

## Little Sweet 451

Chapter 451: Illnesses go away slowly

Gong Xu's eyes turned cold instantly. "Since when were you allowed to tell me what to do?"

Zhou Wen Bin was taken aback but didn't dare to offend this great young master. He also still needed his help with something, so he had no choice but to let this issue go.

"Oh right, Gong Xu, have you heard anything about that new manager in the company lately?" Zhou Wen Bin pretended to ask casually.

Gong Xu narrowed his eyes. "The manager who compared me to a has-been?"

Zhou Wen Bin's eyes glistened when he saw that Gong Xu didn't look too pleased. "That's right, that guy. He has the backing of chairman Chu and is very arrogant! When I wanted to exchange Lin Hao for Luo Chen, he came up with some nonsense, saying he would only agree if I gave you to him! These days, that Luo Chen is the most popular candidate for the supporting role in "Terrifying Dragon 2." It's his time to shine!"

"Tsk, is this little issue even worth worrying about?" Gong Xu crossed his legs and rested them on top of the coffee table. His face filled with disdain as he said, "Don't worry about it, I can wipe out that guy with just a finger."

Seeing that Gong Xu was successfully angered, the corners of Zhou Wen Bin's lips lifted upwards.

Since Gong Xu's feathers are ruffled, Ye Bai will definitely have a hard time now!

Hng, he's just a newly appointed little manager - how dare he fight with me!

...

Jin garden:

"I'm back! Housekeeper Xu, how's the master today? Is he any better?"

Ye Wanwan was still ignorant about everything that happened online. Carrying a plastic bag, she walked in. The first thing she did was check on Si Ye Han's condition.

When Xu Yi saw that Ye Wanwan had returned, he felt like he was looking at his own backbone and felt an indescribable calmness. He quickly replied, "Master's condition today... is alright. In the morning, after he got up from the chair, he felt a little dizzy for a while. At noon, he vomited after taking his medicine then he ate again later on. In the afternoon, the medicine that he took with you watching him went down fine, he didn't vomit anymore..."

Xu Yi's face was somewhat somber as he continued: "Also, the old madam got a western doctor to take a look at 9th master's illness..."

"What was the outcome?" Although Ye Wanwan knew the outcome full well, she still probed anxiously.

Xu Yi sighed lightly and shook his head. "He reached the same conclusion as Dr. Sun - he also said... master will have at most... six months to live..."

Ye Wanwan's face darkened slightly then she took a deep breath and said, "Don't be nervous. As the saying goes, illnesses come quickly and go away slowly. It's only been a couple of days - take it slow! Dr. Sun also mentioned that recuperation is a long-term process. We can't rush it!"

Xu Yi nodded then he said with a heavy expression, "Miss Wanwan, I won't hide it from you. There's a trickier issue at hand right now..."

"What is it?"

"The news of 9th master's grave illness leaked out somehow and now there's already quite a bit of reshuffling in the family clan. The old madam is worried about 9th master's health, so she doesn't allow him to interfere and she went to investigate the incident involving the traitor!" Xu Yi told Ye Wanwan the bare-faced truth.

Ye Wanwan froze. She couldn't help but recall what happened in her past life.

Back then, the old madam seemed to be the person who investigated the incident as well. In the end, when all the clues were just about to be pieced together, the old madam passed away suddenly and the clues vanished.

At that point in time, the Si family told outsiders that the old madam passed away due to a serious sickness, but how could there be such a coincidence? She passed away the day before she was about to confront the traitor. The mastermind behind the scenes definitely had something to do with the old madam's death...

Once they were sure Si Ye Han's health would continue to deteriorate, the mastermind would definitely become even more fearless...

Chapter 452: You're sweeter than candied plums

Si Ming Li had nothing to fear, actually. With the old madam's means, she would find out he was responsible sooner or later; the trickier problem was the man behind the scenes.

And regarding this man behind the scenes, even Ye Wanwan didn't know who he was.

"Got it. If there's any news from the old madam's side, do inform me immediately," Ye Wanwan said.

Xu Yi nodded instantly. "Yes!"

When Ye Wanwan heard that she raised her brows slightly. "Housekeeper Xu trusts me so much now?"

Xu Yi knew very well that the mole was already dead and that Ye Wanwan didn't find out about the classified information through the mole at all. Logically speaking, he should've been suspicious of her true identity.

Instead, Xu Yi replied solemnly, "I believe in Miss Wanwan and I also believe in 9th master's judgment."

Ye Wanwan burst out in laughter. "That's right, your sense of awareness is much higher than certain people!"

Xu Yi knew who Ye Wanwan was referring to, so he coughed lightly and said, \*cough\* "Liu Ying, he's... just a little stubborn..."

Ye Wanwan waved it off and said, "I'll go take a look at your master now! The evening medication should be ready by now, right? I'll bring it over!"

"Sure, I'll carry it here!"

After some time, Ye Wanwan took the bowl of medicine from Xu Yi's hands and went upstairs to the bedroom.

\*Creak\* She pushed the door open.

All she saw was Si Ye Han sitting on a wicker chair on the balcony. On the round table in front of him was a pot of tea and a notebook which had pages flipping lightly in the evening breeze.

It was a rare moment, seeing Si Ye Han out of his work mode.

For some reason, watching Si Ye Han silently sitting there gave her a peculiar kind of loneliness, like he was all by himself in this entire world.

Si Ye Han was god-like when he worked, devising strategies and making plans - everything went according to his plans and was under his control. But when he rested, he was like someone who lost his way, like he didn't know where he should be heading.

This man...

Is it possible he doesn't have any other interests aside from working?

Isn't it basic human instinct to slack off?

It's so rare for him to take a break and now that he gets one since he's sick, he doesn't find anything fun to do. Instead, he only knows how to sit there in a daze!

Ye Wanwan carried the medicine over helplessly. "Take your medicine!"

Only when he heard the girl's voice did he turn around slowly. His deep eyes landed on her and finally focused.

This time, Si Ye Han didn't need Ye Wanwan's nagging - he took the bowl of black Chinese medicine straight away and gulped it down in one mouthful. He was extremely cooperative.

Ye Wanwan gulped; even she could almost taste the bitterness.

After he was done, Ye Wanwan quickly placed the bowl down on the table then took out a candied plum that she just bought from the dessert shop. "Quick, open your mouth!"

Si Ye Han glanced at her.

Ye Wanwan couldn't wait for his reaction. She used her little hand to pinch the candied plum and stuffed it straight into his mouth then looked at him in anticipation.

A soft "ka" sound resounded - it was the candied plum knocking lightly against his teeth before it was squeezed by his tongue. Si Ye Han tasted the sweet flavor abruptly stuffed into his mouth and it immediately diluted the strong bitterness of the medicine.

Noticing that his forehead seemed to ease up a little, Ye Wanwan gladly took credit. "Was it sweet? I went to the shop to buy this candied plum especially for you! Next time, eat a few of them each time you take your medication, then it won't be so bitter anymore! There are no seeds in these, which makes them much easier to eat!"

"You didn't have to go through the trouble," Si Ye Han said.

Ye Wanwan blinked. "It was no trouble at all! Why tough it out if you can suffer less?"

The moment she said that, Ye Wanwan felt a huge force pulling her and the next second, she was in his arms. His deep and hoarse voice traveled to her ears: "You just had to do this..."

— —

[9th master's internal monologue: Wanwan, you're sweeter than candied plums o(\*▽\*) ♪]

Chapter 453: Ill-fated encounter!

Uh...

This means that...

I'm sweeter than candied plums?

Ye Wanwan stood still in his embrace and turned to look at him, surprised that Si Ye Han actually had this level of EQ.

Could this be because he's dying?

I feel that Si Ye Han seems... much gentler lately...

While Ye Wanwan entertained these thoughts, Si Ye Han answered a call while still holding her in his embrace.

After listening to the other party on the phone speak for a while, he replied expressionlessly, "No need to send him to the Prosecution Hall, just dump him at Dragon Burial Hill."

Dragon Burial Hill is a burial site for unmarked graves, located in the suburbs...

When Ye Wanwan heard that, her face darkened.

It's such a romantic moment, can't he mind his tone?

What EQ? It was really just a fleeting moment after all.

...

Before going to bed, Ye Wanwan had the habit of scanning through some entertainment news. That night, she realized Gong Xu's name was everywhere.

"Gong Xu's new darling," "Little Candied Plum Fairy's online," "the whole nation looks for the Candied Plum Girl," "a love sparked by a box of candied plums," "Gong Xu's empty confession to a passerby"...

Gong Xu's back?

Seeing Gong Xu's name, Ye Wanwan's interest was piqued. After all, Gong Xu was Zhou Wen Bin's strongest playing card.

But what on earth are Little Candied Plum Fairy and Candied Plum Girl?

Ye Wanwan quickly opened one of the articles and found out Gong Xu had posted on his Weibo that he was looking for someone.

The entertainment industry's playboy seemed to have his eyes set on a passerby.

As a public figure, his popularity took a hit from a recent scandal, yet he actually dared to post something like this on his Weibo so soon afterwards. Plus, it was a confession that he was looking for someone; he definitely wasn't your average person... he was rich and willful.

Zhou Wen Bin was probably completely stressed out over this.

Considering Gong Xu's background, he was a very powerful playing card indeed, but it was probably not an easy task managing him.

Ye Wanwan continued reading the contents of the Weibo post like it was no big deal while she mocked him.

[This evening at 8:16 pm, at the entrance of the Candy Dessert Shop, I fell into the river of love...]

The moment she read the first line, Ye Wanwan was somewhat surprised - the incident actually took place at the location she was at not too long ago.

But when she read the second line, Ye Wanwan froze.

[Please help me find that little fairy who bought the last three boxes of candied plums]...?

There was only one Candy Dessert Shop in all of Imperial City and it was located under her apartment. The person who bought the last three boxes of candied plums... wasn't that me?!

Damn! What's going on here!!!

Ye Wanwan was stunned for quite some time then she quickly continued reading. She saw his public confession—

[She gifted me a box of candied plums but stole my heart away...]

"..." Ye Wanwan's jaw dropped. She was in a daze for at least ten seconds before coming to her senses. She was completely stupefied.

Not only was she the one who bought the last three boxes of candied plums tonight, but she was also the one who gave a box away.

She read the post again carefully - even the time and place... matched...

So that masked man I met at the dessert shop just now... was actually Gong Xu?!

She had been wondering whether he was some star, but who could've guessed that not only was he a star, he was actually Zhou Wen Bin's strongest playing card!

Must it be such a coincidence! Truly... enemies walk on narrow roads...

What kind of ill-fated meeting was this?!

Chapter 454: Go to hell!

Ye Wanwan continued scrolling down quickly and to her horror, Gong Xu even drew a portrait of her!

Damn! I'm screwed!

Ye Wanwan's heart beat harder and faster. She felt hesitant to keep scrolling down.

She only dared to open her eyes a tiny sliver; her fingers trembled as she scrolled down...

After seeing that portrait clearly, Ye Wanwan froze once again.

HAHA!

Gong Xu, go to hell!

What nonsense did he draw?

Other than getting the color of my clothes right, which part of this looks anything like me?

While she mocked him, Ye Wanwan heaved a sigh of relief, thankful that he didn't have any artistic talent at all.

Sin...

If I knew earlier, I wouldn't have been so kind to give him any candied plums seeing as he's so pitiful...

Now everyone was on the lookout for her and she wasn't sure whether anyone took notice of her when she bought the candied plums. It seemed like she had to be more cautious these next few days and avoid being in the vicinity of the apartment dressed as a girl.

...

The next day, Ye Wanwan changed into a male outfit and wore a mask just in case. She headed down to the Candy Dessert Shop discreetly to nose around.

Although Gong Xu's reputation was in complete ruin, he was still very popular - his title as the "Little Prince of Scandals" was legitimate. But within one night, the Candy Dessert Shop quickly became a place

of interest - many fans dropped by and were even taking photos for memories' sake. With these gossipy passers-by, the entire street was packed.

There were also reporters who were interviewing the shop assistant who worked that night.

Ye Wanwan stood in the crowd and pricked her ears, listening.

Reporter: "Hello Miss, were you the shop assistant who served the Little Candied Plum Fairy?"

Shop assistant: "Yes, since there were only three boxes of candied plums left, that lady bought all of them, so I have a bit of an impression of her, plus that girl..."

Reporter: "What about that girl?"

Shop assistant: "That girl was extremely stunning!"

The reporter said, excited: "Really? Extremely stunning?"

Shop assistant: "Yes, it's that kind of... classic beauty! I've seen many actors and actresses while working here, along with some A-listers. At the time, I thought this girl was some superstar, but I didn't find her familiar at all and was sure I hadn't seen her on any TV shows, so she probably wasn't someone from the entertainment industry!"

The reporter probed excitedly, "Then could you please describe the girl's looks?"

The shop assistant hesitated and replied apologetically, "I'm sorry, this implicates the customer's privacy. I can't answer that."

The reporter persisted several times but was rejected politely by the shop assistant.

Listening up to this point, Ye Wanwan felt relieved.

Thankfully, this shop followed some rules, but even if the shop assistant described her appearance, it would be pretty much impossible to find her with just a verbal description.

Ye Wanwan lingered for a while before heading back to the apartment. She still had to talk through the script with Luo Chen today.

Shortly after she returned, there was a knock on the door.

Ye Wanwan thought it was Luo Chen but it was Han Xian Yu instead.

"Xian Yu? Why're you so free today? Are you done filming the commercial?" Ye Wanwan opened the door.

"I finished filming and returned last night." Han Xian Yu stepped inside while asking in a gossipy tone, "Oh right, have you seen Gong Xu's recent scandal?"

Ye Wanwan coughed lightly. "Yes, why?"

"Many people are saying she might be someone living in our apartment building, but I don't have any impression of the girl Gong Xu described!"

Ye Wanwan's face darkened slightly. It was impossible that Han Xian Yu could've seen that girl before since she rarely dressed as a female in the area. Who would've expected that she would get into this situation just by buying some desserts?

"How did he describe me?" Ye Wanwan asked subconsciously.

Chapter 455: A terrifying intuition

When Han Xian Yu heard that, he froze. "Describe... you...?"

Ye Wanwan was stunned as well. She really wanted to kill herself after she realized what she just said.

The more guilty I am, the more I panic and the easier it is to make mistakes!

Ye Wanwan hurriedly said, "No... what I meant was... how did he describe that girl who lives here?"

Han Xian Yu glanced at Ye Wanwan suspiciously but said after a while, "I'm not sure whether she really lives in our building..."

\*cough\* "Oh, you haven't answered my question - what exactly did Gong Xu say? Maybe I've seen her before!" Ye Wanwan quickly changed the subject.

Han Xian Yu took a seat on the sofa in the living room. He opened WeChat on his phone then passed the phone over to her. He massaged his temples lethargically and said, "I was almost tortured to death by that guy last night. Listen to it yourself!"

Ye Wanwan took the phone and saw the private chat log between Han Xian Yu and Gong Xu. Gong Xu sent numerous voice messages to Han Xian Yu which went on until midnight.

Ye Wanwan opened the recordings and all she heard was...

[Gong Xu: Yu-ge! Please, please! Please think carefully whether you've seen her before! I really think she lives in that apartment building and she might even be your neighbor!]

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Must his intuition... be so darn terrifying...

[Gong Xu: She wore a white dress at the time and there was floral embroidery on both her sleeves and collar. She had her hair up in a ponytail and was in a pair of pink stilettos. Her skin was like lychee, her eyes were like the almonds you see on top of cakes and her lips were like cherry blossom jelly...]

Ye Wanwan: "..."

What kind of description is this?

[Gong Xu: Yu-ge, Yu-ge! Don't ignore me! If I can't find her, my life will just be an empty desert! Please, you must help me! I'll do anything you want!]

[Gong Xu: Hey! Yu-ge, are you asleep? I can't fall asleep! All I think about is the little fairy! I can't have her even if I buy all the candied plums in the world. What should I do?]



[Gong Xu: Yu-ge! I had a nightmare! I dreamt that my little fairy was locked up by a great devil king! I have to save her!]

Ye Wanwan: "..."

He actually got it right again...

There were still over a hundred voice messages left, but Ye Wanwan had a headache just listening to a couple. She glanced empathetically at Han Xian Yu, who had been harassed an entire night. "This guy is really..."

Indescribable.

Han Xian Yu burst out in laughter. "Even if I knew who the girl was, I would never tell him - I'll prevent him from harming any other women!"

Ye Wanwan nodded continuously, approving Han Xian Yu's noble intentions. "That's right, that's right!"

Han Xian Yu thought for a second then muttered, "But it's a little different this time; in the past, that Gong Xu guy didn't have any principles at all and refused everybody. He never chased after any woman because he found it too troublesome. This is the first time I've seen him make the first move and he's so crazy about her..."

"But a leopard can't change its spots - who knows how long he'll stay interested!"

After Han Xian Yu said his piece, he finally got around to proper business and said seriously, "Oh right, almost forgot - Luo Chen will be going for the "Terrifying Dragon 2" casting very soon. Zhou Wen Bin definitely has something planned, probably to give you a hard time and he might use Gong Xu's connections. You must be careful!"

Ye Wanwan nodded. "Got it, thank you!"

Chapter 456: Casting

After Ye Wanwan sent Han Xian Yu off, she suddenly remembered the voice messages Gong Xu sent. She didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Is this guy magic or something? Why doesn't he set up a stall to read people's fortunes? He got so many things right even when he was just blabbering casually. He could totally steal some fortune-telling business from me!

In the next two days, Ye Wanwan took note of Zhou Wen Bin's movements while she quickly went through the script with Luo Chen.

Zhou Wen Bin didn't seem to be plotting anything; Ye Wanwan had no idea what he had up his sleeves.

As for Gong Xu, he had always been very high profile. The whole world knew he was looking for someone and not only did he mobilize his fans, but he even mobilized everyone around him. Now the entire industry knew about it.

Luckily, Ye Wanwan rarely dressed as a girl in her neighborhood and would wear a mask if she did. Even if anyone saw her in the shop that day, the possibility of finding her was slim.

This kind of incident would probably pass after a week when they couldn't find her, so Ye Wanwan wasn't very worried about it and focused on preparing for the casting.

In the blink of an eye, it was the day of the casting.

The launch of the "Terrifying Dragon 2" project caused a huge buzz; many actors worked very hard to get a piece of the action.

On the day of the casting, a few actors arrived very early at the casting venue. Since Song Jin Lin and the others hadn't arrived, the actors gathered together and started chatting.

"I heard Ling Shao Zhe's already confirmed as the male lead?"

"Of course he is. Not only was he part of the original cast of 'Terrifying Dragon,' he also calls the shots at Emperor Sky Entertainment and he's insanely popular now. Now that he's willing to make some time to continue acting in this role, that's exactly what the director wants," a starlet said in a matter-of-fact tone.

"I heard they wanted to use the original cast for the filming of 'Terrifying Dragon 2'."

Just as these people were chatting amongst themselves, Ye Wanwan walked in with Luo Chen.

Everyone looked up. The moment they noticed the two people who walked in, their gazes became odd.

"Original cast? Oh... here comes another one from the cast." One of the starlets sized up Luo Chen who was standing beside Ye Wanwan, a tinge of ridicule in his eyes.

"Before, when Terrifying Dragon was just released, this Luo Chen was also popular for a period of time, but now..."

That person didn't finish his sentence but the others knew exactly what he meant.

Luo Chen's performance in Terrifying Dragon wasn't bad. He also used to be really popular but this only lasted a year. After that, there was no news of Luo Chen at all while Ling Shao Zhe, who debuted at the same time as him and acted in Terrifying Dragon with him, became more and more successful. Today, he was at a position where ordinary actors couldn't compare to him.

They were two people who came from the same TV series, yet after a few years, they were a world apart.

"'Terrifying Dragon 2' mentioned they preferred the original cast, but that's not set in stone... Luo Chen has been so quiet all these years - how could it be that easy for him to come back to fight for this part? I heard that... the supporting role has already been given to Xu Ming behind closed doors."

"Xu Ming? Isn't he the godson of one of the sponsors for 'Terrifying Dragon 2'? Then I think... Luo Chen probably doesn't stand a chance anymore."

"What does he expect? Does he really think he's still the same actor as before? He only became slightly famous from a little Weibo post. He should be grateful he's even being considered for the casting!"

The starlets gathered together and mocked him between themselves. None of them thought that Luo Chen had the slightest chance of getting the supporting role.

Although they weren't speaking loudly, their conversation was more or less heard by Luo Chen and Ye Wanwan.

Luo Chen's face stiffened when he heard Xu Ming's name.

"Ye-ge..." Luo Chen wanted to speak but he stopped and looked at Ye Wanwan. The level of trust in his eyes had obviously decreased.

Ye Wanwan looked at Luo Chen's expression. She raised her brows and asked, "Why? Scared now?"

Luo Chen shook his head immediately. "No, I..."

"Don't think about anything else. Just remember that from the moment the casting begins, you're Lin Luo Chen." Ye Wanwan looked into Luo Chen's unsettled eyes with vigor.

Luo Chen looked at Ye Wanwan's eyes and his heart shuddered.

He lowered his gaze and recalled everything Ye Wanwan had done to prepare him for the casting as he clenched his fists.

Ye-ge painstakingly planned and prepared this rare opportunity for me. I must not let him down!

When Luo Chen lifted his head once again, the unsettledness in his eyes had disappeared completely.

Ye Wanwan saw the determination in Luo Chen's eyes and the corners of her lips lifted into a smile.

Just at this moment, Xu Ming, who was accompanied by his manager, walked into the studio.

Chapter 457: Initial show of strength

The artists who were still engrossed in their discussion immediately went silent after they saw Xu Ming walk in.

Xu Ming had a rather impressive figure. His looks were in line with the current aesthetic taste of the moment and he had a height of around 1.8 meters, as tall as a clothes rack. There was nothing much to pick on him about his personality and on top of that, he wasn't bad at acting - he had been having strong momentum in the entertainment industry the past few years and his popularity was continuing to soar.

Xu Ming strode into the studio and the pair of arrogant eyes on his self-assured face swept around the studio. His manager, following behind him, smiled. "Ah-Ming, director Song and the others haven't arrived yet. Please wait here for a while."

Xu Ming nodded lightly. When his gaze hovered over Luo Chen and Ye Wanwan, who were a few steps away, his brows raised instinctively.

The manager noticed Xu Ming looking in that direction and followed his line of sight. He said, "Ah-Ming, Luo Chen's here today too, probably to audition for the supporting role as well."

"I know," Xu Ming replied casually.

Xu Ming suddenly walked towards Luo Chen and Ye Wanwan.

Luo Chen was adjusting his state of mind and mentally preparing for the casting later on when he saw Xu Ming walking over with his manager. His eyes flashed slightly as he subconsciously glanced at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan calmly gave Luo Chen a meaningful glance, hinting at him to hold his horses. She then turned to look at Xu Ming, who was making his way over.

In terms of his appearance, Xu Ming could be considered quite attractive. In her past life, the role of Lin Luo Chen in "Terrifying Dragon 2" was played by Xu Ming. Even though Xu Ming had the advantage of a sponsor, his acting wasn't bad and because of "Terrifying Dragon 2," his popularity soared even higher.

It was just that...

Comparing their acting skills alone, there was a huge gap between Xu Ming and Luo Chen.

This was also why Ye Wanwan dared to allow Luo Chen to fight for the role of Lin Luo Chen.

"Luo Chen?" Xu Ming walked over to Luo Chen and Ye Wanwan. He raised his brows and had a condescending look in his eyes.

"Xu-ge." Luo Chen was younger than Xu Ming by a year and although they had never spoken before, it was better to be more polite.

Xu Ming smiled. "Luo Chen, I watched the first 'Terrifying Dragon' that you were in. It was amazing. I really liked Lin Luo Chen's role as well."

There was a hint of surprise in Luo Chen's eyes - Xu Ming actually praised him. Luo Chen could only respond politely.

But before Luo Chen could say anything, Xu Ming suddenly made a detour: "But after all these years, you never acted in any shows and now you suddenly want to act in 'Terrifying Dragon 2.' I wonder if your skills are..."

As he spoke, Xu Ming sized up Luo Chen and said, "As an actor, I understand how scary it is for your acting skills to decline after going on a hiatus for a couple years. But don't worry, even though you won't be able to handle the role of Lin Luo Chen, you can still look for other walk-on parts in 'Terrifying Dragon 2.'"

Although what Xu Ming said sounded quite courteous, there was sarcasm concealed within each and every word.

The few artists who were watching the scene naturally heard the sarcasm in Xu Ming's tone. He was clearly mocking Luo Chen for showing up to freeride on the popularity of "Terrifying Dragon 2" even though he didn't have any skills in acting.

"Xu Ming's right. Luo Chen disappeared for such a long time and he only ever acted in the first series of 'Terrifying Dragon' in his entire career, right? He really thinks he can take away the role of Lin Luo Chen from Xu Ming, huh?"

"Exactly, he doesn't have an understanding of his own abilities and thinks that victory is in his hands due to being from the original cast, huh? He should see for himself... now, regardless of whether it's skills, popularity or background, he can't compare with Xu Ming!"

Chapter 458: A dare

One may say that Xu Ming was very arrogant.

But he could afford to be arrogant - he had both skills and a strong backer.

Although his acting skills were a far cry from old-school artists, if Xu Ming was compared to a group of young idols, his acting skills would be considered pretty good.

For example, the classic bad example, Gong Xu - even though he gained popularity through his stunning looks and abundance of wealth, his acting was too horrible to even watch - he could only show one facial expression from start to finish. He couldn't even remember his lines and only said the numbers 123456 while acting, forcing the dubber to add his lines in manually. Photoshop cutouts, using substitutes, and all kinds of other shady techniques weren't out of the ordinary.

So a young man like Xu Ming who was popular, had a sponsor as his backer and had average acting skills was already considered quite remarkable.

No wonder he got the part of Lin Luo Chen in Ye Wanwan's past life.

If the director was anybody else, Ye Wanwan wouldn't have dared to bet that Luo Chen could fight with Xu Ming, but the director this time was Song Jin Lin - the Song Jin Lin who revived the second season of "Terrifying Dragon" to fulfill Lin Zong's final wish.

To him, the most important principle - more important than having sponsors or the original cast, was the artist's acting skills and also, his perception of the role.

In her past life, Xu Ming was the best candidate according to Song Jin Lin.

However, if there was someone more suitable for the role than Xu Ming...

The hype she created for Luo Chen was simply to help him gain entry into the competition. Right here was where Luo Chen's real fight would begin.

Facing everyone's ridicule and insults, Ye Wanwan curled her lips upwards and said casually, "If you're talking about fame, background or backing, Luo Chen doesn't compare to Xu Ming; he's not even as good as anyone else here."

"But since today's the casting, the judges only care about one thing - talent."

"And from what I heard just now, Mr. Xu seems to have a misunderstanding of my artist's abilities? I'm afraid I have to let you all down today. If there's nothing going on behind the scenes, then based on acting skills alone, nobody can replace Luo Chen in playing the part of Lin Luo Chen!"

Ye Wanwan's words immediately caused an uproar.

"Damn! This person really dares to talk big. Nobody can replace Luo Chen in playing the part of Lin Luo Chen? He isn't scared of getting his tongue twisted for bragging, huh!"

"This new manager is too cocky!"

"You mean brainless! He dared to spout nonsense even at times like this; he's just ruining his own reputation!"

...

When Xu Ming heard what she said, his face darkened. His manager, Wu Zheng Fei, looked at Ye Wanwan and sneered, "Tsk, manager Ye, don't be so boastful. If you get slapped in the face later, I'm afraid that wouldn't look too good, huh!"

Ye Wanwan waved him off. "Then why don't we have a live telecast, a public casting?"

Wu Zheng Fei instantly furrowed his brows when he heard her words.

Ye Wanwan turned directly to Xu Ming and asked, "Why? You don't dare?"

There was a storm of protest after Ye Wanwan said that.

"Damn, is he crazy?! He actually requested a public live telecast of the casting? Is he not embarrassed enough?"

"What do you guys know? This Ye Bai is so crafty - he was able to bring an artist past his prime into a casting like this - how could he not have any tricks up his sleeve? He's obviously trying to freeride on Xu Ming's fame!"

"So that's why... he clearly knows he'll lose without a doubt, yet he still wants to take advantage of Xu Ming's popularity! He's really shameless!"

Everyone was in the middle of a heated discussion when the director, assistant director, producer and the others entered one after another. Some of them had overheard the conversation between Ye Wanwan and Xu Ming.

Chapter 459: If I win

Song Jin Lin stopped in his tracks and took a glance in the direction of the young manager who had just spoken so wildly.

Xu Ming was young and impulsive- how could he tolerate Ye Wanwan talking to him like this? Furthermore, he had always been known as the best actor among the young idols and was relatively confident about his acting.

Thus, Xu Ming immediately walked up to Song Jin Lin and said, "Director Song! I request a public casting! In case someone gets jealous in the future and spreads rumors that I got this role through the backdoor!"

"Public casting?" Song Jin Lin was slightly doubtful when he heard that.

"Yes!"

"Ah-Ming, don't be rash! There's no need to bother with a buffoon who only knows how to exploit others!" Wu Zheng Fei quickly pulled Xu Ming away.

But Xu Ming didn't care. He looked at Luo Chen directly and said, "Luo Chen, dare to make a bet with me?"

Luo Chen clenched his fists slightly. "Bet on what?"

Xu Ming said proudly, "If I win, record a video of yourself telling all the netizens and fans of the original work that you, Luo Chen, aren't good enough for the role of Lin Luo Chen!"

Wu Zheng Fei wanted to stop Xu Ming at first, but after hearing what Xu Ming said, he hesitated.

For sequels like this, the most troubling issue was that the fans of the original work would compare the original to the sequel. If they were able to tarnish Luo Chen's image in his fans' hearts in the process of today's casting, that would be very beneficial for Xu Ming.

He already had some inside information about Luo Chen - he hadn't taken on any projects in the past three years, according to the internal staff at Dazzling Media. Also, the video which made him famous took an entire day to film as he had NG countless times before they could capture that scene.

As for Xu Ming, he spent a lot of money and hired a teacher to give him six months of special training; his acting couldn't easily be compared to the skills of an ordinary newbie. Wu Zheng Fei intentionally chose this sequel for Xu Ming as his transformation piece as he works towards becoming a capable artist...

Faced with Xu Ming's taunting, Luo Chen was silent for a long time before he said, "What if I get the role?"

Xu Ming acted like this possibility never crossed his mind and he replied mockingly, "If you win, you can do anything you like."

This time, Luo Chen didn't look like he was going to cower in fear. He gestured to Xu Ming's manager and said, mouthing each word clearly, "If I win, please get your manager, Mr. Wu, to apologize to my manager for everything he said just now!"

Ye Wanwan purposely remained silent, wanting to see how Luo Chen would handle this situation, but she didn't expect that he would come up with a request like this...

Wu Zheng Fei's face turned stormy when he heard what Luo Chen said.

I've been in the industry for seven to eight years now, but he actually wants me to apologize to a newbie?

Xu Ming shrugged and said, "Sure!"

At this moment, Song Jin Lin was already deep in conversation with the producer and assistant director.

As far as the crew was concerned, having a public casting would hype the series up, so naturally they weren't against it.

If they could push Xu Ming's popularity higher and gain support from fans through the public casting, that would be ideal.

Thus, the crew didn't even ask for Luo Chen's opinion and immediately agreed to Xu Ming's request.

Shortly after, the crew posted on Weibo informing everyone that in half an hour, there would be a live telecast for the casting of the role of Lin Luo Chen.

Although it was a last minute decision, this Weibo post still attracted the attention of many fans and netizens.

The live telecast started and a large audience came flooding in.

Chapter 460: Wasn't that rapport between us?

Ye Wanwan watched coldly by the side as the crew got everything they wished for and prepared for the live broadcast with high efficiency.

They already concluded that Luo Chen's skills weren't as good as other actors, and they were eagerly waiting to see Lin Luo Chen used as a stepping stone to advance Xu Ming's career, thus maximizing the benefits.

Meanwhile, Ye Wanwan was taking advantage of this exact mentality of the crew in addition to Xu Ming's ego to smoothly execute this live broadcast.

Luo Chen turned to Ye Wanwan, feeling a little guilty for deciding to agree to Xu Ming's bet. "Ye-ge... I... was I too impulsive just now?"

Ye Wanwan laughed. "Impulsive? I thought we were on the same page?"

The live public broadcast was initiated by her first after all.

By obtaining affirmation from Ye Wanwan, it was like Luo Chen's teetering little boat gained a sail. There was now a determination in his eyes.

At this point in time, the selection of roles for "Terrifying Dragon 2" was a hot topic and the casting drew even more attention. Once news of the crew changing the casting to a live public broadcast went out, almost every netizen was filled with excitement.

Ever since live broadcasts were popularized, this was the first time a production actually had a live broadcast of a casting, so this broadcast attracted many viewers due to its novelty.

Shortly after, the live broadcast began.



All the candidates drew lots for their casting sequence then each individual auditioned in sequence.

To facilitate the live broadcast, the casting venue was changed to a big hall that could accommodate up to 100 people. While the artists auditioned, other artists waiting for their turn could also watch from the side so that there would be total transparency.

The crew arranged for the stage manager to be the host for this live broadcast and he explained the reason for having a live broadcast this time, embellishing the story.

The main idea was that Luo Chen's staff started the provocation and Xu Ming took up the challenge to prove his abilities, so they opted for a live public broadcast.

In order to build up the hype, the stage manager even mentioned the wager between Xu Ming and Luo Chen.

The bullet screen [1] started to flood with comments and was very quickly taken over by Xu Ming's fans.

[Damn! What the h\*\*\*. Aside from Xu Ming, is no one else allowed to play the role of Lin Luo Chen? However perfect things may seem, better actors can always show up. Isn't this a little too arrogant, huh?]

[I admit that the original Lin Luo Chen was indeed a classic, but Luo Chen hasn't acted for three years. Who knows whether he can perform as well as before?]

[In contrast, everyone can see our Xu Ming's acting and how diligent he's been ever since his debut. He even cleared his schedule to go abroad for a few months to improve himself! This is the attitude needed for the role. Someone who idles his time away, not producing any work for so many years and only dishes up the same old stuff to gain popularity won't cut it!]

[Exactly, exactly. Our Xu Ming has "1987," "Three People's Travel" and "Everything is Wonderful"... over ten classic works while Luo Chen only has one - "Terrifying Dragon." Is he only going to count on "Terrifying Dragon" his whole life? He even wants to freeload on the popularity of the casting!]

[Ming Ming, all the best! Make him lose till his own mother doesn't recognize him!]

...

Aside from Xu Ming's fans, the original fans and some onlookers expressed their concerns.

[Actually, compared to other candidates, I'm most scared that the role of Lin Luo Chen would be ruined in the hands of the original actor. The memory of my favorite classic film would be ruined!]

[That's right - if Luo Chen can't handle this role, why not let our memories stop at the beautiful moments!]

...

In order to increase the level of excitement and hype, the production team positioned Xu Ming and Luo Chen's castings at the end on purpose.

The harsh fans of the original work criticized almost every candidate like they were worthless. Song Jin Lin was also unsatisfied with the performances of many candidates and his brows were furrowed from beginning till end...