

Hidden 461

Chapter 461: Determined To Get It

As they watched all the auditioning artistes walk in and then out, one after another, the ones who had yet to go in inevitably felt the pressure increase, especially since most of the failed candidates were A-listers.

When the advertisement director of Noble, Cook continuously scolded furiously in the audition hall, everyone became increasingly nervous.

Cook's Chinese was not too shabby, so everything that he was yelling could be heard clearly by everyone outside...

"Did they really understand what I was saying? I'm suspecting if they are even intelligent enough! I want nobility! Elegance! Not a soulless puppet doll dancing on a music box!"

"Fang Xiaowen? No, no, no, she can't do! Her performance was very good, but her eyes betrayed her inferior soul!"

"Xu Jiaojiao? Are you kidding? She was practically a walking jewelry rack! Plain beyond anything!"

"Meng Shiyi? She can be an excellent actress, but definitely not the goddess that's as elegant as the bright moon that I had in mind!"

"The previous one? You mean number 13? Oh my God! She was practically lying to us! She did not know anything about Guqin at all!"

...

As they listened to Cook's harsh and brutal criticisms, the female artistes outside who were originally strutting their egos around started to look uncertain of themselves.

"Does this white guy actually know anything? He just criticised everyone!"

"I think he's just purely prejudiced against Chinese people!"

"His words are too harsh! It's just a performance, so a little acting is fine. Do we have to really know everything?! Based on his logic, actors would need to be a god that's well-versed in everything!"

...

Very quickly, number 14's turn was up. Li Yueling haughtily declared, "Hah, only those without potential will look for excuses!" then she walked confidently into the audition hall.

When Li Yueling pushed the door to enter, a frustrated Cook was suddenly stunned for a while.

Li Yueling donned a luxurious vintage Chinese cheongsam, with an expensive pearl necklace draped on her neck. Her hair was tied into a bun and pinned with a translucent jade. Not only did she embody nobility and elegance, she displayed China's features very wonderfully too.

When he saw Li Yueling, Cook's eyes shone and his tone was clearly much gentler, "Oh, my dear baby, come over quickly, come to me! Let me look at you closely!"

Li Yueling let Cook evaluate her without much fear. She was highly educated since she was a child, so every word, move, and smile of hers naturally revealed the charisma of nobles and she did not need to act at all.

After Cook had examined her, he was very satisfied. He said, "Miss Li, you can begin your performance now!"

The audition hall was very big and it was filled with all sorts of props including the Guzheng , piano, calligraphy pen, Chinese chess, needle and thread, fans, handkerchiefs...

Li Yueling casually skimmed and touched the Guqin, "This!"

As compared to the Guzheng, the Guqin was more difficult to play. It had a four-octave range and two tones, with seven open strings, 91 harmonics, and 147 stopped strings; the techniques of playing it were abundant.

If one were to simply pretend to lie to Cook, that would not impossible as Cook had lived in China for 20 years and loved the Chinese culture deeply. He was someone who was well-versed with Chinese culture. Before this, a female artiste who tried her luck with the instrument was insulted harshly by Cook...

When he saw that Li Yueling had chosen the Guqin as well, Cook's eyes held some reservations. However, as she started to play, his gaze started to change...

Chapter 462: Ning Xi's Audition

When Li Yueling had finished her performance, Cook had a struggled expression on his face for the first time. The previous candidates had been rejected by him on the spot immediately and were made to leave.

Cook discussed with his assistant on the side for quite a while. Finally, the assistant walked to Li Yueling and informed with a friendly attitude, "Miss Li Yueling, our audition will continue. Could you please wait outside for a short while?"

These words meant that they were already very satisfied with her performance but they still wanted to see if there was anyone better...

Li Yueling nodded slightly, "Of course."

Pfft, how could there be anyone better than her? This endorsement was definitely hers!

Under the watchful eyes of everyone else who remained, Li Yueling finally came out of the hall.

She had actually gone in for a whole 10 minutes, and the sound of Guzheng playing inside did not receive Cook's negative shouting.

Li Yueling face revealed a determined expression, and unlike the other eliminated candidates who had already left, she found a place to sit down and continued to wait.

From her attitude, it was already very obvious that Li Yueling had been chosen to be one of the finalists. She might even be the chosen candidate in Cook's heart and if everyone else after her could not fare better, they would all just be a poor comparison to her.

Immediately, all the other artistes felt shaken, especially those with slightly higher statuses who obviously did not want to embarrass themselves, yet they did not want to give up on such a high-end endorsement either.

"The next candidate, number 15, please be ready!" the assistant informed outside the door.

At that moment, Ning Xi remained immersed in her own world. Ling Zhizhi did not disturb her and only quietly accompanied her by her side.

Li Yueling was even more delighted when she watched Ning Xi curl up in a corner, looking shabby, "Sis Ling, I don't want to say anything but out of everyone you could choose, why did you have to choose this money-losing rookie from Glory World?! At this point, you wouldn't still insist on letting her go in to audition, would you? You won't just be embarrassing yourself, but the entire Glory World too!"

As they heard Li Yueling's words, everyone's gaze suddenly fell onto Ning Xi.

Exactly, there was still this one to take the bottom spot. With her in front of them, they would not look too horrendous to compare to Li Yueling, would they?

Apart from the artistes who were waiting to watch a scandalous drama, there were also others who only observed the scene in front of them. They thought to themselves that maybe Ning Xi intentionally dressed like this, but in reality had a unique trick she did not want them to know. Perhaps she would even change her outfit later...

"Sis Zhizhi, I'm ready." In the corner, Ning Xi opened her eyes.

Ling Zhizhi nodded, "Good luck."

"Number 15, start your audition!" the assistant started to call out.

Ning Xi stood up and adjusted her skirt and collar under everyone's watchful gaze and walked into the audition hall with a poker face.

As soon as Ning Xi walked in, there was a frenzy outside the audition hall...

"My God, she really dared walked in looking like that?"

"I thought she would have some kind of trick in the end. Who knew that she would really walk in looking like a beggar?!"

"Cook is so scary. Isn't she afraid of being scolded to death?"

"Tsk ts, those who don't know are unafraid..."

...

Indeed, as the female artistes thought that, Cook's thunderous scoldings could be heard from the inside, "Oh my God! You...you're insulting me! Insulting Noble! Please leave immediately!"

Chapter 463: Suddenly Forgot His Words

Li Yueling sipped on the fruit juice her assistant had delivered and she said beyond delight, "Pfft, this was even more entertaining than I'd imagined! Since she knew she would fail, why did she still try her luck? Did she really think a miracle would appear?"

As Li Yueling finished, she picked up her phone and casually made a call, "Hello, Xueluo!"

"Yueling, is your audition over? How did it go?" a gentle voice asked from the other end of the line.

"Mmm, it just ended! Obviously, I did not disappoint you!" There were some tough rivals within the previous 13 candidates but none of the others after her were a competition to her, so she was completely confident to win the spot.

"I knew you definitely won't have a problem!"

"Haha, I want to thank you for letting me have this chance too, or else, this endorsement would definitely be yours!"

"Look at you, we're sisters. What are you saying all this for?! Besides, you've helped me a lot, especially in the big deal with my father's company the last time, it was all thanks to you for introducing your mother!"

"Just a small matter! Oh, right, you know who I saw earlier?"

"Who?"

"Your family's village foster child, Ning Xi!"

"How did she end up there for the audition?"

"Who knows what sheer luck she had that she actually got through the preliminaries? But it's a good thing that she had luck because there is a good show going on right now, you know? Our advertisement's theme is 'noble', yet she came over looking as shabby as a beggar!"

"What? Is she crazy!?"

"I think she must be! You don't have to be afraid of someone like her, she can just ruin herself! Okay, I will get off the phone now. Wait for my triumphant return!"

...

At the same time, inside the audition hall.

As she faced Cook's face of disbelief and ridicule, Ning Xi stood there quietly without any change in her expression, clarity shining in her eyes.

Instead of her turning her head away in shame, it was Cook, who when faced with those pair of clear eyes, he suddenly had a kind of guilty illusion...

Actually, the girl's dressing today was nothing that had gone too overboard. It was only when compared to those luxuriously accessorized artistes outside that she seemed to be nonchalant and casual.

The dress she wore seemed very dirty and old but it was actually very clean and neat. Her porcelain makeup-free face made him think of a Chinese prose: "The clear water revealed a lotus, engraved by nature".

However, facing a candidate that had not prepared wholeheartedly at all, Cook still felt insulted and insisted on immediately rejecting her.

"You! I'm talking to you, don't you understand Chinese? You've been eliminated, please leave immediately and don't affect everyone else after you!" He did not even bother to look at her name!

Ignoring Cook's roaring scoldings, Ning Xi walked over to the Guqin that Li Yueling had played earlier. She casually plucked several of the strings.

Cook was even angrier when he saw her actions and he growled, "Please don't simply touch..."

Before he could finish, the sound of smooth and skilled playing of the Guqin started to enrapture him...

"This...this is... you actually know Guang Lin San!" Cook looked slightly shocked. This was one of the Guqin tunes that was famous for being notoriously difficult. Earlier, Li Yueling had only chosen the song 'Wu Leaves Dancing In The Autumn Wind' which was elementary compared to this.

Ning Xi did not say anything. Instead, she slowly sat down in front of the Guqin and continued to play.

Cook was increasingly drawn in by the music and suddenly forgot what he wanted to yell out earlier...

Chapter 464: Perfectly Fitting The Theme

'Guang Ling San' is one of the top ten Guqin tunes in all of Chinese music history. Its rhythm is emotional, generous, and the only song in the preserved Guqin's tunes to invoke the atmosphere of war zones, to express the vehemence of seeking revenge for a father. It was a tune full of thought and artistic personality.

As he listened to the Guang Ling San tune played by the girl's hands, Cook became more and more enchanted.

This was his favorite song among all of the Guqin tunes because it was more than just extravagant sounds, it also expressed a spirit to rebel and determination to fight.

What was even more shocking to him was that he never thought that as a girl, not only was she skilled, but she could also accurately perform the momentum of Guang Ling San...

Cook was completely immersed in the sound of the instrument as he stared at the girl in front of him. Her outfit was not colorful and her face was bare, she even looked like a lowly beggar. However, when she sat in front of that Guqin, when she started to play the song...

Despite dressing like a beggar, no one would think that she really was one. She must have had a story...

When the song had finished, Cook took a long while to return to his senses.

Finally, he tried to suppress his emotions as he said, "Miss, your playing of Guang Ling San has exceeded my expectations!"

"Thank you," Ning Xi nodded slightly in gratitude, revealing nothing on her face.

No matter whether the girl in front of him was being scolded or being complimented, she remained unbothered. He actually felt a sense of nobility from her...

Yes! It was nobility!

In fact, it was the kind that only a real aristocrat would have!

Even if one was shabby, the noble charisma within one's bones would not change forever!

This was too magical! Everyone else earlier could not invoke this feeling in him. Even Li Yueling's performance lacked full marks as he felt it was too deliberate and artificial.

How did the girl who dressed like a beggar in front of him give him a sense of elegance?

Cook evaluated again the girl and the emotions in his heart could not be explained. When he finally calmed himself down, he continued the audition, "May I ask what do you understand about the meaning of the term 'noble'?"

Earlier all the other artistes had similar answers - they thought that being noble meant having a good education, to be cultured externally and internally. Naturally, he approved of such an answer.

At this moment, he anticipated the girl's reply in suspense.

When she heard Cook's question, Ning Xi knew that Cook had already approved her earlier performance. Now, she had only one last step left.

After choosing her words carefully, she started to explain, "I believe that true elegance and nobility is not just to don the name of luxurious brands, not to show off the expensive accessories on hand, not to boast about your own beauty and educational qualifications. True nobility is, even if dressed in ragged clothes and messy hair, not being able to conceal the noble charisma within."

When he heard this, Cook's eyes lit up and his face brightened.

Ning Xi continued, "Smell a fragrance to know a woman. A perfume is a luxury item that can reveal a person's taste better than any other items. I think, for women, perfume is more important than apparel, just like charisma is more important than external factors.

"Perfume is one of the classic trendy essentials, it's different from other trendy elements such as clothing, makeup, and hairdo. Perfume is the most classic and long lasting thing a woman can have. A good fragrance will never be outdated."

Cook could not control his surprise and joy at having found his perfect girl. He nodded in resonance, "That's right! You said it very well!"

This girl's interpretation had perfectly fit their theme!

Chapter 465: Been Very Attracted

Outside the audition hall.

At first, all the artistes who were waiting outside heard Cook's angry scoldings, then it suddenly quieted down, and what ensued was an emotional playing of the Guqin...

One of the artistes scoffed, "And here I was thinking what killer trick Ling Zhizhi has prepared! Turns out that she also played the Guqin just like Li Yueling! With Li Yueling having gone in before her, isn't she just asking to be insulted? Ling Zhizhi's professional standards are indeed increasingly unworthy. Now even if it was a small assistant role, I would be worried to let her take it up!"

Some of those who knew a little more about music frowned and said, "This song seems to be a harder tune than the one Li Yueling played earlier...but I think even if this was so, there wouldn't be much use..."

Li Yueling was better versed with the Guqin, so when she heard the smooth and skillful playing of the difficult song, she was nervous for a second. However, she very quickly recovered her arrogance again, "Sis Ling, even if your village girl rookie didn't know better, surely you would? For such an elegant instrument like the Guqin, in the olden days, they had to clean their hands with incense and wear suitable apparel out of respect before even touching the Guqin. Based on what she wore, she is practically insulting Chinese history...hah, just wait for her to be scolded by Cook!"

Everyone else heard what Li Yueling had said and agreed with her.

Ling Zhizhi remained unbothered and focused on waiting for Ning Xi's results.

When Ning Xi did not get chased out by Cook the moment she started playing, it indicated to those present that she had already made the first step to success.

Only...Ning Xi's idea was still a little too risky...

She still did not have complete confidence about how the final outcome would pan out...

Several moments later, when the song had finished, there was no thunderous scolding from Cook heard at all. In fact, it was pin-drop silent.

Everyone looked at one another; they could only continue to wait. Time ticked by even longer than when they had waited for Li Yueling to come out of the hall...

Some people started to be impatient and anxiously walked back and forth venting, "What are they doing inside? Why isn't she out yet?"

"Who knows? It's probably because the director is too cross with her that one or two sentences aren't enough to express his hatred!"

"Cook is one of the top ten advertisement directors globally and he is known for his temper. I think this time, even Glory World will be dragged down!"

...

At the same time, inside the audition hall.

After Ning Xi had finished explaining her interpretation of nobility, Cook approved of her and finally decided to dig more about Ning Xi's identity.

He took the candidate details from his assistant and saw a familiar name that made him gasp in pleasant surprise, "Ning Xi...oh my God! You're Meng Changge!"

"Meng Changge...Yes, that's a character for one of the films that I was involved in," she acknowledged. Ling Zhizhi mentioned that she had sent in her clip of 'The World', so Ning Xi was not too shocked by his reaction towards her name but she wondered if Cook's expression was a little over the top.

"Dearest Miss Ning, the first time I saw Meng Changge, I was very drawn to the character and could not wait to watch this movie. Could you please tell me when it will be out in the theatres?"

Cook looked slightly guilty for having even thought of her as a nuisance at the start. She looked vastly different when dressed in olden day outfits and more contemporary clothing. He could not recognize her immediately and had almost chased her out at the start.

For an actor, the happiest moment would definitely be when their movie character receives recognition, so Ning Xi politely answered, "The movie is currently still in post-production editing, so I'm not too sure of the actual date of release either. Probably in another month's time! Director Cook, thank you very much for your love for the character!"

Chapter 466: A Beyond Splendid Collaboration

"No, no, no, she deserves my praise..."

Even though the Meng Changge was a protagonist in the movie, she had a sort of elegance that stood out from the other characters, which was why he had picked a rookie like Ning Xi among the crowd of A-list stars.

Cook did not expect her performance today to be so outstanding. It was indeed an unexpected surprise.

Cook looked remorseful and apologized, "Miss Ning, I'm very sorry. Because of my ignorance and shallowness, I almost missed out on your exquisite talent...you're right, true nobility is part and parcel of charismatic qualities and not exclusively an extrinsic matter!"

Cook brought Ning Xi to have a look at the fragrances that were displayed on the exhibit shelves, explaining, "For two decades, the Noble brand has been passed on from generation to generation and it insists on retaining the fine techniques of aroma distillation. The ingredients that are chosen to make each scent come from the best of the best regions, hence enhancing the unspoken agreement that our fragrances are for the deserving aristocrats!"

"I'm very honored to be shooting an advertisement for a brand like this. To completely embody Noble's charm, I have a very strict demands for the spokesperson. Thank God that we have crossed paths, you and I. I am confident that this will be a splendid collaboration..."

As he watched Cook chat non-stop with Ning Xi, the assistant had to walk over from the side and remind him softly, "Director, there are still many people waiting outside! Should I inform the next candidate?"

Cook suddenly stopped and quickly said, "No need, Miss Ning is the spokesperson I want. You can tell everyone else to leave."

Outside the audition hall.

The artistes watched anxiously as the door finally opened and Cook's assistant walked out.

"Honorable ladies, Noble's spokesperson has been chosen, so today's audition ends here. Thank you, everyone, for coming all the way here. After this, the Noble group will arrange a grand three-day vacation for everyone. We hope everyone will enjoy the happy memories!"

Everyone was stunned, especially those who had not even gone in to audition.

"What? Already chosen?"

"But we haven't even auditioned!"

Even though it was hard to accept the fact, most of them had seen it coming.

Many high-flying artistes were even relieved that they did not have to embarrass themselves in the auditions. They courteously walked over to Li Yueling and greeted, "Yueling, congratulations to you!"

"If it was Yueling who got this endorsement, I'd be convinced!"

Li Yueling stood up elegantly and bashfully accepted the congratulatory wishes from the crowd. She then walked over to the assistant to say, "Thank you for Director Cook's recognition. I won't disappoint him!"

Even though the assistant's Chinese was not as fluent as Cook's, he could sense that something was wrong. He corrected, "No, no, no, beautiful ladies, I think you've gotten it wrong!"

"Wrong? What's wrong?" Everyone was confused.

"The Noble spokesperson whom Director Cook has chosen is not Miss Li Yueling, but Miss Ning Xi," the assistant slowed down his speech and used whatever Chinese he could to answer them clearly.

"What? Ning Xi?! The one who dressed like a beggar?"

"Are you kidding?"

When Li Yueling heard this, her face fell flat and she probed, "Mister Assistant, has there been a misunderstanding? Are you sure Mr. Cook said it was Ning Xi?"

She had already reported the good news to Ning Xueluo, but now they were telling her that the spokesperson role had not gone to her. Not even anyone else, but that village girl Ning Xi who she had been ridiculing?

The assistant confidently nodded, "I'm not wrong, it was indeed number 15, Miss Ning Xi, who just entered earlier."

Chapter 467: Use It To Look Cool

Li Yueling took a deep breath, then said seriously, "Mister Assistant, I'm barely convinced by the outcome of this audition! We need a proper explanation!"

The assistant looked helpless and feebly said, "Miss Lee, this is Director Cook's decision. I have no say in it!"

"Then, let me meet Director Cook. I want to talk to him face-to-face!" Li Yueling insisted.

Now the other female artistes were shocked as well and they were all suspicious of whether the assistant had made a mistake. Even Ling Zhizhi was taken aback by the results...

The assistant had no option but to say, "Okay, I will convey your message."

With the crowd anxiously waiting, the assistant disappeared into the hall and came out very quickly to announce to everyone, "Miss Lee, Director Cook told me to tell you and the other ladies present to wait for Noble's advertisement to be released, then everyone will naturally know that Miss Ning Xi is the perfect fit for the brand."

When he was done, he bowed like a proper gentleman and did not say anything further. He looked towards the corner of the room and questioned, "May I ask if you are Miss Ning's manager, Madam Ling Zhizhi? Director Cook has invited you to enter to discuss the collaboration details in concrete."

"Okay, thank you." Ling Zhizhi was stunned for a while, then she got up and followed the assistant into the audition hall.

Left in the waiting area were a flabbergasted Li Yueling and a group of outraged female artistes.

"Wow! Is it really Ning Xi? We actually lost to someone like her? This is such a joke!"

"Actually, I wanted to say earlier, setting aside the fact about what type of person Ning Xi is and how she dresses, she's an artiste under Ling Zhizhi, so how simple can she be? Ling Zhizhi would not be so stupid to make such a rookie mistake. Alas, they really came prepared! We were too careless!"

"Tsk ts, it looks there's another black beauty in the entertainment circle!"

"Pfft, Li Yueling was really humiliated this time. Before this, she was overthrown by Leng Manyun, and now that Leng Manyun has finally left the scene, yet another one of Ling Zhizhi's artistes has knocked her off her pedestal again!"

...

After they finished discussing the collaboration.

On the way back, Ling Zhizhi looked at the girl beside her thoughtfully. The more time they spent together, the more she felt like she was unfathomable...

Before this, Ning Xi kept to herself and did not even have lunch or breakfast. Now, she was wolfing down at a hot dog. When she saw Ling Zhizhi watching her, she asked with stuffed cheeks, "Sis Zhizhi, why are you looking at me like that? Don't you feel lucky to have a smart partner like me?"

Ling Zhizhi laughed slightly, "Before this, I kept thinking that this way was very risky because Cook is very familiar with China. I was worried that your acting skills would reveal loopholes. Who knew that you could play the Guqin so well? To reach such mastery, you would need at least ten years of experience, but I don't recall seeing this skill in your portfolio..."

Ning Xi almost spit when she heard that, "Sis Zhizhi, you think too highly of me. Do I look like someone who would spend such a long time cultivating skills?"

She put up her index finger and said, "I'll tell you honestly, I only learnt it for a month. In fact, this is the only song I know! It's a good thing that I've got a pretty good memory. I tried very hard to memorize every single string and note. When I first learned it, my only thought was to use it to look cool!"

When she heard Ning Xi's answer, Ling Zhizhi blinked in surprise, then she giggled uncontrollably, "So that's the story behind the song..."

Ning Xi nodded, "Yeah, I like to learn a little bit of everything. I like to learn many complicated things, but actually, I'm not very good at any of it. If the skills can be achieved in a short time, that's fine, but I can only touch the surface level of those skills that need years and months to cultivate!"

She did not have time to be cultured...her only goal was survival.

From her experience in the Ning family before this, she felt like only if she could crazily learn every field and every bit of knowledge possible, then only would she feel a sense of security...

Chapter 468: To Visit Someone

Due to the upcoming perfume advertisement shoot, Ning Xi needed to stay for a while in Los Angeles.

Riding on this opportunity, she had something very important to do...

She wanted to visit someone.

Ning Xi traveled to St. Bernard City, nearby Los Angeles.

No one would recognize her in such an area so she did not bother to disguise herself or even put on any makeup. She simply changed into a plain and comfortable white t-shirt and jeans.

St. Bernard City had been named the most dangerous city of Country M for five years in a row now, where low-income groups gathered and the city was the main path of smugglers; it was deemed the most violent area in the entire country.

Ning Xi had to pay double the usual fare before the driver was willing to go there. In fact, he only drove till the border of both cities and dared not continue forward. He waited for Ning Xi to get down from the car, then immediately sped off.

Abandoned ruins proliferated the city, where most of the place was filled with short, dilapidated buildings and abandoned landfills. In the dim alleyways, black market dealings were a common sight...

However, the entertainment industry there was booming. Even though it was already late at night, it was still very lively, and everywhere were the sights and sounds of drinking, games, and gambling.

The pedestrians on the pavements were mostly muscled men with ferocious-looking tattoos, and they looked viciously at anyone who walked past them. The women, on the other hand, wore as little as possible to display their lithe, sexy bodies, their faces heavily lined with smoky gothic makeup.

When Ning Xi walked into St. Bernard's late at night dressed as innocently as a schoolgirl, she was practically a little white bunny walking among a pack of bloodthirsty wolves.

By the road side, a pair of watchful eyes evaluated this stranger who had suddenly walked into their territory.

In Ning Xi's mouth was a lollipop and she had her earphones on. She walked through the alleys nonchalantly as if she was walking on a normal, safe pavement.

Because of how carefree she looked, she looked like she belonged to the neighbourhood. The eyes that watched her were merely evaluating and no one actually went up to her to find fault.

After all, if she dared appear so late at night like this in St. Bernard, even if she was really just a child, she would definitely not be someone normal. She probably had a lot of strength behind her, and the tiniest of conflicts would turn deadly for whoever took her on.

She walked through a maze of complicated slums, then her view of the area surrounding her started to expand. She was not far from the town center, and the nearer she approached the central region, the more modern it was.

That was where St. Bernard's most respected figure lived.

With only a year apart since she last went there, the changes were not terribly significant. Based on her memory, Ning Xi soon reached a building that stood independently of the others.

This building was surrounded by a thicket jungle, it looks dark, as if it was the witch's palace in a fairytale world.

The building was dark with no lights turned on. Could they be sleeping? Or was the owner not around?

Ning Xi pushed the courtyard gate open to reach the building door and she rang the doorbell. The ringing in the still night was extremely abrupt.

She waited for a while but there was no response at all.

She rang another two times but it was quiet inside and no one opened the door.

Ning Xi scratched her head, then looked at the flower pots under the windows and counted the third pot. Then, she felt for the keys from beneath the third pot.

Haih...this standard of hiding the keys...really never changed...

When she retrieved the keys, Ning Xi unlocked the door to enter.

She found the house lights to switch them on, then walked up and down the entire house to look; indeed, he was not home.

Ning Xi looked at the time on her phone, then sat down on the sofa in the living room. She decided to just wait there until the owner returned.

Chapter 469: Uninvited Guest

In the cold house, Ning Xi waited for quite a long time but the owner still had not returned.

After a while, Ning Xi got up and was attracted by the cartoon figures on the table.

Her curious eyes evaluated the cartoon figures, then she smiled. That person still had not changed much, just like living in a two-dimensional world.

"But...these are pretty exquisite." Ning Xi picked up a figure and played with it for a while to kill some time while waiting.

The figure was very lovely. Every millimeter of it seemed like it had been refined to detail, and the style of the character was special, with an arrogant yet lazy posture, both hands holding two very realistic-looking guns.

"I have two guns..."

When Ning Xi accidentally touched a subtle switch on the figure, the cartoon figure suddenly spoke.

Ning Xi was caught off guard and was frightened by this, subconsciously letting go of the figure in her hand.

"I have two guns...one is called 'shoot'..."

"And the other is called...ah!"

When she heard the cartoon figure that she had thrown to the floor still continue to call out, Ning Xi returned to her senses and shook her head to get a grip on herself. She suddenly remembered that the owner was once crazily obsessed with an e-sports battling game, and these cartoon figures were the main characters of that game. Even the dialogues of the characters were exactly the same.

She wondered what other people would think if they knew that this fearsome man who was notorious in the underground world had such a cute side.

When the cartoon figure had finally finished its dialogue, the house went into dead silence again.

Ning Xi's mouth twitched and she slowly walked up to pick the cartoon figure up. If they saw how she had treated their beloved figure, Ning Xi shuddered to imagine the consequences...she dared not think any more about it.

Just as she thought about retrieving the figure, Ning Xi's eyes skimmed the lower floor and noticed that the door knob was slowly turning.

Ning Xi was joyful but within a few seconds, the smile froze on her face and left very quickly.

Initially, she thought that the person she had been waiting for had returned, but when she looked closely, it was not him. The door knob continued to turn; it did not look like the owner had returned, but rather it was robbers breaking in.

In a place like St. Bernard's, robbers were aplenty, to the extent that it was commonplace for them to rob and kill in broad daylight. Especially in places where the wealthy lived, these deadly thieves were very active.

Ning Xi did not hesitate and immediately walked back to put the cartoon figure onto the shelf again. Then, she opened the drawer.

"Indeed, he is still the same..." Ning Xi mumbled to herself, her gaze falling onto the black pistol lying unassumingly in the drawer.

"German pistol...it really is their style," Ning Xi murmured as she took the gun out and quickly loaded it with 10 bullets.

In this city, even if those thieves had brought a lot of guns with them, even if they were skilled at combat and were fast, they could not be faster than a gun.

As she loaded the bullets, a sound came from below. Ning Xi frowned and looked down.

She saw that below her were six men in black slowly walking into the house silently. Whether it was the way they held their guns or the way they acted, it seemed like they had professional training and were not common thieves.

"Unless...they aren't robbers?" Ning Xi was even more suspicious.

If they were really robbers, did they really need six guns for six of them?

And they seem to be dressed in uniforms. Ignoring the professional training they seemed to have, these robbers wore expensive-looking Chinese apparel!

Chapter 470: Innocently Take The Shot

In a place like St. Bernard, would there ever be a robbery team of people who wore expensive Chinese apparel and have professional training?

It did not matter whether anyone else would believe it but Ning Xi had a hard time fathoming it.

The six armed men below continued to sign to one another in the still darkness and they looked around with hawk eyes to examine the entire building.

Very quickly, the first floor had been scoured by them. They probably could not find what they were looking for. Then, the leader pointed his index finger upwards at the second floor.

When they saw that, the other men nodded in understanding and followed after their leader. They walked stealthily towards the second floor.

Little did they know that from the moment they had walked in, their every move was being watched by a certain girl.

At this moment, Ning Xi thoroughly understood that this group of well-trained men were definitely not common robbers. If she guessed correctly, it was the enemies of that particular person; they had come to seek revenge now, neither for money, nor for a woman, but for life.

Unfortunately, that person was not at home, and instead, she would have to innocently take the shot now.

"Damn it, why does it always turn out like this?!" Ning Xi gritted her teeth. She had faced a similar situation twice before, making today the third time. What a charm. That person's enemies were really all over the world. They probably had to deal with revenge seekers from time to time...

...

Ning Xi returned to the room and thought quickly. Then, she instantly picked up the cute cartoon figure and flicked the switch on before throwing it down the stairs.

The leader went trigger-happy.

It didn't take long for the cartoon figure's bottom half to be shot beyond recognition.

The other half of the cartoon figure fell carelessly among the men.

"Oh...your shot, it really hurt my feelings!" the cartoon figure started to say.

The men looked suspiciously at the cartoon figure that had been shot into half.

At that moment, the cartoon figure continued, "Bro, did you grow up in the crematorium where they sell barbecue?"

"This...this will be a massacre! Let's get some magic going first, how about that?"

"Damn it!" The lead man scowled then viciously crushed the figure that would not stop talking into pieces.

At the same time, Ning Xi's body flashed across the void.

Ning Xi's eyes were sharp as an eagle's and cold as ice. It almost seemed like she had become a whole different person.

Anyone who did not know her well enough would definitely be shocked to see her now. The Ning Xi right now was like the Ning Xi from a few years ago. Her steely eyes held no fear of complicated emotions, but only precise calculations.

Bam!

When Ning Xi fired the first shot, a loud sound rang across the entire building, and the lead man's miserable scream was heard.

His breathing turned rapid as his body retreated backwards to avoid the attack. However, his attempts were as feeble as wet mud collapsing pathetically; Ning Xi's shot had hit him right in the heart.

The other five men watched on in horror and did not even care about their leader who was shot. Instead, they separated to look for cover.

At the same time, gunfire blasted another three times.