

Chapter 101: A Person of Importance

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Right at that moment, the door was kicked open. “Stop it!” Chang An who saw what Wushuang is doing, rushed in and knocked her out of the way.

Wushuang was sent flying into the wall and she saw stars in front of her eyes.

“Everyone cease and desist, what the hell is happening in here?” The chief constable who stepped in after Chang An scanned the room and asked with authority.

When the two policemen saw the sudden rush of people, especially the chief constable, their faces changed immediately. They let go of Xinghe and took a wide berth away from her.

Without the men holding her up, Xinghe’s weakened body went collapsing to the floor.

“Miss Xia!” Luckily Chang An caught her in midair and asked worriedly, “Are you okay?”

Xinghe calmed her breathing, struggled into a standing position with Chang An’s help and replied with overflowing serenity, “I’m fine.”

However, both Wushuang and Wu Rong felt things were not fine for them!

With so many additional witnesses, their plan would have to change.

“It’s great that you guys are here. Xia Xinghe accused us baselessly, causing great damage to Chui Corps. Lock her up immediately. We, Chui Corps, will use everything we have to charge her for libel!”

Just as she finished talking, a slap landed right on her cheek.

Wushuang was stunned, she felt her face sizzle.

Holding the side of her face that was slapped, Wushuang looked at Xinghe bewilderedly.

“You b*tch, how dare you lay your hands on me! I’m going to kill you!”

Wushuang clawed crazily at Xinghe but Xinghe caught her flailing arm and shoved heavily. Wushuang went crashing to the floor, spraining her ankles because she was wearing heels that were too high. She screamed out in agony.

“Wushuang!” Wu Rong rushed to give her daughter a helping hand, asking with utmost care, “My darling daughter, are you alright?”

“Mom, I want to kill her, I have to kill her...” Wushuang struggled to stand up but due to the piercing pain from her ankles, she kept slipping in Wu Rong’s arms.

The chief saw things were going south so he stopped them with a booming shout, “This is the police station. Whoever steps out of line next will be punished by the law!”

“Didn’t you see how that woman hurt my daughter? You’re going to let her go just like that?” Wu Rong shrieked like a crazy woman.

“What about the things you people did to Miss. Xia?” The chief reprimanded severely. To be fair, the chief wasn’t actually siding with Xinghe. After all, it was him who allowed his men to treat Xinghe the way they did.

Therefore, he almost shat his pants when Chang An appeared at his precinct. He didn’t expect Xi Mubai to send his men over to bail out Xia Xinghe and pressured him into letting her go.

He couldn’t have known CEO Xi would value this nameless woman so much. If anything were to happen to Xinghe, his days as the chief constable would be numbered.

However, Wushuang and Wu Rong were clueless to the chief constable’s worry.

They thought the whole police station was still under their command.

Wushuang finally stood upright. With every last ounce of her energy, she came at Xinghe. She would not take this humiliation lying down!

Xinghe saw that coming and nimbly stepped out of her way. Wushuang lost her mark and careened to the floor.

“Wushuang...” Wu Rong ran to her daughter’s side, her face as white as sheet.

“Did no one hear me? Men, get in there and separate them! Cuff anyone that refuses to cooperate!” the chief ordered. The room was finally peaceful after the police segregated the two opposing parties.

Wushuang had calmed down by then. With Wu Rong’s aid, she stood up steadily. The stare she threw Xinghe was scarily toxic.

Chapter 102: Freedom

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“Xia Xinghe, if you want to die, fine, I’ll make sure your wish is expediently delivered! What are you people doing, standing there doing nothing, arrest this b*tch!” Wushuang glared unsatisfactorily at the chief constable.

She thought they still had the handle of things.

The chief rolled his eyes at the woman’s denseness, couldn’t she tell that the winds were shifting?

He replied calmly, “Mrs. Chui, I’m here to inform you that Ms. Xia has received bail. We will investigate further regarding her allegedly libelous statement but as of now, Ms. Xia Xinghe is a free woman.”

Wushuang’s face fell. “What did you say?”

The chief repeated himself and added by way of explanation, “Mr. Xi Mubai had paid for Ms. Xia’s bail so she is now free to go.”

Wushuang and Wu Rong stared at each other in shock.

Xi Mubai paid for Xia Xinghe’s bail?

They had been divorced for years and had no contact ever since, why would he suddenly help her?

There must be a mistake.

“That’s impossible! Even so, she is not leaving here today. She ruined our reputation costing Chui Corps serious damage and everyone here saw she attacked me so I’m also suing her for injury with malicious intent! If you don’t arrest her, I will sue the police for incompetence!” Wushuang said menacingly.

No matter who came that day, she was going to make the b*tch pay!

“That’s perfect because we’re suing you and your mother for injury with malicious intent as well!” Lawyer Kim stepped forward and announced officially, “We saw how all of you in

the room have ganged up on Miss Xia when we came in. After we have her injury checked, we will press the charges accordingly, none of you here are getting away scot-free. By the way, from this moment onwards, Miss Xia Xinghe is my client, so please refer to me if you have anything to say against my client. You can call me Mr. or Lawyer Kim, nice to make your acquaintance.”

When he saw Lawyer Kim, Lawyer Zhang that Wushuang brought wanted to excuse himself.

Lawyer Kim was Hwa Xia’s best lawyer, he hadn’t lost a case before.

Furthermore, Lawyer Kim had a good reputation within the business. Going up against him was pretty much a career suicide move.

Lawyer Zhang felt regret gnawing at his heart.

He picked this case because he was sure he was going to win. It was easy money. Xia Xinghe was too poor to hire a good lawyer. However, fortune was obviously not on his side.

Now that Xia Xinghe had Lawyer Kim representing her, there was no way they were going to win.

Of course, Wushuang and Wu Rong didn’t know all this.

Wu Rong said angrily, “Who are you to sue us? You are just a tiny lawyer so don’t be such a busybody or you might end up dead in a ditch somewhere!”

This was the first time in a long time Lawyer Kim was openly threatened like that. He chuckled casually, shot a laser-sharp gaze at Wu Rong and replied, “Very nice, I’m pressing another charge against this old lady for threatening a lawyer’s personal safety. Don’t worry, you’ll receive the lawyer’s letter soon enough.”

“You...” Wu Rong was ready to blow up but Wushuang stopped her, “Mom, don’t say another word!”

She calmed down enough to realize the power hegemony had shifted.

Moreover, Xi Mubai wasn’t a character they could deal with.

Wushuang asked the chief coldly, “Chief, in other words, you have to let Xia Xinghe go today?”

Chapter 103: I'll Show You Cocky!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

The chief said firmly, "I promise you we will look further into Xia Xinghe's libel case but we won't be detaining her today."

"Alright then, I shall await the result of your investigation," Wushuang replied through clenched teeth. She had to compromise today but she was sure the charge would eventually stick.

Xia Xinghe had no way to prove her innocence, so if Wushuang couldn't finish her today, she could wait. She didn't mind having Xinghe sweat for a little while either.

Wushuang was certain, someday, Xinghe would fall into her hands again.

Even with Mubai's help, Xinghe wouldn't be able to extricate herself from this.

Wushuang stared at Xinghe mercilessly. "Xia Xinghe, count yourself lucky today. But don't think you can breathe easy because I will hunt you to the end of the world!"

Wushuang felt smug in her declaration. After all, she had Chui Ming behind her back. He would do anything to help her revenge against Xinghe.

What did Xinghe have?

She was a divorcee, Mubai might lend his aid once in a blue moon but he wouldn't do more than that.

In other words, Xia Xinghe was dead meat! She was no match for them!

As if reading her mind, Xinghe scoffed, "Is that so? Xia Wushuang, I have one thing I need to let you know."

Wushuang frowned in confusion. Xinghe continued, "If you can't take me down today, it'll be your turn tomorrow."

For some reason, Wushuang felt that her heart chilled.

Xinghe walked slowly towards her, her every step spoke of immense confidence.

Wushuang felt herself yielding to the assurance in Xinghe's eyes and her anxiety mounted.

It was as if Xinghe had read her doom. An unrealistic fear crept up in her heart.

However, Wushuang didn't show it on her face. Instead, she glared savagely at Xinghe.

Xinghe returned a similar glare at her but instead of a feral savagery, Xinghe's eyes communicated regality and sovereignty, like she was untouchable and above Wushuang.

Wushuang felt belittled and shamed like she was truly beneath Xinghe.

This feeling twisted her features.

"Xia Xinghe, what do you plan to do? I warn you, don't be too cocky!" These two sentences escaped Wushuang's mouth as Xinghe inched closer. No one knew this was the side of Xinghe that she despised the most. The one that made her feel inadequate.

She wanted to sh*t on Xinghe both figuratively and literally so that the other woman would feel like trash the rest of her life.

However, Xinghe had always been that one goal she couldn't beat.

"Cocky?" Xinghe laughed impudently. Like a chime that rang in the middle of the night, her laughs were hauntingly beautiful. She finished, "Then you better open your eyes because from this moment onwards, I'll show you cocky!"

Xinghe said her piece and turned to leave.

She was determined to reveal to them the real Xia Xinghe!

She would serve every single one of them their deserved comeuppance.

She would let them know that Xia Xinghe was not one to be bullied!

Xinghe strode out of the police station and Chang An chased after her.

For some subconscious reasons, Chang An was always deferential towards Xinghe. He asked, “Ms. Xia, may I ask where you are going? Do you want a lift?”

Xinghe didn't enquire why they came to her aid and she didn't stand on ceremony.

With a firm gaze, she pointed down a direction and announced steadily, “I'm going to... the Hacker Competition!”

Chapter 104: X PC Manager

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Chang An was shocked.

She was going to... the Hacker Competition?

Back at the competition venue, the competition was going on smoothly.

All the CEOs and representatives from the participating companies were there.

An area was sequestered for the VIPs and VVIPs who would occasionally glance towards the competition floor to check out the situation.

Right opposite the VIP area was a giant TV screen.

On it were names of the different security software and the respective time taken by different hackers to hack through them. The very last column showed each of the software's time average.

The longer the time average, the better the software because it meant that the hackers needed more time to get through its defense.

By now, most of the software produced by smaller companies had been eliminated.

This happened every year, the first to go were sacrifices from these modest companies.

As Hwa Xia's most famous security software, everyone expected Chui Corps' product to survive until the end.

Chui Ming was beaming with confidence.

After all, it had been 30 minutes since the competition started. His product was still undefeated. All the other software had been hacked at least once... with the exception of one!

"CEO Chui, don't you think there are many hidden experts among this year's participating companies? The obvious increase in technology aside, look at that 'X PC Manager', it

still hasn't been hacked yet, it could rival your King Kong Internet Security. Furthermore, I heard that this software was a creation from a brand new company. Maybe it is time for us old geezers to retire from this computer scene and hand it over to the youngster."

A senior CEO who sat beside Chui Ming sighed pointedly.

His hidden message was a new and unknown company could have your supposedly established software beat.

King Kong Internet Security had been dominating the sales chart for so long, so every single one of Chui Ming's competitors would love to sneak in a snide comment whenever the chance presented itself.

Chui Ming himself had noticed this 'X PC Manager'.

For some reasons, he had a feeling it had something to do with Xiao Mo.

Chui Ming scanned the crowd and his gaze eventually fell on Xiao Mo who was in the middle of the competition. His gaze turned sharp and frigid.

"CEO Wang, while it is true that our juniors are quite talented, it doesn't mean that our established position can be so easily toppled. You might fear them but we, at Chui Corps, don't mind them one bit," Chui Ming offered as a retort.

CEO Wong took the verbal hit like a champ and said, "Does this mean CEO Chui has absolute certainty that his product is unbeatable?"

Chui Ming's overbearing pride was a known fact within the community, plus he was truly confident with his own product.

Chui Ming knew CEO Wong was being facetious but he still answered arrogantly, "Of course!"

"Then, I would like to first congratulate CEO Chui. After CEO Chui wins the first prize, remember to treat the rest of us to a meal," CEO Wong said candidly.

"What meal?" The few other CEO who overheard their conversation asked curiously.

CEO Wong turned to explain. Of course, he didn't forget to sneak in a few compliments about King Kong Internet Security.

The other CEOs were internally envious of Chui Ming but they too chimed in with the praises. It was as if Chui Corps had already won the competition.

Chui Ming took the compliments to heart.

After all, he wouldn't settle for anything less than first place!

But... the software called 'X PC Manager' did plant a single seed of unease in his heart.

Chapter 105: ET

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Chui Ming turned to whisper to his assistant, “Bring me the information on all the participating companies.”

“Yes, sir.” After some time, the assistant passed him a set of documents.

Chui Ming flipped through it quickly to locate the page on ‘X PC Manager’.

Like what CEO Wong said, it was by a newly registered company, so new that it had been in existence for less than a week!

Its legal representative was...

Chui Ming’s hands that held the document were shaking, he had half a mind to tear the document apart.

The name was Xiao Mo!

This software had something to do with him!

Chui Ming’s eyes sought out Xiao Mo among the crowded room. His world was upended.

He was certain Xiao Mo could no longer create any good software much less one that could rival his own King Kong Internet Security.

But now... reality had proven otherwise!

No other software should manage to hold out this long other than his own King Kong Internet Security.

If X PC Manager was written by Xiao Mo alone, then the guy was a monster. Chui Ming felt rage and envy bubbled up within him.

Xiao Mo couldn’t be allowed to live!

X PC Manager will never beat King Kong Internet Security!

Chui Ming gave an evil smirk and told his assistant, “Get ET out there...”

There was a switch of players within the competition area.

A 185 centimeters-tall man with perfect physique, dressed in a black tracksuit and a black cap entered the competition space.

His entrance didn't attract much attention but those that did notice him felt he was no ordinary hacker.

“That's the hacker specially hired by Chui Corps,” Junting who sat beside Mubai said in way of explanation, “Looks like Chui Ming is getting angsty from the pressure caused by this X PC Manager. Interestingly enough, X PC Manager's creator had a long history with Chui Ming, one that is not particularly pretty if I may add.”

Mubai looked at him and said thoughtfully, “How so? Tell me more about it.”

Junting, who was very much a gossip, scooted forward excitedly. “Have you heard of this person by the name of Xiao Mo?”

“I have,” Mubai answered flatly.

Xiao Mo's fame was wiped out right as he was rising to prominence, so not all in the industry knew about him, but those that did knew of his history with Chui Ming.

Rumors said he was King Kong's Internet Security's original creator and Chui Ming forcefully stole it from him.

Even though there was no concrete proof, many chose to believe the rumors.

After all, Chui Ming wasn't actually known for his moral conduct.

Junting smiled and concluded, “The legal representative for the company behind X PC Manager is Xiao Mo.”

Mubai was surprised.

Junting pointed towards a man inside the competition area, adding, “That's Xiao Mo.”

Mubai was following the direction of Junting's finger when his friend suddenly said, “Wait, isn't that Xia Zhi beside Xiao Mo?”

Both Junting and Mubai were shocked.

Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo knew each other?

At this moment, Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo were sweating bullets. Xia Zhi whispered to Xiao Mo when he saw the hacker by the name of ET walked in, “Brother Xiao, that person is from Chui Corps. The moment he sat down, he came down hard on our software’s defense. What should we do? He doesn’t seem like a simple character.”

Transparency of the competition meant that everyone could see the software each hacker was challenging.

Chui Corps suddenly changed their representative and the moment ET entered the ring, he targeted X PC Manager.

If X PC Manager was hacked, they would lose this competition!

They couldn’t allow that to happen because they wouldn’t be able to defeat Chui Corps then.

Chapter 106: He's Better Than My Sister?

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A worried Xiao Mo replied, "Let's wait and see. Miss Xia's software is not so easily hacked."

"Okay. We should try our best to break through Chui Corps' software in the meantime."

"Yes!"

The two quickly returned to the battlefield.

They had been focusing solely on Chui Corps' King Kong Internet Security since the very beginning but even after so long, there hadn't been much progress.

Looked like Chui Corps came prepared this year.

Xia Zhi was still new at this. Even after so long, he only managed to break down King Kong Internet Security's first line of defense.

In comparison, ET used only several minutes to hack through X PC Manager's first wall of defense!

Xia Zhi was worried sick. "What to do? Our opponent is truly a capable expert. If only my sister is here, we would have won a long time ago!"

Xiao Mo thought the same.

Xinghe was detained at the police station but since they couldn't save her, persisting with their best was the only thing they could do.

Initially, they believed there was a chance at victory.

However, after ET entered the stage, that chance was blown out like a candle in the wind.

Without a doubt, Xia Zhi and he were no match for ET.

Even though Xiao Mo was talented at writing programs but he was practically a newbie when it came to hacking. He was only slightly better than Xia Zhi.

While ET was miles above them.

No, ET was miles above every single hacker in the competition.

Soon or later, he was bound to take down X PC Manager!

After another 10 minutes, ET successfully broke through X PC Manager's second line of defense.

It wouldn't be long until he hacked through the rest!

"How is he so good at this?" Xia Zhi fidgeted in distress, grumbling, "This is created by my sister, could it be that he's better than my sister?"

"I have no clue..." Xiao Mo replied in a voice that was laced with worry.

On the other hand, ET was beaming with excitement!

This was interesting, way too interesting!

ET's eyes glowed passionately as his fingers flew over the keyboard. Those who were familiar with him would know he was in a state of euphoria.

He hadn't been so thrilled in such a long time.

Because there hadn't been a software that could pique his interest in a long time.

The defense capability of this X PC Manager was well beyond his expectation. He thought he will only need 10 minutes to completely hack through it.

Who knew the first line of defense alone took him about several minutes, and the second wall of defense about 10 minutes.

He could count on his fingers the number of software packages that required him this long to hack through.

He didn't expect to find such a master programmer in a small city like this.

ET's excitement grew when he started working on the third line of defense.

This third barrier was stronger than the two preceding it.

The harder the challenge, the more eager ET was. There was nothing in the world he loved more than a good challenge. By now, he held the whole venue's attention, they were curious to see how long he would take to hack through X PC Manager.

Xia Zhi hoped vehemently that he would take... ten thousand years!

Being shown the stark difference in ability, Xia Zhi had lost his will of combat. However, he knew they couldn't lose, they mustn't lose!

"We can't let this go on anymore; I'm going to grab my sister! Even if I have to bust her out of jail, I will do it!" Xia Zhi said through gritted teeth.

As he stood up from his seat, Xiao Mo pulled him back down. "Zhi, wait!"

Chapter 107: Sudden Appearance

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“We can’t wait anymore, we’re losing badly here!” Xia Zhi retorted anxiously.

Internally, Xiao Mo was equally troubled but he tried his best to console Xia Zhi, “This is not the end, our loss is not a certainty...”

“Brother Xiao, it’s time to stop kidding ourselves.” It was obvious that they were on the losing side. ET was making short work of them.

The moment X PC Manager was taken down, their fate would be sealed.

No, their fate was sealed the moment ET sat down.

Even if Xia Zhi rushed to the police station then it was already too late.

It was only a matter of time until they lost.

That was unless Xinghe suddenly appeared...

But how was that possible?

Chui Ming would make certain his sister was firmly locked behind bars.

His former brother-in-law refused to help...

Xia Zhi glared at Chui Ming who sat in the VIP area, his gaze full of hatred! It was him who ruined everything.

Xiao Mo similarly leveled Chui Ming an intense glare.

If possible, he would sacrifice his life to win this competition. He would sacrifice anything and everything for Xinghe to make a sudden appearance.

Alas, he knew that was impossible.

Why was God so cruel towards them?

They had the competition in their grasp, why would such a capable person work for Chui Ming to ruin their hope and

dream?

Was it true that nice guys finish last? The world was that unfair?

Xiao Mo almost bit through his lips lamenting their regrettable fate.

The more saddened Xiao Mo was, the happier Chui Ming became.

He had been taking in Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi's reactions. He laughed delightfully watching their mounting despair.

CEO Wang who sat beside him of course understood why he was laughing.

He congratulated disingenuously, "CEO Chui, looks like you're going to have to treat the rest of us to a meal after all."

"Oh, it's still too early to tell who might nab first place," Chui Ming replied with a humble smile.

CEO Wang chuckled amiably, "Even the blind could see who will be the crowned winner. Who could rival the impressive hacker that CEO Chui hired?"

"You know what... Of course, you're right. No one can ever stand in my way!" Chui Ming laughed arrogantly, all semblance of humility gone.

CEO Wang was speechless. But what else could he do, the moment Chui Corps' King Kong Internet Security hit the market, it swept all the sales chart. After these past few years of upgrades, it was practically invincible.

He hoped for someone to bring Chui Corps down a peg but it was in the end, wishful thinking.

He thought this X PC Manager could finally do King Kong Internet Security in but it looked like it was not meant to be.

Everyone present, Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo included, could see the competition was Chui Corps'.

However, Xia Zhi refused to give in. He knew it was impossible but he just couldn't sit there idly waiting for their defeat.

“Brother Xiao, I’m going to get my sister. Please don’t stop me!” Xia Zhi stood up suddenly and rushed towards the entrance.

But right at that moment, the door was pushed open from the outside.

Xia Zhi stared disbelievingly at the person that soon walked through it. He was shell-shocked.

Chapter 108: Emotions

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Was he dreaming?

Why would his sister be there?

Wasn't she detained at the precinct...

Xia Zhi rubbed his eyes and confirmed the slender figure at the door was his sister, Xia Xinghe. After leaving the police station, she rushed to the venue as fast as possible.

She scanned the giant TV Screen and sighed in relief when she noticed X PC Manager still hadn't been broken through. Good, there was still time.

“Sis?” Xia Zhi hurled himself at her excitedly, adding, “Sis, is this really you? How can you be here? I saw you being taken away with my own two eyes.”

“Miss Xia...” Xiao Mo too sprung up from his seat. He himself didn't even realize his hands were shaking from excitement.

The rest of the room was astonished.

When Chui Ming saw Xinghe, his face fell!

Didn't he have his men bring Xinghe to the police station? How did she get out and what was she doing there?

Mubai stared at her thoughtfully. He too was wondering the same thing.

The question on practically everyone's mind was what was a woman doing there?

All the hackers present that day were male. It was not that there weren't female hackers but they were far and few in between.

This year's Hacker Competition happened to have no female hackers who registered so when a woman appeared at the venue, no one expected her to be one.

Only ET looked at Xinghe strangely, like he could smell the similarities between them.

Could she be the programmer behind X PC Manager?

ET's eyes shone enthusiastically thinking about this possibility...

"We can talk about that later, quick, tell me what's the current situation," Xinghe brushed off Xia Zhi's enquiries and strode confidently towards the competition area.

"Sis, over here, come take my seat," Xia Zhi fell into her beat instantly and led her towards his spot. He then quickly brought Xinghe up to speed.

"Sis, our software is still holding up but that hacker, ET has taken two of our defenses down. Brother Xiao and I on the other hand only manage to wear out the first layer of King Kong Internet Security's defenses."

Xia Zhi pointed at the man wearing a black cap across the room. Xinghe looked down that direction and she found herself meeting ET's dark eyes.

The contact was brief but a challenge had been sent and accepted. The competition had gotten personal.

"How long did he take?" Xinghe asked easily.

Xia Zhi sighed before he came out with the answer, "Less than 20 minutes in total."

"Not bad, he's quite a talent," Xinghe commented objectively. If he only used 20 minutes to take down X PC Manager's first two walls of defense, he is indeed praiseworthy.

However, this bit of prowess was still child's play in Xinghe's eyes!

Xia Zhi was confused. He asked worriedly, "Sis, you also think that he's good?"

"He is very good."

"Then, what should we do? He's starting on our third layer of defense!"

They would lose if ET hacked through this last wall of defense.

Xinghe was unconcerned. This third layer was not so easily breached.

She still had time, plenty of time in fact.

“Miss Xia, please start working soon,” Xiao Mo pressed. He was worried they wouldn’t be able to catch up.

“There’s no need to rush,” Xinghe commented as she looked towards the VIP area. Chui Ming felt chilled as Xinghe’s icy gaze swept over him.

For some reason, he felt Xinghe’s sudden appearance was an omen of worse things to come.

The feeling only got stronger when their eyes met, and the next second he saw Xinghe pointing her finger at him...

Chapter 109: An Official War with Chui Corps

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Xinghe's regal presence swept the entire room. She stared pointedly at Chui Ming who was at the end of her finger.

She held the room's rapt attention.

They wondered what Xinghe was up to. Whatever it was, they knew she wasn't there to make friends.

They were right that Xinghe came bearing hostility but her only target was Chui Ming!

"Chui Ming!" Xinghe enunciated word by word, "You've used all sorts of despicable ways meaning to pin me down but unfortunately for you today; I, Xia Xinghe, am still standing! So, I want you to listen closely, because from this moment onwards, it is officially a war between our two parties. I will show the world why they say the villains always end badly!"

After that, Xinghe ignored the looks the room tossed her and started working on the computer.

People wished they were as calm as her.

The things Xinghe said and did sent massive ripples across the room!

Just what was happening?

The fact that a woman who pretty much dropped from the sky dared to be so disrespectful towards Chui Ming alone was difficult for them to wrap their heads around, but now she was fiddling with the computer?

Could she really be a hacker?

Was she serious about taking down Chui Corps' security software?

The idea alone was ludicrous.

Chui Corps' King Kong Internet Security was practically unbeatable.

If it could be so easily done, the men at the competition would have cracked it a long time ago!

How could a woman accomplish something these men couldn't?

Then again, times had changed. Maybe a woman's detail-orientated nature was better suited for hacking. However, the key was whether she was able to do it within a short period of time!

From the looks of things, she was part of the company that wrote X PC Manager.

Could she really hack past King Kong Internet Security before their own X PC Manager was taken down?

Almost everyone was betting against her, but they also felt worried for her. Xinghe had openly crossed Chui Ming, if she failed, her ending wouldn't be pretty.

Nevertheless, the room of men had an indescribable admiration for her.

Her courage for coming up against Chui Ming alone was commendable.

After all, Chui Ming wasn't in a room of allies. No one there was particularly fond of him.

Therefore, many were actually glad Xinghe dared to declare war against Chui Ming. In fact, many silently cheered her on.

They didn't mind their own product losing to X PC Manager, the important thing was having King Kong Internet Security take a hit!

CEO Wong hadn't had such an adrenaline rush in many years.

At that moment, he felt giddy with excitement. The air in the room was charged with anticipation, he couldn't wait for the competition result to be revealed.

For some reason, he had an inkling that the woman could perform a feat of miracle and beat Chui Corps.

He prayed for his hunch to be correct.

CEO Wong snuck a look at Chui Ming and was taken aback by the latter's wrathful expression. He stared at Xinghe like a psychopath eyeing his next victim.

Without a doubt, the woman had trampled on Chui Ming's toes.

If she couldn't win this competition, then her fate... CEO Wong didn't dare to go further than that, he prayed sincerely for the woman's success.

She teetered dangerously between glory and tragedy.

Junting was thinking the same thing.

He frowned and commented solemnly, "Who is that woman, I feel like I've seen her before. I wonder what her beef with Chui Ming is that she dared to openly declare war against him. Didn't she know that's not a wise move, considering who she's dealing with?"

Mubai's eyes had been glued onto Xinghe the moment she made her sudden appearance.

His heart skipped a beat when he saw Xinghe's fingers moving proficiently over the keyboard.

Chapter 110: She is 001!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

He wasn't at all surprised Xinghe openly challenged Chui Ming, but he was shocked that Xinghe knew her way around the computer!

Not only that, she was a hacker!

Mubai found it impossible to accept that the hacker before him and his ex-wife were one and the same.

In Mubai's mind, Xia Xinghe was a woman who didn't know anything so why would she suddenly know how to operate the computer?

Plus, based on her technique, she was very good at it.

Since she dared to declare war against Chui Ming, it meant that she was confident. Even though their X PC Manager was at the brink of being broken through, she still had faith she could take down Chui Corps' security software before then.

Either she was bluffing, which was unlikely, or she was indeed really good at her job.

The drastic transformation, pre- and post-divorce, in Xinghe was hard for Mubai to stomach.

However, he quickly came to terms with reality.

Tracing back the sudden changes in Xinghe and the series of events that had happened, Mubai seemed to have understood something.

Before Xinghe married him, she was a student from the Mathematics Faculty of Academy S.

Academy S was one of the top ten schools in the world. The entrance exam was said to be extremely hard. Furthermore, the Mathematics Faculty was the department that Academy S was famous for.

It had produced many famed mathematicians.

If Xinghe was from that faculty, it wouldn't be such a stretch to see her as a computer expert. Therefore, Mubai concluded, she had once been very handy with the computer.

The amnesia just so happened to eclipse her talent.

She must have recently recovered her memory because it was the only explanation to her sudden changes!

No wonder she could find the funds to pay Xia Chengwu's operation and get all dressed up to attend Lin Lin's party...

She probably earned those funds using her extraordinary computer skills.

This meant that she... is 001!

She must be because the timeline lined up simply too perfectly.

She was the 001 that helped Chui Corps solve their virus issue for the huge reward.

In fact, it might have been her who wrote the virus that targeted Chui Corps' security software in the first place...

Therefore, it was also only logical that she was the main programmer behind this X PC Manager!

After Mubai figured out the whole picture, for some reason, he wanted to laugh out loud.

He felt assaulted by great pleasure. This was a sensation that he hadn't experienced in a long, long time.

Like Magellan discovering the New World, he felt his blood boiling with anticipation and joy.

His eyes on Xinghe also became unusually bright.

Junting immediately sensed the weird changes in his friend. He nudged Mubai concernedly and whispered, "Why are you looking at the woman like that?"

Mubai refused to take his eyes off Xinghe. He replied, "What do you mean?"

The tone of his voice was still the same but it did nothing to hide the joyful undertone.

Junting was spooked.

He had been friends with Mubai for many years, this was the first and only time he saw his friend act this way especially over a woman... so intensely.

Isn't he completely uninterested in women?

Mubai hadn't once seriously laid his eyes on a woman so much so that, for a period, his friends suspected he was gay.

After he got married and had children, they finally realized, it wasn't that he wasn't into women, but there wasn't a woman in the world that was able to pique his interest.

Chapter 111: Fallen Into His Sight

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

His ex-wife didn't rouse his interest.

His current fiancé Chu Tianxin couldn't do it either.

Junting was certain no woman in this world would be able to do so.

Mubai's standard for woman was too high, she would have to be incredibly competent and superb to attract Mubai's attention.

Is there even such a woman in this world?

Alas, he felt clearly Mubai was showing an incredible amount of interest in that woman.

She... had fallen into his sight.

Junting was unable to make it to Lin Lin's birthday party so he was unable to recognize Xinghe.

Naturally, he couldn't understand why Mubai was rooting for Xinghe even though the latter hadn't even done anything yet.

Junting looked Xinghe's way. He had to admit, the woman had an attractive quality about her when she worked on the computer.

But she had a sickly pale about her. Her features weren't perfect, it was passable.

In other words, Xinghe, appearance-wise, was not that impressive.

If Mubai wasn't attracted to the woman's physical appearance, that meant he was interested in her... talent?

Junting chuckled at the absurdity of his hypothesis. He was all the more certain Mubai was going to die without knowing what love is.

It was not that Junting wasn't looking out for his friend but he simply couldn't imagine Mubai suddenly gaining interest in an unknown woman.

Furthermore, Mubai was already engaged. It would be highly inappropriate for him to show immense interest in someone other than his fiancé.

However, Junting had to concede the woman had a presence that demanded attention.

Junting asked with a hint of a smile, “Mubai, do you think she will win? But how does Xia Zhi know someone like her? After this, I need to pull him aside and ask.”

“15 minutes,” Mubai replied apropos to nothing.

Junting was confused. “What 15 minutes?”

Mubai smirked, “She will take less than 15 minutes to take down Chui Corps’ King Kong Internet Security.”

Junting’s jaw dropped. “How is that possible?”

He tried hacking King Kong Internet Security and it took him several hours to do it. The roomful of hackers was worse than him, it had been half an hour but none had managed to even make a dent on King Kong Internet Security.

So how could this woman crack it in 15 minutes?

Mubai added confidently, “If she is who I think she is, that is all the time she’ll need.”

Junting chuckled mirthlessly, “CEO Xi, you can’t be fooled by her bravery, that doesn’t translate into capability. Even though I also wish for her to win but she couldn’t possibly do it within 15 minutes!”

“Well, care to make it interesting? Name your bet. I’m willing to bet anything.”

Bet... anything?

Junting was shocked, Mubai was that confident in this woman?

Why else would he be willing to bet anything on her victory?

Junting looked once more at Xinghe, more seriously this time. For some reason, this time he could feel there was something extraordinary about this woman.

His inner voice told him that she would prove herself victorious and make a name for herself through this competition!

But... who was she? How come he hadn't heard of her before?

All the big-wigs in the room were equally curious about Xinghe's identity but they had something more immediate on their mind, which was whether she could win the competition.

Chapter 112: Impossible!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

The international competition had become a personal contest between Xinghe and ET.

The other hackers had fallen into the background.

All eyes were on the two of them, eager for the result.

Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo had stopped operating the computers. They stood behind Xinghe, watching her computer screen unblinkingly.

Two minutes in and Xinghe had taken down King Kong Internet Security's first wall of defense!

The audience burst into an uproar—

She only needed two minutes to break through the first wall!

The competition attracted hackers that were best of the best, but even the fastest among them took ten minutes to get past King Kong Internet Security's first line of defense.

However, she only used two minutes... It was unimaginable!

Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi gripped their fists excitedly.

If not for the fear of disturbing Xinghe, they would have openly cheered her on.

On the other side of the room, Chui Ming gritted his teeth in anger!

He didn't expect Xia Xinghe to be insanely good with a computer.

It had been only two minutes but Chui Ming could feel the weight of a calamity pressing down on him. He was breaking out in cold sweat.

This turn of events shocked everyone in the room.

CEO Wang almost yelled out at Xinghe, Well done, keep going!

On the other hand, the moment Junting finished his conversation with Mubai, Xinghe got past King Kong Internet Security's first layer of defense. He stared at her disbelievingly, saying, "I can't believe my eyes, she is as good as you said..."

Even though Mubai had predicted Xinghe could do as much but at that moment, he too was pleasantly surprised.

He leaned back down in his chair and gazed covetously at Xinghe. His mouth broke involuntarily into a charming smile.

Similarly, ET was gazing enthusiastically at Xinghe.

He knew she was something special when she walked in and she didn't disappoint.

The stronger his opponent, the more inflamed his fighting spirit. The speed at which his fingers flew over the keyboard increase, and it was the same for Xinghe

The whole venue was filled with sound of their fingers tapping crazily on the keyboard.

Like an orchestra, the increasing tempo tugged at everyone's nervous hearts until...

Ding!

The news that Xinghe had cleared King Kong Internet Security's second line of defense appeared on the TV screen.

Four minutes...

This time she had used only four minutes to break down the second wall!

"Clang!" The cup that was on Chui Ming's table clattered to the floor.

"Oh my, CEO Chui, why so careless?" CEO Wang commented sardonically, "Could it be that CEO Chui was made flustered by the competition's latest development? What am I saying? Of course, someone like CEO Chui wouldn't be so easily affected."

"You think she can win?" Chui Ming glared at CEO Wang threateningly, his sense of decorum all but tossed out of the

window, adding, “Let me tell you, no one can beat my company, Chui Corps! She won’t be able to get through the third defense, I swear my life on it! Plus, my company’s hacker hasn’t even shown his true capability yet.”

CEO Wang smiled inwardly watching Chui Ming all flustered.

Because it meant that Chui Ming was nervous and afraid.

He replied smilingly, “Of course, CEO Chui is right. The hacker you employ truly is someone impressive and the third defense is indeed hard to get through. Well, just look how your hacker still hasn’t been able to hack through X PC Manager’s third defense.”

Chapter 113: The Most Beautiful Thing in the World

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Chui Ming heard the sarcasm in his words.

He scoffed, “The competition hasn’t finished yet; first place is still up for grabs.”

“Alright then, we shall wait and see,” CEO Wang concluded happily. He was in a good mood because someone who could threaten Chui Ming had finally appeared.

But... could this woman really win?

Nobody could tell.

After all ET had performed some crazy feats too. Furthermore, Xinghe arrived so much later than he did. Even if she was better than ET, it would be an uphill battle to catch up.

However, why were they hoping for her to win?

Xinghe’s victory equated to their loss but they were more than glad to see Xinghe’s reversal.

It must be said that Chui Ming had truly failed as a human being. Everyone in the room was waiting to see him fail.

Chui Ming understood this and it added to the pressure on his shoulders.

This competition he couldn’t lose, because if he did... it would be game over for him!

Yes, he couldn’t lose!

Glaring at Xinghe, a murderous intent crossed his eyes. He waved for his assistant to lean in and he whispered some orders into his ear.

His assistant nodded and slipped out the hall without drawing anyone’s notice.

King Kong Internet Security’s third defense was indeed good and hard to break through but it was still nothing for Xinghe.

Her calm and collected demeanor spoke of a wealth of confidence and ease, so much so that it had influenced her opponent, ET.

ET was delighted to have found a worthy match, but he also started getting the jitters.

This was because he didn't expect X PC Manager's third wall to be so strong.

He leveled at it to the best of his abilities but it remained standing. He'd made zero progress in the last ten minutes.

On the other hand, his opponent had caught up to him.

Someone who could write such a good defense must have a great offense as well.

ET could sense it in his gut that the third defense for King Kong Internet Security was coming down soon.

But he refused to admit defeat. He would fight until the last remaining second!

Deep down though he couldn't help but admit he was fighting a losing battle...

It was not only him who felt that way. Everyone in the room could see Xinghe winning the competition!

Even Mubai had gotten slightly nervous for Xinghe's sake.

His long fingers tapped rhythmically on his knees, his eyes still glued onto Xinghe.

He realized the Xinghe before him then was more attractive, more remarkable than she was at Lin Lin's party.

During the party, Xinghe had on a million-dollar dress and the perfect make-up.

Now, her hair was pulled back into a simple ponytail and she wore the plainest of white T-shirt and no make-up. In fact, she was looking a bit pale and enervated.

Logically speaking, her previous appearance should be more alluring than her current appearance.

But, for some reason, the current Xinghe radiated a confidence that was intensely attention-grabbing.

Mubai stared, spellbound, at Xinghe like he was hypnotized...

He could even smell a hint of spring in the air.

Perhaps this was why they say spring is the season of romance. He felt hugged by the most serene of feelings that he closed his eyes satisfactorily with a smile.

Chapter 114: A Disgusting, Meaningless Trick

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Suddenly, Xia Zhi rushed to Xinghe's side and with a terrified expression, relayed something to her. Xinghe stood up so abruptly that her chair fell backwards!

Bang!

The sudden commotion alerted everyone.

They stared at Xinghe's sudden movement confusedly.

“What did you say?” Xinghe asked Xia Zhi sternly.

A horrified Xia Zhi said hurriedly, “Sis, the person said they have kidnapped Dad. If you don't stop competing, they are going to kill him...”

A moment ago, Xia Zhi received a call from an unknown number. His initial thought was to ignore it but since it kept on ringing, he walked to a quiet corner and answered it.

Little did he know it was a ransom call!

They had the audacity to kidnap his father to force Xinghe from continuing on with the competition.

Xia Zhi had doubts regarding the call's authenticity so he came to ask his sister for her opinion.

“Sis, do you think this is real?” Xia Zhi asked apprehensively.

Xiao Mo furrowed his brows and spat out the accusation, “This must be Chui Ming's handiwork!”

Only Chui Ming would benefit from this unusual request and only he was despicable enough to do something like this!

Chui Ming—

Xinghe's vengeful eyes sought out Chui Ming among the public.

He returned her a cold and gloating smile.

No one else knew what was happening. They were curious why Xinghe suddenly stopped competing and entered a staring

competition with Chui Ming. Could it be that something happened?

“Could Chui Ming have done something behind our backs?” Junting spoke the first thought that came to his mind.

Mubai’s face glossed over icily. He turned and told one of his bodyguards, “Go and...”

He stopped mid-sentence.

He was going to ask the bodyguard to investigate what had happened but to his surprise, Xinghe sat back down and resumed competing.

Both Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo were surprised.

Xia Zhi was befuddled. “Sis, what are you doing?”

Didn’t the kidnapper warn them to stop competing?

Xiao Mo shared his confusion. Was she really going to continue with the competition?

Chui Ming’s face fell instantly, Xia Xinghe was... not intimidated by his threat!

“Sis, aren’t you worried they are really going to...” Xia Zhi asked anxiously but before he could finish, he heard Xinghe’s firm reply, “It’s fake!”

Xia Zhi stared at Xinghe, asking, “How can you be sure?”

“Xiao Lin is still at home,” Xinghe answered as way of explanation.

Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo understood immediately.

It was true, Xiao Lin was at home. For the sake of both leverage and convenience, there was no reason for them to only kidnap one person and not two.

Chui Ming didn’t know that Xiao Lin and Xiao Mo recently moved in with them so the lie he made had a glaring loophole.

Furthermore, it had only been ten minutes since Xinghe made her appearance. How could a kidnapping be done in a short period of time?

Plus, this kidnapping had to happen after Chui Ming recognized Xinghe as a threat. That meant the kidnapping had to occur within a brief window of less than ten minutes.

Therefore, the ransom call had to be a fake threat to undermine Xinghe, to buy ET more time for him to win the competition.

Of course, only Chui Ming would come up with a plan as despicable and as meaningless as this!

If he was afraid of losing so much, Xinghe promised she would let him have a taste of utter defeat!

She would let him regret ever threatening her.

Xinghe collected herself and her expression became exceptionally serious and determined as she prepared to ram Chui Ming down.

Chapter 115: You Lost!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Her fingers madly danced over the keyboard...

People could tell this was her going all-out. She'd started getting serious.

People were shocked!

It turned out that she hadn't been giving it her all.

Even so, her result was already scarily good. They could only imagine what kind of spectacle it would be now...

Chui Ming's eyelids twitched involuntarily, his expression rigid and pale.

Xia Xinghe, that bitch wasn't threatened!

Chui Ming knew he had to stop her from competing but he was out of ideas!

He combed his brain and finally another plan surfaced in his mind. He quickly ordered his assistant, "You go..."

"It's over!" CEO Wang suddenly jumped up in his seat and cheered. It gave Chui Ming quite a scare.

The words 'it's over' chilled his heart.

He had no idea who CEO Wang was referring to. He turned to the competition floor quickly and in that moment, he could see his life flash before him. It was over... for him.

He was frozen over with fear and desolation.

Xia Xinghe had done it.

She had hacked Chui Corps' King Kong Internet Security!

The third defense, it only took her... seven minutes!

In total, she used 13 minutes; 13 minutes to crush the supposedly invincible King Kong Internet Security!

No, this couldn't be true, this mustn't be true!

Chui Ming couldn't get it into his head that Xinghe had managed to take down the software that was the product of a dedicated team as well as unbeatable for years on the market with just 13 minutes!

The formidable hacker that he employed hadn't even broken through X PC Manager yet.

The moment Chui Ming thought that, ET finished his job.

But what was the point? The victor had been crowned!

Furthermore, it took Xinghe 13 minutes to hack King Kong Internet Security and ET almost half an hour to hack X PC Manager!

It was obvious who the winner was.

It was Xinghe. She handily beat all the hackers there. Her prowess was beyond their imagination...

"Wow, Sis, you're amazing! You're my idol!" Xia Zhi pulled his sister excitedly into a hug. He was overjoyed.

Xiao Mo almost joined in but he caught himself. Instead, he kept a respectable distance and cheered for Xinghe's victory.

"Amazing, truly amazing..." Almost all the CEOs stood up to give Xinghe a thunderous applause. Even the other hackers clapped for her.

Junting clubbed Mubai's arm excitedly, saying, "That's crazy! Xi Mubai, do you have supernatural powers? How could you know she could do it in about 13 minutes? Are both of you even human?"

Mubai glanced at him deliberately and warned, "I advise you to stop what you're doing while I'm still in a good mood."

Only then Junting realized he had crossed the line.

Mubai was iffy about public displays of emotion especially with those who weren't his family.

He pulled back his hand awkwardly and asked, "By the way, why are you in a good mood? Is it because you have your sight set on that lady? Come on now, you can tell me. She knows Xia Zhi so I can help introduce the both of you."

Mubai's mouth curved into a mysterious smile. "You'll eat your words when you realize her true identity."

"What do you mean by that?" Junting was puzzled. Then, he saw Xinghe look at Chui Ming condescendingly and these following words escaped from her red lips.

"You lost!"

Chapter 116: You Are Not My Equal

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

She said it loud and clear.

Xinghe was openly challenging and disrespecting Chui Ming!

Chui Ming's face instantly turned several shades darker.

He finally lost it. He pulled himself up and said sinisterly, "I lost? Xia Xinghe, aren't you getting a bit ahead of yourself? Winning this competition only proves that you're a more than average hacker but it doesn't prove that your software is better than Chui Corps'! You happen to know some hacking tricks and you dare say I lost? Where does your confidence come from?"

Xia Zhi was incensed facing Chui Ming's oppressive interrogation. "Chui Ming, the fact is you've lost. Words are not going..."

"He's right." Xinghe raised her hand to stop Xia Zhi from continuing.

Xia Zhi turned to her in surprise. "Sis, why are you agreeing with him?"

Xinghe explained softly, "Because he is in the right. This competition proves nothing beyond the fact that I'm a good hacker. It can't prove that our software is better than his. After all, both software packages were hacked by only one person. If we use only this to determine the software's quality, then the result would be too surface-level."

"It's good that you know that!" Chui Ming scoffed, making fun of Xinghe's idiocy.

Since she herself had admitted it, then she couldn't blame him for going down hard on her!

"So, Xia Xinghe, how dare you say that we, Chui Corps, have lost? If you can't show the proof to back up your claim, I demand an apology!" Chui Ming didn't care that he was being

exceptionally petty. He had to reclaim some semblance of authority no matter what.

Plus, Xinghe openly challenged him, he didn't have to pretend to be courteous towards the b*tch anymore.

He must let this b*tch know it is unwise to cross him!

Xinghe was unperturbed. She looked on leisurely as if victory was already in her hands.

"I dare to say it because it is the truth," she uttered nonchalantly.

"Ha!" Chui Ming sneered, the cold sheen in his eyes deepened, "The truth? Just because you hacked our software first?"

"Because of the result from the testing committee."

Everyone was startled.

The testing result hadn't been announced yet, so how could she know beforehand?

Chui Ming implored with hints of uncertainty, "You know the result?"

"Not yet."

"Then how dare you say something like that?" Chui Ming's eyes clouded over with malice, adding, "You're just a puny hacker, how dare you speak so insolently or do you not consider my Chui Corps a worthy equal!"

To his astonishment, Xinghe nodded. "You're right, I don't consider you people my equal."

"You... Xia Xinghe, I gave you an inch but you're taking a mile! Watch yourself or I won't go easy on you!" Chui Ming purposely threatened. He wanted to let the room know if anything was to happen to Xinghe, it was her own fault for asking for it.

Xinghe was unruffled. She held eye contact with Chui Ming as she slowly strode towards him. "Oh yea? What do you plan to do?"

“Are you going to frame me, kidnap my family or have me assassinated?”

Chui Ming was burning up within taunted by Xinghe.

He gripped the hands behind his back tightly to prevent himself from physically assaulting the woman.

But Xinghe was not done.

She strode emphatically to the VIP area, saying it to his face, “Chui whatever your name is, what else do you know other than these nasty tricks? I’m here to tell you, from today onwards, I, Xia Xinghe, am going to let you know what the consequence for crossing me is!”

Chapter 117: Who Dares to Disrupt the Peace?

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

The people who heard her were shaken to the core.

Who is this Xia Xinghe that she dared to speak to Chui Ming so impudently?

Is she that unafraid of death?

This was more than ruffling Chui Ming's feathers, she had him up against the wall. Wasn't she afraid Chui Ming would lash out at her?

Xinghe was for her part, devoid of fear because being fearful or not wouldn't change the fact that Chui Ming was already targeting them. Might as well lay everything out in the open and have a fight to the death with him!

Chui Ming didn't think Xia Xinghe had the guts to step on his ego again and again.

The savagery in his eyes was openly displayed to the crowd. "Very nice, Xia Xinghe, I'll admit it, you have balls of steel. However, if your X PC Manager loses after the result's revealed, I will make sure you pay severely for the insults that you've leveled against me!"

"In other words, you're confident that you'll win?" Xinghe challenged with a sneer.

Chui Ming too responded with a sneer, "Of course, or you think that little third-rate software of yours can win? Don't make me laugh!"

Chui Ming had backing behind his words.

Even though he begrudgingly admitted X PC Manager was not bad but it was still incomparable to King Kong Internet Security which had stood the test of time. Over the years, the software had been updated and improved.

It could be said that it was the perfect security software.

He wouldn't believe one hastily written software could be better than his!

Simply put, Chui Ming was confident King Kong Internet Security would come out victorious. He was going to shove his victory hard into Xinghe's ugly face.

"You're the one making a clown out of yourself here," Xinghe retorted bluntly, "You dare to use something you stole to enter the competition! Chui Ming, your face is truly thicker than the Great Wall of China."

"Xia Xinghe—" Chui Ming growled angrily. This time Xinghe had really pushed his buttons, accusing him of stealing another person's software.

She completely disregarded his public standing, slamming him left and right.

He blew his fuse.

"Men, go teach her a harsh lesson, make her pay for the words that came out her mouth!" Chui Ming ordered. As the few large bodyguards rushed towards Xinghe, Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo instantly pulled Xinghe behind them, shielding her from harm's way.

"Who dares to disrupt the peace?" Right then, Mubai's thunderous rumble of voice rang across the competition hall.

He stood up slowly and his impressive presence put a halt to both parties' actions.

"CEO Xi, Xia Xinghe baselessly insulted me so many times. I'm not going to let her off even if you intervene on her behalf!" Chui Ming warned Mubai.

His influence was not as powerful as Mubai's but even so, it was powerful enough to give everyone pause.

Mubai's expression was stone cold as he said, "I'm not intervening on anyone's behalf but understand that this is a competition venue. Learn to respect the competition and the organizers."

"I'm not the one creating the scene," Chui Ming countered.

Xinghe added softly, "I'm just telling the truth."

"How dare you say that it's the truth when the result is not even out yet?" Chui Ming glared at her cruelly, adding, "Xia Xinghe, if the actual result is different from what you said and you lose, I demand you get down on your knees to kowtow and beg for my forgiveness."

Chui Ming was making an empty threat but to his surprise, Xinghe nodded her head and agreed. "You got a deal."

The room was shocked.

Xinghe was so confident in her company's work?

"Wonderful, I won't let you wiggle out of your promise!" Chui Ming snickered triumphantly. He couldn't wait to humiliate the b*tch.

"But..." Xinghe stared icily at him. "What are you going to do if you lose?"

Chapter 118: First Place Is X PC Manager

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“We – Chui Corps – will never lose,” Chui Ming said confidently, tooting his own horn.

Xinghe commented with a smirk, “Chui Ming, are you sure you want to brag about that, it’ll only lead you to more humiliation later. Well, if you’re so confident, do you dare to indulge me in a bet? If you lose, I want you to openly admit to this room of people that you, Chui Ming has lost.”

Chui Ming coughed. It was not that he wasn’t up to the challenge but the punishment Xinghe wrought was his soft spot.

Chui Ming viewed his face to be more important than his life.

He punished anyone that dared to make him lose face.

Therefore, the bet that Xinghe offered was worse than asking him to kill himself.

Even though he was sure he wouldn’t lose but on the off-chance that he did...

Could he really do it in front of so many of his peers?

Xinghe agreed easily when he goaded her into accepting his side of the bet so it would be shame on his part if he appeared squeamish in accepting Xinghe’s bet.

However, for some reason, he found it difficult to give his assent.

Of course, Xinghe wouldn’t let him back out of it so easily.

“Well?” she challenged forcefully.

In a fit of anger, Chui Ming gave his consent.

“Good! Everyone heard it right? If I lose, I will kowtow to Chui Ming and beg him for forgiveness, but if he loses, he will yell out before this room of people three times ‘I, Chui Ming, have lost’ loudly. That’s our deal right, Chui Ming?” Xinghe asked pointedly.

Chui Ming narrowed his eyes with lethal intent. “Yes, that’s right.”

“Then we shall await the test result.” The moment Xinghe finished her words, the staff members from the testing committee appeared in the room.

“The results are here!” Someone yelled excitedly.

Almost instantly, everyone turned towards the staff who’d just walked in.

The committee’s chairperson stepped forth and said, “Ladies and gentlemen, all the software submitted by the companies have been fully tested. I have the result in my hands, I’ll announce it now.”

The chairperson pulled out a remote, aimed it at the TV screen and clicked.

At that moment, the atmosphere in the room was the most nervous it had ever been!

Chui Ming was a bundle of nerves. He stared at the TV screen unblinkingly, his entire body tensed.

Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo felt their hearts stop from an overload of anxiety.

Even Junting held his breath waiting for the result...

The ranking finally appeared clearly on screen. Everyone could see it.

The first place was... X PC Manager!

The committee chairperson picked up the microphone and said, “Congratulations to the first place winner, X PC Manager.”

“This is impossible!” Chui Ming rushed to the front of the crowd, his eyes glued to the screen. “Something is wrong! How can I be beaten by a newly written software!”

The chairperson wasn’t privy to what happened earlier so he consoled Chui Ming kindly.

“CEO Chui, there’s nothing wrong. Both of your products underwent the same test, being assaulted by 100 different strains of computer viruses. X PC Manager didn’t fail once but yours failed five times. In other words, the security rate for X PC Manager is 100 percent while yours is 95 percent.”

“Impossible! Something is wrong with the test, I demand a retrial!” Chui Ming’s face gloomed over. He refused to accept this result.

Chapter 119: Ruin Chui Corps with a Bet!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

He insisted adamantly that the result was rigged. He refused to recognize his King Kong Internet Security as worse than X PC Manager.

“Chui Ming, the result is as clear as day, why are you arguing still?” Xiao Mo commented sternly, “Don’t be a sore loser!”

Chui Ming zeroed in on him, his gaze as chilly as the grave...

Xiao Mo was unfazed. In fact, he returned Chui Ming a similarly chilly gaze.

His hatred towards Chui Ming was bubbling to the surface. Now that Chui Ming had lost, of course he was not going to let him off the hook so easily.

“I had no idea CEO Chui was such a sore loser. Don’t you forget about the promise you’ve made before the whole room!”

“That’s right, Chui Ming. We’ve not forgotten about your bet. You lost, so come out with it. Or are you going to argue your way out of this one as well?”

“I’m sure a person of CEO Chui’s stature wouldn’t go back on his own words, right?” CEO Wang mocked.

“Then, Chui Ming, quickly admit defeat!”

“Yes, admit to the crowd that you’ve lost!”

The cries for him to surrender kept on coming. Chui Ming looked around him and every face he saw had that satisfying smirk.

Chui Ming felt his vision go dark.

He didn’t expect this day would ever come, the day where his ego would be trampled into the ground.

It was all thanks to Xia Xinghe.

Not only that, even Chui Corps’ professional reputation was scattered to the wind.

Following that would be the collapse of his profit...

It was all over.

And yet, the most damning thing was forcing him to admit defeat before the roomful of people!

It would be easier to him to hand over his life than doing that.

But what option did he have? Deny it ever happen? Then... it would truly be over for Chui Corps!

No one would work with a company that had a bad reputation. If he refused to admit to the bet, he would drag the whole company down with him.

Bad news travels especially fast.

After the business world saw Chui Ming as an untrustworthy person... Chui Corps would crumble overnight.

This was Xinghe's plan since the beginning. She was going to ruin Chui Corps with a bet!

Chui Ming looked at Xinghe suddenly and said with a scowl, "Xia Xinghe, I'm sure you must be satisfied with how things are going."

Xinghe smirked in lieu of an answer.

Satisfied?

Not even a tiny bit, this was just the beginning.

Xinghe would show no mercy towards those that violated her bottom line. Chui Ming, Wushuang, and Wu Rong. Time and again they had threatened the people dear to Xinghe's heart; she would squash them like a bug.

They would be served with their rightful comeuppance soon enough.

"Chui Ming, if you don't want to openly admit your defeat, how about giving me three audible kowtows?" Xinghe suggested softly like a queen who had the world under her fingertips.

The muscle of Chui Ming's face twitched violently.

He finally had a taste of his own medicine after forcing Xiao Mo to kowtow to him.

He shouldn't have stopped right there and kindly let Xiao Mo go.

He should have ruined that damnable CD when he had the chance!

Chui Ming deeply regretted showing his enemy mercy, and to think he once had the perfect opportunity to ruin Xia Xinghe and her clan...

He forced himself to suppress his ego, hatred, and anger.

He wasn't born yesterday. When push came to shove, he could suffer the humiliation and go for a tactical retreat.

After all, it wasn't a total defeat.

"Fine, I, Chui Ming, have lost!" Chui Ming wheezed through gritted teeth, "Words don't mean everything. So, are you happy now?"

"Louder!" Xinghe ordered harshly, "and remember, you promised me three times!"

Chui Ming's gum bled from clenching his teeth so forcefully.

Xia Xinghe, that b*tch, I will kill her!

Chui Ming swallowed the saliva that was laced with blood and yelled at the top of his lungs, "I, Chui Ming, have lost! I, Chui Ming, have lost! I, Chui Ming, have lost!"

Chapter 120: You Have to Go Alone

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Each ‘I, Chui Ming, have lost’ was more severe than the preceding one.

It was as if he wasn’t saying ‘I, Chui Ming, have lost’ but ‘I will kill you, Xinghe’!

After the humiliating litany, Chui Ming launched a sudden kick at a nearby chair and the chair went flying into the air—

Bang!

It landed with a heavy thud. Everyone could feel the anger radiating off of Chui Ming.

He glared intimidatingly at Xinghe before turning to leave with angry steps.

His murderous intent increased with each step.

He swore to kill Xia Xinghe and everyone related to her!

Everyone present was impressed by Chui Ming’s murderous aura. They couldn’t help but worry for Xinghe. Even though today she had won, would she be able to bear Chui Ming’s coming rage?

They had no idea even if Xinghe didn’t openly challenge Chui Ming, he would still plot for their demise.

Xinghe, on her part, was never afraid of him seeking revenge!

“Is it Miss Xia? Congratulations...” After Chui Ming left, someone quickly smoothed over the awkward atmosphere in the room.

Then, more came over to congratulate them.

This was because winning this competition meant a partnership with Xi Empire. Xi Empire had said a long time ago, they would only cooperate with winners of this Hacker Competition.

Chui Ming had lost his chance. X PC Manager written by Xinghe’s team was so impressive that the partnership had to be

theirs.

As everyone predicted, Chang An approached Xinghe and said, “Miss Xia, our CEO would like a word with you.”

“Miss Xia, congratulations...” Xinghe was bombarded with well wishes.

Xinghe wasn't exactly a crowd person so she merely nodded with a smile as acknowledgement.

“Let's go,” she told Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo. Overhearing her, Chang An interrupted, “Miss Xia, our CEO would like to talk to you alone. It's about the company partnership.”

“Then you should talk to our company's legal representative, Mr. Xiao here,” Xinghe said as she referred to Xiao Mo beside her.

Chang An replied politely, “We know, but our CEO gave special instruction that he wants to talk to you alone.”

“Sis, what do you think Xi Mubai is up to?” Xia Zhi asked curiously.

Xiao Mo who had a better understanding of things explained, “Miss Xia, I believe CEO Xi has realized you're the real creator of X PC Manager. You might as well listen to what he has to say.”

“Impossible, how can you let my sister go alone?” Xia Zhi objected out of habit. Xiao Mo was puzzled because Xinghe was more than capable of fending for herself, so why couldn't she go alone?

Xiao Mo wasn't privy to Xinghe and Mubai's relationship, so he naturally didn't understand what Xia Zhi meant.

Xinghe was indifferent to the arrangement. Mubai and she were divorced. She had let go of that particular part of her past. They were only acquaintances now.

Furthermore, they needed the partnership.

Xinghe nodded. “Fine, I'll go with you.”

“Sis...” Xia Zhi furrowed his brows worriedly.

“It’s okay.” Xinghe consoled him. She gave him a hug before leaving with Chang An.

The moment Xinghe left, Junting quickly came over to greet Xia Zhi. Of course, that was only a front to find out more information about this mysterious Xia Xinghe.

“Zhi, tell your senior, what is your relationship to Miss Xia? How come I’ve never heard you tell me you have a sister that is so crazy good with computers?” Junting looked at Xia Zhi with a huge smile. The crowd around them leaned in closer waiting to hear Xia Zhi’s answer.

They were morbidly curious about Xia Xinghe’s real identity!

Chapter 121: Xi Mubai's Ex-Wife

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Actually, some of the people started to realize Xinghe looked suspiciously familiar but they just couldn't place her.

The name, Xia Xinghe sounded familiar as well.

Xia Zhi didn't conceal the truth from Junting. He answered simply, "Senior, she's my uncle's daughter so my cousin, but I treat her as my actual sister."

Junting was still confused. "How come I never heard you say you have a cousin that's impressively good at coding? Wait a minute... Does this mean that the books you borrowed from me are for her? The mini-game, that's her handiwork too?"

Xia Zhi nodded.

It was Junting's prediction that the computer expert Xia Zhi knew was no simple character, but the person's actual capability turned out to be beyond his prediction.

"You sneaky bastard, how could you hide such an impressive talent away from your senior?" Junting clubbed Xia Zhi's arm jokingly.

Xia Zhi chuckled apologetically. "Sis likes to keep a low profile. She doesn't like people meddling in her business..."

"I've got it!" Suddenly, a cry issued from among the crowd. A senior CEO clawed to the front of the crowd excitedly, decrying, "I finally realized Miss Xia's true identity!"

"What is it?" Junting turned around to ask.

Excitement shone in the CEO's eyes as he announced, "I saw her at Young Master Xi's birthday party! No wonder she looks so familiar, she's CEO Xi's ex-wife!"

WHAT?

Junting and Xiao Mo widened their eyes in shock.

How can this be possible... Xia Xinghe is Xi Mubai's... ex-wife!

For some reason, the heart of these two men wrenched with complicated emotions.

In one break room, Xinghe and Mubai sat across the table facing each other.

Ever since Xinghe walked in, Mubai had been staring cordially at her. His thoughts and emotions were shielded behind his deep eyes.

After a silence that lasted for a minute long, Xinghe saw he still didn't have any intention of speaking so she said, "If you have nothing to say, I'm going to leave."

"Don't you have anything you want to tell me?" Mubai finally asked.

Xinghe looked him quizzically and replied, "What do you mean by that?"

"Explain your recent changes."

Nonplussed, Xinghe responded, "Why should I?"

She didn't owe him an explanation.

Mubai read her thought so he tried a different tact, "You've recovered your memory?"

"Yes."

"You were already a computer genius before all this?"

"Yes."

"I've truly underestimated you. I'm impressed." Mubai said seriously, his tone full of admiration. Praise where praise was due.

"I thought we were here to discuss the partnership." Xinghe wasn't there for small talk.

She treated their past together as a dream. She had woken up from it and was ready to let it go.

The Xinghe that had recovered her memory was a new Xinghe. She had no interest in catching up on old times with him.

Mubai's dark eyes glistened slightly and he smiled. "Right, then let's discuss the partnership..."

After he passed her a document, he explained, "Inside this are the basic clauses. Read them carefully and if you're okay with it, come to my company tomorrow to sign the contract."

Xinghe accepted the document, pocketed it without opening, and stood up to leave.

Mubai was puzzled. "Aren't you going to look at it? Where are you going?"

"I'm taking it back home to study closely. If I find no issue with it, CEO Xiao from my company will go to you to sign the contract tomorrow."

Chapter 122: Get to Know Her Again

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“...” Mubai was at a loss for words. “You should take a look at it now because if there’s any issues, we can discuss them now. Furthermore, I believe you’re the one actually running the company.”

Xinghe blinked. He was right.

Since there was time, they might as well do it now.

Xinghe sat back down and started to flip through the document slowly.

Mubai picked up a cup of tea and studied Xinghe closely through the cover of his cup. His feelings were complicated.

He didn’t expect Xinghe to undergo such a drastic change.

It was akin to how those superheroes’ family members felt when they learnt of his or her true identity.

And this happened with his ex-wife... Any man would be shocked beyond belief if they were put in his shoes.

Needless to say, Mubai received his fair share of shock, but he didn’t regret having the divorce with Xinghe because this gave him the chance to get to know this whole new her...

Regarding the past, he shared the same sentiment as Xinghe, a dream that was not particularly memorable.

However, from this moment onwards, he would not ignore this woman anymore.

He wanted to get to know her again.

Mubai set his cup down and reminded kindly, “Take your time, you can ask me if there’s anything bothering you.”

Xinghe suddenly raised her head. “The profit of this partnership is spilt four-six?”

Mubai nodded. “That’s right. Of course, if you think that’s too little, we can settle for five-five.”

“No, seven-three.”

Mubai blinked confusedly before asking, “Seven-three? You seven, I three?”

He thought Xinghe was unsatisfied with how the profit ratio was split. To his surprise, she shook her head, saying, “No, I three, you seven.”

Mubai was confused. “Why?”

This was the first time he saw someone willingly offer to take a worse deal.

“As a thank you for your help this time,” Xinghe explained softly.

So that was why...

Mubai gazed deeper into Xinghe’s eyes, saying, “You don’t need to thank me. You’re Lin Lin’s mom, I’m supposed to help you.”

“That’s not true. We’re divorced. I have nothing to do with you. Therefore, you’re under no obligation to help me.”

This statement irked Mubai for some reasons.

But he was careful not let it show on his face. He continued naturally, “Then consider it my compensation to you. After all, you didn’t take the alimony.”

“Alright, then stick with the four-six ratio. Tomorrow, CEO Xiao will come and find you to sign the contract. I have something else to attend to, thank you for the meeting,” Xinghe concluded crisply and stood up to leave.

Mubai asked, “You’ve finished reading the contract?”

“Yes.” Xinghe replied without turning her head as she headed towards the exit. She refused to waste one more second there.

It was as if she treated business deals like gaming missions, take an objective, finish objective, and acquire next objective.

Social etiquettes like post-meeting tea, small talk, or golfing trips were unessential to her.

Mubai couldn't help but wonder whether this woman even knew the basics of doing business in Hwa Xia.

Mubai felt weirdly suffocated talking business with such a mechanical woman.

Obviously, Xinghe didn't think her way of doing business was in any way wrong.

As long as the parties involved were in agreement about the business deal then why waste time doing anything else?

On their way back home, Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo stared amazed at her when she said the partnership had been discussed and dealt with.

Chapter 123: The Brain Circuit of a Genius

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Xinghe blinked. “What are you two staring at?”

“Sis, you went in for less than five minutes and the partnership is already done?” Xia Zhi asked disbelievingly.

Xinghe nodded and confirmed, “Yup, everything’s ready. Xiao Mo, you can go and sign the contract tomorrow. I’ve read the contract, there’s no problem.”

“...Alright.” Xiao Mo kept the criticism in his mind to himself.

But Xia Zhi wasn’t that diplomatic. “Sis, this partnership is something very important. How can you finish everything in less than five minutes? Isn’t that a bit too hasty? Aren’t you afraid Xi Mubai would take advantage of us?”

“What advantage do we have?” Xinghe questioned him in return.

“...” Xia Zhi was rendered speechless. Indeed, what advantage did they have?

It was already a cause for celebration that Xi Mubai was willing to work with them.

No matter how one looked at it, there was only benefit for them in this partnership.

Xiao Mo came to that conclusion as well. After he pored through the contract, he realized the benefits Mubai allowed them were actually quite generous.

“Xi Empire has offered us a good deal, it should be fine cooperating with them,” he said with a smile but that smile quickly dimmed, “But the fact is we did steal this contract from under Chui Ming’s nose. Coupled that with the humiliation that he has suffered today, I’m afraid he’ll mean both of you harm. Miss Xia, please be extra careful. Chui Ming is capable of the most despicable deeds if they get the job done.”

Xia Zhi was worried. “Sis, why don’t we hire some bodyguards? I’m not afraid of Chui Ming myself but I’m afraid for your safety.”

Xinghe shrugged with ease. “I’m more afraid he won’t have time to come at us.”

“Why?” A shocked Xia Zhi glanced at her through the rear-view mirror.

“Because he’s probably too busy.”

“...Sis, this is not the time for a joke!” Xia Zhi was speechless. He could never understand how the brain circuit of a genius works.

Little did they know, Xinghe was absolutely right. Chui Ming was indeed too busy to deal with them.

After he left the Hacker Competition, he called for an emergency shareholders’ meeting to solve the approaching crisis.

In truth, losing the competition and even the chance at partnership with Xi Empire was not supposed to be a big crisis.

It was Chui Ming’s own fault for being so high-profile, telling the world, Chui Corps will be partnering with Xi Empire.

This caused a natural rise in their stock price.

However, the partnership had fallen through. Chui Ming was also publicly humiliated by Xinghe, admitting to a room of influential players in the business that he had lost. This was a huge blow to Chui Corps’ reputation.

The moment this news spread to the public, their stock price would definitely plummet!

The big disaster would happen tomorrow...

Therefore, Chui Ming had been stuck at his company, trying to find ways to stave off the imminent disaster. He didn’t have time to return home much less answer Wushuang’s calls.

Wushuang didn’t know Xinghe had beaten Chui Corps. The only thought on her mind was asking her husband to help her

take revenge against Xinghe.

She was still fuming from the incident at the precinct. But no matter, if they couldn't do it fair and square, there were more than enough ways to off someone from the dark. After Chui Ming returned home, she would ask him to hire someone to bestow Xia Xinghe a gruesome death!

Thinking about Xinghe's impending doom elevated her mood.

She brought Wu Rong, who had also suffered quite a bit under Xinghe's hands, to the spa to relax. They also went for a shiatsu massage to knead the stress out of their body. It was a day of luxurious indulgences for the both of them.

They couldn't have known that this was the last time they could so freely enjoy themselves...

Early the next morning, Xiao Mo signed the contract with Mubai.

News of the partnership was publicized immediately. Chui Corps' stocks felt its effect almost instantly.

Chui Ming knew the stocks would drop but he wasn't expecting them to have such a scary drop.

Chapter 124: Deal with Chui Ming for Her (End of Hacker Competition arc)

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

It was a linear decrease. That had never happened before!

The decline of Chui Corps' stocks could be said to shock the whole country.

There was nothing Chui Ming could do to stop the inadvertent downturn. In just an hour, Chui Corps had suffered irreparable loss.

With how things were going, Chui Corps would have to announce bankruptcy in two days' time.

Chui Ming slumped to the floor in despair watching this scary development unfold before him. He was beside himself with shock.

Even Xinghe's group didn't see this coming.

Chui Corps had reached its end without their direct intervention.

Xia Zhi exclaimed, "He got what he deserved! Chui Ming has made so many enemies over the years. They all want him dead, how would they let this precious opportunity to destroy him go? Even the people are on our side! It's over for Chui Ming and it's over for Xia Wushuang and Wu Rong as well!"

Xiao Mo was equally excited.

His eyes were red with emotions. "Is this for real? It's the end for Chui Ming..."

A week ago, it was beyond his wildest imagination that Chui Ming would get his just desserts. Now that it had really happened, he felt like he was living a dream.

Is it really the end for Chui Ming?

Has the God above heard my plea?

No one could share Xiao Mo's internal frenzy of emotion because no one had gone through the same thing as he did.

However, that wasn't enough, for him, Chui Ming deserved worse than that!

Xinghe commented cryptically, "This is weird..."

"Sis, what do you mean?" Xia Zhi queried.

"Chui Corps' stocks shouldn't have dropped so drastically."

Xia Zhi laughed. "Sis, this is the natural cycle of things. Evil deeds will be punished. With how much evil Chui Ming has done, I wouldn't find it weird even if he died."

He was right. Why should they be worried for Chui Ming's sake?

However, Xinghe couldn't shake the feeling that someone was pulling the strings behind the scene or else Chui Corps' stocks wouldn't crumble so fast.

She didn't dwell on it much less entertain the possibility that the culprit was Xi Mubai.

"It's your handiwork, right?" Junting asked Mubai on the phone, "The downward projection of Chui Corps' stocks was too radical. Only a few people in this country are capable of influencing something like that."

Mubai replied matter-of-factly, "Chui Ming has many enemies, this is the reflection of the public's intention."

"Even so, it couldn't explain the severe drop. Fine, don't tell me but I know you had a hand in it," Junting said with the hint of a smile in his voice. He didn't feel sorry about Chui Corps' collapse. In fact, he was quite glad about it.

Mubai smiled. He didn't admit or deny.

However, a shade of coldness did enter his onyx eyes.

Those who didn't know Mubai closely would think he was a true gentleman, but those in his inner circle would know he can be extremely merciless when he wants to be.

With his involvement, there was no chance Chui Corps could revive itself.

“But why did you target Chui Ming? Is it because of Miss Xia?” Junting asked. This was what he was really curious about.

“This is not a question hotline. I’m hanging up.” Mubai cut off the call without providing an answer. Junting cursed him angrily on the other end of the phone.

How can he hang up just as things get interesting? Is it or is it not for Xia Xinghe’s sake that he targeted Chui Ming?

But why would he go to such lengths for his ex-wife?

Junting scratched his chin thoughtfully. He seemed to have stumbled upon an incredible secret...

Chui Ming didn’t return home the whole night.

Wushuang slept until afternoon the next day. She yawned as she descended the stairs to the living room. She asked a passing maid, “The master is still not home?”

“Yes, madam, the master is still not home,” the maid answered deferentially.

Chapter 125: All Thanks to You!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

A discontented Wushuang frowned. If Chui Ming was out partying with some random hussy, she swore she would not forgive him!

“The master’s home.” Wushuang was still pondering what had happened when the maid’s voice rang out again. She lifted her head and saw Chui Ming walk slowly into the room.

“Honey, where have you been...” Wushuang stepped forth happily but stopped herself after two steps.

She sensed something wrong with Chui Ming.

His face was gloomy like it was shielded behind a raincloud that wouldn’t dissipate.

His hair and clothes were unkempt. He hadn’t shaved for the night so stubble had grown around his chin.

There was a look of despondency about him like... he was just dealt a huge, emotional blow!

However, the most telling sign was his eyes. The pair of eyes that stared at her was frighteningly chilling.

Wushuang couldn’t figure out what she had done wrong or what had happened.

She asked uneasily, “Honey, are you feeling okay? Tired from work?”

The whole world knew about Chui Corps’ demise but his wife didn’t. Chui Ming laughed mirthlessly at the irony of it all.

This spooked Wushuang. “Honey, what’s wrong? Don’t frighten me like this, I’m scared...”

After that, she held onto his arm lovingly. Chui Ming liked to be the dominant one in the relationship. He would give in to her demands whenever she appealed to his masculine ideals.

However, it was of no use this time.

Chui Ming went for her neck and squeezed threateningly. She was startled by the sudden aggression.

She clawed at his powerful arms and struggled. “Chui Ming, what are you doing?”

Chui Ming moved in closer and asked deliberately, “Do you know what happened outside?”

Wushuang was temporarily fazed but she came back stronger than before. “How would I know that? Let me go! How can you treat me like this?”

“Why can’t I treat you like this? If not for you, would I, Chui Ming, have ended up in this state?”

Wushuang was taken aback. Her sixth-sense told her something huge had happened.

“What do you mean by that... What happened exactly? I didn’t do anything...”

“Xia Xinghe is your nemesis, right?” Chui Ming interrogated harshly, “She targeted me because of you! Chui Corps is over thanks to you, b*tch!”

Wushuang widened her eyes in shock. “What are you saying... Xia Xinghe targeted you, Chui Corps is over? Explain clearly, what the f*ck has happened?”

Chui Ming released his grip on her body and she plopped to the floor like wet laundry.

Before she could sit up, a copy of newspaper slapped her harshly on her face. She heard Chui Ming’s thunderous voice saying, “Read for yourself!”

Wushuang wouldn’t dare to challenge Chui Ming anymore. She picked up the newspaper with shaking fingers.

On the front page was the news about Chui Corps’ declining stocks...

The stocks had been plummeting since the market opened and by now, it had reached a state of no return.

Wushuang wasn’t a dumb person. After she read the news, she knew it was truly over for Chui Corps.

This was one huge catastrophe!

“How did this happen?” Wushuang raised her head to ask. Her face was as white as a sheet of paper.

Chui Ming stood before her, blocking the light. From Wushuang’s perspective, his expression was as dark as the shadow covering his body.

Chapter 126: We're all Toast

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

What he said next shocked her even more...

“You dumb c*nt! How could you not realize that Xia Xinghe not only knows computer programming but is also scarily good at it? If you had told me that before, I wouldn't have given her the chance to enter the Hacker Competition! If she didn't appear at the competition, Chui Corps' software wouldn't have lost and we wouldn't be in this f*cking situation! This is all your fault, you brainless b*tch. How can you possibly expect to beat Xia Xinghe when her brain is at least one hundred times better than yours? Soon, we'll all be toast!”

Wushuang stared at him disbelievingly.

“What did you say...” She was sure she heard wrongly. “Xia Xinghe knows computing and beat Chui Corps' software? How is that possible!”

She had absolutely no idea Xinghe was familiar with computer technology much less to a stage where she could handily beat King Kong Internet Security.

Even though she wasn't a computer programmer, she knew Chui Corps' software was very powerful. It was beaten by Xia Xinghe... How was that possible?

“You've known her for at least twenty years, how can you not realize she's a hacker? Xia Wushuang, how can you be so blind? Now that Chui Corps is crumbling down, the next in line is you! We're all going to die by Xia Xinghe's hands!” Chui Ming roared in her face.

He didn't expect his life would be endangered to such a pitiable degree by an unknown woman.

Before this, Xia Xinghe was clearly a nobody, less than even the beggars on the street.

Who would have thought she would undergo such a drastic transformation?

To so easily ruin Chui Corps... which he had managed for his whole life.

He was cornered by a woman who once had nothing!

This was the biggest shame, the worst he had ever felt in his life.

No, he knew for a fact it was going to get worse, and it was all thanks to that woman.

The more he thought about it, the more resentful he became. Wushuang was part of the problem.

He glared viciously at her and said threateningly, "You brought Xia Xinghe, this menace into our lives so you take care of it! Or else, sit there and wait to be buried alongside Chui Corps!"

Then, he turned to leave. There was still some time left, he had to figure out a way to prevent Chui Corps from crashing straight down to the ground.

He would leave Wushuang to handle Xia Xinghe.

However, after the imminent crisis was averted, he would have all of them disposed of somehow.

No one could cause Chui Ming harm and get away with it!

Chui Ming's threat made Wushuang uneasy with fear.

However, she was more apprehensive about the fact that Xia Xinghe would pose such a threat to them...

How was that possible? She was certain Xia Xinghe was a dumb b*tch who couldn't finish her university degree. So, what had really happened?

The b*tch must have guarded herself against them since the very beginning! Or else how could she hide her hacker identity so perfectly?

I should have killed her when the chance presented itself. This is my fault for being so merciful towards her.

If I did, I wouldn't be in this mess today!

Now that Xinghe had her knife to their throat, Wushuang had no choice but to commit to the deed.

Homicidal ruthlessness flashed in Wushuang's eyes.

Xia Xinghe, you've forced my hand! So, don't you dare blame us when you're dead!

Wushuang cleaned herself up and rushed to discuss her plan with Wu Rong.

Wu Rong was equally surprised when she heard the news.

“Xia Xinghe did what? If she is so talented, why did she spend her last few years in such a pitiable state?”

Chapter 127: Kill Xia Xinghe Tonight

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Wushuang said through gritted teeth, “That’s because she lost her memory. But now that she’s recovered them, she’s coming for us.”

“No wonder she was so cocky at the precinct!” Wu Rong groused, “That b*tch, I shouldn’t have spared her that time.”

“Mom, we have to finish the job we started soon or else it’ll be us on the chopping block,” Wushuang warned seriously.

Wu Rong nodded in agreement.

“Of course, you’re right. Since she went for Chui Ming, she won’t ignore the both of us. Hitting Chui Ming was to cut off our retreat. The moment Chui Corps falls, she’s coming for us next...”

“Xia Xinghe will not let us off easy!” Wushuang said firmly.

She was at least certain about that.

Xinghe would not show any mercy towards them.

The moment they fell into Xinghe’s hands, their lives would be over.

Wu Rong had spent her entire lifetime trying to achieve her current status and it was equally difficult for Wushuang to claw her way to the top.

Neither of them would let Xinghe ruin everything that they had.

They were willing to plot and kill for the Xia family’s estate so naturally, they wouldn’t be handing it over without a fight.

It was a battle to the death now. There was no holding back.

“Looks like it’s time to ask Black Three to the stage,” Wu Rong said with a chilling smile.

Wushuang’s eyes lit up with recognition. “Mom, you can still contact that person?”

Wushuang didn't know much about this mysterious Black Three. The only thing she knew was that he was a professional assassin.

Years ago, Wu Rong bought his service to take care of Chengwu and Xinghe.

Black Three was famed within certain circles for his clean handiwork. He never left evidence for the police to trace back to him.

Wushuang felt comforted that it would be him representing them.

Wu Rong smiled smugly. "Of course I can find his contact. I'll call him in a minute to have him take care of that b*tch, Xia Xinghe!"

Wushuang was both excited and worried. "But if we do it now, won't we be the prime suspect..."

After all Xinghe only just crossed Chui Ming. If anything was to happen to her, people would naturally suspect them.

Wu Rong glared at her impatiently. "So what if they suspect us, there must be proof! Plus, at the state we're in, do think we still have time to waste? Chui Ming is going down soon, the next in line will be us. We have to strike before Xia Xinghe does or it'll be too late."

"But this will heavily implicate Chui Ming..."

"Do you think Chui Ming can be taken down so easily? Plus, he won't be directly involved so they can't pin anything on him. I hate to remind you but at the end of the day, I'd rather him take the fall than us. Wushuang, at a time like this, sacrifices must be made."

Wushuang was slowly persuaded by her mother's words.

Her mother was right, at this juncture, scruples didn't mean anything anymore. She had to do everything she could to save her own skin even if it meant pushing Chui Ming to take the fall.

She had to save herself. She had worked too hard to lose it like that.

Furthermore, Wushuang believed Chui Ming would have done the same. His wrath was aimed at her the moment trouble struck Chui Corps. Obviously, he didn't care for her; so, why should she care for him?

Chapter 128: Planning a Murder

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

What you give is what you get.

The thought of how Chui Ming treated her that day made her boil with anger.

There is no good man in the world!

There was no reason for her to give up her life of luxury for a man.

Furthermore, Chui Ming did say he would come for her if she couldn't take care of Xia Xinghe.

His exact words were to bury her alongside Chui Corps if she couldn't deal with Xinghe.

Wushuang shivered involuntarily thinking about the malice she saw in Chui Ming's eyes.

Envy and resentment twisted her heart when her thoughts went to the newly transformed Xinghe.

She really had to remove the b*tch from her life or she wouldn't be able to enjoy a day of peace!

Her mouth curved into a sinister smile and she told Wu Rong, "Mom, go contact Black Three. I want Xia Xinghe dead this very instant!"

Wu Rong cackled. "Don't worry. She won't be able to live to see tomorrow's dawn."

The mother and daughter shared a look, and the scene looked like two evil witches plotting to curse their victim.

Wu Rong wasted no time in contacting Black Three and they sat waiting for his good news.

The thought of Xinghe's impending doom made Wushuang's heart palpitate with excitement and nervousness.

Even though she had not personally killed someone before but planning a murder made her abuzz with vitality and energy.

Dictating someone's life or death made her feel immensely powerful like she was a god.

She reveled in the euphoric rush of murder!

Wushuang stopped worrying and slowly savored the twisted joy of holding the power to end someone's life.

On the other side of the city, Xinghe's friends and family were having a party of their own.

In the basement workroom, Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo were glued to the computer screen. They were watching Chui Corps' stock numbers.

The lower the numbers fell, the higher their mood became.

"Let's make a bet to see whether Chui Ming will announce bankruptcy tomorrow," Xia Zhi suggested excitedly.

Xiao Mo smirked. "I'd rather he declare himself bankrupt today!"

"Brother Xiao, don't you worry. Based on how things are looking, it'll definitely happen today or tomorrow. Who would have known Chui Ming's comeuppance would arrive so fast?"

Xiao Mo nodded solemnly. "You're right. I certainly didn't see it coming so fast."

"Let's go for a grand meal later to celebrate!" Xia Zhi proposed happily.

Xiao Mo was quick to agree. "That sounds like a wonderful idea."

Xinghe who had been working on her computer silently rejected it, "No, it's still too early to celebrate."

"Why?" Xia Zhi queried, "Sis, even if Chui Corps could somehow miraculously survive this, its life will be hanging on a thread. Furthermore, we did sign the partnership with Xi Empire today. That's cause for celebration."

Xinghe turned to look at them. "You two think we're in a comfortably good position now?"

Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo stared at one another, confused by her words.

“Sis, are you not happy about this?” Xia Zhi asked.

Xinghe’s face was grim. “Of course I’m happy about Chui Corps’ quick downfall but I cautioned myself not to be too happy.”

“Why would you do that?” It was Xiao Mo who posed the question this time.

Xinghe explained softly, “Because too much of anything is bad for you, happiness included as it begets carelessness. We’ve not removed the root of our problem yet so we can’t afford to be careless especially not now.”

Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi were taught a valuable lesson.

It was as if someone sounded out an alarm in their head.

Yes, it’s not yet time for us to celebrate. Chui Ming could come for us at anytime.

Chapter 129: Genius Xia, Please Speak English

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

It was too early to celebrate because Chui Ming, Wushuang, and Wu Rong were still alive.

“Sis, you’re right, but what can we do now?” Xia Zhi asked.

He thought that after they beat Chui Corps at the Hacker Competition and got the partnership with Xi Empire, they’d have reached the end of her plan.

But from the looks of things, it was only the beginning.

Xia Zhi thought Xinghe would again come up with something convoluted but she only said one word.

“Wait.”

Xia Zhi was shocked. “Wait?”

Xinghe nodded and explained, “That’s right, all we can do now is wait. Chui Corps is crumbling at an alarming rate. Like what the two of you said, he’ll need to announce bankruptcy today or tomorrow. Chui Ming will do everything he can to prevent that from happening. That means the only window of opportunity he has is tonight. Therefore, they’ll definitely make their move tonight.”

Xiao Mo frowned solemnly. “What do you think Chui Ming will do?”

He was familiar with Chui Ming’s nature so he was worried Chui Ming might do something crazy.

Xinghe replied with a smile, “That depends on what Xia Wushuang will do.”

Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo were confused.

“Sis, what do you mean by that? I don’t get it.”

Xinghe blinked a few times. “You don’t get it...?”

She felt the situation was as clear as day, how could they not get it?

Xinghe's way of explanation, or rather the lack thereof, gave both Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo pause.

They felt like a child talking to Xinghe.

Genius Xia, will you please speak English?

Xinghe saw their confusion and was about to elaborate when her cellphone rang.

It was from Xi Mubai.

Xinghe didn't have him in her phone's contact list but she was very familiar with his phone number...

Her iris shook for a second before picking up the phone. She asked directly, "What do you want?"

Mubai wasted no time with pleasantries either. He replied, "Chui Ming will definitely come for you today. Be prepared. I'll arrange for some of my men to go over to protect you all."

"That won't be necessary. I know he'll act tonight and I have my own plans to deal with him," Xinghe answered confidently.

Mubai, on the other end of the phone, raised his brow. The woman was smarter than he gave her credit for.

His lips involuntarily curved into a smile. He didn't ask what her plan was, instead he said, "Either way, you must be in need of manpower. Give me a number, to make this fair, you'll cover their expenses."

He was right, she did need the manpower.

"Four is enough."

Mubai thought she would reject his offer again. Who'd have known she'd accept it so easily this time.

This put Mubai in a better mood. "Alright, I'll arrange that in a minute."

"Thank you."

"You're welcome." Both of them hung up at the same time. Neither of them wanted to waste any more time.

Xinghe put the call on speaker phone so Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo heard their conversation.

It made them felt worse about themselves.

How come Xi Mubai could understand what she was saying while they were lost in the dark?

Could it be that only a genius could understand another genius?

Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo wanted to curl up in the corner to lament their low IQ but eventually they were ordered to get back to work by Xinghe.

They had to prepare for the night's plan.

That night was one that was full of anticipation.

Chui Ming, Wu Rong, and Wushuang looked forward to it.

Xinghe's group similarly looked forward to it!

Mubai was also looking forward to it...

Many forces would clash that night and may the best man or woman win!

Chapter 130: Nightfall

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Night soon fell.

Perhaps to match the solemnity of the night, the sky was starless and heavy clouds eclipsed the moon.

The curtain of darkness smothered the people, suffocating them.

For some reasons, the residential area suddenly lost electricity.

Other than the few dim emergency street lights, the world was plunged into darkness.

The atmosphere was chillingly eerie as if the night could tell blood was going to be spilt.

There was not even a stray cat patrolling the sprawling residential area.

There were, however, several suspicious shadows heading towards the Xia Family's Villa...

They soundlessly broke down the villa's front door and snuck into the living room. They intended to go up the stairs to search for the building's inhabitants.

Suddenly the sound of a scratch rang out.

Someone lit a match...

The few spooked figures looked towards the weak source of light. The match was illuminating a slender hand and a lithe figure that was lounging on the sofa.

The light of the match was reflected in a pair of dark eyes that were staring right at them. There was no fear or surprise in the eyes, only vindication and austerity.

The sudden eye contact made the few shadows jump.

In that moment, they were assaulted by a deep sense of foreboding. Their plan appeared to have failed.

However, the leader among them, a man suddenly leaped towards Xinghe. He said no words but viciousness was flashing in his eyes.

Xinghe put out the match with a puff.

The sudden darkness gave the man a temporary daze.

Previously, he could roughly tell Xinghe's location but without any source of light, he was at a loss.

It was the same for his accomplices.

This brief moment of vulnerability gave the hiding men the opening they needed. A few large men wearing night-vision goggles leaped into action and took out the sneaking bunch in just minutes.

Xinghe pulled out another match and lit the candle in her hand.

Brandishing the candle, she walked towards the unconscious pile of men. There were three of them in total.

"Sis, they're all tied up!" Xia Zhi said excitedly as he stood up.

The few people had been securely tied up by Xia Zhi, Xiao Mo, and the four bodyguards Mubai sent over.

If they woke up now, they wouldn't be able to move.

Xinghe nodded satisfactorily. "Bring them away first lest they spook our next guest."

"Yes!"

The three men were quickly stowed away. Xia Zhi and the gang went back into hiding.

Xinghe sat back down on the sofa. She left the lit candle on the table counter beside her. She then picked up a book and started flipping through it leisurely.

Sometime later, a pair of scary eyes was observing her from outside the window.

Realizing she still had the peace of mind to read by the candlelight, the person licked his lips satisfactorily.

Very soon, he was going to turn her leisure into the worst nightmare she'd ever had!

The door was, again, soundlessly opened. A tall, dark-skinned man who was wearing a baseball cap slithered across the villa's entrance.

His footsteps inaudibly landed on the floor but the moment he opened the door, a cold draft wafted in.

The candle fire flicked slightly.

Xinghe's eyes widened minutely and she asked without turning her head, "Zhi, is that you? Why are you home so late?"

Chapter 131: You are the One Who Hit Me

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

He wasn't expecting her to be alert enough to realize someone had entered the room.

He stopped hiding his presence and the door closed with a click. He said no words as he inched closer to Xinghe, a large baseball bat in his hand.

Xinghe's voice showed no sign of alarm as she repeated, "Zhi, is that you?"

She then heard an eerie chuckle in the dark.

She turned around sharply and stared right at his face.

Lit by the weak candle light, the person's eyes were crazed and their smile was creepy. Xinghe was staring into the face of a homicidal psychopath.

The go-to response for any normal person under these circumstances would be to scream for help.

However, Xinghe was studying the man's face closely with not a trace of fear in her eyes.

"It's you!" Xinghe exclaimed in surprise.

Her shock was shared by the man. In a deep, throaty voice, he growled, "You know me?"

Xinghe's body tensed, guarding against him. "Yes, I know you! You're the one who hit me with the car six years ago! I'll never forget your face!"

The surprise in the man's eyes was slowly replaced by murderous intent.

"Well, all the more reason for you to die." As he said so, he raised the baseball bat in his hand.

Xinghe was unperturbed. She folded her legs and asked calmly, "Who ordered you to come for me? Was it Wu Rong?"

"How is the answer going to help you from beyond the grave? Although, I must say, woman you have some impressive guts."

He had the bat raised above his head, and was prepared to deliver the final blow.

Even though Xinghe's unconventional reaction surprised him but he had to get his job done.

No matter what, Xinghe had to die that night!

“Well, all the more reason for you to tell me, don't you agree?” Xinghe mimicked his speech pattern. “It was Wu Rong who wanted me dead six years ago and it was her again this time, wasn't it?”

“Yes, it was her—” As the words escaped the man's mouth, the bat in his hands came down hard at Xinghe.

Xinghe kicked the table counter that held the candle and used the rebound the lean back out of harm's way. The man missed his target and with the lights out, he temporarily lost his bearings.

His eyes had gotten used to the glow in the room so the sudden change of lighting befuddled his senses.

He let his guard down for a moment but that was more than enough for the person in hiding to jump on him!

He felt a few heavy blows to his body and his consciousness went out like the light.

Simultaneously, a battery-operated lamplight lit up the room.

Once again, it was Xia Zhi who yelled excitedly, “Finally, we're all done for the night!”

“Tie him up,” Xinghe ordered as she stood up.

The four bodyguards moved to oblige.

Xia Zhi walked over and kicked the mysterious assailant's supine body. “You bastard! How dare you target my sister's life?”

Like a ragdoll, Black Three's unconscious body folded from the force of the kick.

Xiao Mo stared at Black Three's unconscious face and frowned. “There's a scary aura radiating off him that suggests

this is not his first job.”

“His body count must be high,” Xia Zhi concurred, “But his weapon of choice is a baseball bat?”

Chapter 132: Fallen into Xia Xinghe's Hands

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Xia Zhi asked the question that was on everyone's mind.

Logically speaking, wouldn't a knife be better for his purpose?

A baseball bat was more of a makeshift weapon...

Xinghe explained, "He wanted to kill us, yes, but it couldn't look like a premeditated homicide."

"What do you mean by that?" Xia Zhi questioned. How come he could never understand his sister's explanations?

Xinghe elaborated, "If we're found murdered, Chui Ming would naturally become the prime suspect. Therefore, our deaths must be arranged to look like an accident."

Finally, Xia Zhi understood. "You mean he planned to use the bat to knock us out and then create the false image that we'd perished in an accident?"

Xinghe nodded. "That's right."

By then, Xiao Mo had managed to find a lighter on Black Three's body. He frowned and speculated, "Looks like he intended to have us go by gas explosion."

"That's the only way all the evidence could be destroyed efficiently and quickly." Xinghe confirmed.

Xia Zhi shivered involuntarily. "What kind of person would come up with a devious plan like that? He planned to have all of us killed!"

"Miss Xia, shall we call the police?" One of the bodyguards asked.

They were under Mubai's command to protect Xinghe. Now that all the danger had been neutralized, they felt it was time to hand everything over to the law enforcement.

However, Xinghe had other plans in mind.

"Let's not involve the police just yet. Bring him down to the basement. Zhi, bring me a basin of water, our friend here

needs to moisturize his face,” Xinghe said with a cryptic smile.

This time Xia Zhi understood what she meant immediately. “Yes, madam!” he said, as he left with a spring in his steps.

A basin of water slapped Black Three right in his face.

The assassin grunted from the pain and his eyes fluttered open.

He blinked rapidly from the glare of the basement overhead lights.

One of the bodyguards straightened him roughly and warned, “Now your fate is in our hands so I suggest you better follow our orders and come clean or else I can’t guarantee what will happen to you.”

Black Three scanned his surrounding and reality settled in.

His plan had failed and he was at Xia Xinghe’s mercy.

His face twitched violently, regretting his slip.

He glared viciously at Xinghe who sat across him and laughed. “You think you can force the information out of me? You b*tch, I’d advise you to forget it because I, Black Three, would rather die than tell you anything!”

Xiao Mo gave Black Three a harsh slap on his face. He warned menacingly, “Consider your situation before you speak any further!”

Even Xia Zhi jumped because he wasn’t expecting Xiao Mo to have such a sudden and physical response.

But, he had to admit it was one hell of a good slap!

Black Three spun his bloodied face around and leveled an evil glare at Xiao Mo. He then issued a throaty, soul chilling laugh.

Xiao Mo was unaffected. He turned to Xinghe and asked, “Miss Xia, how about you let us teach him a lesson first to soften him up?”

“Sis, I support this!” Xia Zhi piped up. He was eager to teach this man, who’d attempted to take Xinghe’s life twice, a lesson.

Xinghe agreed without hesitation. “Go ahead but be careful where you hit.”

Xiao Mo replied with a baleful glint in his eyes, “Don’t worry, we won’t let him die on us so easily.”

With that, he launched a barrage of punches and kicks at Black Three.

Xia Zhi joined in.

Both of them made sure the wounds were at places that weren’t conspicuous and adroitly avoided Black Three’s vital parts.

Chapter 133: His Daughter Is...

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

It was more than enough to inflict some real damage.

Black Three endured it well initially but half way through he started moaning in pain.

However, Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi didn't let their offense down.

After all, they were dealing with a professional assassin; showing mercy was pointless.

Xinghe wasn't at all affected by Black Three's groans.

She surfed the internet calmly as if there was nothing out of the ordinary in the room.

Finally, she opened her mouth and said, "That's enough. I have something I want to ask him."

Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi stopped and panted from the effort. As Xia Zhi had learnt from the bodyguard, he straightened Black Three up and warned menacingly, "You'd better answer whatever my sister asks or there's more where that came from."

Black Three spat in his face and chuckled, "Even if you threaten to kill me, I won't say a word! Do it if you dare!"

He was certain they didn't have the guts to actually take another person's life.

Xia Zhi retorted angrily, "Don't think we wouldn't!"

"Well, come at me!" Black Three roared. He laughed shamelessly, taunting them.

Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi were about to continue the aggression when Xinghe uttered calmly, "There's no need for that."

She looked at Black Three and smiled enigmatically, "There's no need to waste everyone's energy doing this the hard way, wouldn't you agree?"

Black Three was furious.

So, I took the previous beating for nothing?

“Sis, he won’t admit to his dealings without being taught a lesson!” Xia Zhi said angrily.

“I already have his admission from earlier on tape,” Xinghe commented.

Black Three chuckled disingenuously. “You think that kind of evidence can be used in the court of law? I can have it nullified because you recorded it illegally! Try again, missy!”

“Just what kind of benefits did Wu Rong give you that you’re so willing to take the fall for her? We have so many witnesses here willing to testify against you, so your crime is already a surefire conviction. Why not give Wu Rong up to lighten your sentence?” Xia Zhi was curious.

Black Three smiled cryptically in lieu of an answer.

However, his eyes spoke volumes.

No matter what Xinghe’s group did to him, he would not reveal anything. Even with the threat of death!

Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi stared at one another in confusion.

Why is he so protective of Wu Rong?

Xinghe’s voice suddenly piped up, answering their question, “The reason he won’t incriminate Wu Rong is because Xia Wushuang is his daughter.”

What?

Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi widened their eyes in shock.

Black Three also stared widely at her.

How can she possibly know that?

Other than himself and Wu Rong, no one else knew about the fact that Wushuang is his daughter!

“Sis, what are you saying?” Xia Zhi questioned.

Xinghe turned her laptop around and read the information on screen out loud, “Zhao Long, nickname Black Three, is – like Wu Rong – from City T’s Province An. Twenty five years ago, both of them worked alongside each other in a factory.

However, two years after that, Wu Rong left Province An, while Zhao Long arrived at City T ten years ago. From then onwards, his account would have a sizeable deposit made every year. Even though the person who gave him the money annually was careful enough to cover up the money trail by using cash remittance but at about the same time, Wu Rong's account would be missing the same amount of money. It's not hard to connect the dots. Also, ten years ago, Zhao Long visited the hospital for a parentage test. Am I right so far?"

Even though Black Three couldn't understand the data on the laptop screen but every word Xinghe said was nothing but the truth.

Chapter 134: Time to Take Care of the Mother and Daughter

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

He stared at her with his mouth wide open. He couldn't wrap his head around how she could investigate such details.

No one should know about his relationship with Wu Rong.

After all, it happened more than twenty years ago.

How could she manage something like that...?

What kind of person is she?

Xia Zhi suddenly laughed. "No wonder Xia Wushuang is such a human degenerate, she inherited it from both her parents!"

"Don't you dare insult my daughter!" Black Three struggled in his bonds. He charged at Xia Zhi with whatever force he could muster.

Xia Zhi sent him flying to the floor with a kick. "All three of you are human degenerates! Things will definitely not end well for your entire family!"

Black Three glared violently at Xia Zhi, like he wanted to cut him into pieces.

Xinghe knocked on the tabletop trying to get Black Three's attention. She asked, "Black Three, I've unearthed your deepest secret that's holding you back. You still refuse to commit to the confession?"

Black Three turned his head towards her slowly. With an eerie chuckle, he said, "So what if you know all this, what can you do with this information? It was out of my own volition that I came for all of you. I couldn't stand you people, what does that have to do with anyone else? Keep on dreaming if you want my confession!"

"Is it really worth it for a woman that lied to you and a daughter that's not yours?" Xinghe asked slowly.

Black Three was stunned. "What did you say?"

Even Xia Zhi and Xiao Mo were caught by surprise.

Is Xia Wushuang his daughter or not?

Xinghe's mouth curved into an interested smile. "The information that I've found states clearly that when you went for the parentage test, Wu Rong slipped 1,000,000 RMB to the doctor behind your back. Do you really need me to spell it out for you?"

"Impossible!" Black Three retorted fiercely, "This is your ploy to trick the confession out of me! I will not believe you!"

"Well, there's only one way to find out. Let's go have a little chat with Wu Rong, and then we'll see who's lying to you." Xinghe stood up and ordered, "Bring him along, let's go pay Wu Rong a visit!"

"Yay, a road trip!" Xia Zhi cheered excitedly.

Finally, it was time to deal with that pair of mother and daughter!

...

Wushuang didn't return home. She stayed at Wu Rong's.

Neither of them could sleep. They were anxiously waiting for Black Three's news.

Even though they had confidence in Black Three's ability, until the news reached their own ears, they couldn't help but worry.

However, they had more confidence than worry that Black Three would get the job done.

They couldn't wait to celebrate Xinghe's demise.

After tonight, everything in the Xia Family would be theirs!

"Mom, what if Black Three fails?" Wushuang couldn't help but voice her internal concern, "Do you think he'll rat us out?"

Wu Rong smirked and replied confidently, "Don't worry, he'd rather choose death than implicate us."

"But why?" Wushuang couldn't understand. Just as Wu Rong was going to explain, her doorbell rang.

The sudden doorbell gave both of them a mighty scare.

“Who is it?” Wushuang asked curiously. Wu Rong frowned and said, “I’ll go see...”

She stepped cautiously towards the door. She faltered a few steps back after she looked through the door’s peephole.

Wushuang noticed her mother’s blanched face and came forth to ask, “Mom, what’s wrong? Who is it?”

Wu Rong widened her eyes at Wushuang and replied in a shaking voice, “It... it’s Xia Xinghe...”

Chapter 135: Catfight

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“What?” Wushuang was dumbfounded. How could it be Xia Xinghe?

Wasn't Black Three on his way to kill her, how can she be here?

Wushuang was spooked, but she gathered her courage and peered through the peephole. Xia Xinghe was indeed standing outside their door.

She glared icily at the peephole as if staring at her through it!

Wushuang almost screamed out in shock. Xinghe was like a ghost that had returned to claim their lives. For some reason, Wushuang and Wu Rong shivered in fear.

“How is she here?” Wushuang asked concernedly, “Could it be that Black Three has failed?”

Wu Rong's face went several shades paler. “That's impossible...”

“But if not, why is she here?” The reality finally settled in for Wushuang. She was beside herself with worry. “Mom, what should we do? Black Three probably sold us out after he failed so she's here to confront us!”

Wu Rong was equally flustered but she calmed herself quickly.

“Don't fret. Maybe Black Three hasn't made his move yet. Furthermore, even if he fails, he will not sell us out!”

“Why?” This was the question that was bugging Wushuang.

Only an idiot would bear the entirety of the crime and not incriminate them.

Wu Rong grabbed Wushuang's arm tightly and said under her breath, “Because he's under the impression that you're his daughter, even though you're not!”

“What...” Wushuang was at a loss for words. She had a hard time processing what her mom just said.

“In any case, for your sake, he won’t sell us out. Let’s see what Xia Xinghe wants first, don’t panic...”

“Okay...” Wushuang nodded somewhat vacantly.

With each other support, the mother-and-daughter pair calmed down fairly quickly.

In the meantime, Xinghe kept on hitting the doorbell. She didn’t push it in a hurry but slowly at a constant interval. Each one sounded like a requiem beyond the grave.

Finally, the door slid open to reveal a small crack.

Wu Rong glared at Xinghe from behind the door, asking, “Xia Xinghe, what are you doing here?”

Xinghe returned her glare and said plainly, “You honestly don’t know why I’m here?”

Wu Rong snorted. “How would I know that? In any case, you are not welcome here! Leave immediately or this might turn physical!”

“Fine, then let’s have it your way,” Xinghe launched a kick at the door, knocking Wu Rong and Wushuang back. They collapsed to the floor like a pair of dominoes.

“Xia Xinghe, what are you doing?” Wushuang and Wu Rong screamed in unison.

They didn’t expect Xinghe to be so audacious.

“What am I doing?” Xinghe stepped into the room gracefully, stared down at them and said, “Of course to collect my debt.”

Wu Rong’s eyes shuddered briefly. “What debt? I warn you, if you don’t leave right this moment, I’ll chase you out myself!”

“Won’t you agree we are way past that by this point? Hit me with everything you got, because I’m going to do the same!”

Xinghe let loose another kick at Wu Rong’s chest.

Wu Rong screamed in pain.

“Mom!” Wushuang climbed up and charged viciously at Xinghe. “B*tch, I’m going to kill you!”

Xinghe stepped out of her way nimbly and kicked at Wushuang's knees. Wushuang crumpled to the floor instantly.

“Wushuang...” Wu Rong clambered to her daughter in a hurry to check on her condition.

Actually, there wasn't much force behind Xinghe's attacks. Wu Rong and Wushuang's face suffered more damage than their bodies.

Chapter 136: He Has Sold You Out

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Wu Rong hissed at Xinghe, “You b*tch, how dare you hurt my daughter!”

She climbed up with the support of a chair which she later picked up and swung at Xinghe.

Xinghe expertly avoided it and countered with another kick. Wu Rong crumbled to the floor and the chair in her hands landed heavily only a hair’s breadth away from her head.

“Mom, are you alright?” Wushuang crawled over and asked hurriedly.

Wu Rong pulled herself up with gritted teeth. “I’m fine! Wushuang, call the cops! The b*tch is trespassing and has assaulted us. Call the police and have her arrested!”

“Right...” Wushuang pulled out her cellphone and dialed the police number in a hurry.

This time it was Xinghe’s who made the careless mistake. She was on the wrong side of the law. There was no way she was going to wiggle out of this one!

Even though Wushuang suffered some surface wounds, her heart was happy.

Because they finally had something concrete they could use against Xinghe...

“Calling the police to hand yourself in?” Xinghe commented sarcastically.

Wushuang’s finger froze in mid-air and Wu Rong stared bewildered at her. “What do you mean by that?”

Xinghe sauntered over slowly and chuckled coldly. “The meaning is simple. The fact that you’ve conspired to commit a mass murder has already been exposed.”

Wushuang and Wu Rong stared at each other disbelievingly.

It has been exposed?

But how?

The conclusive way Xinghe said those words didn't seem like she was bluffing.

However, Black Three wouldn't have ratted them out no matter what...

Wu Rong had confidence in that. She said challengingly, "What conspiracy in a mass murder? Xia Xinghe, that's a bloody lie! If you can't produce the evidence, I'll sue you for libel!"

"Right, b*tch, show us the evidence if you can!" Wushuang chimed in.

Their game plan was to deny their connection to everything and anything.

Xinghe smiled condescendingly. "You think I'd be here without evidence? Wu Rong, Black Three has told us everything. You were behind the accident years ago and you were behind the attempted murder tonight. He has sold you out."

"That's impossible..." Wu Rong's face turned pale immediately. She demurred with a shaking voice, "I don't know any Black One, Two, or Three, and I'm certainly not involved in his or her illegal dealings! Xia Xinghe, bring him here to confront me or I'll sue you to death and back!"

Wu Rong was certain that Black Three would not sell them out. He'd told her that personally.

He would die than let anything happen to his precious 'daughter'.

Therefore, Xinghe must be laying a trap for them.

I mustn't fall for it!

As if hearing her thoughts, Xinghe said, "You believe he would rather die than sell you out?"

"..."

"Too bad, he already knew the truth regarding the thing that you've been lying to him about. He knows Xia Wushuang is

not his actual daughter!”

Wu Rong felt an explosion go off in her head. Her scattered thoughts were all over the place.

What did Xia Xinghe just said?

Black Three knows the truth?

But how...

This can't be true. How did he suddenly find out about it?

“No, I don't know what you're talking about. Xia Xinghe, you're spouting nonsense!” Wu Rong shook her head repeatedly but the truth was belied by the anxiety in her voice.

“Are you thinking about how he found out the truth? Let me help you answer that. I showed it to him. I pulled the record that showed you bribed the doctor to falsify his paternity test. We dropped by the doctor's home on the way here and Black Three used his ways to get the doctor's confirmation.”

Chapter 137: It's Over!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

This time, the word pale could no longer be used to describe Wu Rong's face.

Her face was ashen, like dying embers.

There was no longer any backing propping her up.

If Xinghe could go into such details, the truth was truly out.

Everything's over!

Wu Rong's wrinkled face twitched slightly. Her mouth moved but no words came out.

Wushuang saw her mother's reaction and understanding dawned.

It was over for the both of them!

The mother and daughter stood stupefied. Their previous arrogance all gone, at this moment they were like pigs waiting for slaughter.

"Mom..." Wushuang grabbed her mother's arm and uttered in a breaking voice, "What... what should... we do now..."

So, this was what it felt like to have the world crumbling around oneself.

Wu Rong found it difficult to console her daughter because she too was at a loss. Even Black Three had sold them out, what else could they do?

Wu Rong stared aimlessly at Xinghe and challenged in a throaty and weak voice, "How did you find out about all this? You're lying, you can't possibly unearth all this..."

Xinghe smiled slightly, "Have you forgotten what I'm most proficient at?"

Information Technology...

As long as it was electronically recorded, with her capability, there was no information that she couldn't find.

That year Wu Rong and Black Three worked at a state-owned company, their information had to be registered into the system. Of course, the bribe she gave the doctor could be traced through the banking transactions...

Individually, these things were meaningless but when strung together, the reality would be as clear as day.

She really didn't expect Xia Xinghe to be that good at what she did!

"However, I'm curious. Since Xia Wushuang isn't Black Three's actual daughter, why the complicated ruse to trick him?" Xinghe asked purposely.

She was wearing a hidden camera that would not only record Wu Rong and Wushuang's reactions but also their voices.

It was directly connected to a feed cam inside the car where Black Three was kept.

By then, he had been fully convinced that Xia Wushuang was not his biological daughter!

Wu Rong cackled madly. Black Three had already double-crossed her so she was going to tell all.

With a twisted face, she said, "Because I planned to make use of him from the beginning! Only through this method would he listen to my orders obediently. You tell me, is there any other better way to cultivate loyalty in an assassin?"

Xinghe questioned angrily, "So your evil plan began ten years ago? Even then, you planned to murder my dad and me?"

Wu Rong didn't feel the need to conceal anything anymore.

She stood up slowly and glared at Xinghe. She cackled like an unhinged woman. "That's right. Even before I'd been plotting to kill the both of you! But you – you lucky b*tch – escaped both attempts on your life! No matter, Xia Xinghe, I'll admit that you've beaten me but you'll never be the final victor because that person will be my daughter!"

Before the sentence was finished, Wu Rong swiped the paring knife on the table and dashed blade-first at Xinghe!

As long as Xinghe was dead, Xia Family's estate would still go to her daughter.

And Wushuang would escape unscathed because she was willing to bear all the crime!

With a do or die determination, Wu Rong stabbed fiercely at Xinghe. Xia Zhi who saw this in the car yelled, "Sis—"

He opened the door and leaped out of the car.

Xinghe was indeed surprised by Wu Rong's desperate assault. After narrowly escaping the knife's sharp edge, she grabbed hold of Wu Rong's wrist and twisted it roughly. The paring knife clattered to the floor following Wu Rong's scream.

Chapter 138: The Devil

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Then, Xinghe gave Wu Rong more than a few sound slaps on her face.

Xinghe put all of her power behind every single one of her slaps. Wu Rong was disorientated and fell to the floor. Soon, she had a serious nosebleed that dirtied half of her face.

“Mom!” Wushuang screamed at the top of her lungs, “Xia Xinghe, I’m going to kill you!”

She grabbed at the paring knife that fell to the floor and wanted to leap at Xinghe. However, she stopped herself with her palm closed over the knife handle.

No, she couldn’t kill Xia Xinghe.

She was still young, her glorious future still ahead of her... She couldn’t ruin herself like this.

Her mom already planned to sacrifice herself to save her, she couldn’t disappoint her.

However, pain tore at her heart after watching Xia Xinghe treat her mom like this.

Tears came out of Wushuang eyes and her grip on the knife loosened.

Xinghe questioned her challengingly, “Why did you stop? Haven’t you and your mother been planning to murder me? Now is your best chance.”

A weakened Wushuang fell to the floor and shook her head violently. “I have no idea what you’re talking about! I’ve never plotted against you. I don’t know anything I swear!”

“So, you’re telling me everything is Wu Rong’s own plan and has nothing to do with you?” Xinghe asked sarcastically.

“Right, it has nothing to do with me, I don’t know anything!” Wushuang had been given a script and she knew she had to stick to it.

Xinghe took in her cowardly state, and turned her eyes away condescendingly.

“Sis, are you alright?” Xia Zhi burst into the room. Following close behind were two bodyguards and a detained Black Three.

Xinghe shook her head lightly. “I’m fine. Zhi, it’s time to call the cops.”

“Okay!” Xia Zhi immediately pulled out his phone. At that moment, Black Three suddenly struggled loose of the two bodyguards and charged at Wu Rong.

He picked up her body, his face twisted with anger. “You b*tch, you have been playing me a fool, that bastard girl is not my daughter! You disgusting witch, you’ve ruined my life, and now I’m going to take yours!”

Black Three picked up the paring knife and aimed it Wu Rong. Xinghe kicked the knife out of his hand.

Black Three roared at her angrily, “What are you doing? Why won’t you let me kill her?”

Xinghe smirked chillingly, “Killing her is giving her the easy way out. Keeping her alive to suffer is the best revenge.”

Black Three stared blankly at Xinghe and shivered involuntarily.

For some reason, he had a suspicious feeling he too was going to face the same fate...

Wu Rong felt touched by a hellish chill.

At that moment, Xinghe, in her eyes, took on the persona of an ice demon, more devilish than she had or could ever be.

However, the fact that Xinghe tricked her about Black Three knowing the truth hurt her the most!

Because she fell stupidly for it...

...

The police arrived quickly.

Wu Rong and Black Three were taken into the police car, while Wushuang was asked to follow them to the police station to help with investigation.

When Xinghe walked out the villa, it was almost dawn.

An eventful night had passed but it was still not the end.

Xia Zhi groused unhappily, “Sis, even though Wu Rong and Black Three are going to receive justice, Chui Ming and Wushuang are still out there.”

Chapter 139: A Piece of Advice

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Xinghe looked beyond the horizon and said in her usual calm way, “No worries, it’ll be their turn soon enough. Let’s go, we still have things to do.”

Indeed, they still had things to be done.

Xinghe needed to strike while the iron was hot.

Xinghe herself had said earlier she was going to make sure every single one of them was punished and she wasn’t one to go back on her words.

Unsurprisingly, Wu Rong voluntarily shouldered all of the blame.

Wushuang insisted she had nothing to do with the attempted murders and, since they already had a confession from Wu Rong, the police couldn’t do anything against her.

After giving her statement, Wushuang wanted to rush home to get Chui Ming.

Only Chui Ming could save her mother now.

Or else she would lose everything.

Even her claim to the Xia Family fortune...

“Xia Wushuang,” Suddenly Xinghe called from behind her. Wushuang turned, her eyes filled with a mixture of anger and fear towards Xinghe.

Finally, she had learnt that Xinghe was not someone she could take down easily.

Xinghe looked at her icily but her words surprised Wushuang. “Due to the fact that we were once sisters, I’m willing to give you some advice. This is your only way out now, so you want to hear it or not?”

“You would be so kind?” Wushuang scoffed.

“Of course.”

Doubts entered Wushuang's heart. Just what kind of tricks is Xia Xinghe playing?

However, beggars can't be choosers. She was willing to take anyone's advice then.

"...What advice?"

"It's simple. Go back in there to surrender and accept your punishment," Xinghe said plainly.

"B*tch, in your dreams!" Wushuang cursed angrily; she should have known Xinghe couldn't have given her any good advice.

Xia Xinghe wants her to go down with the sinking ship? In her dreams!

"Xia Xinghe, don't be too happy. This is not over yet!" Wushuang turned to leave. She swore then to make Xia Xinghe pay even if she had to give up everything!

By then, the only card she could play was Chui Ming.

They were after all married and had a common enemy. She believed he would help her take on Xia Xinghe.

Wushuang left in a terrible fit of rage. Xia Zhi said worriedly, "Sis, Xia Wushuang looks like she is ready to die together with us. Did you purposely provoke her just now?"

"I didn't."

"You mean your advice was genuine?"

"Yes. Sadly, she chose a fate worse than the law's punishment."

"How come I don't understand what you're talking about?" Xia Zhi scratched his head. However, he had gotten used to the cryptic way his sister spoke.

...

The moment Wushuang stepped into her home, she knew something was wrong.

The sprawling villa was as still as the cemetery.

Normally, four or five housemaids would bustle about the house but now there wasn't even one of them. The living room's door was wide open but Wushuang was hesitant to enter because it gave her the feeling that it was an entrance to a monster's lair.

Regardless, she steeled herself and walked in. She saw Chui Ming sitting at the bar counter.

He had uncorked a bottle of wine and was pouring himself a glass. The sound of rushing liquid filled Wushuang's ears.

Chui Ming swirled the glass in his hand leisurely like he had no worry in the world.

Wushuang sighed in relief noticing Chui Ming's relaxed mood. "Honey, why are you home alone, where's the help?" She moved forward and asked softly.

Chui Ming turned to look at her and asked his own question, "Where have you been?"

Chapter 140: Money Transfer

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“I was staying at my mom’s. Didn’t you ask me to come up with a solution to take care of Xia Xinghe...”

Chui Ming’s eyes shook slightly, “You took care of her already?”

“No...” Wushuang’s face fell immediately, “Honey, Xia Xinghe is too cunning. She saw through our plan. Now my mother’s detained at the police station. I’ve escaped but if we don’t do anything soon, Xia Xinghe will take everything that belongs to her! Honey, there’s no one but you that can help me now. Let’s figure out a way to destroy Xia Xinghe. If not, we’ll be left with nothing!”

Wushuang was too distressed to notice the peculiar look that temporarily entered Chui Ming’s eyes.

He set down the wine glass and walked towards Wushuang. He pulled her in for an intimate hug which totally surprised Wushuang.

“Wushuang, I’m sorry but I’m unable to help you,” Chui Ming caressed her hair and said with a sigh.

Wushuang raised her head in alarm. “But why?”

Chui Ming said with a painful expression, “Because I’m bankrupt...”

“What?” Wushuang was shocked, “How?”

“How...? Crash of the stock market. Overnight, I’ve lost everything. Everything, do you understand?” Chui Ming laughed but there was no mirth in it.

Wushuang stepped back involuntarily with a blanched face. “But how could it happen so fast...”

They were still in the lap of luxury yesterday, how could they have lost everything overnight?

“Wushuang, leave and run as far as you can. I have nothing now so I can’t help you anymore. I too will go into hiding, so this will probably be our last time together,” Chui Ming said suddenly.

Wushuang held onto his hand and pleaded, “No, we still have something! Honey, I have money, lots of money, this is still not the end for us! We can run together, no, we can use the money to figure out a way to remove Xia Xinghe!”

Chui Ming looked at her kindly and caressed her face lovingly. “Honey, there’s no need for you to cheer me up. Even if you have some money stored away, it wouldn’t be enough for us to start over...”

“No, it’s enough! I have all the money from Xia Family’s estate! Ten billion, that’s more than enough!”

“Alright, then quickly transfer it into my overseas account. It’ll buy us time for us to leave this country.”

Caution settled in Wushuang’s heart. Her inner voice warned her that she couldn’t give everything she had to Chui Ming.

However, if she didn’t transfer it to him, the money would very soon be out of her pocket!

Wu Rong was already charged with the murder of Xia Chengwu and attempted murder on Xia Xinghe. It wouldn’t take long for the police to freeze the Xia Family’s remaining estates.

If she didn’t move the money soon, she would be left penniless.

At the end of the day, Chui Ming was her lawfully wedded husband; he wouldn’t mistreat her.

Plus, didn’t he promise they would escape together?

Wushuang decided to believe in Chui Ming, to bet on the premise of love.

With Chui Ming’s aid, Wushuang managed to transfer the money from her own and Wu Rong’s accounts to Chui Ming’s very quickly.

Thankfully, Chui Ming seemed to be a man of his words.

After he helped her pack her suitcase, he told her, “Wushuang, you go to the airport first and wait for me. I’ll be there after I get this small thing settled. I have to find someone to take care of Xia Xinghe before we leave this country!”

“You want me to go on my own?” Wushuang couldn’t hide her surprise.

Chui Ming nodded. “Yes, but don’t worry I’ll be there to meet you after everything’s done. Wushuang, don’t worry, I won’t leave you alone; you are, after all, my lovely wife. Alright, let’s get moving, we don’t have the time to dawdle or the police will get here soon.”

Chapter 141: Old Scores

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Wushuang chose to trust Chui Ming.

Then again, what other choice did she have?

Plus, she wasn't worried that Chui Ming would leave her behind because if so, she would report him to Interpol.

For a better tomorrow, Wushuang had decided to follow Chui Ming out of the country and abandon her mother.

She firmly believed a new start was entirely possible.

However, she underestimated Chui Ming's viciousness.

He wasn't lying when he said he needed to find someone to kill Xia Xinghe, but he left out the important detail that she was on his hit list too.

As Wushuang drove in a hurry to the airport, she didn't notice a van had been tailing her.

When she finally realized something was wrong, the van rammed heavily into her from behind. Wushuang screamed in fright and her car went flying forward!

Chui Ming had come up with two plans the night before, the choice of which depended on Wushuang's effort to take care of Xia Xinghe. If her plan was successful, Chui Ming would accept her back with open arms since she would have proved her usefulness.

If not, his plan was to cut all losses and run.

He had planned his escape route, the only thing he needed was the inheritance in Wushuang's hands...

After he tricked Wushuang away, Chui Ming started packing. Just as he was about to close his car door, a black car stopped right in front of him, blocking his way.

Xiao Mo descended from it. Following him were two bodyguards and a man who was in their custody.

The man was one of three that infiltrated Xinghe's house.

Naturally, Chui Ming recognized the man.

He knew the moment Wushuang walked in the door with her defeated face that his own assassination plan had also failed but it was still quite a shock to see it confirmed with his own two eyes.

He thought his plan was planned to perfection; he couldn't understand why it would fail.

However, even with his failure staring at his face, he wasn't a little bit concerned.

Meeting Xiao Mo's hatred-filled gaze, he chuckled. "What's wrong? Looks like you're not here with kind intentions."

Chui Ming was right. Xiao Mo was definitely not there to share a biscuit over tea with him.

"You're right, Chui Ming. I'm here today to collect your debt of blood!" Xiao Mo said with a chilling smirk.

"Debt of blood?" Chui Ming replied in a snarky manner, "Aren't you overestimating yourself? On what grounds are you here to claim it?"

Xiao Mo sneered. "On the grounds of premeditated attempt to murder! Chui Ming, bet you didn't see this coming. Your plan failed big time and your men have all told the police everything. They'll be here to arrest you soon, but before that, I want to settle personal scores with you."

Chui Ming narrowed his eyes at Xiao Mo. He challenged, "Just how do you expect to do that?"

"Of course, it's to make your life hell!" Xiao Mo roared as he charged at Chui Ming.

Chui Ming pulled out a pistol he had hidden inside his clothes and opened fire—

Xiao Mo didn't even flinch or evade. The bullet shot through his shoulder and he slammed into Chui Ming!

As if his pain receptors had been burnt off, the bullet wound didn't faze him one bit. He climbed atop of Chui Ming and landed a punch on Chui Ming's face!

“F*ck...” Chui Ming cursed loudly. He wasn’t expecting Xiao Mo to be so fearless.

He struggled to fire another shot but his arm that held the gun was heavily pinned down by Xiao Mo. Rage poured through Xiao Mo as he threw one punch after another at Chui Ming’s face.

Bang!

After an especially heavy blow, Chui Ming’s vision began to blur.

Bang!

Chapter 142: The Power of Hatred

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Another heavy blow later, Chui Ming could feel his teeth wobbling.

However, Xiao Mo didn't let up. In fact, the assault came faster and stronger.

He pressed down hard on Chui Ming, not giving him any chance to escape or counter. He was ready to punch Chui Ming into a bloody pulp.

Chui Ming's initial struggle eventually stopped and he surrendered himself to the crazed Xiao Mo.

Even though Xiao Mo's shoulder was pierced through by a bullet, he was relentless.

He was fueled by the power of hatred!

Resentment that was bottled up over the years was released all at once. How could Xiao Mo not go crazy with bloodlust?

He was guided by one basic impulse, which was to beat Chui Ming to his death!

That one thought overwhelmed everything else in Xiao Mo's mind, even his sanity.

Like a possessed man, he saw nothing but blood in his eyes.

Therefore, he didn't realize Chui Ming has long since stopped struggling. In fact, he was eerily motionless.

The two bodyguards saw the bad situation and rushed forward to pull Xiao Mo back or else Xiao Mo would really smash Chui Ming's head in.

By then, blood was all over Chui Ming and his face had been horribly disfigured...

However, it did nothing to quench the fire of hatred within Xiao Mo. While he was dragged away from the body, he didn't miss the chance to launch a few powerful kicks at Chui Ming.

“Mr. Xiao, that’s enough. You’re going to kill him!”

“The police are almost here,” The two bodyguards reminded him.

“I don’t care! I’m not afraid of jail time, I just want to kill him! I want to kill him—”

Xiao Mo struggled out of the bodyguards’ clutches and charged at Chui Ming’s body.

However, after taking a few steps, he fainted. He was losing too much blood...

...

“Sis, something bad happened to Brother Xiao!” Xia Zhi and Xinghe were waiting for Xiao Mo at a café opposite the police station. They were waiting for Xiao Mo to bring Chui Ming over.

Xinghe frowned. “What happened?”

Xia Zhi quickly relayed to Xinghe everything the bodyguard told him.

“Now, both he and Chui Ming are being sent to the hospital. The diagnostics aren’t positive for the both of them. Did Brother Xiao lose his mind? The physical confrontation wasn’t beneficial for either party.” Xia Zhi was puzzled.

Xinghe said in a low voice, “He was blinded by hatred. Pack up, we’ll go to the hospital now.”

“Okay!”

They left the café in a hurry. As they crossed the road to reach the opposite car park, a car rounded the corner and headed directly at them.

Once bitten, twice shy. Xinghe had been in multiple car accidents so she was extra cautious whenever she crossed the road.

Therefore, she saw the danger coming immediately!

“Careful—” Xinghe yelled as she leaped to push Xia Zhi out of the road. The speeding car rammed directly into Xinghe.

She flew quite a distance before landing with a heavy thud.

“Sis!” Xia Zhi who fell to the ground screamed as he turned back to watch the nightmarish scene unfold before him.

However, the car didn’t stop there. It made a drastic U-turn and sped towards Xinghe’s injured body.

Minutes before the car reached Xinghe, a Maybach shot out of the traffic and crashed into it.

Bang!

The sound of impact made the earth quake and the car that was knocked up overturned in mid-air and landed as a pile of scrap metal.

Chapter 143: Selfless Xi Mubai

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

The Maybach didn't escape the crash unscathed either.

Both cars received quite a large amount of damage from the collision. White smoke was billowing from their engines.

This happened right outside the police station so many law enforcement officers thronged out the precinct upon hearing the commotion.

Xinghe grimaced from the effort to sit up. She saw two officers pull a large man out of the broken Maybach.

Xinghe's eyes widened in shock. It was... Xi Mubai.

Before she could form a coherent thought, the dark curtain of unconsciousness fell.

...

Mubai suffered minor injuries. The most serious was an abrasion to his shoulder where it was bleeding.

Xinghe had cuts all over her body and she was unconscious.

Both were rushed to the hospital where Lu Qi happened to be on duty. He heard the news and ran over to the sick bay to pay them a visit, "What happened? I heard there was a car accident."

"You heard right," Mubai answered lightly, his eyes fell on Xinghe who was lying on the bed next to him, "Help take a look at her."

"Doctor Lu, the lady's situation is more optimistic than it looks. She merely fainted," The doctor who was examining Xinghe raised his head to report.

Lu Qi nodded. He moved to bandage Mubai. "Since she's fine, let me take a look at you first."

Mubai raised his hand to stop him. He said in the same light manner, "Ladies first."

Since when did Xi Mubai become so selfless? Lu Qi thought to himself.

He smiled and said, “Alright, if you say so. Follow my colleagues to get your injury fixed. I promise I’ll take good care of her.”

Mubai nodded before standing up to follow the doctors and nurses out.

After all the unrelated people were chased out of the room, Lu Qi started checking Xinghe’s injuries.

Mubai was relocated to the room next door where the doctor stitched up his shoulder wound. Old Mr. and Mrs. Xi as well as Tianxin who’d heard the news by then had quickly arrived at the hospital.

“Why were you so careless?” His mother asked concernedly, witnessing the ten centimeter long wound on his shoulder.

“Mubai, are you feeling better? Are you in pain?” Tianxin enquired with equal concern.

The doctor who was in the room consoled them, “Don’t worry, Mr. Xi’s wound looks serious, but it’s actually nothing. We’ll take out the thread in a week and you’ll barely notice the scar after a month.”

Old Mr. Xi turned to the police officers in the room and asked with a frown, “What happened? What or who caused the accident?”

The officers answered politely, “The accident happened because Mr. Xi wanted to save Miss Xia Xinghe.”

“What?” Old Mrs. Xi asked out loud. Tianxin looked at them in surprised confusion.

Mubai injured himself because... he wanted to save Xia Xinghe?

“Tell us exactly what happened,” Old Mr. Xi asked solemnly.

“It has nothing to do with Xinghe. I saw someone tried to make an attempt on her life so I had to save her. I would do the

same for anyone else,” Mubai answered on behalf of the policemen.

The officers vigorously nodded and agreed, “Yes, Mr. Xi is such a hero! If not for Mr. Xi, Miss Xia probably would be dead by now...”

The police continued to describe the situation.

Old Mrs. Xi and Tianxin became increasingly incensed.

How could Mubai put himself in harm’s way to save Xia Xinghe!

What if something bad were to happen to him?

Tianxin was furious.

Why did Mubai have to save Xia Xinghe? He should’ve let the b*tch die!

The fact that Mubai took such a big risk to save Xinghe made her heart burn with envy.

Chapter 144: Just Next Door

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

However, her face was one of understanding. “Mubai must have done it for Lin Lin. Next time, you have to think about yourself and about everyone else. God forbid, if anything were to happen to you, what will the rest of us do?”

The tears arrived on cue. She played the part of concerned fiancé to the tee.

Old Mrs. Xi quickly went to comfort her. She reprimanded Mubai lightly, “Of course, we should help others whenever we can – but, Mubai, you have to learn to read the situation. This time you were lucky to escape with only a minor wound. You’re no longer responsible for only yourself, you’re marrying Tianxin soon. What would the poor girl do if something bad happened to you?”

“Auntie, it’s fine. We shouldn’t blame Mubai,” Tianxin chimed in kindly and understandingly, “He was doing a good thing after all.”

“Still, he should take care of himself before he takes care of others...”

Old Mrs. Xi was ready to launch into another litany when Mubai interrupted her politely, “Alright, Mom. I understand. I will see you later because I wish to rest now.”

“Mubai, I’ll stay to look after you!” Tianxin said gently.

“No need, I need some alone time to recuperate.” Mubai rejected firmly.

Tianxin pouted and bit on her lips, “But I want to stay; I promise I won’t disturb you...”

“There’s really no need.” Mubai’s tone was unwavering.

Tianxin didn’t want to push it for fear of annoying Mubai.

She nodded understandingly. “Okay then, promise me you’ll rest well. I’ll go back to cook you some broth, I’ll bring them over later today.”

Mubai didn't give any response, and Tianxin took that as a 'thank you'.

Old Mr. Xi exchanged a few more words with his son and they all left the ward.

The moment they stepped out of his room, they ran into Lu Qi.

Spotting him, Old Mrs. Xi accosted him with a giant smile. "Doctor Lu, thank you for your help looking after our Mubai. If he ever needs anything, please don't hesitate to call us."

Lu Qi smiled back. "Auntie, don't worry. Mubai's wound is not serious, he'll heal just fine."

"That's good to know."

"By the way, Doctor Lu, do you have any information on Xia Xinghe's conditions?" Tianxin suddenly chimed in to ask.

"Miss Xia is recovering well too. I just finished checking her injuries. She is in this ward," Lu Qi said as he pointed towards the door behind him.

So, just next door...

After they bid Lu Qi goodbye, Tianxin couldn't help herself but look in when they passed Xinghe's open door.

Xinghe was still unconscious while Xia Zhi sat by her bedside watching over her. When he saw them, he frowned unhappily.

"Let's go," Old Mrs. Xi opened her mouth to say. In her eyes, Xia Xinghe was nothing more than a stranger.

Tianxin pulled her eyes away and followed.

No one saw the malevolence that flashed at the back of her eyes...

Xia Zhi went to close the door. He didn't want to see any more unsightly people.

Xia Zhi returned to his post by Xinghe's bedside. He waited for a long time but Xinghe showed no sign of waking up.

In fact, it appeared like her situation had worsened. She kept tossing and turning in her sleep.

And her forehead started breaking out in cold sweat...

Xia Zhi hurried to get Lu Qi who happened to be in Mubai's room.

In the end, Mubai tagged along.

When he saw the condition Xinghe was in, he frowned subconsciously. "What's wrong?"

"I have no idea. I swore she was doing just fine but for some reasons, she began to get increasingly restless. Doctor Lu, please look at my sister, what's wrong with her?" Xia Zhi pleaded anxiously.

Chapter 145: Desire to Protect

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“Calm down, let me see...” After Lu Qi gave Xinghe a rudimentary inspection, he said, “She’s burning up. I guess it’s because the pent-up pressure was released all at once during her moment of weakness so it caused her to succumb to this sudden illness.”

“You’re right, my sister has been under an insurmountable amount of pressure lately.” Xia Zhi nodded heavily.

Mubai didn’t offer any comments. He merely looked deeply at Xinghe.

He had a basic grasp of Xinghe’s transformation and her latest changes.

He even knew a thing or two about the events that unfolded the night before.

He found it difficult to imagine a physically weak woman like her could possess such impressive strength and intelligence that she was able to conquer all her enemies in one night.

Even though he lent her his aid but he fully believed she would be able to pull it off without his help.

He still found it hard to reconcile the two ‘Xia Xinghe’s that had appeared in his life.

He had never seen this impressive side of her...

However, at that moment, she was so vulnerable. She might have gotten a lot more competent but she was still a woman made of flesh and blood, prone to her moments of weakness.

For some reason, discovering this vulnerable side of Xinghe made Mubai cherish her even more...

Mubai still stood there after Lu Qi connected Xinghe to the IV drip.

Xia Zhi stared at him curiously. “Mr. Xi, why don’t you go and rest? You’re injured too, right?”

Mubai snapped back to reality and said lightly, "I'll be over next door. Come and get me if you need anything."

"Okay... Thank you for your help recently," Xia Zhi said somewhat awkwardly.

"You're welcome." Mubai looked at Xinghe one last time before leaving.

Lu Qi came to make his round not long after Mubai returned to his ward. Lu Qi checked Mubai's wound and announced, "You're welcome to go home and rest. Have the family doctor change your bandage every day and you'll be good as new."

"Ok," Mubai answered but he didn't show any intention of leaving.

He stayed on at the hospital, eventually moving his work there.

However, next door, Xinghe remained unconscious...

Lu Qi would come over to report Xinghe's condition to him. He merely nodded his head every time but he didn't stop Lu Qi from coming to keep him updated on Xinghe.

Finally, many days later, Xinghe's fever gradually improved.

However, she still suffered from night terrors, causing her to have restless sleeps.

For some reason, her brain kept replaying events that happened over the past twenty-five years.

Her childhood with her mom overseas.

The scenes where her mom taught her computer programming...

The accident that changed her life, and her marriage to Mubai...

The memories were cut into segments and flew across her mind.

She held onto one and it became clearer as others faded into the background.

It was from her childhood, the day when her mother left.

Xinghe, honey, mommy has to leave so you'll have to take care of yourself okay? Focus on your study and don't forget to practice on the computer so one day we'll meet again.

Mommy, where are you going? Xinghe asked anxiously.

Her mom smiled kindly, I'm going somewhere far away, some place where... only you can... reach me...

Mommy, what are you saying? A befuddled Xinghe questioned.

Her mother didn't answer as she disappeared into the night.

Mom, mommy- Xinghe searched high and low in the dark but her mother was not to be found. Finally, she tripped in her dream and woke up with a start before she was consumed by an enveloping darkness.

Chapter 146: You Are the Mother of Our Son

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Xinghe was temporarily dazed after she woke up.

What was the meaning of her dream?

She hadn't dreamt about her mother in a long time.

What was her mother trying to tell her in the dream?

Xinghe thought about it as she took in her surroundings. She realized she was in a hospital; Xia Zhi was fast asleep beside her.

Outside, the sun had just risen, the smell of dew hanging heavy in the air.

Xinghe took a quick look at her phone and was shocked to realize she had been unconscious for a few days.

A complicated bundle of emotions arose in her heart when her thoughts went back to the things that happened yesterday.

At that moment, the door to her ward was gently opened.

A smartly dressed Mubai walked in. Their eyes met and both were a little bit stunned.

Shyness flitted across Mubai's face before disappearing completely. He collected himself quickly and walked in, unhurriedly.

"Just woke up?" he asked in a low rumble.

Xinghe nodded and said, "Thank you for your help yesterday."

"It's nothing. How are you feeling? You've been out for a few days."

"Much better, thank you for asking..." Xinghe wanted to enquire about his condition but she swallowed the question when she saw how easily he moved about and how radiant he looked.

Mubai nodded when he saw the color that had returned to Xinghe's face. "It's good that you're feeling better. By the

way, the person that made an attempt on your life was arranged by Chui Ming.”

“I thought as much.”

“However, from now on, Chui Ming will never be a source of worry for you in the future.”

“I know.”

Mubai knew about Chui Ming’s arrest and that his prosecution was a certainty at this point, but Xinghe shouldn’t know this yet, how could she know that he won’t be a problem?

Just how far ahead has she planned?

For some reason, Xinghe’s intelligence and acuity made Mubai somewhat flustered.

“Is there anything you want to talk to me about?” Xinghe asked with a curious expression.

Mubai couldn’t possibly reveal he was there to check up on her...

“I’m leaving the hospital soon, so I’m just here to see how you’re doing,” Mubai answered in good taste. Xinghe nodded.

“I’m doing just fine,” Xinghe replied honestly, “Again, thank you for your help on the day of the accident and the few other times before that.”

“I’ve told you there’s no need for thanks. It’s part of my responsibility, after all you are the mother of our son.” Mubai purposely used the pronoun ‘our’, instead of ‘my’ or even Lin Lin’s name.

It seemed to draw their relationship closer.

Xinghe felt a part of her give.

In all honesty, Mubai was a great father. He had been taking good care of Lin Lin all these years.

But now, she was plotting her way to win the custody of Lin Lin away from him. Suddenly, she felt guilty about it.

However, he was going to remarry, and have new children of his own...

It wouldn't be wrong for her to fight for Lin Lin, would it?

Regardless, she couldn't shake the guilt out of her mind. Therefore, she decided to test the waters.

"Actually, I have something I want to discuss with you," Xinghe said cautiously.

Mubai implored, "Okay, tell me."

"It is about..."

"Mubai, so you're here!" Tianxin burst into the room before Xinghe could finish her sentence.

She rushed to Mubai's side and curled her hand proprietarily around Mubai's arm. She treated Xinghe like she wasn't even there in the room and said, "I went to your ward to search for you but you weren't there. I thought you'd already left the hospital but I knew you would wait for me. Come on, let's go home. Auntie and I have cooked a pot of chicken stew for you."

Chapter 147: Value Her

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

But Mubai gave her the same treatment she gave Xinghe. His eyes were locked onto Xinghe's as he asked, "What were you going to discuss with me about?"

The moment unfortunately had passed and Xinghe didn't feel like talking about it anymore. "It's nothing."

Her tone had dropped multiple levels. Her reticence obviously caused by Chu Tianxin's sudden appearance.

Mubai looked at Tianxin and ordered, "Wait for me outside, we have something important to discuss."

Tianxin blinked and pouted. "What's so important that I can't be involved in it?"

No one answered her. She smiled to smooth over the awkwardness and said, "Alright, I'll wait for you outside, Mubai."

She was even considerate enough to close the door on her way out.

However, the moment the door closed behind her, her face changed.

Mubai repeated up his question, "Tell me, what did you want to discuss?"

Xinghe didn't expect him to value her so much that he would have Tianxin leave the room for her sake.

However, the moment truly had passed and the timing wasn't right.

"Actually, it is really nothing. I'll see you around," Xinghe replied and Mubai knew she wouldn't be saying any more than that.

He laid his eyes on her one last time and said, "Okay, come find me when you want to talk about it."

Then, he turned to leave.

Tianxin who was waiting outside smiled when she saw him exit Xinghe's ward. "Mubai, your discussion finished so fast?"

Mubai didn't answer and strode past her to the exit.

Tianxin hurried to catch up to him. "Mubai, wait for me..."

After confirming their receding footsteps, Xia Zhi – who had been awake since Mubai first walked in – sprung up from his bedside perch. "Sis, what is it that you wanted to discuss with Mubai?"

He was definitely curious.

Instead of answering him, Xinghe asked her own question, "How is Xiao Mo?"

"Brother Xiao is doing fine. He even dropped by to visit you earlier. However, things are not looking good for a certain someone!" Xia Zhi smiled gleefully. Xinghe scolded him lightly, one shouldn't take pleasure in others' misery.

But she was quick to realize who he meant. "You're talking about Xia Wushuang?"

"How did you know?" Xia Zhi's face sunk. "Sis, can you not steal my thunder every time? It's no fun. How are you going to find a man if you keep acting like this?"

Xinghe ignored him and asked directly, "What happened to Xia Wushuang?"

"She..." Just as Xia Zhi was going to answer, two policemen walked into the room.

They announced formally, "Miss Xia, we're here to ask you some simple questions, hopefully we're not disturbing your rest."

Both Xinghe and Xia Zhi thought they were there to follow up on Wu Rong or Chui Ming's cases.

But they were sorely mistaken!

"Miss Xia Wushuang accused you of being the perpetrator behind the car accident that almost took her life. Therefore, we're here to ask, what you were doing yesterday..."

Xia Zhi lit up with anger and countered, “How can my sister be the perpetrator when the obvious culprit is Chui Ming!”

The police smiled helplessly. “To be honest, we also suspect it was Chui Ming behind the deed but the driver claimed it was an accident and refused to say anything else. On the other hand, Miss Xia Wushuang insisted your sister is the one behind the accident so we have no choice but to disturb the both of you...”

“I didn’t do anything. Ask whatever question you want.”

Xinghe was cooperative.

Xinghe truthfully answered the questions the police posed.

The police saw how collected Xinghe was and there were witnesses verifying her account so they left after the routine questions.

Xia Zhi was still fuming. “Xia Wushuang is so brainless. It is so obvious that Chui Ming wanted to kill her, how come she keeps coming after us?”

“That’s because she’ll go crazy if she ever suspects Chui Ming.” Xinghe pulled off the sheet and climbed out of bed.

Xia Zhi asked hurriedly, “Sis, what are you doing?”

Chapter 148: The Truth

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“To see Xia Wushuang,” Xinghe answered.

...

Wushuang was also hospitalized at the same place. When Xinghe walked into her ward, it only hit her how serious Wushuang’s situation was.

Her whole body, especially her face, was bandaged. The bandage started from the bottom left of her chin, crossed her nose, and circled her head.

Even though the injuries were hidden under the bandage, it was obvious her face was badly wounded.

In fact, she was so banged up that one would have difficulty telling that it was Wushuang lying in the bed.

If not for the pair of hate-filled eyes that glared straight at Xinghe, Xinghe wouldn’t be certain it was indeed her.

“B*tch, you will pay for this...” Wushuang growled like a broken windpipe the moment Xinghe walked in.

Xinghe smiled lightly. “Oh, it’s you, Xia Wushuang. I’m surprised you’re still alive.”

“You evil witch!” Wushuang was riled up. If not for her physical condition, she would attack Xinghe. “God will punish you for injuring me like this! You and your family will be struck by lightning for having such a vicious heart. You will die alongside your son because that is the ending you deserve! All of you will die a horrible death! Just you wait and see!”

“Shut up!” Xia Zhi scolded her severely, “Xia Wushuang, you are the one with the vicious heart so if anything, you’re the one who deserves a horrible death!”

“I’m vicious? Xia Xinghe is evil! I, Xia Wushuang, swear I’ll make you pay as long as I still have a breath in me!”

Resentment radiated off of Wushuang. It clogged up the small room, suffocating everyone in it.

Xinghe dropped her smile and sauntered over to Wushuang's side. The eyes that regarded her were as cold as the winter's breath.

"You really think I'm the one responsible for your current condition?" Xinghe asked flatly.

Wushuang tried to struggle up but she couldn't summon up any energy in her lower body. She finally resorted to glaring at Xinghe as she said, "Of course. Who else could it be? It must be you!"

"I hate to break it to you at a time like this, but putting our differences aside, I think you deserve the truth. Do you know what Chui Ming's initial plan was?"

"..." Wushuang didn't answer but her interest was piqued.

Xinghe looked at her and continued in a voice devoid of emotion, "Chui Ming was going to use you as a stepping stone to get to me, killing two birds with one stone. Actually, his plan is mighty interesting, do you want to hear about it?"

"Don't lie! The only one who has it out for me is you!"

Wushuang got increasingly agitated. "You can stop spinning your story because I'm dead sure you are the culprit behind my accident!"

Xinghe ignored Wushuang's struggle and continued in a voice that rang as clear as day.

"He knew you would send someone to get rid of me so he had his own scheme in place. He had his men come over to my place before yours, take care of us and wait for your people to arrive.

"First, his men would get me and my family knocked out, and then kill Black Three when he arrived. This would create the impression that I've killed Black Three. Being charged with murder would ruin me and my company's name so our software couldn't work with Xi Empire anymore. Naturally, the partnership would fall to the runner up, Chui Corps.

"Then, he would have his men leave evidence around for the police to tie Black Three's appearance to you and your mother. You yourself know what would happen after that."

Chapter 149: Crazy (End of Fall of the Trio Arc)

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“But those aren’t the main points. The point is, after you and your mother were both put in the prison, guess what would happen to the inheritance? His plan would not only remove his competitor but also give him a great amount of money to start anew. I told you his plan was exciting, didn’t I?”

Wushuang opened her eyes in disbelief.

She couldn’t process the fact that her husband could set her up so badly.

To not only take the fall on his behalf but strip her of her Xia Family’s inheritance!

This can’t be true... This must be a story created by Xinghe to trick me!

Wushuang lashed out against her, “Stop lying to me! This is all fake, I won’t believe you! How can you possibly know what he was thinking? Therefore, you must be lying! Liar!”

Wushuang had some points. Indeed, how could Xinghe possibly have known what Chui Ming was planning?

Then again, the only reason she’d survived until now was because she’d seen through their ploys and prepared in advanced.

Xinghe smiled lightly. “You’re right, but I do know what he was thinking and planning. I survived both your attempt and his attempt on my life, didn’t I?”

“...”

Xinghe continued flatly, “That’s because I understand the way you two operate. I know Chui Ming is a person who is willing to do anything for profit and know that you and Wu Rong will not hesitate to take me out. So, I saw your plans from miles away!

“Furthermore, Chui Corps was facing the threat of bankruptcy, Chui Ming wouldn’t sit idle. He needed to solve two problems

facing him.

“Number one was to ruin my company’s X PC Manager. That’s the only way King Kong Internet Security can return to the top spot.

“Number two was to secure a huge amount of money to help Chui Corps bounce back.

“By that time, you’d become nothing more than a giant bank account. Therefore, taking both me and you out was his only solution. And what better way to do that than to pit us against each other?

“Xia Wushuang, your husband had decided to sacrifice you since the very beginning. Do you still think he wouldn’t harm you?”

“...” Wushuang was so shocked that she even forgot to breath.

Xinghe’s words kept reverberating in her mind.

Every one of Xinghe’s sentences was like a knife to her heart because she knew that they were true.

After her accident, she was sure it was Xinghe who plotted against her. She hated Xinghe from the bottom of heart.

She held onto that hate and fought to live so that one day she would have her revenge.

But now, after being shown the cruel truth, her life crumbled.

It turned out that the one who wanted her dead was not Xinghe but her husband, Chui Ming!

He married her only for her inheritance. That was what he always wanted.

He would get rid of her just to get his hands on the money. For the money, he would end her life!

It was Chui Ming who made her this way.

It is Chui Ming...

Chui Ming, my dear husband!

How could you!

Wushuang suddenly started laughing. She didn't care that the wounds on her face were tearing. She laughed until she was out of breath, until her whole body shook.

Xia Zhi was afraid Wushuang might do something crazy so he quickly pulled Xinghe away. "Sis, let's go. You've done what you came to do, so let's leave her be."

Xinghe nodded and followed Xia Zhi out.

Suddenly Wushuang slipped down from her bed, dragged her injured body and crawled towards Xinghe, screaming all the way like a maniacal woman.

"Xia Xinghe, stop right there, I'm going to kill you!"

Chapter 150: Lin Lin's Death!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“Xia Xinghe, I'm going to kill you! All of you!

“All of you deserve to die! I'll curse every single one of you, even if I become a ghost I'll come back to haunt you!”

Wushuang had totally lost it.

Her hatred had become indiscriminate. She would destroy the world if given the opportunity.

Xinghe turned back to look at her and jumped in utter shock.

Wushuang's facial bandage had fallen off to reveal a deep gash starting from the top of her left eyebrow all the way across to the bottom of her right cheek.

It practically split her face into two. It was bleeding and tearing apart agitated by Wushuang's violent movement.

Coupled with the fact that she was dragging her powerless lower body across the floor...

It was like the night of the living dead!

Xinghe had always been a spiritually and mentally strong person but, for some reason, Wushuang's scary face was forever seared into her mind.

“My god!” A spooked Xia Zhi yelped, “I'd heard her lower body has also been completely paralyzed. This is one tragic end – even for someone like her.”

Xinghe didn't comment but frowned uncomfortably.

“Sis, what's wrong? You don't look so well,” Xia Zhi asked concernedly.

Xinghe shook her head. “I'm fine. I guess I just wasn't prepared to see Wushuang end up in a state like this.”

“She asked for it! I'm sure she must be kicking herself for not listening to your advice.”

Xinghe sighed. “Enough about her. Lead me to see Xiao Mo.”

“Okay.”

Xiao Mo’s injury wasn’t anything serious. A long period of rest and he would be fine.

Xinghe told him to focus on his recovery. He could start work after he was fully recovered.

After all, the company needed to take a break for them to focus completely on suing Chui Ming and his gang.

The thought of how Chui Ming ended up was Xiao Mo’s best medicine.

His smile was much brighter with a noticeable lack of gloominess that used to surround him.

Xia Zhi was happy too but he was happy for Xinghe’s sake because she was going to reclaim everything that was hers.

However, Xinghe herself was not feeling so well.

After her encounter with Wushuang at the hospital, she was harassed by nightmares every night.

And the nightmare was always the same.

It was always about death.

Although to be more specifically, it was about deaths.

She dreamt of her own death. She spent a long time at the hospital, slowly tortured by sickness before she passed away.

The other dream was about the death of... her son, Lin Lin!

In her dream, after Tianxin married Mubai, she quickly produced him another heir. After that, the whole family doted on this new arrival to the family.

Lin Lin, who was neglected, chose to run away from home but ended up brutally murdered by Xi Family’s rivals and enemies.

Xinghe would scare herself awake whenever her dream zoomed in on Lin Lin’s horrible death.

She shrugged it off when she first encountered this nightmare.

She started to worry when it happened for the second time.

Then it recurred for the third and fourth time. She had been having the same nightmare for four consecutive days.

Even though Wushuang did curse them, this was simply too supernatural.

Something must be wrong!

But she had a hard time figuring out what. Did she suddenly acquire the ability to predict the future?

Xinghe walked out her bedroom absent-mindedly. She descended the stairs into the living room and saw Xia Zhi watching a football match on the television. It was four in the morning.

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

This chapter and the next are interludes. Set up for the sci-fi plot.

Chapter 151: Reincarnation?

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

When Xia Zhi saw her awake at such an early hour, he asked in surprise, “Sis, why are you up so early? Are you not feeling well?”

Xinghe shook her head. “I’m fine, just going to the kitchen to grab a glass of water.”

“Okay.” Xia Zhi turned back to the football match.

Xinghe poured herself a glass of water and joined Xia Zhi on the sofa. She took two slow sips of the water and said nonchalantly, “Actually, I haven’t been sleeping...”

Xia Zhi turned to her curiously. “Then what were you doing? Was the sound of the TV too loud?”

“No, that’s fine. I was actually up reading a novel.”

“What novel is so interesting that you’re up all night reading it?”

“No, it’s because I couldn’t sleep that I picked up a random novel to read, not the other way around. It was a weird story that starts with the main character having the same dream over and over again. I couldn’t understand it so I eventually put it away.”

Xia Zhi reared up with interest. “Sis, it must be a reincarnation novel!”

“Reincarnation?” Xinghe repeated the unfamiliar word.

“Yup, basically the main character somehow returns to the past but they don’t realize they’ve been reincarnated. As proof, the memories return to him in forms of recurring dreams, reminding him that he has indeed reincarnated. In other words, the events in his dreams, normally tragedies, are things that will happen in the future. The main character is sent back to the past to redo certain things, and to remake certain choices in order to prevent the tragedies from happening.”

Xinghe was stumped. “This kind of thing can happen in real life?”

“Of course not, it’s completely fictional. But I have to say they are quite interesting. Sis, how could you not have heard about a genre as famous as reincarnation? You should definitely give these webnovels a look-see. There’s not only reincarnation novels but also time travelling and, my preferred genre to read, transmigrations...”

Xia Zhi droned on but Xinghe stopped paying him attention.

Her mind latched on to the word ‘reincarnation’ instead.

Could she have reincarnated?

She had reincarnated to prevent the gruesome death that would otherwise befall the future Xinghe and Lin Lin?

Xinghe returned to her bedroom and started researching the meaning of ‘reincarnation’. None of the definitions matched the idea she had in her mind.

The religious experience aside, the ‘reincarnation’ Xia Zhi spoke of had main characters that typically remember their lives or the things that had happened to them in the future prior to their reincarnation.

However, Xinghe only dreamed about images of her own and her son’s death.

Could hers still be counted as reincarnation? Or was it something else completely?

Xinghe couldn’t figure out an answer but for some reason, she couldn’t shake off the feeling that this was something she needed to deal with vigilantly.

She wasn’t willing to bet her son’s life by treating it willy-nilly.

Lin Lin was everything to her. She had done plenty of wrong by him already, so she couldn’t take any more risks when it came to him.

She was deathly afraid that her dream might come true.

Therefore, to ensure her dream wouldn't be a reality, she needed to go to the hospital to conduct a body check.

In her dreams, she died from sickness. She was still young when she died, way before Lin Lin's death.

If her dream was true, then there should be something wrong with her body.

In other words, the truth would be revealed with a hospital visit.

Before the sun rose, Xinghe left for the hospital. When she arrived, there was already a long line of patients.

Xinghe filled out the required forms, and attended the diagnostics.

Finally, her report arrived...

Chapter 152: I Want My Son's Custody

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

They'd found a tumor in her brain!

One month earlier, when Xinghe got involved in the car accident, she had a CAT scan but they found nothing.

However, in just a month, something like a tumor had grown inside her brain.

And it wasn't small...

The doctor said it was probably malignant so he advised that she undergo a course of chemotherapy as soon as possible.

Surgery was the last resort because the tumor was found in an awkward position. The risk of surgery was too high.

Furthermore, the success rate for removing the tumor was only five percent.

In conclusion, chemo was Xinghe's best option despite it not being the most effective solution.

It wasn't looking great for Xinghe.

Her nightmare might just come true... which meant she would die and Lin Lin would too.

Her heart dropped to the floor when she thought of that possibility.

Xinghe wasn't afraid of death but she couldn't let her son perish at such a young age!

Xinghe made a decision at the hospital, she needed to meet Xi Mubai!

...

Mubai was in the middle of a meeting when he received her call.

Xinghe asked over the phone, "Are you free for a meet-up today? I have something to discuss with you."

This was the first time Xinghe actively went looking for him after their divorce.

Mubai immediately called off the meeting and left to meet Xinghe.

For some reason, recently, his thoughts kept circling around Xinghe. A day hadn't gone by without him thinking about her.

Therefore, he emptied his schedule the moment he heard her request...

Mubai himself didn't realize how much he wanted to see her in person.

...

Mubai arrived quickly at the café Xinghe picked to meet at.

It was in the middle of a working day so the café was practically deserted.

The moment Mubai walked in, he spotted her sitting at the corner.

Xinghe had on a simple sleeveless blouse, no make-up, and no gaudy accessories. It showcased Xinghe's natural allure, blooming like an elegant, untainted jasmine.

Mubai stopped to admire Xinghe before taking wide strides to her table.

"What do you want to discuss?" he asked as he sat down.

"What drink do you want?" Xinghe asked instead of answered.

"Blue Mountain."

Xinghe helped him order a Blue Mountain coffee, stared at him and said, "Mubai, I have something I need to discuss with you."

Mubai took a sip of his coffee, raised his brow slightly and asked, "Tell me."

He was prepared to agree to any of her demands.

However, he was truly blindsided by what she said next.

"I want my son's custody."

Mubai furrowed his brow. “You want Lin Lin?”

Xinghe nodded. She held his eye contact and said directly, “I’m more than capable of raising him now and can give him the best life possible. Furthermore, I will never remarry in my life so I will focus completely on him so please let me raise our son. Of course, you will always be his father, I just want to fulfill my part as his mother better. Lastly, your attention will also be divided after you have more children.”

Mubai put down his cup of coffee, stared at her emotionlessly and said in a low rumble, “You should know Lin Lin will always be a part of the Xi Family.”

“I know Xi Family will be able to provide him with everything he could ever need. That’s why I never thought to fight for his custody before. But now I can do that too. I want to be by his side and watch him grow into a respectable young man. Of course, he’ll always be a part of the Xi Family, I’m not denying that.”

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Markers for the Engagement Off Arc: 152 – 176. Mini arcs: 152 – 166 [House Visit]; 167 – 176 [Restaurant]

Chapter 153: Because You Didn't Love Me

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“This is the reason you asked to meet?” Mubai asked.

“Yes, I hope you can fulfill my wish because Lin Lin is everything to me,” Xinghe pleaded sincerely, “You can name any price you want, as long as you promise to give me the custody of Lin Lin.”

“Any price?” Mubai asked again.

Xinghe nodded. “Yes. I can create more software for your company to increase your profit.”

“Xia Xinghe...” Mubai said slowly but not angrily, “Lin Lin has been by my side since he was young, don't you think you're being a bit much asking for him to be taken away from me just like that?”

“I understand my demand is a bit unreasonable but you'll have more children after you marry Tianxin. Lin Lin is my one and only, and I hope he too will get undivided love and attention in return.”

Mubai responded with a sneer, “If you care about him so much, why did you choose to have the divorce so many years ago?”

She should have known he would most likely remarry when she made that decision!

Mubai was inexplicably miffed. That year, he didn't feel anything when he was handed the divorce papers but for some reasons, he felt a fury burning within him now.

“Because you didn't love me,” Xinghe's sudden answer shocked Mubai. Before he could recover from it, Xinghe continued, “I didn't love you either. Our marriage was a loveless one. We were two strangers pulled together by a contract. Staying together would only do both of us harm.”

“...” Mubai's face fell.

She was right, their marriage was a torture.

Two strangers who didn't know each other were forcefully linked together. The arrangement was convenient for neither. Neither party was satisfied.

The situation was worse for Xinghe because she, as the woman, had to marry into the Xi Family, a place where she felt zero sense of belonging. Everything and everyone was unfamiliar to her. Every single minute in that household was veritable torture.

Furthermore, Mubai and Xinghe had nothing in common. He was busy at work almost every day, to him she was less a wife, more a home decoration.

She was ostracized by the Xi Family's members and was still recovering from her car accident's head trauma...

The almost three years she spent in Xi Family was like hell. She was so depressed, she even contemplated suicide.

To give herself an out, she chose divorce. Even though life outside of the Xi Family might not be as physically comfortable but at least she wouldn't suffer daily mental torment.

Of course, she had never revealed her side of the story to anyone before.

Now for the sake of her child, she had to tell them to Mubai.

"Truth be told, you and I are the same type of people. We pursue a better spiritual life, we don't put much store by relationships and emotions. That is why you don't mind who you marry, and I don't mind who I'm married to. However, I hadn't recovered my memory then. Without the memory, I was like a puppet without a soul, I couldn't stand the daily torment. You, on the other hand, were different. I doubt you will bat an eye even if the sky is to fall right now. With or without the child, you'll carry on just fine. However, even with my memory recovered, I still feel something amiss within my heart. Call it the mother's need or whatever you wish to, but I don't see myself surviving without my son beside me... Mubai, let me take care of our son, just for five years. I beg of you, please."

Xinghe stared at him sincerely to let him know that every one of her words came straight from her heart.

Mubai knew Xinghe to be a taciturn person.

She pushed herself to express so many of her inner feelings. He could see that she really wanted to have the child back in her life.

However, you got one thing wrong. Lin Lin is my son too. How could I carry on like nothing happened if Lin Lin were taken away from me?

Chapter 154: The Loss and Gain

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

The child would forever be a part of the Xi Family; her wish was impossible.

In other words, he couldn't give in to her demands.

"No matter what, I can't give you Lin Lin," Mubai rejected firmly.

Xinghe frowned. "Is there no room for negotiation?"

"There is none..." unless you're still my wife.

The thought suddenly flashed across Mubai's mind and he shuddered.

Iceiness crept into Xinghe's voice, "I am Lin Lin's mother. Can't I look after him for a few years?"

"You can visit him any time you want."

"But I want to be a constant part of his life, to give him everything he deserves..."

"My Xi Family can provide him with everything, better than what you could provide," Mubai said over her. It silenced Xinghe.

He was right, the Xi Family could give Lin Lin everything he needed and more.

If not for that recurring dream, Xinghe wouldn't have approached Mubai with this demand so soon. Her standing was still lower than the Xi Family's.

However, the dream had necessitated changes to her plans. She had to fight for Lin Lin now or else her dream would come true and he would die following her death.

She had to change the child's destiny while she was still alive.

However, Xi Family was a giant roadblock that stood in her way.

She couldn't use her death as an argument either because she had no idea when she would die, but most importantly, how could Xi Family be willing to hand Lin Lin over to a dying woman.

It was like Mubai said. She could visit Lin Lin any time she wanted but not take him away.

“What if I appeal to the courts...” Xinghe began but was again cut off by Mubai.

“You have less of a chance that way.”

“...”

“Therefore, no matter what, you will not give me Lin Lin's custody?” Xinghe asked apathetically.

Mubai nodded firmly.

Even if, somehow, she could persuade him to hand Lin Lin over, his parents wouldn't allow it, no one in the Xi Family would agree to it.

Xinghe was definitely no match for the entire Xi Family.

Xinghe knew there is no point continuing the conversation.

She stood up and said, “I will not give up on my son.”

Then, she turned to leave. Mubai sat in his chair, staring at her back emotionlessly.

...

Xinghe left for home after leaving the café.

Xia Zhi's schedule was wide open now that they've dealt with Chui Ming, Wushuang, and Wu Rong, so his schedule consisted of mostly watching television and playing games.

When Xinghe returned, he was playing a console game, surrounded by a plethora of snacks and drinks.

He sprung up from his seated position and ran towards Xinghe when he saw her walked in. “Sis, I have a fabulous piece of news to tell you! I assure you that you'll be happy to hear this!”

“What fabulous news?” Xinghe asked with a straight face, not at all intrigued by Xia Zhi’s proclamation.

Xia Zhi cheered, “The police just called. The inheritance is now all yours! There is one billion in cash and several hundred million in real estate! They are all yours! Sis, you’re a billionaire now!”

Chengwen’s original estate wasn’t worth that much but Wu Rong was a business minded person. She had accrued and increased the Xia Family’s fortune over the years. Now, it all belonged to Xinghe.

She had no choice, it was loss compensation.

Xia Zhi thought Xinghe would show at least some semblance of joy knowing one billion would soon enter her accounts, but her face was stone cold.

Chapter 155: Closer to My Son

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“Is that so? Did they mention when the transfer will happen?” Xinghe asked matter-of-factly, as if she were asking about the weather.

“Sis, how come you don’t seem even a little bit excited about this?” Xia Zhi asked, “Aren’t you happy you’re getting the money back?”

“Because this is all part of the plan, there’s nothing to get excited about.”

“But, with so much money, at least you won’t need to worry about money problems anymore in your life.”

“Alas, this amount of money is nothing but a tip of the iceberg when compared to Xi Family,” Xinghe sighed with emotions.

Xia Zhi scratched his head, “Why the sudden comparison? There’s no need to compare ourselves to them.”

How can we compete with them if there’s no comparison?

If the opponent wasn’t drastically more powerful than them like Chui Ming, Xinghe could still figure out ways to deal with them.

That was why she dared to go against Chui Corps even though she had practically nothing.

However, even though she was worth something now, she couldn’t rival Xi Empire.

Xi Mubai was not Chui Ming, he would be a lot tougher to deal with.

Furthermore, Xi Empire’s estates seemed impossibly immense.

How could her one billion in properties ever compete with Xi Empire’s hundreds of billions?

They could crush her with a finger.

Therefore, she couldn't deal with them the same way she dealt with Chui Ming.

"You still haven't answered me, when will they make the transfer?" Xinghe repeated.

"Oh, the policeman said you can make the transfer anytime you want since the money is lawfully yours."

Xinghe turned to leave. Xia Zhi called after her, "Sis, where are you going? Didn't you just return?"

"To withdraw money."

"Take me with you!" Xia Zhi rushed to catch up to her. There was no better feeling than withdrawing money.

...

The first thing Xinghe did after she withdrew the money was to go house-shopping.

She eventually bought a mansion with a large garden at Purple Jade Villa, not far away from the Xi Family's home.

Xinghe decided to relieve herself of the business side of things. She would leave the company to Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi's care.

She would focus fully on writing software and figuring out ways to earn Lin Lin's custody.

The purchase of the mansion and refurnishing was completed within a day.

Xia Zhi was confused. "Sis, why did you buy this place? It's so close to the Xi Family's house."

Purple Jade Villa was City T's biggest silk-stocking district. It was next to the national garden and covered a lot of grounds.

The biggest mansion here belonged to the Xi Family. They said their garden was as large as a football field.

The total area was larger than several football fields combined...

"This place is closest to my son," Xinghe explained.

Understanding dawned for Xia Zhi. “You plan to visit Lin Lin often?”

“Yes.”

Since she couldn't bring Lin Lin to her, she was going to bring herself to Lin Lin.

She swore to teach him the values of independence and determination before she died!

As long as he didn't run away from home, he should be safe.

Xinghe didn't waste much time to move into her new home. She left Xia Family's villa to Xiao Mo and Xiao Lin.

Chengwu and Xia Zhi naturally moved in with Xinghe.

Xinghe originally planned to buy them another villa but both of them refused, citing their preference to stay with her. Xinghe didn't reject since they would inherit the house after she passed away.

Other than that, she gave her uncle and Xia Zhi two hundred million worth of estate and Xia Zhi 20 percent of the company shares. That way, they would not have to worry about their livelihood even after she was gone.

Xinghe had settled everything with those around her; the only one left was her son.

Chapter 156: Xia Xinghe Is Coming Over Tomorrow

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

After she had settled everything to do with Lin Lin, maybe then she could leave this world in peace...

...

After Xinghe moved into her new home, she immediately informed Xi Family that she would be visiting the day after.

Old Mrs. Xi heard the message from the butler and was shocked. "Xia Xinghe is coming over tomorrow?"

Tianxin was by her side. Ever since her engagement to Mubai, she was a guest at the house almost daily.

"What did she say she will be here for?" Tianxin asked innocently.

The butler answered politely, "She said it's to pay Young Master a visit."

"She ignored him for so many years so why did she choose to come back now?" Old Mrs. Xi said with a sneer, "Most likely she couldn't survive on her own out there and is trying to find a way to get close to my Mubai."

In Old Mrs. Xi's eyes, other than Tianxin, all the women that approached Mubai were for their own benefits.

"Xinghe's not someone like that..." Tianxin explained kindly, "Things might not be looking up for her now but I hear she's getting her share of the Xia Family's estate soon."

The fact that Chui Ming and his crew failed to kill Xinghe, and lost the Hacker Competition was open news.

However, the knowledge that Xinghe was the creator behind X PC Manager was not known to the public. Even Tianxin was unaware of that.

"Those estates are nothing," Old Mrs. Xi said haughtily, "The greedy woman must be on the lookout for more."

“Should we tell Mubai about this?” Tianxin finally got to the question that she wanted to ask.

Old Mrs. Xi rejected the idea outright, “Of course not. We mustn’t let the both of them meet. We must keep Lin Lin away from the woman as well. I’ll personally see her tomorrow, to let her know that she is not welcomed here!”

Tianxin smiled and nodded. To play the part of a daughter-in-law right, she could only smile and nod no matter what her future mother-in-law did or say.

But on this issue, of course, she agreed completely with Old Mrs. Xi!

She also wanted to meet the b*tch, Xia Xinghe, tomorrow.

Tianxin felt something had changed within Xinghe. She couldn’t pinpoint it but recently, she felt inexplicably threatened by Xinghe.

Therefore, she must stamp out the embers before it burst into flames.

...

The next morning, Old Mrs. Xi and Tianxin were all dressed up waiting for Xinghe’s arrival.

The both of them decided to use their elegance, affluence and nobility to suppress Xinghe.

However, there was no trace of Xinghe all day long.

The both of them waited until the sun had almost set but Xinghe was still nowhere to be seen!

Old Mrs. Xi was fit to be tied. “Is this Xia Xinghe playing me for a fool? I’ve waited the whole day for her to make her appearance but she decided to pull a no-show?”

Old Mrs. Xi had spent her whole life being flattered and fawned upon. This was her first time waiting for others and not only that, for a whole damn day!

She was ready to blow her top off.

Tianxin too was nurturing a ball of fire inside her.

She was all psyched up to have a showdown with Xinghe, but the b*tch had the audacity to stand her up?

However, she couldn't show the anger on her face.

"Auntie, I bet she is too afraid to come," Tianxin suggested.

Old Mrs. Xi scoffed, "If that's case, at least the girl still knows her place! This is not some location she can just waltz into!"

"Well, on the brighter side, at least Auntie won't get angered over her if she doesn't show up," Tianxin said tactfully, "Auntie, let's go back in to prepare dinner. I believe Mubai is almost home."

"You're right. But I'm still in no mood to have dinner..."
Because she was still angry.

Naturally, Tianxin snatched the opportunity to please and ingratiate herself to Old Mrs. Xi.

Chapter 157: Unflattering Comparison

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Mubai did return home soon after.

Before his car even entered Purple Jade Villa, Xia Zhi, who was on surveillance duty, spotted him.

“Sis, Mubai’s car is here!” Xia Zhi rushed to inform Xinghe.

Xinghe walked out of her bedroom all done up. Xia Zhi was stunned.

“Sis, you look like a million bucks!”

Xinghe had been for a hair appointment that morning and the new haircut softened her face and lent her an elegant look.

She had on a simple white dress that reached her knees, and light make-up. There was a sense of purity to her beauty like driven snow.

Xia Zhi said admiringly, “Sis, you should dress like this more often. I’m sure you’ll attract many suitors!”

“Alright then, I’m leaving.” Xinghe was aloof even though Xia Zhi kept piling on the praises.

She only took a few steps when Xia Zhi suddenly asked, “Sis, why must you wait until Mubai returns that you go over?”

Xinghe replied without turning her head, “Because he’s part of the plan.”

“O-Okay!” Xia Zhi smiled deviously.

Even though he had no idea what Xinghe’s plan was, he was happy on her behalf.

Because no matter what the plan was, Xinghe was sure to pull it off.

Someone was going to get their face slapped by his sister tonight and he couldn’t wait to find out whom and how.

...

Xinghe's newly bought white Maserati slowed to a stop in front of Xi Family's house.

The security guard saw her car and was inwardly surprised. He had no idea who would be driving such a nice and beautiful car.

He certainly wasn't expecting the driver to be Young Master's mother!

Xinghe in her white heels, moved with ease to ring the doorbell.

"Madam, Miss Xia is here!" A maid came to report.

Old Mrs. Xi and Tianxin were helping the maids set up the table when they heard the news. Old Mrs. Xi was temporarily dazed. "Xia Xinghe is here?"

"Yes, madam. She is at the door."

"And here I thought she wouldn't come today. Let her in, I want to ask her whether she knows the meaning of punctuality!" Old Mrs. Xi's anger rose immediately.

Tianxin's mind screamed in alarm.

Why is Xinghe's timing so curious? She comes over when Mubai is almost home...

The more she thought about it, the more uneasy she became. She was about to stop the maid but the maid had already left.

"Auntie, why would Xinghe come at night and not in the morning or afternoon?" Tianxin tried to remind Old Mrs. Xi but the latter was too pissed to take the hint.

"Who knows what she's thinking? No matter, we'll ask her ourselves!" Old Mrs. Xi strode haughtily to the living room and Xinghe happened to walk in.

Tianxin, who followed behind Old Mrs. Xi, felt her heart drop when she saw Xinghe!

Xinghe was dressed casually but managed to be elegant and gorgeous.

In comparison, her patterned gown looked too gaudy and out of place!

To beat Xinghe, she purposely put on Chanel's latest evening gown.

The dress was expensive, about 50,000 RMB.

However, Tianxin had a less than perfect body frame. The dress was wearing her and not the other way around.

Xinghe's dress was about 10,000 RMB, not especially expensive but it had a cut and material suitable for Xinghe's body.

It looked like the dress was specially made for Xinghe. It matched her physique and character.

Instead of highlighting the dress' price, Xinghe's attire pulled people's focus to the captivating manner she carried herself.

Chapter 158: Want to See Her Grandson? Impossible!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Tianxin had on a dress five times more expensive than Xinghe's but the dress had more attention that she did.

When people looked at her, their attention would go to the dress and not the actual person in it!

Overall, Xinghe won.

Xinghe, who was all dressed up, even looked slightly more spirited than she did.

Seeing an abject woman with lesser family background than her looking better than she did, a rush of fire and envy surged through Tianxin!

Not only her, the moment Old Mrs. Xi laid her eyes on Xinghe, she almost lost control of her fury.

She didn't care about decorum and chided Xinghe vehemently, "What are you doing showing up at a time like this? What kind of place do you think the Xi Family house is? Do you think you can walk in anytime you like?"

"Xinghe, you're indeed in the wrong this time," Tianxin seconded.

"I know I shouldn't have expected a woman from a broken family to show basic respect!" Old Mrs. Xi said pointedly.

The two of them took out their grievances on Xinghe but she was cool as a cucumber.

She replied calmly, "I apologize but does Mrs. Xi mind pointing out exactly what I did wrong?"

"You still have no idea what you did wrong? Do you think you can walk in the Xi Family house anytime you want?" Old Mrs. Xi was already furious that she was made to wait a whole day for Xinghe to appear and now the woman still had no idea why she was scolding her? Old Mrs. Xi was ready to blow her fuse.

She suspected Xinghe purposely waited until dinnertime to make her appearance.

Xinghe blinked slightly. "I know Xi Family house is not somewhere I can walk in as I please so I did inform the security of my arrival yesterday."

"That means you can have us waiting for you a whole fine day?"

"Mrs. Xi has been waiting for me a whole day?" Xinghe said in surprised. Old Mrs. Xi coughed from the embarrassment.

How could she have let slipped that she had been waiting for Xinghe like an idiot for the whole morning and afternoon?

Xinghe wasn't at all apologetic. "I truly had no clue that Mrs. Xi had been waiting for me because I thought everyone would have known I would arrive in the evening since I was afraid people might be busy during the day. Lin Lin has school during the day too, right? So that's why I came in the evening."

Xinghe made a lot of sense in her argument, but Old Mrs. Xi was not going to let her off the hook so easily.

She scolded severely, "Then it's your fault for not specifying the time!"

Xinghe showed no signs of impatience even though she was continuously lampooned.

She even nodded to admit her mistake!

"Mrs. Xi is right. I do stand on the wrong on this particular issue. I should have stated my arrival time more clearly. I will not repeat the same mistake. Would Mrs. Xi kindly let me see my son now? After all, that is why I'm here today."

Old Mrs. Xi felt slightly better hearing her admit her mistake.

But to see her grandson? No way!

Old Mrs. Xi leaned back in the sofa arrogantly and lectured her, "Xia Xinghe, what kind of person do you take my grandson as? You left him for so many years without even a

visit in between and now you want to see him just like that?
Who do you think you are?"

"I am Xi Lin's biological mother," Xinghe answered directly.
That should be more than enough.

Old Mrs. Xi heard the meaning in her words and was once
more incensed. "What kind of mother leaves her child for
years without a word to him?"

"But isn't that what Mrs. Xi wanted?"

Chapter 159: Grand Expose

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“What do you mean by that?” Old Mrs. Xi furrowed her brows.

Tianxin found her chance to step in. She questioned immediately, “Xinghe, what are you trying to say here? Are you blaming Auntie? Do you mean to say it is Auntie’s fault that you haven’t been to visit Lin Lin for the past three years?”

Of course, Old Mrs. Xi, who hadn’t been given a scolding her entire life, was pricked by Tianxin’s careful twisting of Xinghe’s words.

She stood up, pointed her finger directly at Xinghe and said, “Xia Xinghe, you’d better make yourself clear. What exactly did you mean?”

“Mrs. Xi really wants me to lay it out?” Xinghe said softly in return. Simultaneously, she heard someone’s footsteps from the door behind her.

The footsteps were soft but she knew it was Mubai’s.

For some reason, so many years later, she could still pick out the sound of his footsteps instantly.

She knew it was him the moment she heard them.

However, Old Mrs. Xi and Tianxin were too far away from the door to hear him. Furthermore, they were too focused on Xinghe.

“Speak, lay it all out in the open! You are not going anywhere if you don’t explain yourself clearly!” Old Mrs. Xi’s voice went up several octaves, a complete reversal of her usual elegant self.

Mubai who was at the door heard her voice and stopped in his tracks. He frowned.

Xinghe snuck a glance at the door and noticed the shadow under it. She continued in a clear voice, “If Mrs. Xi wants me to state it clearly then I hope Mrs. Xi will forgive my offense.

I'm going to be direct since there're only the three of us here. Mrs. Xi, both of us know why I chose the divorce so many years ago. That was your plan since the beginning, wasn't it? To force me out of the family so that you could cut my ties to the family and to my son cleanly. Am I right?"

Old Mrs. Xi's face fell. She didn't expect Xinghe to really heed her advice and lay everything out so directly.

It was like the girl was openly provoking her!

However, everything she said was the truth so Old Mrs. Xi had a hard time refuting her.

Thankfully, Tianxin came to her rescue. She quickly reproached Xinghe, "Xinghe, how can you even say something like that? How in the world Auntie could have forced you into the divorce and tore you away from your son? Auntie is not such a person so you can't dirty Auntie's name like that!"

"I'm impressed that you can lie so well without batting an eye." Xinghe stared coldly at Tianxin. "You played a major role in my divorce too or have you forgotten about that?"

"What are you talking about?" Tianxin exclaimed like she was accusing of murder, her eyes were red instantly, "Xinghe, you told those lies about Auntie and now you're coming for me? How can you be so malicious?"

"I'm malicious?" Xinghe said incredulously, she sharpened her gaze and retorted, "Is it not the truth it was the both of you who forced me into the divorce? Mrs. Xi, you hated me the moment I entered the Xi Family. In fact, I remember during our many private conversations, you told me personally you will never admit I'm Xi Family's daughter-in-law. You even ordered me to send myself packing, to ask for the divorce because Tianxin is your preferred daughter-in-law and that I'm nothing compared to her. Other than the hurtful words, have you forgotten what the two of you conspired to do, or are we going to pretend that didn't happen?"

Tianxin and Old Mrs. Xi's faces cracked.

They didn't think Xinghe would go so far as to bring that up.

Xinghe was done being courteous. No more Miss Nice Girl.
She was going for the grand expose!

Chapter 160: Toss Her Out

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Certain things were not meant to be said out loud.

In the past few years, Xinghe had held up her end of the bargain and didn't raise a fuss.

However, she decided to throw the gauntlet that day.

Old Mrs. Xi did do wrong by Xinghe many years ago but that didn't mean she would allow Xinghe to point it out in the open like that.

From her perspective, Xinghe should have known better and not be so insensible with her words.

Old Mrs. Xi, who was a candid and straightforward person, dropped her image after she got angered by Xinghe.

Shaking with fury, she pointed at the door and roared loudly, "Xia Xinghe, you are right, you are nothing compared to Tianxin and are definitely not good enough for my son. Now, get out of my house, you are not welcome here!"

"If not for my son, I won't even be here," Xinghe said coolly.

Old Mrs. Xi chuckled nastily. "You still want to see my grandson? Impossible! As long as I'm alive, I will not let you go anywhere near my grandson. Lin Lin has nothing to do with because you are not his mother!"

"What did you say?" Xinghe looked at her and enunciated her words slowly.

"My grandson has nothing to do with you because you are not his mother! From today onwards, his mother is Tianxin! You have no relations to my grandson or my son!"

Xinghe smiled lightly. "Mrs. Xi, finally you have spoken your mind."

"That's right and I believe it fully! Now get out of my house; you are not allowed here anymore!" Old Mrs. Xi commanded with authority.

Xinghe responded with a sneer. “So, this is how Xi Family treats its guest. You’ve ruined my marriage and now you’re stealing my son away from me, how rich.”

“Xia Xinghe, who ruined your marriage?” Tianxin countered unsatisfactorily, “Mubai wasn’t at all into you since the beginning because he’s in love with me. If not for your appearance, we would have married a long time ago. It was you who pulled us apart!”

I pulled them apart?

Xinghe could barely summon the energy to deal with her. She said matter-of-factly, “Chu Tianxin, you are indeed one natural spin doctor. You did such a thing to ruin my marriage and you have the guts to say it was me who pulled you and Mubai apart? Is your *ss on your face because you’re farting all over the place!”

“You...” Tianxin was red with anger.

This b*tch dares to humiliate me like this.

Old Mrs. Xi had reached the end of her patience as well. She ordered, “Security, toss this shameless woman out of the house! Toss her out right now!”

The men came forth to chase Xinghe out but Mubai suddenly strode in through the door.

“Back off!” he dictated powerfully and the men froze as they heard him.

Old Mrs. Xi and Tianxin’s faces shifted.

They didn’t expect him to be back at such short notice...

Only a single question was on their minds; how much had he heard?

Fear and anxiety gripped at Tianxin’s heart. She was deathly afraid Mubai had heard everything.

Old Mrs. Xi was also flustered but Mubai was at least her son so she wasn’t afraid of him like Tianxin. She collected herself quickly and said calmly, “Mubai, it’s good that you’re back.

Xia Xinghe is over here to cause trouble, being rude to me and all, quickly get the security to chase her out.”

“Mubai, you have no idea how over the line Xinghe had treated Auntie. She has no respect for the both of us; Auntie almost fainted from anger!” complained an aggrieved Tianxin.

Xinghe stood her ground silently. She didn't explain herself like it was below her to do so.

Chapter 161: Breeding Machine for Your Xi Family

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Mubai glanced meaningfully at her before turning to his mother and Tianxin. He announced clearly, "I've heard everything you said."

What!

Tianxin widened her eyes in fear and shock. Her face paled considerably.

Even Old Mrs. Xi couldn't hide the trepidation in her eyes. She explained hurriedly, "Son, don't believe everything you heard. Xia Xinghe likes to twist her words around..."

"Mom, what exactly did the two of you do to force her out of this house?" Mubai asked directly before she could finish explaining herself.

"..." Old Mrs. Xi's face fell. "You don't believe your own mother?"

"How can I believe you?" Mubai retorted slowly. That silenced Old Mrs. Xi.

Her son was sometimes too clever for his own good. She knew she can't fool him anymore.

He had heard more than enough to come to a logical conclusion. There was no point for her to trick him with words. It wouldn't work.

Old Mrs. Xi was burning with anger and regret, this was all Xia Xinghe's fault!

If not for her, how could Mubai have known all these?

Tianxin came to take Old Mrs. Xi's hand and pleaded, "Mubai, how can you choose to believe Xia Xinghe and not us? Auntie is your own mother, how can you not believe her?"

Old Mrs. Xi showed him a sad face like Mubai had really treated them unjustly.

There was disappointment in his eyes.

He didn't expect his mother to have this facet to her personality, to treat Xinghe so wrongly.

Xinghe did nothing wrong. At the end of the day, she was Lin Lin's mother.

How could she treat her like that and even conspired with Tianxin to force her away.

So there were people pulling strings behind their divorce...

"Where is Lin Lin?" Mubai didn't go around in circles and go straight to the point.

Old Mrs. Xi answered after a sudden surprise, "He's with his great-grandfather. He said he miss his great-grandson so I have Lin Lin spend a few days with him."

Lin Lin had never been to Xi Family's old house on his own much less stay there overnight. It was obvious that this move was done on purpose.

"Mrs. Xi knows I'm coming over today so you have him sent away on purpose?" Xinghe asked suddenly.

Old Mrs. Xi turned her face down facing Xinghe. "What do you mean by on purpose? That's my grandson you're talking about, he can go wherever he likes! It has nothing to do with you!"

"I'm just here to visit my son..."

"And I've told you, you are no longer part of the Xi Family and we Xi Family will never acknowledge a woman like you as Lin Lin's mother!" Old Mrs. Xi wanted to say something more hurtful but Tianxin tugged on her sleeves lightly to remind her that Mubai was standing right there.

Xinghe smiled lightly. She looked at Mubai accusingly. "You said I can visit my son anytime I want but this is how your family fulfills that promise? I know I shouldn't have come today!"

Xinghe said angrily, turned and walked out the door.

Mubai felt his heart squeeze with guilt and he turned on his feet to chase after her.

“Mubai, you stand right there!” Old Mrs. Xi yelled but Mubai didn’t even stop for a second.

Tianxin too ran out the door to go after them...

Xinghe walked furiously fast, she reached Xi Family’s gate quickly. She was going into her car when Mubai grabbed hold of her arm.

“I’m serious with the offer,” He explained patiently. For some reasons, he felt he owe her an explanation.

Xinghe raised her head and her expressionless eyes met his.
“So what? Your family will always stand in the way when I want to visit my son. Xi Mubai, if you really want to know, all these years it was not that I didn’t want to see my son but that I know I will not be able to see him even if I came. It is one thing for your family to chase me out, but who gave you people the right to take my son away from me? Am I nothing more than a breeding machine for you Xi Family?”

Chapter 162: What Did They Do to You?

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

The term ‘breeding machine’ further pained Mubai’s heart.

His grip on her hand tightened and his voice dropped in tone. “You’re not that to me!”

Even though they didn’t share an emotional bond during their marriage, he treated her as an equal. He had never once looked down on her.

If he only saw her as a ‘breeding machine’, he could have picked so many other women over her. Many candidates were climbing over each other to have his child.

If he only saw her as a ‘breeding machine’, he could have tossed her out the moment Lin Lin was born!

Xinghe laughed self-deprecatingly. “You might not see me that way but your family certainly does. You’ve seen how your mother treated me just now. She wants the child to have nothing to do with me!”

Instead of finding excuses for his mother, Mubai said seriously, “If you want to visit Lin Lin in the future, come to me anytime. You have my word, no one will stand in your way...”

Mubai then added, “And you will always be Lin Lin’s mother.”

“For real?” There were tears gathering in Xinghe’s eyes.

Mubai’s mouth curved into a confident smile. “I don’t think anyone can stop me from doing what I want.”

“Alright, I will reach out to you in the future. You can let go of me now.”

“One last question.” Mubai didn’t let go. “What exactly did they do to you?”

“Mubai...” Tianxin suddenly pulled on Mubai’s arm and said softly, “Auntie looks like she’s not feeling so well, let’s go

back in.”

This was a last resort on Tianxin’s part. She was afraid Xinghe would spill the beans.

Mubai ignored Tianxin completely. He stared solely at Xinghe and repeated, “What did they do?”

“Mubai, why are you asking her that? Auntie and I will tell you if you’re so interested,” Tianxin opened her mouth to say. Her words were laced with grievances as if Mubai was treating her unjustly.

Coldness entered Mubai’s voice when he said, “Xinghe, you tell the story.”

“Mubai, are we so untrustworthy in your eyes? We didn’t do anything towards Xinghe. If something really did happen like she claimed, do you think she would wait until now to tell the world?” Tianxin’s eyes were red with tears. She had never failed to earn pity from men with this skill before.

Alas, the man standing before her then was Xi Mubai. He was an incredibly rational creature.

Xinghe felt good watching Tianxin squirm.

She looked at Tianxin, curved her mouth into a smirk and said, “They didn’t do anything to me...”

Tianxin could feel her legs go weak from both surprise and relief.

She should have known Xinghe would not reveal anything.

She was too familiar with her personality. Xinghe liked to have everything all cooped up within her, rather sharing her pains and explaining herself to the world.

Furthermore, it would be extremely difficult to explain the thing that happened that year.

It was the reason why she didn’t say a word before and why she wouldn’t say a word now.

“But they did plenty of things to you!” Xinghe suddenly turned towards Mubai.

Tianxin's heart almost leaped to her throat!

Before Mubai could ask for an explanation, she chuckled disingenuously. "Xinghe, you must be kidding! What could Auntie and I have done to Mubai? Auntie is Mubai's mother and I'm his fiancé, do you think we would do anything to harm him? Stop stirring up trouble!"

Xinghe smiled slyly. "I haven't said anything, why are you so all worked up? If you're completely innocent, why are you worried?"

"Who said I'm worried?" Tianxin argued furiously.

Chapter 163: Having Fun Behind My Back

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“Whoever eats chili knows its spiciness.”

Tianxin was provoked by Xinghe’s insinuation, “Xia Xinghe, you no longer have anything to do with Mubai. Mubai and I are getting married soon, so please stop trying to sabotage our relationship!”

Xinghe sarcastically laughed, “I haven’t even started sabotaging in earnest, and you’re already complaining. It doesn’t feel great being on the receiving end, does it?”

“Xia Xinghe, I know you’ve always been jealous of me to the point where you hate me but I have done nothing wrong by you. In fact, I’ve even treated Lin Lin like he’s my real son. It is because of your incompatibility that you divorced Mubai. Regardless of what happened then, since the divorce is already a reality, can you please let go off everything and give everyone involved the possibility of moving forward, showing everyone and yourself kindness?” Tianxin begged with much pain, putting Xinghe under harsh light.

Furthermore, she purposely dropped Lin Lin’s name into her case to let Xinghe know that her son would soon be under her care!

If Xinghe didn’t want anything to happen to her bastard son, she better be clever about it!

Any woman would be cowed by this trick of hers. After all, the divorce was a done deal, for the sake of Lin Lin’s future, Xinghe would be wise to bow down to Tianxin...

Alas...

Xinghe planned to stop Tianxin from marrying Mubai in the first place!

She needed to remove any element that might pose a threat to Lin Lin!

Previously, she wouldn't have cared who Mubai married, but now she saw it as her personal business.

Tianxin could not marry Mubai. In fact, Xinghe would make sure Mubai remain single for as long as she was still alive.

Since she couldn't take Lin Lin away from the Xi Family then she had to make sure no harm would come to him, heartless stepmothers being one of them.

Viciousness entered Xinghe's eyes when she thought of these.

She glared pointedly at Tianxin and said, "You want to me show kindness... towards you? Ask yourself, have you even done that for me?"

"Mubai, look! She intended to sabotage us from the very beginning!" Tianxin appealed to Mubai.

The girl would not waste any opportunity to put herself in better light.

She used the same tricks years ago. She kept setting herself up as the bullied party, eventually creating the impression that Xinghe had it out for her. Xinghe was evil and loved nothing more than to bully her.

Combined with Xinghe's own taciturn and loner personality, everyone was bought into the belief that Xinghe was a crafty b*tch.

Old Mrs. Xi didn't like Xinghe since her marriage into the Xi Family, with Tianxin's contribution, her hatred towards Xinghe only increased over the years.

Finally, she agreed to Tianxin's plan, to help her chase Xinghe out of the house.

In the end, they got their wish...

Her divorce had less to do with Mubai and more to do with Xi Family. They were simply not a good fit for her.

However, it was good that Tianxin cooked up such a plan so many years ago because it finally came back to bite her in the butt now.

“I’m sabotaging your relationship?” Xinghe said snidely, “You guys were already having fun before the divorce was finalized, how could I possibly sabotage a relationship as strong as that?”

Tianxin’s face blanched immediately!

Xinghe finally said it. Tianxin kept dropping hints and hidden threats to stop the b*tch from revealing this secret but she still said it!

Tianxin was beside herself with anxiety.

“Having fun?” Mubai’s chilling voice suddenly rose beside them. He stared severely at Xinghe. “State it clearly, what do you mean by having fun?”

“Xinghe, you’ve crossed the line, how can you slander our name like this?” Tianxin cried woefully.

Chapter 164: Fair Speech

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“There was no fun, as you put it, between Mubai and I. We’ve known each other since we were young, the interest was always there. It was you who ruined our relationship! Mubai has never loved you, the person that belongs beside him has always been me. Don’t be so jealous of our love that you decide to slander our name like this!”

Tianxin criticized Xinghe indignantly. Her tears fell like the waterfall.

She pulled on Mubai’s arm and cried grievously. “Mubai, Xinghe is really too much. I don’t want to see her now, let’s go back in before she says anything worse.”

Tianxin’s pity act was truly Oscar-worthy.

His role as her fiancé should compel Mubai to follow her wish. Couldn’t he see she was crying her heart out?

Therefore, Tianxin was confident, this time she would be able to pull Mubai over to her side.

Xinghe didn’t say anything, she waited patiently for Mubai’s reaction.

Her plan depended fully on his reaction.

If he really cared about Tianxin, no matter what she said that day would not be of any use. She would have to come up with another plan.

If not, she could take out Chu Tianxin that day itself!

As Tianxin stood on tip-toes waiting for Mubai’s reaction, he opened his mouth and his words were targeted at Xinghe. “Xia Xinghe, there is nothing I hate more in the world than people who finish half of their sentence. You better explain yourself, what do you mean by me and Tianxin having fun during our marriage? You’re not leaving this place until I’m satisfied with the explanation!”

“Mubai...” Tianxin stared at him dumbly, her face paled.

Xinghe laughed zealously. She shook off Mubai's grasp and said, "Fine, if you want me to spell it out for you, I will!"

"..." Tianxin got paler when Xinghe thought that was no longer possible. As Tianxin clambered to stop Xinghe from talking, Old Mrs. Xi charged into the scene like a ball of fire.

"Xia Xinghe, shut your mouth!" She glared at Xinghe and warned, "If you dare to ruin Tianxin's name, I will never forgive you! Mubai, follow me home, don't listen to this woman's nonsense!"

"Mubai, let's not anger Auntie anymore, okay?" Tianxin added in a hurry.

Mubai was not a simpleton. Time and again Tianxin and his mother had tried to stop Xinghe, it was obvious that they had something to hide.

Or did they think he was so easily fooled?

"Enough!" Mubai boomed, there was no warmth in his gaze. "I will give Xinghe the chance to explain herself. If you have not done anything wrong, why are you afraid of what she has to say?"

"Mubai, you don't understand..." Tianxin started weeping again.

Even Old Mrs. Xi was hurt. "Mubai, how can you talk to your own mother like that? You choose to trust an outsider and not your mom?"

"I will come to a decision after everyone says their piece! Until then, I'm going to hear what Xinghe has to say!" Mubai answered, he wasn't at all moved by their pleadings.

Old Mrs. Xi's gaze shuddered. She knew her son well. Once he set his mind on something, nothing could sway him.

Not even his own parents could persuade him otherwise.

Old Mrs. Xi had no other options so she turned to glare at Xinghe, warning her with a severe tone, "Fine, Xia Xinghe say your piece. I want to see how well you treat your elders!"

Old Mrs. Xi thought Xinghe would censor herself in deference to her seniority but...

Xinghe stopped at nothing!

Chapter 165: I Didn't Betray You!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“Elders? I have not seen an elder act the way you did before, or have you forgotten what you did?” Xinghe chuckled, laying it all out in the open, “You created the opportunity for Mubai and Tianxin during your birthday party years ago, for them to cement their relationship behind my back. And then you came to me with an ultimatum the day after, forcing me to ask for the divorce, or did you forget all those things have happened?”

Old Mrs. Xi's face was white. She pointed at Xinghe with her finger shaking with fury. “Slander, you are slandering me! I did no such thing. Mubai and Tianxin should have been a pair, it was you who ruined everything! It is only right for you to get out of Xi Family!”

“I'm impressed you still remember what you said so many years ago. Yes, you did tell me all that, that Mubai and Tianxin were in love in each other so it was only natural that they got into bed after a night of drinking. They couldn't help themselves. This was confirmed by Tianxin. These are all truths, right?”

“You, you...” Old Mrs. Xi stuttered from the fury in her heart. She didn't expect Xinghe to be so relentless, to not care about the consequences.

She didn't expect Xinghe to become so forceful and incisive.

Xinghe wasn't like this six months ago. She was a recluse and kept to herself, a complete 180 from the unforgiving and confident woman before her.

Therefore, she believed Xinghe would not speak a word, as she had done for so long, but obviously Old Mrs. Xi was wrong!

Anger surged through her.

But there was one person angrier than she was... it was Mubai.

After Xinghe revealed the truth, a chilling and powerful aura radiated off him.

His face was creepily dark.

Tianxin was scared speechless.

When Old Mrs. Xi finally caught the change in her son, she said beseechingly, “Mubai...”

“Everything you said was real?” Mubai suddenly turned to Xinghe and asked.

There was no hesitation in Xinghe’s reply, “Of course.”

“This is why you chose to file for divorce?”

Of course not, it was merely the last straw that broke the camel’s back.

However, Xinghe admitted without batting an eye, “Yes!”

“Why didn’t you confront me?” Mubai asked with great perseverance, his voice had dropped several octaves.

Xinghe stared at him with emotionless eyes. “What else is there to talk about? It’s the truth that you don’t like me and you don’t put much store by our marriage. So what if I confronted you about the affair? What would change?”

“...” Mubai was speechless.

Indeed, Xinghe was right. Confronting him would not change anything. The divorce might be delayed but could it make him fall in love with her and bring life to the marriage?

Furthermore, his mother was hell-bent on chasing her away. Could they have stopped her?

So, indeed, what was the point confronting him...

“Regardless, you should have come to me! At least that way I could have told you I didn’t betray you!” Mubai roared angrily but the anger was targeted most possibly at himself.

“You didn’t betray me?” Xinghe smiled indifferently, “What difference does it make now? Everything’s a done deal.”

Their divorce and the pain she had suffered after that were a done deal.

Nothing could be changed because time couldn't be turned back... the damage had been done.

At the moment, Mubai felt inexplicably crushed by a heavy weight of guilt.

Xinghe's suffering and grievances, pain and injustices...

It was caused by him.

He didn't pull the trigger but he did provide the ammo.

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

So sorry for the delay. My internet died on me -_-”

Chapter 166: On the Chopping Block

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

This was what Xinghe was aiming for.

She wanted him to taste guilt, to guilt trip him out of his marriage to Tianxin!

“I’ve said what you needed me to say. I’m too tired to pursue things that happened in the past. My only hope is that in the future, you people will at least let me see my son in peace.”

After that, Xinghe climbed into her car and sped out of Xi Family’s compound.

Mubai stared at her speeding car until it retreated into the shadows, his heart a cocktail of emotions.

“Mubai, you’re going to believe her?” His mother suddenly asked.

“Mubai, please don’t be mad at Auntie. This is all my fault so be angry at me instead.” Tianxin sulked, performing the role of a good daughter-in-law.

Mubai looked at them with his pair of dark eyes. He felt he was meeting them for the first time.

Tianxin’s heart rocked with unease under his cold scrutiny.

“Mubai, please don’t be like this...” Tianxin reached out towards him but Mubai strode away from them. He stopped after taking a few steps and announced without turning his head, “I will book a table at the restaurant, get the two families together for breakfast.”

Then he left without further explanation.

Old Mrs. Xi and Tianxin looked at each other, confused by his actions.

“Auntie, what does Mubai mean by that?” Tianxin asked anxiously.

Old Mrs. Xi consoled her, “Don’t worry, I’m sure it’s just a simple breakfast. After all, the worst we did was lie to Xinghe,

I don't think he plans to pursue this further.”

That was true.

If Mubai was irked by what they did, he would have told them right away.

The fact that he said nothing about it meant that he wanted to put it in the past where it belonged.

Tianxin immediately sighed in relief. Then, she snickered in delight. Mubai putting this past them meant that Mubai still cared about her, right?

The thought greatly improved Tianxin's mood.

The scene earlier gave her the fright of her life; she'd assumed the worst. To her delight and surprise, Mubai wanted to put the whole thing to rest.

Tianxin couldn't suppress the happy and victorious smirk that threatened to bloom on her face.

Xia Xinghe, you think by causing such a grand expose, Mubai will take pity on you and return to you justice?

In your dreams!

He has never loved you and never will. He is mine and mine alone! And you will never take him away from me!

Tianxin walked away happily, living on the love she believed Mubai had for her but had difficulty in expressing.

The more she thought about it, the happier she became...

Xinghe on the other hand, reached home quickly.

Xia Zhi, who had been waiting for her, rushed forward to ask when she walked through the door, “Sis, how did it go? Who did you chop this time?”

Xinghe was slightly confused. “Chop?”

Xia Zhi nodded, “Yes. Didn't you go in with a plan? Your plans almost always involve someone getting chopped, you know... like on the chopping block, so who was the unlucky victim this time?”

Xia Zhi's eyes gleamed with anticipation for a good story.

Xinghe answered truthfully, “The knife still hangs in mid-air with uncertainty.”

“Huh?” Xia Zhi frowned, “Sis, not another riddle?”

Xinghe’s phone buzzed as she was about to explain.

It was a text message from Mubai.

Come to Century Hotel at 9am tomorrow. I will return to you the justice you deserve.

Mubai didn’t elaborate in his message but Xinghe understood what he meant.

Her lips curved into slight smile and she told Xia Zhi, “Well, the knife just dropped. The victim on the block is Chu Tianxin!”

Chapter 167: Get Out of My Way

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Tianxin started dressing up early in the morning.

She would normally spend two hours every morning working on her outward appearance, but that day she used almost three hours.

Because of her, the Chu Family was late to the Century Hotel.

As luck would have it, Xinghe had also just arrived.

Both parties practically crossed the revolving doors at the same time.

“Welcome...” As the pretty uniformed server greeted them, Xinghe saw Tianxin’s group not far away.

Tianxin’s group saw her too!

Tianxin stopped walking. What is Xia Xinghe doing here?

“Why is she here?” Mrs. Chu frowned with strong disgust the moment she saw Xinghe.

“Let her be. Let’s go, we’re going to be late,” Mr. Chu scanned Xinghe and ushered them forward.

Tianxin wanted to ignore Xinghe too but Xinghe was walking their way.

Thinking about what happened yesterday, Tianxin felt the urge to slap Xinghe rising up within her!

She moved forward to block Xinghe’s way and asked with a thin smile, “What are you doing here?” There was extreme provocation and condescension in the tone of her question.

Xinghe looked at her indifferently, as if she were regarding some human trash, and replied, “What does it have to do with you?”

Tianxin laughed scornfully. “Xia Xinghe, who do you think you are? You’re nothing more than a despicable woman who used tricks to steal everything away from Wushuang. Have you no shame?”

From how Tianxin saw it, Wushuang was an innocent victim that fell into Xinghe's evil clutches.

Even though Xinghe had money now, she still looked down on her. In her heart, Xinghe would forever be beneath her!

"You done? Get out of my way." Xinghe didn't deign to entertain her.

Mrs. Chu flared up immediately. "Woman, watch your tongue! How dare you be so disrespectful towards my daughter?"

Severity entered Mr. Chu's gaze. He too was not Xinghe's fan. After all, she did steal his daughter's happiness.

"Mom, this is how people from broken families talk. Don't lower yourself down to her level, she's not worth it," Tianxin turned her nose up and said condescendingly. Mrs. Chu laughed scornfully, a complete replica of what Tianxin did a moment ago. "You're right. I shouldn't waste my time lecturing a streetwalker hussy like her."

Xinghe looked at them coldly, wondering how long they could keep this going.

She stared icily at Tianxin, "Done with your crap? Now move out of the way!"

Tianxin was reminded of the insult Xinghe lampooned at her yesterday, about how she had her ass on her face...

Fury twisted her features. "Xia Xinghe, you better watch your language and show some respect! I'm telling you, no matter how you strut yourself in front of Mubai, he will not take one look at you! The one he loves is me, you will never tear us apart!"

"Do you know why we're here today?" Mrs. Chu came forward to gloat, "Mubai booked a table, and specifically invited us to come for lunch."

Tianxin added triumphantly, "That's right. Do you think telling him about what happened in the past will change his love for me? Xia Xinghe, you're too naïve. Mubai wasn't even angry at me. Not only that, he arranged this lunch specifically to meet

my parents. You're nothing to him; he doesn't care about how you feel!"

"Of course, Mubai wouldn't be interested in a common hussy like her. If not for her father shamelessly forcing them into marriage, how could she enter a family as prestigious as the Xi's?"

Chapter 168: Dumped!

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“Alas, a polished turd is still a turd.” Mrs. Chu laughed and jeered at Xinghe.

Tianxin echoed her laugh. “Certain people should learn to accept their place in life. She shouldn’t think that, just because of a lucky incident, she’s better than everyone else for the rest of her life. She needs to know that life on the top is not for everyone!”

Xinghe scoffed suddenly. She stared sharply at Tianxin and asked, “In other words, you believe that life is for you?”

“Of course! Mubai and I were childhood sweethearts; he only has eyes for me and I’m the only one good enough for him. We’re getting married very soon. The moment you left, he came to me immediately. If not for your shameless ways, refusing to leave the Xi Family, we would have long since married! If not for your pitiful conditions, Mubai would have left you a long time ago!” Tianxin attacked Xinghe viciously.

If Xinghe hadn’t recovered her memory, she would be hurt by those words.

Even though she had no love for Mubai, he was the person closest to her after she lost her memory.

But now, she didn’t even feel a prick.

For the reawakened Xia Xinghe, men were nothing but background furniture!

To shed a tear for a man? How laughable.

Xinghe shrugged and said with a smile, “Well, if that’s the case, then I shall hope the two of you walk this path until the end. However, I don’t see that happening so watch your make-up when you cry should you get dumped.”

Tianxin blurted out a laugh. “You’re the one who’s been dumped, okay? That happened three years ago!”

“Listen to me, I asked for the divorce so I dumped him. I hope you can say the same!” With that, Xinghe turned to leave.

She didn't want to waste any more time with this group of people. After all, the show was about to begin.

“Xia Xinghe, I know this is your jealousy talking! I will be dumped? Don't kid yourself, I'm getting married to Mubai!” Tianxin shouted at her back but Xinghe walked on without turning.

“Why waste your breath with this kind of woman. Let's get a move on and not waste any more time,” Mr. Chu said with authority.

Mrs. Chu pulled on Tianxin's arm and said, “Tianxin, your father is right. Talking to that woman will only anger you unnecessarily. Come, let's not keep Mubai and his parents waiting.”

The thought of seeing Mubai soon cheered Tianxin up immediately.

Her happiness was laced with pride.

He only has eyes for me and I'm the only one good enough for him.

She truly believed those words when she said that. Unlike Xinghe, who she considered a pretender to the throne, she saw herself as the one truly deserving of the seat beside Mubai!

However, Tianxin and her parents were quick to realize something was wrong.

Xinghe was going towards the same box as them.

While they were still confused, Xinghe pushed open the door and entered the room.

“Why is she here too? Did Mubai also invite her?” Mrs. Chu asked.

“I have no clue...” Tianxin was equally confused.

Mr. Chu frowned and said, “Let's go in rather than speculate.”

The four of them entered the box in quick succession.

When Old Mr. and Mrs. Xi saw Xinghe enter, their faces were equally full of question marks. The only one not affected was Mubai, in fact he gave a small sigh of relief, he was actually worried she wouldn't come.

Her presence was irrelevant to the announcement he was going to make but thankfully she was there because he could use the opportunity to return her the justice she deserved.

“Mubai, why is she here?” his mother asked with annoyance.

The question was on pretty much everyone's mind.

Chapter 169: The Lady in the Painting

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Mubai didn't answer. Instead he turned to the waiter and said, "Since everyone is here, you can start serving the food."

"Alright, Mr. Xi." The waiter bowed and moved to oblige.

The frown was still on Old Mrs. Xi's face when she commented, "Mubai, you still haven't answered why is she here."

"I invited her." Mubai took in the whole group of them and said, "Take a seat and make yourself comfortable."

"Mubai, why didn't you bring Lin Lin?" Tianxin naturally picked the seat next to him and asked intimately, "I miss the little cutie; I've not seen him for a long time."

This was of course all done on purpose, being intimate with her ex-husband and mentioning her son.

She wanted to be a thorn in Xinghe's side.

Xinghe ignored her and sat down opposite from Mubai.

The round dining table was large enough to seat ten people but that day, the seating arrangement was clearly delineated into two parties.

People from Xi Family and Chu Family sat to one side of the table while Xinghe sat alone opposite them. There were empty seats beside her.

The two mothers totally isolated her. They ignored her existence and started conversing on their own.

"Ping, Tianxin and Mubai's wedding dress and tux are ready, ours too. Let's go to the saloon to take a look after lunch," Old Mrs. Xi told Mrs. Chu with a smile.

The two of them had been close friends since they were teenagers. Their relationship had weathered the years.

"Really?" Mrs. Chu laughed joyfully. Her eyes swept condescendingly over Xinghe as she continued, "Then, we

shall go later. You have no idea how much I've looked forward to seeing Tianxin's dress. After all, the dress costs fifty million RMB. Luckily, Mubai is willing to pamper her with such an expensive dress."

Old Mrs. Xi raised her voice to make sure Xinghe heard her, "What are you saying? Tianxin is worth more than the dress. I've watched her grow up before my eyes, she is the most excellent young lady I've ever seen, no one is better than her. It is our fortune to have her marry into Xi Family."

"You flatter us, but Mubai is also the most excellent young man I've ever had the fortune to know. You have no clue how much it gladdens my heart to see both of them together."

Old Mrs. Xi nodded. "I feel the same way. They are perfect for each other; only Tianxin is good enough for Mubai."

The two pairs of parents looked at the happy couple with approval in their eyes.

Mubai was expressionless, his thoughts a mystery to everyone present... well almost everyone.

Tianxin, on the other hand, was blushing demurely. She stood up and helped pour tea for Old Mr. and Mrs. Xi. "Auntie and Uncle, please enjoy the tea."

Old Mrs. Xi poked fun at her, "Are you serving this as my daughter-in-law [1]?"

Tianxin blushed even more but the smile that bloomed on her face couldn't be suppressed. "Auntie, you're making fun of me again..."

"Tianxin, what are you blushing for? That cup of tea – I'll drink it sooner or later," Old Mrs. Xi said with mirth. She looked at Tianxin with approval and kindness.

This was a complete opposite of how she treated Xinghe.

Even during the wedding, she gave Xinghe the cold shoulder. When Xinghe got married, her wedding dress was a bargain deal and the wedding was simple and small, one where Old Mrs. Xi never once smiled.

The difference was obvious when it came to Tianxin.

The price tag of the dress aside, Mubai's parents approved of her. In their eyes, only Tianxin could match Mubai.

Even now, they went out of their way to humiliate Xinghe.

If Xinghe was any other woman, she would have stormed out by now.

However, Xinghe maintained a calm countenance. Like a lady from an oil painting, she sat there, quietly confident in herself, buffeting the world around her.

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

[1] It is a Chinese custom during the wedding ceremony for the bride and groom to serve their parents tea.

Chapter 170: Regarding Our Engagement

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

However, Tianxin thought this was just Xinghe putting on a face, forcing herself to be calm.

After all, what else can the b*tch do?

She must be dying inside!

The thought of Xinghe's inner turmoil tickled her heart. It made her want to laugh out loud.

Of course, she couldn't laugh but the smile on her face was bright as ever.

“By the way, Mubai, why did you invite Miss Xia today?” Tianxin, in her gracious mood, decided to share her spotlight with Xinghe, going so far to refer to her as Miss Xia.

This question had been troubling many other people in the box as well.

Right then, the waiters finished serving the food.

“Bon appetit, if there's anything you need, please ring the service bell,” the lead server said with a smile. Then, he ushered his colleagues out, closing the door behind him.

Mubai didn't answer Tianxin's question, instead he picked up a bottle of wine and poured a glass for each of Tianxin's parents.

This action piqued the room's interest.

However, they didn't question him because it was, after all, a sign of respect for Mubai to do so.

“Just now it was Tianxin serving tea, but now it's Mubai's turn to serve wine, huh?” Mr. Chu joked.

Old Mr. Xi responded with a slight smile, “It's only fair.”

Mubai was their junior and was their daughter's fiancé, serving them wine was appropriate.

However, suspicion rose in Old Mr. Xi's heart. Others might not understand Mubai but he understood his son well.

Extending the Chu's formal invitation to lunch, inviting Xinghe without telling anyone, and now serving the Chu's wine... Something fishy was going on.

But what, Old Mr. Xi couldn't tell...

However, he would soon find out.

After pouring the wine, Mubai stood up with his own glass and walked to stand beside Xinghe. Then, he turned to face the rest of the room.

Taking in their confused gazes, Mubai announced solemnly, "You've been asking why I invited Xinghe here today. Here's why. It's because I need to settle some things and the issue in question concerns both her and all of you, so that's why I have all of us gathered here today."

"What is this thing that you want to settle, Mubai?" Old Mrs. Xi asked but the moment the question left her mouth, an answer came to her and her face immediately paled.

Tianxin also felt a bad omen coming and started fidgeting in her seat. "Mubai, indeed what is this thing? Has it got to do with Lin Lin?"

"I believe you should know very well what this thing is about." Mubai glanced disinterestedly at her; Tianxin's face instantly fell.

"Mubai, just what do you plan to do?" His mother warned him with a quivering voice, "This is a formal setting so don't do something that you'll regret."

"Don't worry because I've thought long and hard about this," Mubai answered calmly, his tone unwavering.

The atmosphere in the room instantly turned for the worse.

Old Mr. and Mrs. Xi looked at each other anxiously.

They had a feeling that the reason Mubai had them gathered there that day was not going to be something good...

His father glared severely at him. “Mubai, just what are you up to?”

“I’m breaking off the engagement with Chu Tianxin!” Mubai announced suddenly, not giving them any time to prepare.

His parents stared at him with bulging eyes. Disbelief was plainly written on their faces.

Mubai’s single sentence was like a bomb that shook the world!

Chapter 171: You're Doing This Because of Her?

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

The shock came so suddenly that they didn't know what to do. They were like a bunch of headless chicken!

They even thought they'd misheard him.

What did Mubai just say?

He's breaking off the engagement with Tianxin?

He really said... He's breaking up with Chu Tianxin?

"No, I must have misheard something..." Tianxin mumbled to herself in shock. Her face was drained of blood and she stared vacantly at Mubai, "Mubai, what did you just say? How come I can't understand it..."

A shocked Old Mrs. Xi exclaimed, "Mubai, this is not a joking matter! You must have misspoken, right?"

Everyone thought that way, after all, everything was going just fine. Why would he suddenly call the engagement off?

Mubai's gaze was unmoved so much so that the room got increasingly unsettled by it.

He repeated himself, slowly enunciating every word, "I didn't misspeak. Today, I'm officially announcing that I'm breaking off my engagement to Chu Tianxin!"

This time, everyone heard him loud and clear.

There was not a pretty smile in sight.

The worst was of course Tianxin. In matters of second, her face was as white as that of a dead person, like she was witnessing the apocalypse happen before her.

The only exception was Xinghe, she maintained the calm countenance she had the moment she stepped into the room.

Even with such a big announcement, there was not a twitch of emotion on her face.

It was as if she saw this coming...

“Why are you calling off the engagement?” Tianxin stood up fiercely and questioned with her whole body shaking, “Mubai, why would you call off the engagement when everything’s going fine between us? What is the meaning of this, did I do something wrong?”

“That’s right!” Mrs. Chu also sprung up in fury. “What could our Tianxin have possibly done to you to treat her this way? Calling off the engagement when we’re so close to the wedding, explain yourself!”

“Mubai, what are you doing? Quick, straighten everything out, do you think something like calling off the engagement can be decided so easily?” Old Mrs. Xi screamed as she also stood up.

Mr. Chu who was more collected than the women in the room, interrogated Mubai with a solemn face, “Why are you breaking off the engagement? There must be a reason, right? Don’t tell me it’s because of this woman!”

Mr. Chu’s finger went up and pointed directly at Xinghe—
Immediately, Xinghe became the center of attention.

Tianxin also pointed angrily at Xinghe. “You’re breaking up with me because of her? Mubai, you must be kidding me, you’re telling me you’re calling our engagement off because of her? I will not let you do that to me over a woman like her!”

A sudden severe glint entered Mubai’s eyes. “A woman like her? Well, tell me what kind of woman you think she is!”

Tianxin was stunned.

She didn’t expect Mubai would turn on her for Xinghe...

The anger and humiliation in her heart burst into the open.

She yelled furiously, “She is a woman that everyone hates! There is nothing good about her, much less anything good enough for you. I’m the only one good enough for you. If not for her appearance so many years ago, we would have been married. It was her who broke us apart!”

“Xinghe did not break us apart!” Mubai stared at her with a pair of emotionless eyes. “Because it was never my intention to marry you in the first place!”

“You... what...” Tianxin felt her body shook, the blood in her body seemed to have frozen.

Mubai repeated, “Even without Xinghe, I wouldn’t have agreed to our marriage so many years ago. Agreeing to marry you now was the biggest mistake I’ve ever made in my life.”

“...” Tianxin felt like collapsing.

What was Mubai saying?

Chapter 172: She Was My Wife

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

He not only said that he didn't want to marry her in the first place but also agreeing to marry her now was the biggest mistake of his life?

How could he treat her this way?

He was completely undermining her value, her everything!

Tianxin thought the news about the broken engagement was the biggest blow she would receive that day but this was even worse...

How could he treat her this way!

“Xi Mubai, how dare you say such thing about my daughter?” Mrs. Chu finally lost it and she screamed at the top of her lungs, “How dare you humiliate my daughter when she has been nothing but the most perfect young lady. If you don't explain yourself, I'm going to personally teach you a lesson!”

“So, this is how the prestigious Xi Family teaches their son?” Mr. Chu glared angrily at Old Mr. Xi who sat across him.

Old Mr. Xi slammed his palm heavily on the table and glared at Mubai. “Do you have any idea what you've done today? Tianxin is your fiancé and she has done absolutely nothing wrong, how can treat her this day? Don't tell me it is really for this Xia Xinghe?”

“It doesn't matter because this is the only way to set things right,” Mubai replied matter-of-factly.

“What do you mean by that?” Old Mr. Xi frowned.

Mubai explained coolly, “The meaning is simple. It was because of the fallacious rumor created by them that Xinghe would opt for the divorce, thinking that I've betrayed her with Tianxin!”

Old Mr. Xi was shocked, there was such a thing?

Mr. and Mrs. Chu didn't show any visible change in their response as if this was old news for them.

Old Mrs. Xi's face was drawn but she straightened her spine and accosted her son, "This is the reason why you're breaking off the engagement?"

"Mother, do you think this reason is not enough?" Mubai responded to her question with his own.

Old Mrs. Xi flared up and retorted, "Of course! How can you call off the engagement because of an insignificant detail like this? That's right, we did do some unsightly things to force Xia Xinghe away, but it was practically harmless.

Furthermore, it's a fact that she's not good enough for you anyway. At the end of the day, I'm just looking out for you, son, I can't let you end up with a wife that is as useless as this woman! Therefore, everything that happened then was all my idea, if you want to find someone to blame, be mad at me, it had nothing to do with Tianxin."

"If she had nothing to do with it, why did she play-act to trick Xinghe alongside you?" Mubai's voice was laced with hurt and disappointment. "Mother, you have no right to scheme and break up my marriage much less Chu Tianxin! This is my marriage we're talking about, is that so insignificant to you that you're willing to plot against your own son?"

Cowed by Mubai's words, Old Mrs. Xi opted for a change of tact.

"In other words, you're treating us and Tianxin who loves you to death this way because of Xia Xinghe?" She asked forlornly.

"Mubai, I'm sorry for what I did, I shouldn't have done those things but I only did it because I love you!" Tianxin wailed taking cue from Old Mrs. Xi, her tears fell like they were from an open faucet. "I've loved you for so many years, yet you have the heart to treat me this way because of Xia Xinghe?"

She thought this would appeal to Mubai's sense of sympathy.

However, the fierceness in his gaze only became more pronounced.

“In your mind, Xinghe is completely insignificant so you are free to do whatever you like to her, isn't that so?”

“...” Well, is that wrong?

Even Old Mr. Xi thought that way. He didn't manifest it as obvious as his wife but he too didn't consider Xinghe as someone important.

In their eyes, Xinghe was an invisible person, a character small enough to ignore.

Therefore, they really didn't think what Old Mrs. Xi and Tianxin did to Xinghe was anything serious.

It was as Old Mrs. Xi said, unsightly but not over the line...

“No matter how unimportant you all might perceive her but she was my, Xi Mubai's, lawfully wedded wife and the mother of my son!”

Chapter 173: Care About Her

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Mubai's declaration came as a shock to everyone present.

Even Xinghe couldn't help but turn to look up at him.

None of them knew he valued Xinghe so greatly...

Tianxin could feel her legs giving way.

She could still somehow accept the fact that Mubai didn't reciprocate her love but witnessing Mubai's concern for Xinghe pushed her right over the edge!

She would rather Mubai ignore her than have him love another woman!

Doesn't he love no one and care for nobody?

Could it be that he had always set store by Xinghe?

This thought sent Tianxin spiraling into a deep chasm of despair. She felt her world imploding around her.

"No..." She shook her head in a daze. It was unsure whether she was convincing herself or Mubai. "Mubai, tell me this isn't true. This can't be true. It's impossible that you still care about her because if you do, there wouldn't be a divorce in the first place. Am I right? So, you must be lying to us!"

Suddenly, Mubai's face showed he was experiencing a plethora of complicated feelings.

When they were married, even though he didn't love Xinghe, it didn't mean that he didn't respect her and care about her.

She was after all his wife, she deserved all the respect the title begot. Of course, it was respect but not love.

But now... He asked himself truthfully and he had to admit there was a possibility that he couldn't say the same anymore...

However, Mubai didn't care to explain his inner thoughts to the rest of them.

Instead, he said, “In any case, that’s everything I want to say. No matter how any of you think of this arrangement, I have to make things right by Xinghe. I will officially announce to the public that the break is a mutual decision between the two families. Furthermore, from now on, please treat Xinghe with the respect she deserves because even after the divorce, she is still my son’s mother!”

“No...” Tianxin collapsed onto Mubai’s arm and started weeping. “Mubai, I can’t let the engagement be over like this. I admit my mistake, and I swear I’ve learnt my lesson so please don’t call off the engagement! I know this is your anger talking, I’m willing to accept any and all punishment but please just take back your words. Please don’t do this to me...”

Mubai shook her off gingerly but firmly, adding, “This is not my anger talking, I’m being absolutely serious.”

“...” Tianxin was stunned into speechlessness. She felt chills running all over her body.

She had just recently been overjoyed by knowledge of his love towards her the night before...

But somehow, everything had changed overnight...

Before today, she was still his fiancé, their marriage and eventual happily-ever-after a sure thing.

But now, he so heartlessly called off the wedding, stomping on her hopes and dreams.

Why... why did so many things I knew to be true change overnight!

Of course, this is all Xia Xinghe’s fault!

Ever since the b*tch made her reappearance, everything started to go wrong.

Now Mubai is calling off the wedding because of her. Therefore, everything is her fault!

Tianxin, of course, didn’t see this coming. How could she imagine that Xinghe would manage to ruin everything she had going for her in such a short amount of time!

She glared viciously at Xinghe who remained a paragon of serenity. It took great self-restraint on Tianxin's part to not leap forward and strangle Xinghe.

“Xia Xinghe, I bet you're very satisfied with this outcome, right? You must be very happy ruining my relationship to Mubai! You purposely said those words yesterday to garner this effect, how can you be so evil? Have you no heart?”

Yes, the b*tch must be doing this on purpose.

The more Tianxin thought about it, the more confirmed she was in her conviction.

She appealed to Mubai anxiously, “Mubai, this is all an evil scheme by Xia Xinghe. Everything that happened last night was part of her plot! She wants to ruin our relationship so that she can stand a chance to get back together with you! How despicable! You mustn't fall for it!”

Chapter 174: Uneven Contract

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

“Enough!” Mubai growled, he glared at Tianxin coldly, demanding, “So what if this is all her scheme? Don’t you dare forget who started the scheming and plotting! Or do you people expect Xinghe to just take everything as it is? Do you even consider her a fellow human being, and where am I in all this? She is my ex-wife; does she not deserve the respect that entails?”

Tianxin widened her eyes in shock, she asked with obvious disbelief, “So, you... value her more than me?”

“What is the matter with you? Can you even see beyond yourself?” Mubai grumbled in frustration. He refused to waste another second talking to this woman.

How come he had never realized how conceited Chu Tianxin really is?

To be fair, it was not entirely Mubai’s fault because she hid it extremely well.

She always put up a perfect facade around him.

However, the mirage finally cracked to reveal a woman who would go so far as to ruin his own and other people’s name to get to him.

How could he marry such a scary woman?

Even as a prop, he would consider her a complete waste of space.

Furthermore, he didn’t love her to begin with. To prevent the tragedy in his previous marriage from repeating itself, Mubai was already debating canceling the engagement.

The revelation from the night before was the straw that tipped the scale.

He had to do things right by Xinghe.

Not only did she not get any benefits when she was his wife, she was also treated so badly by his own family members. He might not have loved her then but he couldn't allow such injustice to come to pass in his own household.

Moreover, she did give him the most precious present of all, his son.

Xinghe had sacrificed the most luscious period of her youth to stay in their marriage and give him a child but for all that, what did she get in return? A slap on her wrist and crosshairs on her back.

And now they wanted him to marry the woman that plotted against his own son's mother? Did they seriously consider him a cat with no claws?

Perhaps he was normally too agreeable to their demands that they had forgotten who he was!

Mubai's sudden aggressiveness surprised all of them.

However, the Chu Family would not take this sitting down!

Mrs. Chu stepped forth to interrogate, "Since you don't care about my daughter, why agree to the marriage in the first place? How can you go back on your words and treat my daughter this way!"

Mubai gave a grim laugh.

"Mrs. Chu, I purposely kept my tone light to help your family save face but since you've asked, should I remind you how your whole family has begged for this engagement? Have you forgotten what I repeatedly told you that day? I said, I am not in love with your daughter."

Mrs. Chu's face fell. There was humiliation and anger boiling underneath it.

It was the same for all the Chu's...

Mubai was openly demeaning them.

However, what he said was the truth.

They wanted Tianxin to marry him so badly that they were practically one step away from kissing the ground he walked

on. Mubai had solemnly warned them that he felt nothing towards Tianxin. If they wanted to force the engagement, she had to prepare to survive a loveless marriage.

Deluded by their pride, they thought Tianxin could make him love her after they got engaged. However, at the end of the day, they didn't mind even if Mubai didn't have warm feelings towards them as long as they could gain access to the Xi Family's riches and fame.

Tianxin marrying into the Xi Family was their key to a life of limitless luxury.

They were so blinded by profits that they didn't care about the lack of love in their daughter's relationship.

Therefore, this engagement was, from the very beginning, an uneven contract. They were the passive and weaker party. Their position was precarious.

So, could they really fault others for their own greed?

Chapter 175: Apology Not Accepted

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

Mubai had never considered himself a lawfully good person. He was responsible for himself and himself only. He was not one to care about other people's feelings.

His treatment of the Chu family that day was already a rare exception for him.

If not for the fact that his own mother had a hand in the scheme that ruined his earlier marriage, how he handled this would've been a lot worse.

He thought they would be clever enough to accept the break without a fuss, to save their own face.

But they had the audacity to try to morally shame him...

These people really thought because he had an engagement with Tianxin, he was in their debt? That it would give them the moral high ground?

They were sorely mistaken.

Since they wanted to do this the hard way, there was no reason for him to hold back anymore.

The fact was even if Tianxin did nothing wrong, he would still rescind the engagement.

He didn't want to marry another woman that he didn't love.

In this boring life of his, he finally found something that piqued his interest so he didn't to waste any more time with frivolities.

He didn't care if what he did hurt the peace between the two families or anyone's feelings.

Better be hurt now than regret it for the rest of his life.

Furthermore, he was more than capable to back up his aggression and do as he wished.

Therefore, if he wanted to seek justice for Xinghe, no one could stand in his way.

Tianxin and her family felt Mubai's aggression at its full force.

At that moment, Tianxin finally realized she isn't at all familiar with him.

In her mind, Mubai was an easy-going person albeit a little hard to approach.

But now she finally saw the real Mubai, his remoteness which she misconstrued as natural aloofness was actually born out of ruthlessness!

His ruthlessness, she realized, could be aimed at her even if they were engaged and had known each other for decades.

Tianxin knew it was in her best interest to bow out of this relationship while Mubai gave her this chance.

But, she just couldn't...

She couldn't part with everything Mubai stood for: his power, wealth, prestige, and looks. Every single part of him was something she couldn't let go of.

Tianxin equated losing him to losing the world.

However, Mubai was adamant that the engagement was over, how could she salvage the situation?

Tianxin's eyes fell on Xinghe and she threw herself at Xinghe's mercy, "Xinghe, I know what I did was wrong. Can you please forgive me? I beg you please..."

She thought if Xinghe forgive her, Mubai would also forgive her.

Since she had gotten down to Xinghe's level to beg her, the b*tch should have no reason not to forgive her.

Xinghe slowly stood up and walked past Tianxin as if she didn't hear her. She told Mubai, "I thank you for returning to me the justice I deserve. I'm very satisfied. If there's nothing else that concerns me, I shall take my leave."

"Xia Xinghe, did you not hear me? I said I'm sorry, can you please forgive me?" Tianxin hissed through gritted teeth. Hatred tore at her heart from having to apologize to Xinghe.

She couldn't stand the b*tch's smug face. She would deal with her after Mubai took her back!

Of course, the bastard son would have to suffer for his mother's sin too!

One day, sooner or later, she would remove this pair of mother and son that had blocked her way at every turn.

The hatred roiling in Tianxin's eyes was plain for Xinghe to see.

Xinghe looked at her coolly, and these words tumbled out of her red lips, "Your apology... is not accepted!"

"You—" Tianxin's face was red with anger.

Mrs. Chu hollered in anger, "Xia Xinghe, how dare you take a mile while we already gave you an inch? My daughter has already extended her sincerest apology, what more do you want?"

Chapter 176: Fondness Towards Her (End of the Engagement Arc)

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Old Mrs. Xi joined in, “Xia Xinghe, Tianxin did not do anything truly offensive towards you, did she? She has already lowered herself to such an extent to apologize to you, do you have to be so petty?”

Even Old Mr. Xi felt Xinghe had crossed the line...

After all, Tianxin had apologized, did she have to be so narrow-minded?

Only Mubai approved of Xinghe’s action.

To accept the apology or not was her prerogative. Why must she accept the apology just because Tianxin apologized?

If he was in her position, he wouldn’t accept the apology either.

Xinghe scanned the room of detractors and smiled, “You’re right, I am a petty woman so don’t do me wrong because I will remember it forever.”

“You will hate me forever? What do you plan to do to me?” Tianxin asked fearfully. Perhaps she hadn’t recovered from the earlier shock because her acting here was a bit overboard.

Xinghe snickered at her laughable acting and a murderous intent surged up within Tianxin.

As if assessing the situation for the first time, Tianxin suddenly realized how inferior she looked beside Xinghe.

She tried to regain her footing but the moment she came down to beg Xinghe, she had lost.

“I’m not going to do anything to you because you’re not worth my time. Don’t think too highly of yourself,” Xinghe said before leaving.

Tianxin ruined her marriage so it was only fair for her to ruin her engagement, tit for tat as they say.

Since she had achieved her target that day, there was no reason for Xinghe to stay and look at the bunch of annoying faces.

Xinghe strode out the box like she owned the world and Mubai moved to follow.

“Mubai, stand right there. This fiasco is not over yet; you are not allowed to cancel the engagement to Tianxin!” Old Mrs. Xi called after him.

Mubai turned around and said coldly, “I’m not allowed to, mother? Do you want me to get a lawyer in here? Try me.”

“You...” His mother was shell-shocked, how could he talk to her this way?

He was her son. The wife she chose for him was for his own good, how could he not see that?

However, she knew she couldn’t force him into any decisions that he refused to make, even if she was his mother...

Mubai swiveled around and left.

After a while, Tianxin realized she should chase after him but she stopped at the door because Mubai had left the building.

Watching his back, her eyes swirled with venom.

Xia Xinghe, you ruined my life, I will never forgive you!

...

After Xinghe exited the hotel, she stood at the entrance and didn’t leave.

Just like how she predicted, Mubai appeared not long after.

“Were you waiting for me?” He stared intensely at her.

“Yes,” Xinghe admitted, “I want to see Lin Lin.”

He knew she would come up with this specific request that day.

He realized how much she cared for their child from the times they’d interacted recently.

He felt guilty because his family had always stood in her way when she wanted to visit Lin Lin. He understood her desire to

be with Lin Lin.

At the same time, Mubai admired Xinghe.

She knew it would be impossible for her to just waltz in and see Lin Lin so she decided to bolster her own backing first.

Only then could her demand be heard.

Despite the fact that it was still not enough for her to claim custody, he admired this hardworking attitude of hers.

Of course, it didn't hurt that Xinghe's other personal qualities were admirable as well.

Mubai had admiration for outstanding individuals and he realized his ex-wife was definitely one of them.

He didn't hide his fondness for Xinghe. "Let's go. Lin Lin is over at the old family mansion, without me, they won't allow you entry."

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 177: She Didn't Care About Him

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe nodded, she knew as much – which was why she waited for him.

She got into Mubai's car and they headed over to the Xi Family's old family mansion.

The old mansion belonged to Mubai's grandfather. The Xi Family's patriarch was still alive and Xinghe had met him once or twice.

But they had never exchanged words.

Mubai's grandfather was a stately man. Even at his old age, his presence could still stun people into inactivity.

The first time Xinghe met him was at her wedding to Mubai.

Naturally every single member of the Xi Family was present but no one dared to do anything out of place in his presence.

A girl accidentally interrupted her elder and he gave her a look so withering that it probably scarred her for life.

That was Xinghe's only impression of Mubai's grandfather; a man that was as impressive as a king.

And today, she would have to face him, the single person who held the highest power in the Xi Family!

Mubai also thought of the upcoming meeting and he reminded her, "My grandfather probably won't object to you seeing Lin Lin but do not mention the issue of custody or he will make sure you'll never see Lin Lin's face again."

"I don't even have the right to raise my own child... Don't you find that amusing?" Xinghe asked softly, her tone full of self-deprecation.

Mubai's expression turned serious and answered truthfully, "You can't control the fact that Lin Lin was born into the Xi Family."

"The greater fact is that Lin Lin is my son. One day, he'll be mine again. Just watch me," Xinghe said confidently.

Mubai didn't find her declaration pompous instead he raised his brows with interest. "Where does your confidence come from?"

"Every man and woman is the master of his or her own fate. I believe man could accomplish anything if he puts enough effort and desire behind it."

"Xia Xinghe, do you know I find this attitude of yours..."
Mubai purposely paused before continuing with a smirk, "highly alluring?"

Xinghe didn't even blink.

She didn't care how he found her or what his opinion of her was.

Her expression had remained the same from when she was at the hotel to after she got into his car, one of indifference. He was like her driver, ferrying her to her destination, their relationship not going beyond that surface level.

It was not that she was arrogant.

It was more like he didn't occupy any space in her heart, not even an inch.

To her, he was a passer-by in her life, a pretty face that was not even worth remembering or caring about.

Mubai realized this and it was hard for him to not get affected by it.

He started to gain interest in her but she didn't reciprocate the feeling? He couldn't help but feel... rejected.

This was the first woman that could arouse his interest, but of course, she was more of a character than he was, she didn't even consider him a man worth paying attention to.

The thought made Mubai chuckle. He was greatly amused.

"So, everything that happened last night was done on purpose?" he asked suddenly.

Xinghe looked straight ahead and shrugged, "That's right."

He didn't specify what the thing was but she admitted freely.

“But why?” Since she didn’t care about him, there was no reason for her to care who he married.

If that was the case, why lead him to break up his engagement?

In any case, Tianxin’s argument that it was because Xinghe wanted to get back with him was definitely untrue.

So then... why?

“Tianxin is not qualified to be my son’s stepmother,” Xinghe suddenly came out with the truth.

Mubai grinned even harder. “Well, I’ve got to appreciate your honesty. But, if she’s not qualified, who is? Eventually, I will have to remarry.”

“Truthfully? No one.”

“In other words, you think no one is good enough to be my wife?”

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

The Patriarch Arc is a short one to establish some romantic moments 177-188

Chapter 178: To The Old Family Mansion

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe replied without missing a beat, "If you give me back my son, anyone is good enough."

Of course, anyone but her.

"What are you going to do then, chase away all the women who approach me?" Mubai asked with interest. His tone seemed to suggest that he was encouraging her to do so...

Xinghe's lips curved into a slight smile. "I'm not that interested in your life, I just want my son."

"But he is my son too and is destined to stay inside the Xi Family."

"I already told you, I will find a way to get him out."

"There is one way that is fairly simple," Mubai tilted his head to look at her and said, "Get back together with me."

Xinghe blinked slightly but there was no obvious change in expression on her face.

Mubai waited with inexplicable anxiety for her response. She finally said, "You sure have a vivid imagination."

"..."

She would not get back with him and she would claim back her son through her own effort.

It was why she was going to the Xi Family's old family mansion.

She was willing to try anything to get Lin Lin out.

If that was really impossible, she must find ways to decrease the possibility of him running into danger. Of course, her focus would still be on springing him out of the Xi Family.

In fact, there was already an idea brewing in her mind, it was to go through Mubai's grandmother.

Mubai's grandfather, Xi Gang was once a prominent political figure in Hwa Xia.

Even after he retired, he retained his regality. No one dared to defy him in the Xi Family.

It was because of him that Xi Family could be the giant force it was that day.

If Xi Gang agreed to let Xinghe temporarily have Xi Lin's custody, the rest of them would have no choice but to agree.

Of course, Xi Gang wouldn't listen to her request. There was only one person in the entire Xi Family that he would listen to.

That was his wife, Mubai's grandmother.

Xinghe didn't know much about the Xi Family's hierarchy but of one thing she was sure.

There was only one person who could persuade and dissuade Mubai's grandfather, that person was his first wife.

She was referred to as his first wife because they had been divorced many years ago. However, they still stayed under the same roof. In fact, Xi Gang had been treating and loving her like she was still his wife.

Why they got divorced in the first place, Xinghe was clueless as well, but she didn't intend to find out.

She only needed to convince her.

...

They finally reached Xi Family's old family mansion.

It was situated at City T's famous Prosperity Hill.

Like the name suggested, Prosperity Hill was home to the rich and famous.

The richest of them all was naturally the Xi's. Xi Family's old family mansion was also the biggest there.

Xinghe had only been here once and she could still remember how overwhelmed she was then.

However, for her second visit, she felt nothing. The place was to her like any other normal places.

Mubai led her into the spacious and luxurious living room. A maid came forth and greeted them reverentially, "Is Young

Master here to meet the Old Master? He's practicing calligraphy with Little Young Master in the study."

"How long has it been?" Mubai asked.

"Half an hour."

Xi Gang would spend an hour every day to practice his calligraphy. No one was to disturb him during this period.

In other words, Xinghe and he would have to wait for half an hour.

"When grandfather practices his calligraphy, he doesn't like to be disturbed. I hope you don't mind waiting for half an hour," Mubai told Xinghe.

Chapter 179: We're Here to See Lin Lin

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“I don't mind,” Xinghe nodded, half an hour was nothing.

After all, the reason she was there that day was not only to meet her son but his great grandfather as well.

“Where's your Madam?” Mubai suddenly asked the main.

“She's in the back garden, does Young Master wish to see her?”

“That's alright. I don't want to disturb her.”

The moment Mubai finished, a woman sauntered into the room and said, “You wouldn't be disturbing her, she was just talking to me about you yesterday. I'm sure she would love to see you.”

Mubai and Xinghe turned to the source of the voice. A woman about 28-year-old with impeccable dressing, she didn't have a hair out of place, in their eyes.

Xinghe recognized the woman.

She was Madam Xi's adopted granddaughter. Her name was Yun Ruobing [1], and like her name suggests she was a frosty kind of person.

It was a by-the-books kind of frigidness, deterring others from any form of human contact.

She didn't even have the courtesy to hide her apathy towards Xinghe. She never once looked her in the eyes.

It was as if Xinghe was Mubai's carry-on, not worth her attention...

“Want me to accompany you to the back garden?” Ruobing came forward and asked Mubai with a shrug.

Ruobing was several months older than Mubai, they had a relationship akin to siblings but they had never been close.

Mubai had always treated her with courtesy reserved for distant relatives.

“Thank you but I have something to discuss with my grandfather.”

“What is it?” Ruobing asked while giving Xinghe a side-eye, “Something to do with Xi Lin?”

“Yes,” Mubai answered succinctly, obviously not interested in getting into the details.

Ruobing nodded and left without asking anything more. She passed the living room and went straight to the back garden...

Xinghe glanced at Ruobing’s retreating back and asked Mubai this just to make conversation, “I seem to remember that she also studies computer science.”

Mubai thought she was really interested in Ruobing’s background so he explained eagerly, “You’re right. But her field is different from yours, hers is medical computer science.”

“This means that she is at least somewhat familiar with medicine?”

“Indeed, currently, she is my grandmother’s personal doctor and confidant.”

Xinghe nodded without any further comments.

Perhaps someone did inform Mubai’s grandfather of their arrival because he arrived at the living room before the designated 30 minutes.

However, he came alone.

He sat himself down on the sofa and had on an impassive face. Even facing Mubai, it was like he was the boss and Mubai was his subordinate.

“Well, get on with it. Why are the both of you here?” he asked solemnly without even lifting his head to look at them.

Mubai answered truthfully, “I brought Xinghe here to see Lin Lin and then take him back home.”

Grandfather Xi finally raised his gaze to look at him. There was a lifetime of experience inside his eyes. He studied them incisively and commented, “I heard you broke off your

engagement with the girl from Chu Family earlier today for this woman.”

Mubai smiled slightly, “News sure travel fast.”

“Is it really because of her?” Grandfather Xi asked with an indifferent tone, it was difficult to gauge his thoughts.

“I just don’t want to marry a woman that once plotted against my own marriage.”

“The Chu Family and we Xi Family have a long history together. Have you thought of the consequences?”

“I would rather face any kinds of consequences than betray myself to fulfill their wishes,” Mubai replied in an equally indifferent tone. Perhaps, only Mubai could talk to Grandfather Xi this way.

His answer satisfied Grandfather Xi.

Mubai was right. There was no reason for a Xi to lower himself for the sake of fulfilling another’s pipe dreams.

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

[1] Her name is 云若冰 /Yun Ruobing/, which literally translates to Cloud [Surname- Yun] Like [Ruo] Ice [Bing].

Chapter 180: Can't Go Through Him

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“So, you’ve really started to fall for this woman?” Grandfather Xi was still smart in his mind. Mubai’s sudden break wasn’t only for himself. It mostly likely had to do with Xinghe as well.

The fact that he was willing to defy his mother to cross the Chu Family for the sake of a woman means that, on some level, this grandson of mine cares about her.

However, there are many ways to break up an engagement. There was no reason to do something so callous.

Mubai didn’t admit or deny it.

However, it was obvious that it was a silent admission.

Grandfather Xi pursued with a hint of a smile, “So, are you two planning to remarry?”

This time Mubai replied, “It’s on my mind.”

“Not on mine,” Xinghe said suddenly. Her tone was crisp and firm.

She was not at all surprised Mubai had plans to remarry her.

Because she didn’t care what his plans was.

Grandfather Xi laughed, this time with a tinge of superciliousness. “You worry the Xi Family is not yet willing to welcome you back?”

“I assure you, that is not part of my worry.” Because I have no intention of returning.

“This one sure has quite a spine on her,” Grandfather Xi scoffed.

Xinghe didn’t want to waste any time on these frivolities so she cut right to the chase, “Sir, the reason I’m here today, other than to see my son, is to meet you. I wish to have his custody for a few years, I hope you will agree to my request.”

Mubai felt a headache coming.

Didn't I warn you not to bring this up before my grandfather?

His grandfather was not as easygoing as the rest of them.

Sure enough, Xi Gang's face fell. "What did you say?"

"Grandfather, she spoke out of line because she cares too much about her son."

"You stay out of it and don't defend her! How dare she make such a demand! I, Xi Gang only have that one great grandson, where does she find the guts to issue such a demand? Who told her she can take the child away from the Xi Family?" Grandfather Xi roared angrily, his gaze sharp enough to cut through stone.

"I did," Mubai said without thinking.

His grandfather stared at him with surprise, even Xinghe was slightly shocked.

Mubai held his grandfather's gaze fearlessly and continued, "Grandfather, there was a reason behind our divorce so many years ago. She was conned into taking the divorce, the fault doesn't lie with her..."

"Then it was her own fault for being so dumb to allow herself to be conned!"

"...That was because she was suffering from amnesia and had no help from the Xi Family. She was cornered and temporarily lost her footing."

"That is a sign of her weakness. My Xi Family will never welcome the feeble or allow our children to be raised by one!"

"Grandfather, you can't use your standards to measure her."

His grandfather scoffed and announced majestically, "In this family, I am the standard!"

"Which is why Xinghe is here to today to ask for your permission."

"My answer is NO!" Grandfather Xi said with finality, not showing any sympathy towards a fragile woman's feelings.

Thankfully, there was nothing fragile about Xinghe.

Even faced with Grandfather Xi's impressive presence and verbal dressing down, she was completely at ease.

"You heard my grandfather. This is not the way to go." Mubai tilted his head to look at Xinghe.

Xinghe stared at him and asked, "Does this mean you agree to let me take care of Lin Lin for a few years?"

"..."

What is wrong with her point of emphasis?

Couldn't she tell this was his way of helping her advance her arguments?

Of course, he hadn't agreed to pass her their child, he just didn't want her to stand alone in his grandfather's line of fire...

Chapter 181: Marry Me

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe noticed his reticence and asked with a raised brow, “What’s wrong? Did I misunderstand what you meant?”

Fine, I did mention something to that effect.

But the slip was only to help you win the argument... I didn’t really mean it.

His grandfather also interrogated him, “You really agree for her to take away the child?”

“He did, you heard him, right?” Xinghe chimed in, taking advantage of Mubai’s silence.

Xi Gang glared severely at her. “Don’t speak if you’re not asked. I’m only interested in his answer!”

“Didn’t he already answer you? There is no other way to interpret what he said.” Xinghe replied matter-of-factly.

“...” Mubai was at a loss for words.

The lengths she would go to mince my words. Isn’t this a bit too much...?

“Well, tell me. Do you agree or not?” Grandfather Xi had his gaze zeroed in on Mubai. It was as if the moment Mubai nodded, he would disown him as his grandson.

Xinghe too was staring at him with a pair of shining eyes...

“...”

So, this is how it feels to be stuck between a rock and a hard place.

But how did it end up like this? What did I do wrong?

“I’m asking you a question! Do you agree or not?”

Grandfather Xi repeated with added emphasis.

“I...” Mubai opened his mouth to say but before he would continue, he pulled Xinghe up and said, “Grandfather, I think we will go see Lin Lin first, it’s not good to keep a child waiting. We will continue this conversation later.”

Under Grandfather Xi's withering gaze, he dragged Xinghe out of the living room in a hurry.

He stopped and groused helplessly when they turned into the corridor, "Didn't I tell you not to mention the custody in front of Grandfather?"

"I didn't promise you I wouldn't." Xinghe struggled out of his grab and, in that moment, Mubai felt inexplicably disappointed.

He retracted the hand that still felt warm from her body heat and said, "But doing so would anger him. I don't think you can handle the consequences."

"What's the worst that can happen? Have me murdered?" Xinghe said with a shrug.

Mubai chuckled, "Of course, he wouldn't go that far, but he most likely will forbid you from seeing Lin Lin."

"Forbidding me to take him away, forbidding me to see him, really, what's the difference?" Xinghe sighed disconcertedly, lowering her eyes in distress.

She was going to die soon, if she couldn't change her son's fate before then, seeing him or not made no difference...

What she wanted was not to see him but to alter his destiny.

Mubai felt the sadness in Xinghe but he couldn't figure out why.

He asked in a gentle tone, "You want to take custody of the child so badly?"

"Yes," Xinghe answered without hesitation.

Mubai looked seriously at her for a heartbeat or two and he asked another question, "You mentioned you're willing to do anything for this purpose. Is that still true?"

Xinghe raised her eyes to look at him, "What do you have in mind?"

"Marry me," Mubai said unexpectedly, "Marry me again and the child will be yours, no one will be able to have a say against it."

“ ... ”

“Didn’t you say you’re willing to do anything for Lin Lin? Is this an exception?”

“I’m willing to do anything and promise you anything as long as it is not this,” Xinghe replied in a tone that was full of finality.

“Why not?” Mubai frowned, his heart strangely agitated, “Because you don’t love me?”

No, it’s not that. I married you once without loving you and I could definitely do it again.

The reason is because my intention has changed from laying claim to Lin Lin to temporarily taking him away from this death trap.

Even if I married you, I would still soon die and, after my death, you will eventually marry another woman.

According to my prophetic dream, Lin Lin will still be ignored and run away from home...

Chapter 182: Have Her Detained

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The power structure within a modern rich and powerful family was not unlike that of an imperial harem. Everyone nursed their own aspirations and goals, plotting and scheming against one another.

It was her belief that no matter who Mubai eventually married, she would not love Lin Lin from the bottom of her heart.

She would have ostracized him or, even worse, harm him.

After all, Lin Lin was Mubai's eldest son so he had the strongest claim to Xi Empire. He would have to be removed for the other woman's own child to rise to the top.

Therefore, after Mubai remarried, Lin Lin's situation would be dangerous and precarious.

Thus, she had to lead him away from this environment, to help him avoid all these power struggles, and for him to be independent and strong.

However, she couldn't reveal all of this to Mubai...

If they knew she was dying and purposely hid that fact from them, it was certain that they wouldn't let her take Lin Lin away.

How could they let Lin Lin grow up alone in the dangerous outside world without the support of the Xi family?

She swallowed her grievances because she knew she couldn't rely on anyone but herself.

Xinghe looked at Mubai with fresh determination. "If I remember correctly, there is a rule within Xi Family that whoever manages to cure Old Madam Xi's physical condition will be granted any wish that he or she wants. Is that right?"

Mubai narrowed his eyes at Xinghe. "You want to try your hands at this task?"

"Definitely!" Xinghe nodded, her eyes shining with confidence.

There was a smile in Mubai's eyes when he replied, "It's not that I have no confidence in you but can you really accomplish this? She requires a perfect artificial human limb; current medical research is not even close to understanding it."

Xinghe replied with a winning smile, "If you don't try, you'll never know."

"So, you're sure this will be another win for you?"

"Truth be told, it's hard to tell for now but I have confidence in myself," Xinghe's eyes were practically glowing when she said this.

It was a light that shone from within her, an aura of dazzling confidence.

This was what Mubai loved most about her.

Whenever he saw her this way, his heart would be rocked, as if swept away by an April Shower.

At that moment, the attraction was at its hardest. The urge to have Xinghe detained and shackled, to keep her for himself rose up within Mubai!

But he knew he couldn't...

The freedom was part of Xinghe's beauty. Like a born-again phoenix, she needed the open sky to spread her wings, to extend her glory.

Mubai suppressed his inner feelings and looked at her with a burning gaze, promising, "Alright, since you're so confident, go ahead and try. If you can accomplish this, I will grant you the wish that you want, so will the entire Xi Family!"

At that moment, Mubai no longer cared about the custody battle.

Because he wanted not only the child, but also his mother...

So, what if he gave her the child? In the end, Lin Lin would return to him because he aimed to make her his as well.

"For real?" Xinghe said with obvious excitement.

“Would I lie to someone as important as you?” Mubai replied with a light smile. There was obvious flirtation in his words but it flew over Xinghe’s head because she was too happy focusing on the fact that he had agreed to her request, albeit on conditions.

Looks like Old Madam Xi’s situation was indeed the biggest problem facing Xi Family...

“Your words alone mean nothing to me, I need your grandfather to swear to it too,” Xinghe said cautiously. In Mubai’s ears, marinated in the haze of infatuation, she sounded like a child asking an adult for a pinky promise.

He suppressed the urge to tousle her hair and responded with a wide smile, “You don’t have to worry about that because grandfather cares deeply about grandmother. He will do anything for her. In fact, if you’re still worried, why don’t we go confirm with him now?”

He then pulled her back to meet Grandfather Xi.

After listening to Xinghe’s offer, Grandfather Xi was both surprised and suspicious, “You have confidence you can accomplish this?”

“I’m 70 to 80 percent confident that it’ll be a success,” Xinghe replied truthfully but it was translated into impudence when it reached Grandfather Xi’s ears.

He glared at her and responded with a sneer, “Young lady, might I remind you that talk is cheap?”

Chapter 183: A Hail Mary

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Then I shall prove it with my work,” Xinghe replied confidently.

Grandfather Xi narrowed his perceptive gaze.

He had a knack for reading people. He could tell Xinghe wasn't bluffing but he still didn't believe she could possibly accomplish the mission.

Over the years, the Xi family had spent an uncountable amount of money to produce this technology but had failed; the odds were not in Xinghe's favor.

“Grandfather, why not let her try since we have nothing to lose,” Mubai uttered beside her, “Furthermore, I believe in her!”

“You believe in her?” His grandfather was astonished.

There was no hesitation in Mubai's reply, “Definitely.”

He wasn't lying to appease his grandfather. For some reasons, he believed in Xinghe unconditionally.

Since she had his grandson's vote of confidence, Grandfather Xi decided to give Xinghe a chance. He announced, “Fine! You can have a go at it, if you can manage this, I will honor your wish, but if you fail, you must willingly part ways with Lin Lin!”

“Then, it's settled. You have my word!” Xinghe accepted the challenge with aplomb. Her win the horse or lose the saddle courage impressed everyone present.

Grandfather Xi, for some reason, started to look forward to her success.

If the woman was successful, he would have her remarry into Xi Family, that way both Lin Lin and Xinghe would stay.

Mubai was harboring the same plan; he wanted to keep both his son and his son's mother.

Of course, Xinghe was clueless to their intention. However, she would just shrug it off even if she had known.

They couldn't force her into the remarriage if she refused!

The news that Xinghe was to create an artificial limb for Old Madam Xi soon reached Madam Xi's ears.

"What did you say?" Ruobing stared at the maid with bewilderment. "This Xia Xinghe said she can create the thing Old Madam needs?"

The maid nodded in response, "That's correct, that was what Miss Xia said. The Old Sir has agreed to give her a chance and so did the Young Master."

Ruobing chuckled sardonically. "Who does this Xia Xinghe think she is? This challenge is easier said than done."

"Miss Xia also mentioned she can produce the result in less than a month," the maid added.

This time Ruobing's smile froze on her face and she stared at the maid in total shock!

Even Old Madam Xi who sat beside them painting raised her eyes and commented, "This girl has such confidence?" Her tone was smooth without any obvious emotion.

"She does seem to possess incredible self-assurance," the maid answered respectfully.

"Old Madam, I'm sure this Xia Xinghe is just bluffing. She doesn't know the waters she has waded into. The unavailability of the technology aside, creating a perfect artificial limb in under a month is simply impossible." Her tone was full of distrust and condescension towards Xinghe.

It was not that she didn't want to trust Xinghe but over the past few decades, the Xi Family had burnt through plenty of resources to create a perfect human-emulated artificial limb but their efforts were all to no avail. All the supposed 'experts' had fallen to the wayside. Therefore, how could Xinghe, a woman who knows nothing, accomplish this incredible feat?

Furthermore, creating this technology required in-depth and esoteric computer and programming knowledge.

Needless to say, Old Madam Xi wasn't bearing much hope either.

However, her wish to regain her complete self hadn't been eroded by time, if anything, the passage of time only made her wish stronger.

This was the biggest desire in her heart.

If this wish couldn't be fulfilled before her death, she would probably be deprived of a peaceful death.

She glanced at her right arm that was missing and her eyes flashed with abhorrence.

This was the ugliest part of her body, the greatest pain in her heart.

Chapter 184: Sorry for Being Late

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

She would live in constant torment if this physical scar of hers wasn't healed.

Therefore, she would not let go of any hope, no matter how small it might be.

Old Madam Xi ordered resolutely, "Let her try! If she manages to pull this off, tell her she can name anything and, if it's within my capability, I'll gladly grant it!"

Ruobing's heart skipped a beat. Restlessness troubled her heart at the appearance of a new threat.

However, she quickly calmed down.

This Xia Xinghe can't possibly pull it off!

It's ridiculous to think that this woman from nowhere can threaten my position.

She swore she would see Xinghe fail!

Old Madam Xi's reply reached the living room quickly.

It was as Xinghe expected. The matriarch of the house was willing to let her try and promised, if she was to succeed, she would be more than willing to honor her wish.

Grandfather Xi leveled Xinghe his sharp gaze. There was a threat hidden in his words, "Now that you've given her hope, you'd better not disappoint us or you'll never see your son again as long as you live, in fact, don't think you'll even be able to show yourself around City T again!"

Instead of worry, Xinghe felt relieved realizing how much Grandfather Xi cared for his ex-wife.

This observation told her that they would not go back on their promise.

Xinghe replied calmly, "Don't worry. I will never promise anything that I don't have confidence in completing."

"You'd better not!"

“Now, can I see my son? I wish to meet him before I start working.”

Grandfather harrumphed but he still ordered the maid to bring Lin Lin over.

Xinghe held an expression that was as still as the surface of a lake during her confrontation with Grandfather Xi but she'd started to get apprehensive before meeting her son...

Her apprehension wasn't manifested physically but Mubai could feel her nerves.

He noticed her breathing had become more rapid than usual.

He looked at her deeply, his heart a bedlam of emotions.

There was even jealousy in there...

He was jealous of the attention his son could elicit from her, the love that she reserved solely for Lin Lin.

He laughed inwardly at the ludicrous thought. However, he promised he would work hard so that one day he too would be deserving of her attention and love...

Xi Lin was soon brought into the living room.

The little guy had on a buttoned-up shirt and checkered shorts. His good upbringing and polite mannerism, coupled with the outfit, lent him an appearance of a prince.

The cutest, handsomest prince there ever was.

The boy had Xinghe's dark and bright eyes as well as Mubai's aquiline nose and perfect composure, an amalgamation of his parent's best qualities.

He was the most beautiful boy Xinghe had ever seen.

Lin Lin could elicit adoration out of the most aloof of strangers much less his very own mother.

The moment Xinghe laid eyes on him, she realized she was willing to give up her entire life for him.

She had a deeper understanding of why Lin Lin was so valued by the entirety of Xi Family.

He was exquisitely precious.

No wonder Grandfather Xi's first reaction when she raised her request was rage.

However, she would not surrender because of this.

She had to alter Lin Lin's destiny.

Xinghe took unconscious steps towards her son while Lin Lin stared unblinkingly at her. His slight figure was like hers, rigid due to nervousness.

Xinghe stopped before him, got on her knees and looked in his pretty eyes. Her words were full of guilt, "Lin Lin, forgive Mommy for being so late."

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

I'm feeling very under the weather, so I'm posting early, and tries to get back to bed. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Chapter 185: Only You

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

When they left Xi Family's old family mansion, the sun had set.

Mubai's towering figure strode in front while Xinghe followed his back. There was an unspoken familiarity between the two of them.

Xinghe was pricked by a sudden inspiration and she turned to see Lin Lin standing at the villa entrance staring at her.

Xinghe read on his face the reluctance to part.

She too was broken-hearted. If possible, she would grab him and run.

But she knew it wouldn't work...

Grandfather Xi, to emphasize his intent, forbade her from meeting her son before she could produce the result.

If she failed to come up with anything within this one month, he would personally make sure the mother and son never got to meet again.

After all, Xinghe promised him success. Grandfather Xi would never allow her to renege on her promise.

If she failed, there would be hell to pay.

Xinghe wasn't worried about completing the mission. In fact, she felt the period of one month was too long. She wished to see her son before then.

"If you want to meet him, come to me. I'll make sure the two of you have the chance to see each other," Mubai's low voice rang beside her ear.

Xinghe kindly demurred, "It's fine."

She had to suppress her desire to see her son so she could focus completely on the task at hand. If not, she would spend every waking minute thinking about Lin Lin.

Her maternal instincts were hard to silence but the long period of time after her divorce when she had been prevented from

seeing Lin Lin was indeed a great help.

The next one month would be a critical period so she couldn't allow herself to be distracted by thoughts about her son.

With this purpose in mind, Xinghe steeled herself and swiveled away from the gaze of her son. "Let's go."

Mubai looked intensely at her but offered no words. He helped her with the car door. After she got in, he rounded the car and climbed into the driver's seat.

Then, he started the engine...

Through the rear-view mirror, Xinghe realized Lin Lin was still standing at the same spot.

She felt tears pricking her eyes. Her memory went back to their first real conversation after her divorce.

Yes, today's meeting was the first time the two had ever spoken to each other face-to-face.

She expected resentment from him but Lin Lin's feelings towards her was pure and simple.

He didn't blame her for abandoning him, he didn't even ask about the past. Instead he consoled her, Three years is not too long.

The little fella took her apology at face value and was answering her seriously.

Don't you blame me? Because you should. Xinghe had said conscientiously.

I had faith that you would come, and you see, you really did, so how can I blame you?

But what if I didn't come...

But you're here, aren't you?

Then, I apologize for making you wait. That couldn't have been fun.

It wasn't very fun, but it must've been harder for you. At least I have Daddy but you don't have another son.

Silly child, of course I only have one son. As long as I may live, you'll be my only one.

For some reason, in that moment, Xinghe had felt the need to tell her son that.

Lin Lin broke into a bright smile. Me too, I only have one mommy and I swear, you too will be my only one.

Xinghe couldn't help but laugh.

It was an objective fact that she was his only biological mother. Regardless, the child's insistence that she was his only one mommy warmed her heart.

Even now, thinking about it made her lips curled into a tender smile.

Mubai captured the slight smile that bloomed on her face and his gaze deepened.

"In one month, even if the project fails, I will hand the child's custody over to you," he suddenly promised.

Chapter 186: A Few More Words

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe was taken by surprise; she really didn't expect for him to suddenly say something like this.

Mubai looked at her sincerely and said, "I'm not kidding."

"What about the rest of the Xi family?" She responded lightly.

Mubai gave a confident smile. "When necessary, I can represent the entire Xi Family."

For her sake, he was willing to repress any and all voice of objection from his family's side...

Even though she had no feelings towards Mubai but she was appreciative of his offer.

However, she couldn't let him do something like this.

Lin Lin would one day return to the Xi Family after her death. Mubai was the only one who would support him unconditionally. She couldn't let Mubai turn on his whole family because there were no benefits in that.

Xinghe smiled. "Sincerely, I thank you for your offer but I wish to approach this fair and square. Don't worry, I have confidence I will make your family give me Lin Lin's custody willingly following their own terms."

Mubai said directly, "My Xi family has a state-of-the-art medical laboratory. From now onwards, you are allowed unconditional access to it. If you need manpower, materials or information, do not hesitate to come to me."

"I appreciate it." Xinghe didn't reject his kindness. After all, she did require a good lab to work in.

Xi Family's lab was the best in the country, just what she needed.

Old Madam Xi was the lab's only beneficiary so its equipment was the best of the best.

"Of course, you're welcome to bring your own people to aid you," Mubai added.

Xinghe shook her head, telling him she would tackle the design alone.

Xiao Mo and Xia Zhi couldn't be of help because their skills weren't good enough for this project.

Furthermore, they were busy handling the day-to-day running of the company.

Xinghe handed the company over to Xiao Mo because she was averse to administrative work.

She preferred to do this alone. After all, this was not going to be a walk in the park. Without the necessary skill, any lackluster helper was only going to bring her down.

"I will go to the lab tomorrow," Xinghe said.

"Okay, I will have someone escort you there." Mubai nodded, he went on to describe for her the situation inside the lab.

Only when he stuck to the topic of the mission would Xinghe continue the conversation.

However, this topic quickly ran its course. Mubai tried his best to extend their conversation, "Aren't you a little bit curious why my grandmother is missing an arm? And why she is so adamant to have it fixed?"

Xinghe deterred his effort outright. "Not interested."

"..."

Why is she making it so hard to have a few more words with her?

Mubai powered on regardless, "That might be so but I still have to tell you, this mission doesn't only involve my grandmother, it is a permanent scar on my grandfather's heart as well. It is an issue that tied them together for life. In fact, I believe my grandfather will be willing to give you half of Xi Family's estate if you manage to solve this problem."

"I understand." Xinghe nodded. She had no interest in the Xi family's money.

Even though the amount would probably be astronomical.

The information itself though carried certain weight for Xinghe.

She was glad to know that this issue was treated with such importance by the Xi Family.

That way, her hard work would pay off lucratively.

It allowed her to accomplish her plan in one fell swoop!

The car soon reached Purple Jade Villas.

When Xinghe revealed her address earlier, Mubai was both glad and shocked. He had no idea she had moved in to a place so close to his house.

Of course, he wasn't conceited enough to think that the move for his sake.

It was obvious it was because she wanted to be near Lin Lin...

Chapter 187: Caress Her Head

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Once again, Mubai started to feel jealous of his own son. The little guy was probably the only one who could make Xinghe's heart flutter.

Nonetheless, half of Lin Lin technically came from him.

However, he wasn't narcissistic or selfish enough to think Xinghe loved him vicariously through Lin Lin.

Mubai chuckled at the sudden kooky thought that popped up in his mind.

Xinghe heard him laughing when she was exiting his car so she turned back to ask, "What's wrong?"

Mubai stared at her intensely and posed his own question, "Under what circumstances you do think people start to have selfish thoughts?"

"..." Xinghe looked at him quizzically like she was looking at an idiot.

Where did this question come from?

"I think I had one right now because I'm selfish enough to want to make you mine," Mubai said as he pushed out his hand to caress her head.

"And I think it's time for your medicine," Xinghe sharpened her gaze. Her head was not to be touched by anyone.

She stormed out of his car and strode away without once turning back. Her annoyance was obvious.

However, Mubai was not worried but instead rather delighted from teasing her.

He rubbed his fingers together feeling the sensation from Xinghe's hair that was left on his skin. His smile grew even bigger.

Who knew touching her head would be so delightful...

Then, hugging or even kissing her... would those experiences be like snorting heroin then?

I'm sure it will be fantastic!

Mubai wanted to experience those sensations immediately but he understood he had to be patient.

For Mubai's whole life, he was never lacking a woman's companionship. If he wanted, any woman would be at his beck and call.

Therefore, he had never truly desired a woman before.

However, this time he realized he had fallen for a woman, and fallen deep...

The desire was even stronger than his passion for computer technology.

While in a delightful haze of desire, soon Mubai returned to his home. However, the moment he stepped through the door, there was Chu Tianxin.

"Mubai..." Tianxin appealed to him with her puffy red eyes.

His mother also said gently, "Son, you're finally home. Tianxin has been waiting for you since morning. You had no idea, but she has been crying for the whole day."

"Mubai, are you serious about breaking off the engagement with me?" Tianxin started crying her sad tears again. "Please don't be so cruel towards me! I know I've done some terrible things and I really regret all of them. So, no matter what you want me to do, I will be willing to do it to redeem myself."

"Mubai, the thing that happened so many years ago really had nothing to do with Tianxin. Don't blame her, if you want to blame someone, blame me," Old Mrs. Xi said apologetically.

Mubai was normally an easy-going person, and was generous to the people around him.

He would normally agree to their demands unconditionally with a shrug.

Therefore, Tianxin and Old Mrs. Xi thought as long as they put up an apologetic face, Mubai would soften his heart and forgive them.

However, they didn't know that Mubai's easy-going appearance came from his indifference. The moment he set his sights on something though, there would be no budging.

"So, you're here to ask for redemption?" Mubai stared at Tianxin with an overcast face.

Tianxin nodded like a puppy that got her treat. "Yes! No matter what you have me do, I'll gladly do it as long as you're willing to forgive me."

"Accept that the engagement is over without a fuss, and I'm willing to put any other offense behind us."

Tianxin's eyes widened. "You still want to break up the engagement? But no, I don't want to leave you Mubai..."

"You have no right to say no." Mubai interrupted her plea roughly and Tianxin's face blanched.

"Also, you're not welcome here anymore." Mubai dropped another bomb before heading upstairs without another look at her.

Tianxin spiraled into despair.

Mubai had snuffed out all the hope in her heart. It was over. There was really no turning back now...

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Sorry for the late post, I'm still recovering from food poisoning.

Chapter 188: An Early Surprise (End of Patriarch Arc)

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

In just a day, not only did she lose her right to marry him but also the hope of redeeming herself.

Tianxin couldn't have predicted so many things would happen in just one day.

Her astonishment and surprise were shared by many.

The broken engagement between Mubai and Tianxin aside, Xinghe even boasted she could create a perfect artificial human limb.

The task that the Xi Family had spent 20 twenty years trying to achieve but still with no results, she said she would finish it in a month.

Other than that, Mubai planned to remarry her as well!

Overnight, Xinghe slammed into everyone's heart like a stray asteroid.

No one could have thought the woman who left without causing even a ripple three years ago would reappear in such a grandiose manner.

She appeared at Xi Lin's birthday party with a high profile and now once again, dropping so many bombshells on Xi Family.

No matter if it was those who knew her or not, they watched her return with complicated feelings.

Of course, there were some that wished for her to complete a perfect comeback while others prayed for her to fail miserably.

Yun Ruobing was of the latter camp!

This was because it had to be her who pioneered the near perfect artificial technology. She wouldn't allow anyone to steal her thunder!

Therefore, Ruobing arrived at the lab early the next day, ready to 'welcome' Xinghe.

...

Early that day, Mubai's luxurious Rolls Royce appeared before Xinghe's house, obviously waiting for her.

When Xinghe exited her front door, she clocked him sitting in the back.

The rising sun shone on onyx the colored vehicles and its rays reflected in a fractal of shimmering lights.

Mubai, who wore an expensive suit, pierced her with a gaze that was even fierier than the sun.

When he saw her appear, he descended from his car, held the door and ushered her in with a dazzling half-smile. "Get in. I'll bring you to the lab."

Even his voice was full of magnetic masculinity.

Which woman wouldn't want their door to open to a handsome prince offering to escort you to work in his expensive car while flashing you his ten million watts smile?

The answer is none, because every woman would be touched by this early morning surprise and some might even promise to marry him on the spot... well, almost every woman.

Xinghe barely batted an eye. She was not at all impressed by Mubai's romantic gesture.

She asked with a curiosity that was barely there, "Didn't you say you'd have someone fetch me?"

"Well, that someone is me. It just so happens that your place is on my way to work, it's for convenience's sake," Mubai answered with a wicked smile.

And yes, the convenience happens to be an everyday convenience as well.

Well, it was her fault for choosing a residence so close to his house anyway.

The thought of having to share a ride to and from work every day with Xinghe made Mubai's heart do a celebratory cha cha.

Xinghe thought of that too and she instantly regretted her moving choice.

“Give me the lab’s address. I can go on my own, I do not wish to trouble you,” she said nonchalantly.

“It’s no trouble. Come on, get in. Due to this mission, we’ll be spending a lot of time in close contact, so you might as well get used to this,” Mubai offered in an official tone but of course, his actual meaning was much more ambiguous.

Xinghe stared at him and Mubai held her gaze with his own that was burning with passion.

In the end, it was Xinghe who first moved her gaze away.

She relented and got into the car.

After all, if Mubai was willing to be her driver, she didn’t mind one bit.

To be fair, she probably wouldn’t mind whatever tricks he wanted to pull because he was that unimportant in her mind.

She was too lazy to argue with him about these frivolities. She just wanted to focus on finishing her plan.

Chapter 189: Simple and Direct

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

But her indifference was, for Mubai, an advantage.

If Xinghe wasn't averse to his arrangement, at least it looked like she wasn't averse to his companionship.

Mubai's heart soared just thinking about it.

However, he cautioned himself to not overdo it.

He knew that he couldn't push himself onto Xinghe because Xinghe was no ordinary woman. If he angered her in anyway, the opportunity to get to know her, to get close to her, would be forever closed.

Inside the car, Mubai made sure to limit their topic of conversation to the artificial limb technology.

He didn't venture into anything else.

He did well on his part because at least Xinghe didn't jump out of his car.

Soon, they reached the laboratory building.

Mubai instructed her, "I have a meeting to attend so I won't be following you in. However, I've arranged for an engineer to wait for you. He's the vice-leader of the lab and his name is Luo Jun. If you have any needs, don't hesitate to tell him."

Xinghe nodded, her hands were on the car handle.

"Wait..." Mubai called after her, "If there's anything Luo Jun can't handle, come to me."

"Okay." Xinghe left his car without a goodbye. Luo Jun was already at the building entrance waiting for them.

He rushed outside to pay Mubai his respect and, after Mubai drove away, he kindly introduced himself to Xinghe.

"Miss Xia, nice to meet you, I'm Luo Jun. I will do my best to aid you in your project so if you have anything you need done, please order me to do it."

Luo Jun had a kind and approachable personality. Obviously, Mubai had specifically assigned him to her.

Xinghe nodded. "Lead the way."

"Please," Luo Jun said with a bow.

To fulfill Old Madame Xi's wish, the Xi family had burnt through a lot of money.

The lab building alone had five levels and each level housed at least ten individual laboratories.

Bustling inside them were scientists and engineers in white lab coats.

Many of them were the top of their fields.

The place was filled to the brim with medical devices...

All of the equipment scattered about the labs were the most cutting-edge products available in the world.

There was pride in Luo Jun's voice when he introduced this place to Xinghe, "The best mechanical artificial limb currently on the market is created here. If we can perfect the artificial human limb technology, Xi Empire's name will resound all over the world, grabbing all kinds of awards and accolades. Miss Xia, do you want to tour each of the five floors?"

"Not necessary," Xinghe rejected politely but firmly, then she ordered, "Bring me your lab's latest product and design. I need all the information you can gather. Now, show me to my lab and I will wait for you there."

Luo Jun was taken aback by the simple and direct way Xinghe handled things.

He was impressed by her authority and commanding presence.

Then again, of course the person whom CEO Xi personally instructed him to support couldn't be someone pedestrian.

Luo Jun performed his role as the host to the tee and quickly brought her to her lab, to prepare the things she ordered.

However, the most important design paper he couldn't acquire!

...

Luo Jun explained with difficulty, “All the design papers are under Leader Yun’s care. She said the papers are all top-secret information so she can’t give them away to anyone.”

“Yun Ruobing?” Xinghe asked.

“Yes, it is Leader Yun Ruobing. This should be easy if Miss Xia knows her. I’m sure Leader Yun will hand over the design paper willingly when she finds out it is Miss Xia who made the request,” Luo Jun concluded optimistically.

Xinghe replied, “I’m afraid it is because she knows it is me that she’ll refuse to part with the papers.”

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Arc until 205

Chapter 190: Stolen Information

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Luo Jun was slightly astounded, “What does Miss Xia mean by that?”

“Go tell Yun Ruobing that Mubai wants everyone to aid me in completing this technology. Ask her what her intention is by withholding the information I need? Is she meaning to stall my progress?” Xinghe said directly, not even a bit afraid of crossing the other woman.

She would not hesitate to mow down all that stood in her path!

Luo Jun was taken aback by the tension that he felt suffused the air.

However, this was none of his concern. He was only required to fulfill his orders.

Luo Jun returned very soon after he was sent away by Xinghe.

He still didn't return with the papers and there was an even more troubled expression on his face when he said, “Miss Xia, Leader Yun still refused to give up the information... She said that if you want them, you need to go talk to her yourself...”

“Okay, thank you. You may go now.” That was Xinghe's only reply. There was no major change in her expression.

Xinghe wasn't angry even though Ruobing was purposely making this difficult for her.

Luo Jun couldn't figure out Xinghe's thoughts so he left her lab obediently.

After he closed the door, Xinghe clicked open her computer...

Since Ruobing was unwilling to give the information, she was going to take them herself. Want her to negotiate with Ruobing in person? Impossible!

Xinghe would not waste her time doing fruitless things.

Ruobing obviously wasn't going to part with the design papers no matter what. Requiring Xinghe to meet her in person was

just a hoop for Xinghe to jump through of which there would be plenty more.

It was necessary not only to work hard but also work smart!

It took Xinghe 30 seconds to enter the laboratory's localized area network.

It took her another 5 minutes to hack into Yun Ruobing's personal work computer.

Finally, she used up another 2 minutes to copy everything in Ruobing's computer to her own computer.

Ruobing who was waiting for Xinghe to come beg her had no idea her computer had been hacked.

She only knew when a large row of letters appeared on her computer screen:

I've taken the information I need. If Leader Yun wants to play the game this way, I'm more than willing to entertain you.

"Who did this?" Ruobing shrieked in shock.

Who hacked into my computer and stole the information in it?

Ruobing was truly shocked. After all, the internet security of the lab hadn't been breached before. However, this time, the other party not only managed to hack through it but also was daring enough to leave such a calling card.

Ruobing was certain this person was Xia Xinghe!

Ruobing was honestly surprised Xinghe was so capable.

No wonder she was brave enough to make such a boastful promise, she had some backing...

However, good hacking skills didn't translate to the ability to design an artificial limb. After all, hacking and mechanical engineering were two distinct fields.

Ruobing studied mechanical engineering since she was young and, even after partnering with the best of the best, couldn't design a human-emulated artificial limb, much less an outsider like Xia Xinghe!

She was doomed to fail!

Regardless, she refused to let Xinghe challenge her at her own court.

The laboratory was her territory and she would not show kindness towards those that threaten her position.

The fact that Ruobing was willing to learn medical computer science that she had absolutely no interest just to please Old Madam Xi showed the size of her ambitions.

Her ambition was simple, which was to own half of the Xi family's estate.

She wanted to be above everyone else, to own limitless wealth and power.

Xinghe's appearance threatened her ambition. Even though she felt Xinghe didn't have the ability to pull this off but she refused to let Xinghe taunt her with the crazy promise.

Furthermore, she had the guts to steal the design papers from right under her nose.

How can I take this offense quietly?

"Xia Xinghe, if you want to die, then I shall comply." Ruobing smirked and moved to locate Xinghe. It was time to settle some things.

Chapter 191: Your Name Has Been Removed

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The lab's door was rudely shoved open.

Ruobing waltzed in with authority, followed by two engineers.

"Xia Xinghe, it was your doing, wasn't it?" she asked as she leaned in to look at Xinghe's computer screen. Naturally, information regarding the design paper was on it.

Ruobing smirked as satisfaction flashed in her eyes. "So, it was you, Xia Xinghe. You stole the lab's important information and have now been caught red-handed; explain yourself!"

"Stole?" Xinghe raised her eyes from her task to ask.

Even though she was being suddenly interrogated by Ruobing, Xinghe maintained her usual composure and grace.

"Taking without permission is stealing. This is the information you stole from my computer, isn't it?" Ruobing asked pointedly.

Xinghe didn't care to deny, she nodded. "That's right, this was from your computer."

"Very good, since you've admitted to the theft then we have nothing more to say. According to the rules of this lab, those that violate this rule will be kicked out of the team. Pack up and leave, you're removed from the team!" Ruobing said authoritatively, not unlike an unfeeling judge.

She didn't care what Xinghe's background was.

In the lab, she was the queen.

Since Xinghe readily admitted to violating the rules, no one would have a say if she was to throw the woman out.

Xinghe's rash and stupid way of doing things made Ruobing look down on her.

She felt dumb for thinking Xinghe could ever threaten her position and wasting the energy that went into drafting the long-term plan for dealing with Xia Xinghe.

Who would have thought this woman was dumb enough to commit such a giant mistake on her first day? I was able to chase her out without even using a single one of my plots!

Ruobing smiled triumphantly.

Of course, she didn't care about what happened to Xinghe after she left the lab.

The point was, no one could threaten her at her territory.

Anyone that came close to doing so must be removed!

"Removed? You removed my name from the team?" Xinghe asked calmly, as if in complete control of the situation.

Ruobing smirked, "Of course, I make and enforce all the rules here."

"On what grounds?" Xinghe continued asking.

Before Ruobing could answer, a tall male engineer that followed her in jumped in with a patronizing reply, "Are you deaf? Didn't Leader Yun give you the reason? Theft of classified information, is that not enough?"

"Theft is illegal; I say we hand her over to the police," the smaller of the two added to scare Xinghe.

The three of them hadn't stopped threatening and scaring Xinghe the moment they stepped into her lab. Even the calmest of individuals would lose their footing.

But Xinghe continued the conversation like it was normal office chatter, "You three keep saying I committed perjury but where's your proof? You can't go around simply accusing people of a crime they didn't commit."

"Then, I shall repeat myself, taking without permission is stealing. That constitutes theft and thus is a crime, is it not?" Ruobing said with a cocksure smile, hoping to make Xinghe sweat.

"It is," Xinghe answered with a nod. The ease with which she admitted to the crime made the three of them make a double-take.

However, the next second, she stood up, stared directly at Ruobing and inquired, “Then, what rule does ‘not cooperating with me’ and ‘purposely not complying with my orders’ violate?”

Chapter 192: I'm the Boss Here

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The air in the room froze with Xinghe's inquiry.

But the next moment...

The two men Ruobing brought along started laughing uncontrollably.

They were mocking Xinghe.

"What did she say? Comply with her orders? She wants us to follow her orders?"

"She really thinks all of us, Leader Yun included, need to follow her orders," The man then turned to Xinghe while laughing. "You must be crazy because everyone here must follow Leader Yun's orders and that includes you!"

Even Ruobing herself started chuckling, she questioned Xinghe patronizingly, "Don't tell me you seriously think you're the boss of this lab simply because Mubai assigned you here."

Xinghe replied matter-of-factly, "Of course, that was what he said."

Mubai literally told her that, she was free to use any and all resource there.

He even repeated himself saying that more than once.

Since he was being so generous, Xinghe saw no reason not to take him up on the offer.

Ruobing chuckled, her tone laced with unadulterated condescension. "You sure do think highly of yourself. Do you think you're still Xi Family's daughter-in-law? That ended three years ago when you opted for the divorce. No one in the Xi family considers you a part of them anymore so you better check yourself. Stop prancing around like you own the place! Now that you've violated the rules, you must suffer the consequences and get out. If you still shamelessly stay, I'll get the guards to throw you out!"

“Luo Jun—” Xinghe suddenly called at the door.

Luo Jun who was hesitating whether to enter, rushed into the room when he heard his name called.

“Miss Xia, how I can help you?” he enquired politely.

Xinghe said, “Tell them who I am and what role I have here.”

“Yes!” Luo Jun turned to Ruobing and said truthfully, “Leader Yun, Miss Xia is here on CEO Xi’s personal request and he specifically mentioned that Miss Xia will have total control over this lab throughout this period. Everyone has to obey her orders. Miss Xia is allowed free access to all resources and information. There will be no objection.”

Ruobing’s triumphant smile froze on her face. “What did you say?”

The two male engineers were equally stunned.

Luo Jun repeated his words, adding for emphasis, “Those were the exact words CEO Xi told me.”

“Impossible, I am the leader here!” Ruobing argued disbelievingly.

She knew Mubai arranged to have Xinghe work at the lab and asked them to lend her their cooperation.

She didn’t know what he meant was to have all of them follow Xia Xinghe’s orders.

Not only that, she would have access to their all their resources!

What was the meaning of all resources?

It included technical resources, funding resources and, of course, human resources.

She might be the leader of the lab but she was also part of the human resources. Therefore, Xinghe was allowed free reign on how to make use of her as well!

Luo Jun nodded, “Leader Yun, you’re still the leader here but according to CEO Xi’s decree, in the next month, Miss Xia

will make all the rules here. If you have any questions, you can refer to CEO Xi.”

Ruobing’s face turned frighteningly ugly.

“Now, you understand?” Xinghe demanded regally, “I make all the rules now. Everything here belongs to me and I can use them as I see fit so tell me, how can I steal something that belongs to me?”

Chapter 193: Trouble Brewing

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe added emphasis to her question.

Ruobing and her two lackeys were temporarily stunned by her majestic presence.

However, it was naturally impossible for Ruobing, who was used to be honored at the top, to bow down to Xinghe.

“But you did steal,” she glared at Xinghe and insisted stubbornly.

“You took the design papers away without giving any of us any head-ups so that constitutes stealing! You could have come to me in person to ask for it but you didn’t. Instead you snatched it from me without giving me any notice, so that is stealing, there is no way around it. Furthermore, this is a display of utter disrespect towards me and the rules upheld by this community. You might be leading the lab but you are not above the rules here!”

Xinghe smiled slightly. She was losing her patience with this kind of person who refused to argue using logic.

“I didn’t give you any notice? I disrespected you?” Xinghe leveled her a laser-sharp gaze. “Yun Ruobing, have you not heard about the saying that respect is earned and not given? Since you’ve done nothing that deserves my respect, why should I respect you?”

“You...” Ruobing was way beyond her threshold of anger.

She really didn’t expect Xinghe to be so forceful and aggressive.

This was completely different from the image she had of Xinghe.

They didn’t have much contact before this, but Ruobing had heard that Xinghe was a taciturn and mellow person.

However, the Xinghe before her had a sharp tongue and resoluteness in her stance... She had to suspect the truth behind what she heard.

Regardless of its validity, Xia Xinghe had definitely stepped way over the line!

The lab was Ruobing's court, how could she allow someone to be more powerful than her?

"Fine, I'll let the stealing slip this time but why should we listen to you? Even with Mubai's orders, you have to show us your ability first for us to submit to you. If not, this place will not welcome you. After all, nobody will follow the orders of a good-for-nothing person."

The two engineers echoed Ruobing's sentiments.

"Leader Yun is right. The people working here are the best of the best, we will not submit to you even if it is CEO Xi's orders."

"That's right, I'm certain you're here only because you begged CEO Xi. We will not receive orders from such a fake. We would rather quit than work for you."

Luo Jun didn't expect they would go to such lengths to purposely make things difficult for Xinghe.

He tried coming to her rescue, "If CEO Xi was willing to give such an order, it means that he has faith in Miss Xia's ability. Do you not have trust in CEO Xi's eye for talent?"

The taller engineer replied, "It is not impossible for CEO Xi to be wrong. Furthermore, trusting her is CEO Xi's business so it has nothing to do with us."

"That's right. If she is as talented as you claim, then show it to us."

There was a gleam in Ruobing's eyes as an interesting idea appeared in her mind.

She stared coldly at Xinghe and asked, "You heard the guys, right? Everyone here has their unique temperament. You need to impress us before you can lead us so how about this... Care for a friendly competition?"

For some reasons, Luo Jun started to feel nervous. He tried to defuse the tension, "There's no reason to get worked up over

this. Miss Xia will only be here for a month. Let's just work along together and not harm the workplace harmony.”

“If she has no skill, we will not allow her to lead us for even a day!” Ruobing turned her nose up at Xinghe like a queen residing over her court.

Chapter 194: Challenge Accepted!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe knew this was all a charade.

Her instincts told her, underneath all the vitriol, there was only one goal for Yun Ruobing – to chase her out.

This was her first time having such close contact with Ruobing but she knew from the moment they met she was an ambitious woman.

If not, she wouldn't have wasted away her youth working in a lab like this, slowly working her way up to be the leader and gain control of everything here.

Her desire for power spoke volumes of her giant ambitions.

This type of personality would not allow anyone to threaten her authority.

The fact that Xinghe promised that she could create a perfect artificial human limb in a month must have set off alarms in her mind.

If Xinghe achieved success in this endeavor, it would completely undermine her years of hard work.

She was afraid. This was a bet that she was unwilling to take, therefore, no matter what, she had to chase Xinghe out.

Even if Xinghe somehow found her way to stay, Ruobing would continuously impede her progress.

To save her the trouble, it would be easier to just send Xinghe packing.

Of course, Xinghe wasn't naïve enough to think Ruobing would cooperate with her to complete the project. A woman like Ruobing wouldn't change overnight and suddenly lose all her desire for power.

She had spent years climbing her way to the top. Would she be willing to situate herself beneath Xinghe simply because of an order? Of course not!

Furthermore, Xinghe's presence was her biggest threat because Xinghe's success meant her failure.

Her hard work, plans, and goal which she had nurtured over the years would disintegrate just like that.

Xinghe was not privy to Ruobing's ultimate goal but it must have something to do with the effort she had poured into the lab.

Therefore, no matter what Xinghe did, Ruobing would find a way to expel Xinghe from the lab.

However, Xinghe wasn't saintly enough to sacrifice herself to fulfill Ruobing's desire.

So what if she's spent years slaving away at the lab? One not only has to work hard but also work smart. After all, it's a dog eat dog world out there.

Xinghe knew a showdown with Ruobing was inevitable.

Both women had too many things on the line.

If Xinghe lost, it would mean the loss of her wager to Xi Family, and her son.

If Ruobing lost, it would mean the loss of her ambitions.

Neither of them wanted to lose the things that were dear to their heart. Therefore, they had to take their opponent down!

Unless Ruobing dropped her ambitions, there could only be one winner!

However, Xinghe understood perfectly; Ruobing will not do that. The woman was driven by her ambitions, without them, there would be nothing left.

Furthermore, Xinghe knew she had to be swift in dealing with Ruobing, she couldn't let the other woman block her at every turn.

She didn't have much time left. This would have to be finished quickly.

Therefore, since Ruobing also wanted to get this over with expediently, she decided to play along.

“Fine—” Xinghe announced, “I accept your challenge. If I win, all of you must listen to my orders without complaints!”

Ruobing’s eyes glinted slightly because she didn’t expect that Xinghe would be stupid enough to fall for her goading and accept her challenge.

Luo Jun fidgeted anxiously.

“Miss Xia, you can’t...” He was interrupted by Xinghe before he could continue, “Thank you for looking out for me but you can’t dissuade me from taking this challenge. I’ve made up my mind.

“But...” What if you lose?

“No buts, she took the challenge, we all heard it,” Ruobing rudely interrupted Luo Jun, not giving them any chance of backing out.

Chapter 195: Me or Her

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“That’s right, all of us heard her!” The smaller engineer echoed and continued to speak what was on Ruobing’s mind, “If she loses, it means that she has no right to be here!”

“You heard that, Xia Xinghe? If you lose, it means that you are not good enough to be here. Be prepared to pack up and leave,” Ruobing reminded her with a smirk.

Xinghe nodded affirmatively, “Don’t you worry. If I lose, I will leave this place without hesitation.”

“Good, we’ll be sure to take you for your words! Then...”

“Wait,” Xinghe cut her off, she stared at Ruobing and asked, “What if I’m the victor?”

Ruobing didn’t think Xinghe had even a shred of possibility of winning so she replied perfunctorily, “You said it before, didn’t you? If you win, we’ll all submit to your orders.”

“Other than you, you must leave this place!”

“What did you say?” Ruobing stared at her with bulging eyes.

Everyone within earshot was equally shocked.

They didn’t see this coming. They didn’t think Xinghe would be assertive enough to ask for Ruobing’s removal.

Xinghe repeated herself slowly, “If I win, you leave. I don’t want to see you while I’m here.”

“Xia Xinghe, do you have any idea who you’re talking to?” Ruobing could no longer suppress the fury in her heart.

This woman is too much. She dares to have me vacate this place! Who does she think she is!

Xinghe didn’t care to entertain her outburst. She raised her brow slightly and taunted, “Why, afraid of a little friendly competition? Stay away from the kitchen if you’re afraid of the heat.”

“You...”

“Miss Xia, I don’t think this is a good idea.” Even Luo Jun thought she has gone a bit too far.

“Do you think Leader Yun is someone you can force away? No matter if you win or lose, Leader Yun will always be our leader. No one can ever chase her away!” The taller among the two engineers said furiously.

Even the crowd that had gathered outside her lab from the earlier commotion thought she is being too brassy with her demands.

She was their guest there. Where did she get the audacity to make such a demand?

Xinghe scanned the lot of them and said with a sly smile, “Why the long faces? At most, it will last a month. If I’m here, she can’t be here.”

“But why must you make such an arrangement?” Someone from outside the door piped up.

“Because that’s the wager your leader proposed for this challenge!” Xinghe said with authority, silencing all discontent.

Xinghe was right. It was only fair that both parties had to face equal punishment.

Or else, why should she accept something that is heavily slanted against her favor?

Regardless, the request was still a little bit hard to stomach.

This hit Ruobing’s sore spot, her pride.

Xinghe gave her a provoking side-eye. “The decision is in your hands, either you accept the challenge added with my terms or you quietly follow Mubai’s arrangements!”

“Fine, it’s a deal!” Ruobing finally accepted, “Whoever loses has to go, there shall be no regrets!”

“I’m glad you finally agreed, very good,” Xinghe said with a slightly nod. Her expression was one of ease and confidence.

It seemed like she had great confidence in winning this challenge.

Ruobing jeered at Xinghe's vanity in her heart.

Not only her, almost everyone thought Xinghe was going to lose!

This was because everyone there was a top talent in their field. Xinghe might be book smart but it wouldn't be enough to rival their encyclopedic knowledge.

Even Ruobing relied on not only her knowledge, but also her administrative talent to reach the level she was at.

Xinghe had no idea she wasn't going just challenging Ruobing but the whole institution of science.

"Let's get down to business. The challenge is you have to pass the tests of the few esteemed professors employed here.

Chapter 196: Not So Simple

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“In the interest of fairness, name the subject you’re good at and we’ll test you on that. Of course, that subject has to do with the research conducted here. But don’t you worry. We are not going to expect you to know everything so as long as you can pass the test in your proficient field then we’ll consider you victorious,” Ruobing said magnanimously. This time she could afford to be more honest.

However, the fact that she only revealed this information after Xinghe had accepted the challenge was indeed a bit below the belt. She should have told Xinghe beforehand it was not her she would be challenging but the experts there.

Luo Jun predicted this was the trick she was playing so he regretted not stopping Xinghe when he had the chance.

After all, the most difficult challenge wasn’t going to come from Yun Ruobing but the scientists and professors there.

No matter how talented Xinghe might be, she was still young, how could she compete with decades of experience?

Not to mention the other restriction laid down by Ruobing. The subject she named must be related to the research done at the lab.

That would mean subjects like mathematics, physics, biology, or computer science.

None of these subjects were easy to pick up. How was it possible that Xinghe master any one of these subjects at her young age?

In any case, no one was on her side, there was no reason to.

All but one...

Standing outside the door, a large man studied Xinghe closely, his pair of eyes lighting up with excitement.

He believed Xinghe is capable of surprising everyone there.

Of course, other than this mysterious man, the biggest supporter for Xinghe was herself!

She had been climbing her way back with no one's help but her own after all.

She wasn't at all affected by Ruobing's little trick. She didn't care who her opponent was.

"Well, at least you still know your limits and let someone else compete in your place. And here I was being afraid that the challenge would be over way too fast," She even managed to sneak in a zinger.

"You..." Ruobing gritted her teeth in anger but soon realized Xinghe's arrogance might work in her favor. This way she could openly get the best professor to deal with Xinghe.

"Enough talk. Tell me what your desired subjects are."

"I'm quite familiar with computer science and mathematics." Xinghe also knew a thing or two about biology, physics, and other hard sciences but there was no need to tip her hand.

"Fine, then the test shall be on mathematics and computer science!" Ruobing could barely suppress the smile that threatened to appear on her lips.

She thought Xinghe will only say computer science since the little hacking incident did showcase her prowess in it, but mathematics?

The subject was a complicated and hard to master field of study.

Even if she was lucky enough to pass the test on computer science, she was bound to fail when it came to the mathematics test.

A complex mathematical equation was more than enough to drive her away!

Ruobing couldn't wait to see this woman, that challenged her authority, leave.

Perhaps it was jealousy between women, but the more confidently Xinghe presented herself, the more Ruobing felt

like subduing her.

She would not allow a second woman to steal her spotlight.

The test was to be held inside a lab.

It was home to the latest super computer so the room was spacious enough to fit many people.

Normally, the lab was used during group experiments but for that day, it was to be a testing ground.

The crowd followed them into the lab, hoping to watch the spectacle.

Work in the lab was rather mundane and tedious so whenever a challenge like this occurred, it was quite a welcome distraction.

It took their minds off the humdrum of work and offered an opportunity for them to improve their knowledge through an amusing manner.

However, they probably wouldn't be able to learn anything from the challenge that day.

Chapter 197: The Rigorous Competition

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

No one believed Xinghe would come out victorious...

Even Luo Jun started to have his doubts.

Before the test began, he sidled stealthily to Xinghe's side and whispered, "Miss Xia, you can't go on with this challenge. There are a handful of top experts employed here. Leader Yun will surely get them to conduct these tests."

Xinghe nodded as if she knew this from the very beginning, "Thank you, I know."

"Then why did you accept her challenge?" Luo Jun was bewildered.

"Why not? It's the perfect chance to convince everyone of my ability."

"But those scientists will surely make this difficult for you. They may each have their own temperament but at the end of the day, Leader Yun is still their superior. You'll leave after a month but they'll need to face Leader Yun as long as they still work here. There is no way they are not going to back Leader Yun up."

In other words, even with Mubai's support, they were going to put up a unified front against Xinghe.

"I know," Xinghe repeated her response in the same uninterested tone. It frustrated Luo Jun to no end.

However, he couldn't stand there and do nothing because his livelihood depended on Xinghe staying. If Xinghe was chased out, Mubai would definitely make sure he joined her.

"Miss Xia, how about we inform CEO Xi. I'm sure he can make them listen to reason."

"There's no need to bother him because I can handle this just fine," Xinghe replied and stopped him from continuing, "Don't worry, I assure you, I'll leave you out of this no matter how this thing ends."

“That, that is not what I meant...” Luo Jun stuttered as his face started to blush. He was too embarrassed to dissuade Xinghe anymore.

At that moment, Ruobing finally arrived.

She’d left to arrange the candidates for Xinghe’s tests, and probably to discuss how to make this extra hard for her.

“Can we get started?” Xinghe asked coolly.

“Sure,” Ruobing nodded and ushered in three elderly gentlemen. “Before we start the test, let me make some introductions. I have with me Professor Chen, Professor Wong, and Professor Qian. All of the esteemed professors’ fields of research are in mathematics so they’ll be the ones testing you on that.”

The crowd started to murmur after Ruobing finished her introduction.

Luo Jun couldn’t help himself and blurted out, “Leader Yun, all the three professors are the best mathematicians we have on our payroll. Isn’t it a bit too rigorous to have them formulate the test for Miss Xia?”

Rigorous was putting it lightly.

Ruobing was purposely making this as hard as possible for Xinghe. There won’t be one expert testing Xinghe but three!

Ruobing shrugged and retorted unashamedly, “Since Xia Xinghe has such confidence not getting our best to face her would just be an insult to her. Wouldn’t you agree?”

“...” Luo Jun was too pissed to mount a response.

He finally realized how thick-skinned Yun Ruobing can be...

“I thank Leader Yun for thinking so highly of me,” Xinghe offered with a smile.

“It’s only appropriate,” Ruobing also responded with a smile, “As I’ve said, the three professors will be testing you, but don’t worry. I’ve asked them to go easy on you since you’re our guest.”

“Only three?” Xinghe posed a verbal jab.

Ruobing's smile turned into a condescending sneer. "Three is more than enough for the likes of you."

"What about the computer science test?"

"You can worry about that later." Ruobing didn't plan to test Xinghe on computer science to begin with.

Chapter 198: A Lesson in Humility

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

She was confident that the mathematics test alone was enough to make quick work of Xinghe. Therefore, she didn't waste time to prepare the test for computer science.

Actually, she only needed to get one professor because one would be more than enough!

She called three because she wanted to utterly humiliate Xinghe!

“What is the test going to be?” Xinghe asked suddenly.

Ruobing smiled. “Very simple, each of the professors will pose you a question. If you answer all of them correctly, you pass.”

“Alright, let's begin.” Xinghe uttered softly, without a care in the world.

Ruobing once again derided Xinghe's insolence in her heart.

She turned to the three professors. “Professors, please don't hold back for the sake of Miss Xia. She was, after all, once a student from Academy S' Mathematics Faculty.”

This was news to the three professors. They didn't expect Xinghe to be from the famed Academy S and the Mathematics Faculty at that.

Then, her knowledge of mathematics must be at least at a certain level.

The three academics initially felt a bit iffy inconveniencing such a young lady but after hearing Ruobing's introduction, they dropped their hesitation.

What they failed to realize was Ruobing purposely omitted the fact that Xinghe hadn't graduated.

Xinghe dropped out of Academy S in her second year so logically speaking, she didn't have the chance to learn much during her time there.

However, Ruobing planned to omit this detail and she believed, based on Xinghe's arrogant attitude, Xinghe

wouldn't bring it up either.

Naturally, Xinghe didn't show any inclination of clearing the air.

Ruobing's smile grew wider. It spoke of her disdain for Xinghe, for her stupidity and hubris!

"Professors, please go ahead. One question each will suffice," Ruobing ordered.

Professor Chen was the first to step forward.

He studied Xinghe and said, "Since you are an Academy S Mathematics Faculty graduate, I'm sure the question I will ask is something you've learnt in class before. So, I hope you've retained most of your academic knowledge."

"Please," Xinghe opened her mouth to say, as if she didn't care what kind of question he was going to pose.

Professor Chen was rather irked by Xinghe's braggadocio so he thought to teach her a lesson in humility.

Young lady, pride is the greatest sin. Some modesty might do you some good.

Professor Chen moved to the blackboard that was almost half the size of the wall and wrote down his question.

Two of the lesser-experienced engineers in the crowd were already confused by the question.

They couldn't understand what kind of mathematics question was this!

They could recognize the individual numbers and signs but in that combination? They might as well be looking at a foreign language.

Luo Jun, who was familiar with mathematics, also felt the question was too difficult.

He couldn't help but sneak a look at Xinghe and was shocked to realize her expression remain unmoved.

Is it a calm façade or she has actual confidence?

“Go on, answer this for us!” Professor Chen turned back from the blackboard to address Xinghe.

Ruobing’s grin almost reached her ears. She too turned to Xinghe and said, “This question might have some difficulties but I’m sure you can solve it just fine. It’s just a matter of time...”

“Not solvable within two hours,” Professor Wong said suddenly. There was a bitter taste in his mouth from having been dragged away from his work to attend a frivolity like this. He grunted impatiently, “That is if she doesn’t give up first. I’m heading back to my lab, come and get me if and when she’s done with this!”

Chapter 199: All At Once

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He turned to leave.

Professor Qian followed behind him. "Ditto."

Both of them didn't think Xinghe can solve that math problem.

They couldn't understand why Ruobing wanted to make such a fuss and called the three of them. She herself was more than qualified to come up with the test question.

"I too shall take my leave, come and get me when the problem's solved." Professor Chen moved to follow his colleagues.

Even the crowd started to disperse.

The moment the math question was written on the blackboard, they knew it was over.

There was nothing worth seeing about the image of Xinghe gawking at the blackboard.

She would probably stand there for a whole day without making any progress.

"That's it? Where's the other two?" Xinghe said suddenly when the crowd turned to leave.

Her voice had a clear quality to it so it cut through the cacophony in the crowded lab like a knife, sharp and bright.

Those who heard her stopped in their tracks.

Xinghe addressed Professor Wong and Professor Qian, "Each professor will pose one question, right? So, get on with it, I'll answer them at the same time."

What did she say?

She wants them to pose their questions all at once?

"You know the solution to this problem?" Professor Wong pointed at the blackboard and asked.

Xinghe shrugged without providing a direct answer. "You'll know once all three questions are up there."

“I bet it’s because she can’t answer this question that she wants to try her luck with the other two. Professor Wong and Professor Qian, why not humor her? Who knows, she might happen to know one of them,” Ruobing ‘kindly’ explained to the crowd.

Then, she ‘kindly’ explained to Xinghe, “However, that is not the rules of the challenge. You have to answer all three of them to pass the test. Of course, you have one whole day to solve them, so I guess... we’d better get comfortable.”

“She’ll probably stand there the whole day...” Someone in the crowd murmured.

“Or she might solve them all before our eyes,” Someone else whispered.

The first person turned back in shock. “You believe her? Isn’t this obvious, that’s question none of us here could solve, much less her.”

The mysterious man curved his lips into a smile. “Well, I hear she’s scarily good at computer science. The two fields are related so her mathematics skill might surprise us.”

“Still, that’s a bit of a stretch...”

The man stopped replying but the confidence he had for Xinghe didn’t dim.

At the same time, he was laughing internally at the crowd around him.

Bunch of short-sighted plebeians, can’t even identify the talent that is right in front of them.

He couldn’t wait to see their dumbfounded expression...

“Of course, I will solve all three of them.” Xinghe nodded mildly. “So, give me all three questions at once, I’d hate to waste any more time.”

“The pride of youth these days,” Professor Qian huffed. “Fine, since you’ve asked for it, let’s get this over with!”

He grabbed a chalk and started writing on the blackboard.

His question quickly covered the half of the blackboard!

When he dropped the chalk, the crowd was stunned...

The question was even more difficult than the previous one.
There were even more confused looks in the crowd.

The number of people who could solve the math question
dwindled significantly and even if they did know the solution,
it would require a long time to work it out.

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Whoops. I forgot today is the day I release the extra chapter.

Chapter 200: An Ugly Death!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Neither question was easy.

At that moment, the gazes that focused on Xinghe were laced with pity.

She was doomed to fail that day.

Hopefully, the challenges posed by the two professors weren't so harsh that they completely ruined her confidence. Unlike Ruobing, they didn't want to break her spirit.

Xinghe surprised them all by saying, "Next question please."

"Looks like she's throwing the handle after the blade," someone in the crowd observed knowingly.

The thought was echoed in everyone's mind. Since she couldn't answer any of the questions might as well have all of them written on the board.

Maybe the last professor would take pity on her and come up with a simple question...

To nobody's surprise, Professor Wong that showed the most impatience gave her a simple math problem to solve.

"Surely you must know this," Professor Wong said as he set the chalk down.

Ruobing took the opportunity to add, "Professor Wong, you're being too kind."

In other words, she was chiding him for being too charitable towards Xinghe!

Xinghe smiled slightly and said, "I appreciate Professor Wong's consideration, this question is indeed very simple."

Looks like she only knows how to answer this!

The crowd's disdain bore down on Xinghe. All of them knew the solution to this problem.

"But, for the sake of fairness, Professor Wong, please come up with a real question," Xinghe suddenly added, surprising

everyone.

Did they mishear her? Why is she doing this?

Or could it be that she really was much more capable than they predicted?

Ruobing tutted disapprovingly, “Xia Xinghe, it is important to know one’s limits. Professor Wong is looking out for you so that you don’t get too humiliated, so you can drop the act. Getting one question correct is better than getting none, right?”

“You got the professors here because you want to give me the fairest challenge, didn’t you? Since that’s the case, there’s no reason to do this with a half-effort!” Xinghe retorted plainly.

Ruobing smirked with anger. “You are one stubborn fool! Professor Wong, your consideration is not appreciated so you might want to rewrite your question.”

Professor Wong’s patience was already wearing thin.

Since Xinghe didn’t deign to appreciate his kindness then... so be it.

He turned back to the blackboard to jot down an incredibly difficult question.

Everyone could see the annoyance radiating off Professor Wong.

The question he posed was even more difficult than the two before it!

It stumped everyone present. Probably even the two other professors would need some time before they could come up with the solution.

Xinghe was seeking death, and her death wouldn’t be pretty!

“There you go, all three questions like you wanted. Come up and solve them. As the good book says, pride precedes destruction. Young lady, a little humility goes a long way. Do you seriously think mathematics is such an easy subject?” Professor Wong lectured Xinghe.

Ruobing derided her openly, “Xia Xinghe, as per your request, you have all three questions on the blackboard. Go ahead and impress us. But if you can’t, I advise you to just pack up and leave, you’ve already wasted a lot of our precious time!”

“I bet she doesn’t even know where to start,” the taller engineer that had been following Ruobing mocked.

He and the other smaller engineer were like Ruobing’s left and right hands, echoing her every word.

The smaller engineer concurred with a sneer, “She should have packed up and left when given the chance, and save herself the humiliation. But a conceited prick like her deserves to be taught a lesson!”