone anywhere without prior announcement. I wonder why he came alone to the hotel so late at night. What did he come here for?"

"Who knows, it's not like he came here to find a woman!"

"What a pity. He's such an outstanding man but doesn't get close with women! Why do you think he doesn't get close with women?"

"He likes men!"

"That's nonsense, if he liked men, where did his son come from? I think Master Xiao is a sentimental person, and is still hung up on his child's mother. He must have loved her so deeply that he remained celibate all these years!"

...

When Lu Tingxiao reached the top floor of the hotel, he realized that the cast and crew had already left. The crowd just then must have been the last batch of people, but he still did not see Ning Xi.

He continued down the hallway trying to find her as he called Ning Xi's number once more.

She was still not picking up the phone.

As he passed by a restroom, he suddenly stopped walking. From the restroom, he could hear the faint sound of her ringtone.

He stood there and listened for a moment and realized the sound came from the women's restroom.

Lu Tingxiao hung up his phone and the sound from the women's restroom also cut off.

After finally finding the person he was looking for, he let out a breath of relief, before creasing his eyebrows.

He had no choice but to enter the women's restroom to find her.

Her cellphone had rung so loudly yet she had not reacted. It seemed she must be quite drunk.

"Ning Xi?"

He tested by calling out, but there was no reply.

He stood between the men's and the women's restroom and pinched the skin between his eyebrows. His expression was the same one he wore when working on a 10 billion yuan deal.

A few seconds later, his long legs stretched forward as he headed towards the women's restroom.

Chapter 38: You Are The Big Demon King

CEO Lu was lucky; because it was very late at night, there was no one else in the women's restroom. He immediately saw that Ning Xi was extremely drunk as she sat on the floor, leaning against a cubicle door.

She had kicked her high heels off into different directions, and the contents of her bag were spilled across the floor; her hair was hanging messily all over her face. She was a completely different person from when she had left looking flawless.

A flash of affection flickered in Lu Tingxiao's gaze as he went over to pick up her bag, and one by one, collected the things that lay on the floor. He then picked up her shoes and put his arm around her waist to support her up.

Just as he was about to carry her, Ning Xi suddenly grabbed the cubicle door, refusing to let go. She looked alarmed and entirely drunk as she stared at him. "You are..."

"Lu Tingxiao."

"Lu Tingxiao..." Ning Xi was entranced at first, and then she abruptly bellowed, "You're a liar! Do you think I'm stupid! This is the women's restroom!"

Was this girl really drunk or pretending to be drunk? She seemed to still have retained some common sense.

"I'm not lying to you."

"Liar... I won't go... I won't go with you..." Drunk Ning Xi was like a little hedgehog that had been scared by something, fully on guard.

Ning Xi utterly refused to leave, so Lu Tingxiao could only put down her things and try to coax her.

"What do I need to do for you to believe me?"

"Show me some ID!" Ning Xi looked like a cop inspecting a drunk driver.

Lu Tingxiao's lips curved into a smile, and like a good civilian, he took out his leather wallet to retrieve his ID and give it to her.

Ning Xi held the small card shakily, her eyes practically touching the words as she read, "Lu... Ting... Xiao... you are Lu Tingxiao..."

Lu Tingxiao nodded his head. "Now can we leave?"

"I'm not leaving! I won't go with you! You're the Big Demon King... won't go won't go won't go..." Ning Xi became even more agitated.

"Big Demon King..." Lu Tingxiao's face turned black. So that was how she thought of him. He thought that he had treated her quite warmly.

The two of them were at a stalemate, when suddenly, there was the sound of footsteps outside.

"Ning Xi... Ning Xi, are you inside there?"

Lu Tingxiao froze. If someone were to see him inside the women's restroom, he would never be able to show his face in the capital again.

The footsteps drew closer and closer, to the point they would soon be able to see the other person's clothes. Lu Tingxiao cursed under his breath, then quickly grabbed Ning Xi's bag and shoes and pulled her past the door she was clinging to.

The person outside the restroom was the screenwriter, Ye Ling Long.

Ning Xi was a rookie and didn't know anyone in the film crew; only Ye Ling Long noticed that she had gone to the restroom and had never come back, so she came looking for her.

Shocked after being suddenly hustled into the cubicle, Ning Xi tried to struggle out of Lu Tingxiao's embrace. Ye Ling Long obviously noticed the ruckus inside.

"Ning Xi, is that you?"

Hearing the person draw closer, Lu Tingxiao's face was as black as the bottom of a pot. Just at that moment, Ning Xi bit the hand he had over her mouth. It hurt so much that his eyebrows creased together.

Lu Tingxiao's expression showed that he was on the verge of collapse. Had he ever been in a more difficult situation?

After taking a deep breath, Lu Tingxiao spoke in a rough, hoarse voice, "Don't rush... I'll give it to you now..."

Ye Ling Long was about to knock on the door when she suddenly heard a man's voice. She froze for a moment before understanding the situation, then her face went red as she quickly hurried out.

Who would have guessed she would run into a couple doing 'business' there?

This was a hotel, so why didn't they get a room if they wanted to do it? It was really impossible to understand some people's preferences!

Apart from that, the women's restroom was empty; this Ning Xi, just where did she run off to?

Ye Ling Long never imagined that the female 'doing business' in the restroom cubicle was the Ning Xi she was trying to find.

Hearing the footsteps retreat, Lu Tingxiao breathed out in relief.

He was sitting on the toilet, and he loosened his tie as the little woman throwing a tantrum sat on his knee. He said coldly, "Stop being so noisy!"

Or else the act will become real.

The man's tone was so terrifying that it stunned Ning Xi, and she started hiccuping, her small face revealing an expression of being wronged.

After scaring her, Lu Tingxiao helplessly started patting her back as he tried to console her. "Sorry, I shouldn't have scared you."

But the person in his arms became even sadder, and tears began to fall from her eyes.

He felt helpless.

Why was this girl even harder to take care of than Little Treasure?

Chapter 39: Not Thick At All

"Screw him! Who do they think they are?!" All of a sudden, Ning Xi threw a violent punch. If Lu Tingxiao hadn't reacted fast enough, based on the strength of that punch, he would have ended up with a broken jaw.

"Girls shouldn't say vulgar things." Lu Tingxiao frowned.

Although, she was also very cute when she was swearing.

Ning Xi was incredibly drunk, but she still had some awareness left. She felt that the person hugging her meant her no harm and was incredibly gentle, so she slowly let her guard down. She remained in his lap and no longer struggled in his embrace, only continuing to speak in her drunken stupor. "This old woman doesn't think it's worth doing... otherwise, otherwise based on this old woman's face... I can find an even bigger... the biggest and thickest thigh to hug... you all think you can suppress me... then I'll go out and find... I'll go now..."

Hearing this, Lu Tingxiao raised his eyebrows, then roughly took hold of her hands and placed them between his thighs. "The one with the thickest thighs in the capital is right here. Do you still want to go and look for one?"

Ning Xi randomly squeezed the muscles in his thigh and felt around before exclaiming loudly, "Not thick! Not thick at all!"

Lu Tingxiao: "..."

He was actually given the cold shoulder because his was not thick enough.

There was no way that any man would accept this.

What was worse was that her hand had touched a place that shouldn't have been touched, and she had even patted him there. "Hm, what is this... so annoying... it poked me..."

Her tone was filled with disdain.

Lu Tingxiao's expression turned ugly.

If he let her continue on like this, he might do something that would go against his morals.

The person who had been outside was already long gone, so Lu Tingxiao immediately opened the door and carried Ning Xi out.

They reached the underground parking.

The one who smugly opened the door for them was Lu Jingli.

"Why is it you?" Lu Tingxiao frowned.

"I went over to your place to find you, but both you and Little Treasure weren't there, so I came over to look for you two! Brother, you really don't know the bro code. When did you even buy this car? It's even cooler than the one you gave me! I feel like I don't know anything!" Lu Jingli looked like he had been wronged.

Lu Tingxiao ignored him and carried Ning Xi into the back seat.

Lu Jingli was sitting in the front, and turned his head to scrutinize Lu Tingxiao and Ning Xi's disheveled clothing, his face that of a gossipmonger. "Where did you pick her up? Why did you take so long? Look at Little Treasure, he almost became the Amah Rock!"

Little Treasure had pressed himself against the glass window as soon as he had seen Ning Xi.

Lu Tingxiao was originally worried that Ning Xi would be a rowdy drunk, but who knew that when Little Treasure approached her, she didn't react in any extreme way, only looked at him and then hugged him like a comfortable pillow.

Lu Tingxiao was not the type to feed gossip, and he slowly took off his tie and jacket. "What happened today?"

At the mention of what he was best at — investigation — Lu Jingli immediately lit up. "According to my sources, everything went well. You even used Arthur, so of course Ning Xi successfully wowed the whole crowd, and the media responded positively towards her!"

"Who did she see tonight?" Lu Tingxiao asked another question.

Lu Jingli tried to remember. "Besides the cast and crew, there was Ning Yaohua, and there was..."

Lu Jingli glanced at his brother's expression, and gulped before continuing. "Su Yan... my guess is that she got drunk like this because she saw her ex-boyfriend, who is now with her arch nemesis, Ning Xueluo, so she probably didn't feel good..."

Although Lu Jingli had deliberately taken care to speak carefully, Lu Tingxiao's face still darkened in a flash.

He was really terrifying.

'To hug a big / thick thigh' is to curry favor with someone, usually a person with more power or status.

Amah Rock is a natural rock formation in Hong Kong — the Chinese name 望夫石 means 'keeping watch for her husband'.

Chapter 40: Darling, I Really Want to Marry You

"Cough, it's really hard not to put the blame on him. When Ning Xi was overseas, all the people she was with were only flings. After she was done with them, she threw them away. She's really so cool, but this Su Yan should be the only man she'd ever truly loved."

It would have been better if he hadn't said anything. After his explanation, Lu Tingxiao's expression was even more unsightly.

Lu Jingli felt a bit speechless. You two haven't even started dating, what gives you the right to look like you want to massacre all her exes?

"Brother, even if you plan to wait for her to fall for you, you should bring her over to Glory World first — it's inconvenient that she's still with our competitor Starlight! From what I know, she's miserable working over there with Ning Xueluo," Lu Jingli grumbled.

Lu Tingxiao glanced at the quiet girl hugging Little Treasure. "It's not the right time yet."

After the trouble of bringing this person back to his place, another problem came up after they got out of the car.

When Ning Xi saw the silver-white sports car, she stopped with a bright glitter in her eyes, then threw herself on it as if she would rather die than leave the car, her expression like that of a teenage girl who had found her dream man. "Oh! Little White! My darling!"

Lu Tingxiao's expression went through several transformations as many emotions flickered over his face.

He had suffered so much, going into the women's restroom to pick her up, and she hadn't even treated him nicely. She even called him a big demon king, and now she was hugging his car and calling it darling?

"Hahaha... brother, you can't possibly be jealous of a car! Who told you to drive this car out? When Xiao Xi Xi was overseas, she was practically on the level of professional race car drivers, and she especially loves sports cars. Obviously, she'd be powerless against the allure of the world's top sports car!" Lu Jingli said on the side, delighting in his brother's misfortune.

And then he realized that there was someone who was even more jealous than Lu Tingxiao.

And that was Little Treasure.

Watching his nickname "Darling" used on a car, the little guy was about to cry.

As for the one responsible for all of this, Ning Xi was still running her hands all over the car with a besotted expression. "Darling, you're so so handsome... really too dreamy! I really want to marry you!"

Lu Tingxiao's knuckles cracked, itching for some violence.

When he proposed to her, she treated him like she had encountered a beast, and now she was actually proposing to a car?

Lu Tingxiao rolled up his sleeves. "Old Zhang, bring me a hammer."

Lu Jingli immediately stopped laughing. "Don't! Brother, calm down! This car is worth nearly two billion! If you don't want it, then give it to me, I'll take it away and I promise you won't ever see it again!"

After he spoke, Lu Jingli's world spun as delicate-looking Ning Xi threw him over her shoulder.

"Who dares touch my Little White?!" Ning Xi's face was filled with killing intent, as if she would go so far as to slaughter gods.

Lu Jingli held his hip. "Good warrior, please spare me, I was wrong..."

This girl seemed to be a veteran practitioner of judo. He felt like he had lost half of his life after that one flip!

Ning Xi then climbed into the driver's seat, hugging the steering wheel tightly. "Little White, don't be afraid..."

"Eldest Young Master, this..." Old Zhang, who had been chased away from the car, was bewildered.

Lu Tingxiao could not help but feel a headache coming on as he waved his hand, signaling for him to leave.

He then looked at his son. "Little Treasure, it's late, go to sleep first."

Little Treasure, who was in a daze from losing Ning Xi's favor, shook his head like a rattle.

Lu Tingxiao didn't get angry, only replied blandly, "You should know, girls don't like it when the people they care most about see them in their worst state."

Hm, the people they care most about...

Little Treasure thought about it deeply for a few seconds before obediently turning around to leave.

Lu Jingli widened his eyes. "Brother, aren't you going overboard? You would even lie to a small child!"

"Is there anything else?"

"Of course there is something else, I want you to feel the blazing warmth of this incredibly huge light bulb!"

He could feel the piercing frost coming from his brother.

"Fine, I'll leave, I'll leave..." Lu Jingli walked forward before glancing back.

A man, a woman, and a car. Don't tell me something might happen...

Hehe, it was time for the record-breaking 63x optical zoom range camera that he had bought to shine!

In Chinese, 'to be a lightbulb' is to be the third wheel.