

Chapter 301: A Shameless Weasel

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, if that really happened... then it would all be over for Ye Shen because he would never be able to get the thing from Xi Mubai's hands.

Then again, why would Xi Mubai want that thing? It was completely useless to him.

Regardless, Ye Shen couldn't rest well just sitting there so he rushed to find Xia Meng.

...

Xinghe knew he would appear soon or later so when she heard the guard inform her of his arrival, she said lightly, "Let him in."

"Yes."

Ye Shen thought Xia Meng wouldn't see him so he was surprised when he was admitted entry so easily.

When he stepped into the living room, he couldn't help but be stunned by the change in Xia Meng even though it had only been a week.

For some reason, he felt the Xia Meng before him was a lot prettier than the one he'd lived with for the past however many years.

She had a calming aura about her that was conspicuously absent in his memories of the old Xia Meng.

Ye Shen was impressed by this new Xia Meng. Ultimately, he wrote all these changes to the change in her identity. After all, the rise in station would usually result in a change in temperament as well.

"Xia Meng, I have some questions for you," Ye Shen demanded, he desperately needed to know whether she had sold the thing to Mubai. "Get these men out of here, I want to talk to you alone!"

Xinghe smiled up at him, “Why do you think I would do that?”

“I’m serious.” Ye Shen frowned. “Don’t worry, I will not do anything to harm you.”

“The most I will give you is five minutes, so get on with it. If not, the door is behind you,” Xinghe declared directly, not giving Ye Shen any face.

Ye Shen gritted his teeth in fury.

This b*tch really thinks she’s someone important simply because she f*cks that b*stard Xi Mubai? Just wait until I get the thing I need and the b*tch will pay!

“Thank you, then I’ll come out with it and ask. What is your relationship with Xi Mubai? If you don’t explain it clearly, you can forget about the divorce!” Ye Shen said threateningly.

The divorce was the only leverage he had over Xia Meng so, of course, he was going to milk that advantage.

As he expected, Xinghe was silent before answering softly. “We do not have a relationship.”

“No relationship?” Ye Shen sneered with incredulity. “He’s willing to bend over backwards to help you because you two have no relationship?”

“My father was once the Xi’s benefactor so they are repaying his kindness now. They will give me anything I want,” Xinghe said with a straight-face.

She was kind of telling the truth but it was Xia Chengwen who once helped out Xi Family and not Xia Meng’s father.

Ye Shen was surprised by this revelation. He scanned Xia Meng’s face and decided she was not lying and the reason was quite believable.

“For real?” He asked with uncertainty.

Xinghe chuckled. “What does it have to do you whether it’s real or not?”

Ye Shen also laughed because he was relieved Xia Meng didn’t hand the thing over to Xi Mubai.

A relaxed Ye Shen planted himself comfortably on the sofa like he owned the place. He leered shamelessly like a gangster. “Xia Meng, since the Xi’s are in your debt, how can you only give me 2,000,000 RMB?”

Xinghe stared at him, confused. “What do you mean by that?”

Ye Shen laughed heartily and stared with interest at her. “Don’t play dumb with me. The divorce is worth more than 2,000,000 RMB, if you raise the numbers a little more, perhaps I might consider it.”

Xinghe laughed out loud. This was rich; she had not met a character as vile as this Ye Shen before.

Chapter 302: Courting Death!

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The man had ruined Xia Meng's life and now had the audacity to demand a larger sum of money for the divorce.

Xinghe was curious, how did he become so shameless?

This was an action unbecoming a human, much less a man!

"Then how much do you want?" Xinghe inquired slowly, trying to see how shameless the weasel before her could really get.

Ye Shen looked at her excitedly and pushed out an open palm.

"5,000,000 RMB?"

"With two added zero."

Five hundred million, the pig wants five hundred million?

"You might as well go rob a bank," Xinghe quipped.

Ye Shen blinked as if he didn't understand what Xinghe was saying. "Is that too much? That amount for the Xi family is nothing. Xia Meng, think about it, paying me for the divorce is not a bad deal for you as well. I hear Xi Mubai is now single, his original engagement has been broken off. After getting the divorce from me, you can start to pursue him in earnest so you see, I'm really helping you here."

Xinghe stared at him like he was some sort of a monster. She laughed coldly. "I have to say, you've truly enlightened on how despicable a man can get."

Just what kind of dark magic compelled Xia Meng to fall for this... thing in the first place? I will never understand.

Ye Shen scooted closer to her and elaborated in a conspiratorial voice, "I'm doing this only for you. I know you are not happy being married to me so the earlier you get divorced from me, the earlier you can get involved with Xi Mubai. Of course, that wouldn't happen if you stay as my wife, so you see, you should be thanking me really."

Xinghe stared wide-eyed at him before saying, “Aren’t you afraid that the first thing I’ll do after I’ve seduced Mubai, as you called it, is to come after you?”

Ye Shen suddenly started laughing like he heard the best joke in the world. He even gripped his stomach in a cartoonish manner.

“Xia Meng, I didn’t know you’re such a joker... hahaha...” Ye Shen couldn’t stop laughing. He was mocking Xia Meng’s stupidity.

The b*tch really thinks Xi Mubai is interested in her? This is too much. The dumb b*tch really thinks Xi Mubai would want to have my sloppy seconds?

Of course, he wouldn’t voice those thoughts out loud. After a series of back-breaking guffaws, he finally calmed down enough to say, “Don’t worry, if you can get him to fall in love with you and even marry you, then sure, come at me with all you’ve got. I’ll be waiting and that’s a promise. I will not fault you for what happens in the future, I just want the profit now.”

“How kind of you,” Xinghe said with a smirk. Ye Shen was giving her the permission to face-slap him to hell and back. She was going to enjoy it, that’s for sure.

Ye Shen was confused by what she meant. She didn’t care to explain it to him, she asked coldly, “You’ll sign the divorce papers if I give you five hundred million?”

“That’s right, also let’s not forget the thing you promised me. The thing your father left you,” Ye Shen reminded her, salivating with greed, “After you give me everything, I promise you I will divorce you immediately and will not appear in your life anymore! But if you don’t, Xia Meng, you will always be my property, and I will make you birth many children for me. I’m sure you don’t want that, right? This is the only chance I’m giving you to get the divorce from me, so, Xia Meng, I’m sure a clever girl like yourself knows what to do.”

Xinghe felt like retching.

“I will think about it.” Xinghe frowned with disgust.

Ye Shen jumped up with excitement. “Okay, take your time to figure it out. Call me when you’re done. I’ll be waiting for you!”

Then, he left with hips swaying from sheer joy.

He was too caught up in his own bliss to realize a deadly gaze was staring at him from behind.

Mubai had walked out of one of the rooms and was staring at Ye Shen’s back, branding him for death.

Xinghe took a look at him and asked, “What do you think of his proposal?”

“He’s courting death!” Mubai concluded icily.

Chapter 303: Overfed

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He almost ran out to snap Ye Shen's neck when he mentioned having kids with Xinghe!

Although his words were directed at Xia Meng, Mubai still felt it was an unforgivable violation!

Xinghe nodded slightly, signaling her agreement. Ye Shen was courting death.

If not for the fact that she still needed information from Ye Shen, she would have crushed him already. He still had his uses, so she kept him around for a while longer.

"What do you plan to do?" Mubai sat down opposite her and asked.

"What else can I go? Of course I'm going to satisfy his demands," Xinghe said with a wicked smile.

Of course, Mubai wasn't naïve enough to take her words at face value.

He raised his brow slightly and teased, "And what exactly do you mean by that?"

Xinghe smiled and replied, "I'm going to give him more than he bargained for!"

...

Xinghe didn't agree to Ye Shen's conditions immediately but dragged it out for a few days. She waited until Ye Shen came to her because his company was at the brink of bankruptcy.

However, she didn't agree so easily either.

"Five hundred million is too large a sum of money to ask for out of nowhere even though my father once helped the Xi family. They could only give me three hundred million, take it or leave it," Xinghe told Ye Shen with a serious countenance.

Ye Shen was indeed furious his five hundred million became only three, but he desperately needed money then and three was still greater than zero. Furthermore, the thing he really

wanted was the thing in Xia Meng's possession, the three hundred million was an added bonus.

"Fine, give me everything, not one cent less!" Ye Shen hissed through clenched teeth, still upset over the missing two hundred million.

"Then sign these now!" Xinghe dropped the divorce papers on the table. She had already given the documents to the real Xia Meng to sign her parts earlier.

Ye Shen didn't even look at the papers. He stared her and laughed impishly. "I will do that after you hand over the money and stuff."

Xinghe nodded with ease. "Sure, but I have a question for you. You have to answer it truthfully or I will give you nothing. I don't mind stalling you as long as I may live! After all, with so much money, I can disappear to any corner of the world and buy myself a new identity. You'll be unable to touch me."

Ye Shen's face fell. Xinghe was right, she had the upper hand in this trade. He just didn't expect she would be clever enough to realize that. If not for the fact that his company was facing bankruptcy, he would not allow the b*tch to treat him this way!

However, to not provoke her, he pushed up a smile and said, "Ask away. I will answer you if I can."

Xinghe gave a nearby bodyguard a nonverbal signal and the guard moved forward to hand her a box.

Inside the box was a black rectangular casket. Ye Shen's eyes were practically glowing when he saw the thing.

Xinghe leveled him an icy gaze and questioned, "What is this thing and why have you worked so hard to get it?"

Ye Shen averted his eyes temporarily before replying with a smile, "It is nothing important, it's pretty much a piece of garbage to you. But, it just so happens to be of slight value to me."

"Why is it valuable to you?"

"That has nothing to do with you, right?"

“Fine, guard, keep this and escort him out! Ye Shen, you are getting nothing from me!” Xinghe ordered calmly as the guard moved towards Ye Shen.

Ye Shen knew he was cornered.

I have to reveal something, he warned himself, but certainly not everything.

Chapter 304: Sign Here

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After some hesitation, he revealed, “It is a type of rare metal.”

“Metal?” Xinghe said with mild surprise.

She studied the black casket in her hands and realized it did look metallic; it definitely wasn’t a common metal.

This was because the thing was incredibly light, so much so that Xinghe thought the thing was hollow, an observation that was proven wrong after analysis.

She didn’t ponder the possibility of it being a rare metal.

“What kind of metal?” Xinghe followed up.

“You wouldn’t know even if I tell you, and as to why I want it, that doesn’t concern you either. That’s all I can say, I don’t know any more than that.”

“How did you know I had this in my possession?” Xinghe pressed.

Ye Shen smirked. “That is none of your business either. The only thing you need to know is it is useless to you but incredibly useful to me.”

“Didn’t you just say it is of little value to you?” Xinghe chuckled. “Ye Shen, if you don’t give me more than that, then perhaps our deal will be over.”

Ye Shen thought about it and started to laugh like he didn’t care for her threat at all.

“Xia Meng, even if you don’t give it to me, I will find other ways to get it eventually. But don’t think you can trap me with your words and get me to reveal more. That is impossible! So you can save the trouble of trying to do so.”

Then, he stood up to straighten his suit. “Looks like you want to stay married to me, I can see why, I am a great catch after all. But I’m telling you, after I walk out this door, I will go to the precinct and make a police report and media statement to reveal to the world how you have cheated on me with Xi

Mubai. Let's see whether the Xi family will still cover your back after that."

After a series of cackles, the emboldened Ye Shen turned to leave.

"Ye Shen, aren't you afraid the Xi family will come after you?" Xinghe said slowly.

Ye Shen turned to laugh at her. "In fact, I'm afraid they wouldn't because I still need something I can use against the two of you! Xia Meng, I have nothing now, do you know what that means?"

Xinghe stared at him mildly, without saying a word.

Ye Shen revealed in a dramatic drawl, "It means I have nothing to lose but everything to gain."

"..."

"If the two of you want to come for me, then I welcome it, let's see who has more to lose!"

"You truly are one hell of a scoundrel," Xinghe observed softly.

Living up to his scoundrel name, Ye Shen replied, "I'm glad you finally realized that. So you want to me give the thing or not?"

"Naturally I will, because I cannot stand you anymore!"

Ye Shen thought this meant Xinghe couldn't stand being his wife anymore, while Xinghe truly meant she couldn't stand breathing the same air as him anymore.

Ye Shen smiled triumphantly. "See, how hard was that? You should have done that earlier and saved the both of us some time and trouble."

"Give me your account number, I'll do the transfer now," Xinghe ordered directly. She was tired of this conversation already.

Ye Shen's heart jumped excitedly and revealed his bank information to her.

Xinghe picked up the laptop on the table, pressed a few buttons and said, “Done.”

Ye Shen pulled out his phone to check his account and it was true, his bank showed a recent pay-in of three hundred million RMB!

Ye Shen was ecstatic. He couldn't help but starting to laugh. “Xia Meng, I knew there was a benefit to marrying you so many years ago!”

Xinghe suddenly tossed him the black casket. “Sign the papers—”

“Don't worry, I will sign them now!” Ye Shen happily signed his name on the divorce papers with both the money and the casket in his hands.

This was perhaps the single greatest trade he had ever made in his life.

Little did he know, he was signing his death warrant...

Chapter 305: Teasing Her In Front of Him

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The moment Ye Shen signed his name, a guard stepped forward to take away the divorce papers.

He studied them closely before passing them to Xinghe, adding, “Miss Xia, everything’s there.”

Xinghe accepted and took a quick look at it before telling Ye Shen, “From this second onwards, remember that you, Ye Shen, and I, Xia Meng, no longer have any relationship between us.”

“But of course,” Ye Shen said happily, “However, we did once share a bed together, so feel free to come to me for help should you need it. Of course, I wish the best between you and Xi Mubai. Who knows, you might be able to fool him into marrying you. Hahaha...”

The mockery in Ye Shen’s words couldn’t have been clearer. Of course, Xinghe could read between the lines.

Looking at Ye Shen’s smug face, Xinghe reminded him softly, “Similarly, come find me if you need any help.”

“You’ll still welcome me?” Ye Shen asked in earnest shock.

Xinghe nodded. “Of course, my doors are always open.”

“Sure, sure, I will come find you if I need help!” Ye Shen put away all the things and left with a giant smile plastered on his face.

However, he turned back after several steps to say, “Actually, Xia Meng, to tell you the truth, I’m incredibly into the new you. If you’d acted like this and cooperated since the very beginning, we wouldn’t have ended up as a divorced couple. But, no matter, I don’t mind saying I still have some residual feelings towards you. So, if you feel like it, come find me because I don’t mind helping you scratch that itch... if you catch my drift.”

His gaze lingered salaciously on Xinghe’s body.

For better or for worse, his interest on this new side of his ex-wife was piqued. Subjugating such a proud b*tch in bed must be a challenging yet joyful exercise.

“Xia Meng, why you didn’t show this side of yours sooner, we could have prevented so many troubles,” Ye Shen teased her lecherously.

Xinghe gloomily glared at him.

“Then you would have died sooner as well.”

Ye Shen didn’t understand what she meant, but it didn’t matter anymore. He shrugged and left while laughing. Even after he’d left the villa’s grounds, Xinghe could still hear his elated laughs.

Mubai came out of one of the rooms radiating a frosty aura.

He grabbed the divorce papers out of Xinghe’s hands and shoved them at the guard. He ordered with killing intent, “Get this settled immediately!”

“Yes!”

The guard quickly moved to oblige.

However, the frosty aura surrounded Mubai didn’t dissipate. He told Xinghe, “Leave the rest to me. Save yourself the trouble of needing to face that human trash.”

Yes, Ye Shen was to him a trash that he couldn’t wait to recycle. How dare he tease Xinghe in front of him again and again? Mubai would bury Ye Shen alive.

Xinghe nodded. “Then I will leave this in your hands to follow up and I will wait for him to come find me.”

Mubai’s smile was chilling like a vampire out for blood.

“Don’t worry, I will make sure he crawls back here to you.”

Then, he would help Xinghe slaughter him like the animal that he was!

...

Ye Shen didn’t know a serious case of bad luck was coming his way. In fact, he thought he had stumbled onto an

unexpected fortune.

After all, he finally managed to get the black casket from Xia Meng and, not only that, swindled three hundred million from the b*tch!

With that money, Ye Corps could survive this crisis and might even expand in the future.

With Xia Meng's begrudging aid, his future was as bright as it could be. Ye Shen's blood boiled with excitement as he stepped into the world that he felt, at that moment, was under his feet!

Chapter 306: The Beginning of the End

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, he didn't realize the world was actually waiting for him to fall.

Ye Shen poured the newly acquired money into his company, waiting confidently for Ye Corps to resuscitate.

Who could've known that on the second day, a bunch of police officers would come knocking on his door!

Ye Shen was still asleep when the police barged into his bedroom and detained him without even questioning him.

“What is the meaning of this?” The almost naked Ye Shen was pressed into his bed, as he screamed in fury and shame.

The leading police officer explained calmly, “Ye Shen, we are arresting you for the online bank heist. Please do not struggle and follow us to the police station to aid in our investigation!”

Ye Shen widened his eyes in shock, he had no idea what the police officer was talking about. “What online bank heist? There must be a mistake! Do you know who I am? How dare you treat me this way...”

“Yesterday someone hacked into Xi Empire's corporate account and stole three hundred million worth of liquid assets. After some investigation, we found that all the money was transferred into your personal account. Don't tell me you do not know such a thing!”

What?

Ye Shen's mind was blasted into a state of emptiness. He couldn't figure out what had happened.

“That money was given to me by Xi Mubai, I didn't steal it. My ex-wife, Xia Meng gave it to me, if you don't believe me, you can go and ask her!” Ye Shen explained indignantly but fear slowly crept into his heart. For some reason, he felt his world was unraveling.

“We will investigate everything you’ve told us, but now you must follow us to the precinct. Take him away boys!” the officer ordered authoritatively.

No matter how hard Ye Shen struggled or how hard the people from the Ye family begged, Ye Shen was detained just like that. The police didn’t even give him a chance to put on some clothes. They shoved a paper bag over his head and paraded Ye Shen’s underwear to the world as they hauled him to the police car.

Ye Shen felt it was the biggest humiliation he had ever suffered in his life, little did he know an even bigger humiliation awaited him...

What followed at the precinct was a series of interrogations. Ye Shen finally realized the truth, he was swindled by the b*tch Xia Meng and probably her lover, Xi Mubai!

But he couldn’t understand why the police couldn’t find out the truth.

“You claimed the three hundred millions were given to you by Xia Meng? Our men just came back from an interview with Miss Xia, she said she has no recollection of such a thing.”

“But she did give it to me!” Ye Shen stood up agitatedly but was pressed down by the police standing behind him. “Sit still!”

Ye Shen calmed himself and said vehemently, “She paid me three hundred million RMB to get a divorce from me so that she could get together with Xi Mubai. Go and check it if you don’t believe me, we just signed the divorce papers yesterday!”

“Miss Xia told us about that as well. However, she said she gave you 2,000,000 as divorce settlements and not three hundred million, the clause was clearly written in the divorce settlement so you can understand we are more inclined to believe her.”

Ye Shen was dumbstruck. The feeling in him that he had walked into an intricate trap was growing stronger and stronger.

“She really did give me three hundred million RMB! How could I possibly hack Xi Empire’s assets? I don’t know any hacking skills! That b*tch, this is all Xia Meng’s plan to entrap me!”

The officer smirked chillingly. “If that’s your argument, Miss Xia knows less about hacking than you do. We’ve went through her past carefully, she studied mass media in school and never had the chance to pick up any high level computer skills. How could she possibly steal the money to frame you?”

“But that’s the truth! There must be transaction records in the bank, look at those and you’ll see it was she who sent me the money!”

Chapter 307: Punishment

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“The only thing we got from the bank was the electronic trail of your illegal actions. After the money appeared in your account, not only did you not report it but you also siphoned it to your corporate account, so how can you say you have nothing to do with this amount of money?”

“But, I really have nothing to do with it, the money was given to me by Xia Meng. Speaking of the b*tch, I demand to meet her. I’m going to confront her face-to-face! She is framing me together with her lover, Xi Mubai!” Ye Shen yelled.

The officer smirked again. “That is just perfect because Miss Xia is charging you for domestic abuse during her marriage to you. The hospital kept the records of her earlier injuries and she has officially sued you for deliberate injury and causing her lifelong disability!”

Ye Shen widened his eyes in disbelief and horror. He felt he was falling into a deep chasm. Yesterday, he had the whole world under his feet, and today the whole world had turned on him.

This has to be that b*tch’s scheme! She has me played for a fool from the very beginning. She wants to take me down just like that?

Ye Shen gripped his fists tightly, his eyes burning with killing intent.

“Xia Meng, how dare you plot against me, I will make you pay and suffer!”

The police officer behind him slapped him hard on the back of his head, berating, “Have you forgotten where you are? You dared to threaten someone else’s safety in the presence of law enforcement? I suggest you confess to your mistakes and we might help you appeal for a lighter sentence.”

Ye Shen glared at the policemen and cackled. “Never! You will never get a confession out of me!”

The police merely smiled at him. “Fine, but don’t worry, we have more than enough ways to squeeze a confession out of you.”

“Come at me! If you dare, then kill me!” Ye Shen taunted. He really thought the police couldn’t do anything to him.

While physical torture was banned due to basic human rights but there were plenty of mental torture techniques that were available within the confines of legality, and Ye Shen had tasted them all.

Banging on the door just as he was falling asleep, depriving him the privacy of using the toilet, shining the light into his eyes at night... But to Ye Shen’s credit, he suffered through them all.

He refused to confess because he knew the moment he did, it would be over for him. However, since the police didn’t technically physically assault him, he could do nothing against them because there was no injury to prove police brutality. If he fought back, then the police could club him and claim self-defense. It was a lose-lose deal for Ye Shen.

Ye Shen had been unable for sleep for god knows how many days already. Sleep deprivation, a torture method employed in Soviet internment camps, was taking a toll on him. His energy was drained to such a degree that he could barely move his body.

However, he still refused to confess and cried to meet Xia Meng every day.

Xinghe refused his demand to meet her, because the time was not ripe. Ye Shen’s mind hadn’t completely broken yet. Only then would Ye Shen’s lips be loosened enough to give her the information she needed.

Xinghe knew about Ye Shen’s torture but she wasn’t at all affected by it.

Mubai loved this about her. She would never hold back against those who were unfortunate enough to cross her bottom line.

“Lu Qi said there is finally some progress on his side. The research should be completed soon,” Mubai told Xinghe

happily.

They were having tea at the villa's back garden. The place was well hidden and had an intimate feeling. Mubai enjoyed spending quality time with her there every afternoon.

He would feel recharged every time after the afternoon tea. Secluded from the outside, it was as if there were only her and himself in the entire world; he very much lived for that feeling.

Xinghe nodded. "There's no need to rush as long as the research is successful in the end."

Chapter 308: Shameless to the Max

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai smiled, he loved this serenity about Xinghe as well. No matter what she was faced with, she could maintain an aura of calm and self-assurance. Every time he talked with her, he felt a weight lifted.

“You’ve been shut in for quite some time already. Do you want me to accompany you out for a walk?” he asked kindly.

Ever since Xinghe became Xia Meng, she had practically locked herself up in the villa. However, it wasn’t that Xinghe didn’t want to go out, she didn’t feel the need to. She preferred the silence of solitude.

“No, thank you...” Xinghe only finished answering that they heard a loud commotion coming from outside.

It was a shrill female voice and the person was loud because they could hear it from so far away.

Mubai’s smile froze and he grumbled angrily, “Those women are back!”

Needless to say, it was most likely the women from the Ye family who’d come to trouble them again. After Ye Shen was arrested, Mrs. Ye came to cause a ruckus almost every day. She was certain it was Xia Meng who framed her son so she came every day to demand an explanation from Xia Meng. Since she was blocked by the guards, she started slandering Xia Meng’s name. Words that one wouldn’t even think could come out from the mouth a reputable family’s madam came tumbling out of her mouth like a waterfall.

“Xia Meng, you b*tch, come out here and face me! You whore, how could you collude with another man to come after your own husband? Karma will come bite you in the ass!”

“Xia Meng, I demand that you get your slutty ass out here, do you not hear me? Come out and explain yourself! You cooperated with that gigolo lover of yours, Xi Mubai, to frame my son, didn’t you? I know that’s the truth, so don’t you deny it. The two of you had a secret affair behind my son’s back and

now you have the audacity to come after him. One slut and another gigolo, two heartless individuals! Thunder will strike the both of you where you stand! F*ck you and f*ck the entire Xi Family! The Xi family is a failure because they've raised a son who goes around sleeping with another man's wife! Every single of them are pigs that deserve to be sent to the depths of hell..."

Mrs. Ye droned on and on, and every single insult fell into Mubai and Xinghe's ears. They were just inside the front door so they could hear her clearly.

Mubai was enraged, he wished to wash the old lady's mouth out with soap. She was insulting not only his entire family but also Xinghe!

They thought they could just ignore a crazy woman like her and she would eventually go away, but she persisted.

"The woman is asking for it. Open the door, I want to see her say that to me in person!" Mubai ordered the guards.

"We cannot do that, Young Master. There are reporters outside," the guards quickly advised him.

After being chased away the few times earlier, this time Mrs. Ye came prepared. She was going to use the power of the media to pressure Xia Meng and Mubai. The tabloids and rumors should be enough to create trouble in paradise. In other words, since they made life difficult for her son, she was going to make Xia Meng and Mubai's lives hell as well.

However, before Mubai made his appearance, the reporters wouldn't dare write baseless accusations. However, the moment he did, things would be a lot more complicated.

"Open the door." Mubai didn't seem to mind the implications as he ordered again with more force this time.

Xinghe stopped him. "Let me handle this."

"Not necessary!" Mubai pulled her back and looked into her eyes, "I don't want you to worry about a small thing like this."

Xinghe raised her brow. Small thing? If the public really begins to suspect us of having an affair then it will be a huge

blow to Xi Empire's name.

However, Mubai didn't seem like he minded all these things.

“Open the door—” He ordered again. The guards didn't dare to ignore his commands anymore so they moved to oblige.

Chapter 309: Simple and Easy

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Ye Qin joined her mother in the insults. Every kind of insult came out of their dainty mouths...

The cameras kept flashing. Try as the security might to stop them, it was to no avail. The place was complete chaos.

“B*tch, if you don’t come out now, I will torch this place to the ground! I’ll burn you pair of sluts alive!” Mrs. Ye growled angrily and finally the front door to the villa slowly opened.

“Burn us alive? I don’t mind seeing you try.” Mubai’s authoritative voice drifted across the courtyard as his tall figure walked out from behind the door.

Everyone present was stunned.

Mrs. Ye tapped the reporters around her excitedly while pointing at him. “You see, Xi Mubai is here! My accusations are all true!”

The reporters snapped into attention and, like a crazed mob, knocked the gate guards out of the way as they surged forwards and then crowded around Mubai. The camera lights didn’t once stop. It was as if all of them had forgotten who they were dealing with.

Mubai’s chilly gaze swept the crowd of people and opened his lips to order, “Destroy all the cameras and camera phones here! Break the leg of those who dare to run, round them all up!”

His group of trained personal bodyguards leaped into the crowd and started tussling with the reporters.

In about one or two seconds, one camera after another was thrown to the floor and shattered in pieces.

“What are you doing?”

“My camera, no!”

“This is illegal. My company will sue!”

The reporters were enraged but also afraid.

After the bodyguards took care of all the recording devices, they quickly set up a perimeter around the reporters, not giving anyone of them a chance to get away.

The few reporters who initially struggled were scared into immobility.

Mrs. Ye and Ye Qin stared dumbfounded as this unfolded before their eyes...

They didn't expect Mubai would be so ruthless. They hugged each other in shock and before they could recover, Mubai's lethal gaze fell upon them.

"Detain the two of them and send them to the police station. I'm charging them for libel and slander."

"Yes, sir!" The few guards moved to pull them away.

"Let me go, you cannot treat your elder this way, let me go!" Mrs. Ye struggled furiously, while Ye Qin begged with tears in her eyes, "CEO Xi, the words we said weren't directed towards you but Xia Meng. You misunderstood us, this is all a misunderstanding."

"Do you think I'm deaf?" Mubai succinctly replied.

Even if they didn't come after his Xi family, he wouldn't have forgiven them because they went after Xinghe and Xinghe was his family.

After Mrs. Ye and Ye Qin were taken away, the reporters shivered in fear, afraid that his wrath would come for them next.

They finally knew fear then. They regretted angering him for a little tabloid news. The man before them was not the smiling CEO they'd once known, they realized they had unfortunately crossed a line. They just didn't expect he would have such a ruthless character.

Now, they only prayed that Mubai would not pursue their responsibility or it might not be their cameras that were ruined but their careers too.

To their consternation, Mubai announced emotionlessly, "I will pursue reparation from every reporter here. You've

committed the crime of trespassing into my private property and injuring my men. Each one of you will personally receive a letter from my corporate lawyers soon enough.”

With that, Mubai turned back into the villa, ignoring the pleading cries for mercy from the crowd of reporters.

Chapter 310: Finally Agreed to Meet Him

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai resolved everything within five minutes. Xinghe hadn't expected him to be so harsh and borderline predatory. Then again, he wouldn't have achieved his professional standing by being nice and kind to everyone.

"Those people will not disturb you ever again," Mubai told her kindly as he walked in.

He was a complete different character to the one outside.

Xinghe nodded. "Thank you but you really shouldn't have done it. I could have handled it just fine, so while I appreciate your help, I assure you can I take care of the rest."

Mubai smiled and raised his arms in mock surrender. "Alright, I'll leave everything else to you. I will not be a busybody anymore."

He was glad he could at least chase away the reporters and the Ye women for her.

Of course, he wanted to help her settle everything but he knew doing that would only anger Xinghe. She didn't want to rely on anyone, she had made that very clear.

Furthermore, it might be best for Xinghe to interrogate Ye Shen because she would know what questions to ask.

...

Ye Shen couldn't stand the torture anymore and agreed to the confession. He preferred jail time to continuing the humiliation they had prepared for him.

He gritted his teeth and suffered through everything they threw at him and they finally broke him when they arranged for him to share a cell with a group of inmates that bent a particular way.

For a man like Ye Shen, who spent his entire adult life as a player, he would rather die than to end up someone's bottom b*tch. Masculinity is so fragile sometimes.

Ye Shen promised he would reveal everything as long as he could be saved from playing ‘pick up the soap’ with the boys.

After Xinghe heard that, she finally agreed to meet him.

Ye Shen was brought to a high-security interrogation room. Soon after he was led there, the door opened to reveal Xinghe who slowly walked in.

Ye Shen leaned against the chair weakly as he raised his eyes to look at her. There was a plethora of emotions in his eyes. There was the expected hatred but also desolateness. Previously, he was the tormentor but now the table had turned and he was the tormented.

Ye Shen really didn’t expect the woman he’d once slapped around whenever he felt like it could plan a scheme so carefully to trap him. It was like she was a new woman. She could even pin something like an online heist on him, she was truly impressive!

In other words, if not for her, he wouldn’t have ended up that way.

Therefore, when he saw her walk in, Ye Shen charged at the partition that separated the both of them with all his force. The screen shook violently.

“Xia Meng, you b*tch, tell them what you did and get me absolved of my crimes! You framed me! I will never forgive you, you b*tch!”

Xinghe slowed in her steps and stared at him unblinkingly. “If that is all you want to say to men, then I guess I will be leaving.”

Then, she turned to leave.

“No—” Ye Shen begged anxiously, “Xia Meng, please wait, I didn’t mean it, I don’t know what came over me. I didn’t mean what I said, please don’t go, please!”

It was back to the boys if she left and the prospect of it squeezed his shaking heart. He didn’t want to lose his other virginity.

Right then, Ye Shen realized he'd totally lost. The only choice he had was to cooperate with Xinghe...

Xinghe turned back, satisfied with what she'd heard.

She sat down in the chair and ordered slowly, "Come and sit, because I have a lot of questions for you. Answer them well and you might even get a reward."

"A reward?" Ye Shen asked hastily like a servant eager to please his master. "What kind of reward?"

Chapter 311: A Doomsday Prophecy

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe curled her lips into a smile. “A reward like getting Xi Empire to rescind its lawsuit against you.”

“For real?” Ye Shen was startled.

“That depends on your cooperation and whether I’m satisfied with your answer or not.”

“I will cooperate one hundred percent! I will answer every single question you ask!” For the sake of freedom, Ye Shen could promise even his life. He didn’t want to spend his whole life in jail, being shared like a piece of meat. No secret was more important than that.

Ye Shen’s emotions were a complicated mess.

This woman before him, who he once treated as something less than a pet dog, was riding over his head. She even managed to wrap Xi Mubai around her finger...

Just how did she do it? If he had known she would one day rise to this height, he wouldn’t have treated her so badly before.

Xinghe didn’t have time to take care of his emotions. She asked directly, “Tell me, you’re familiar with Project Galaxy, aren’t you?”

Ye Shen stared blankly at her in utter shock.

“You know about that too?” The words slipped out of his mouth before he could stop them.

He thought she didn’t know anything, because Xia Meng had always acted dumb in front of him.

“Tell me everything you know,” Xinghe demanded in a voice that brooked no argument.

Ye Shen’s eyes shifted around, and then he scanned his surroundings anxiously.

“There is no surveillance in here. Other than myself, there will be no second person who will hear what you say.”

Xinghe had predicted the worry that was on his mind.

Ye Shen turned back to look at her, attempting to gauge her response. “Turns out you knew about the project all along, so you must know what my purpose is, right?”

“I know some but I don’t mind getting more information from you.” Xinghe’s answer was ambiguous. At the same time, she warned him, “Don’t try to keep anything from me. If I realize you’re playing any tricks, be prepared to stay locked up here forever.”

The bad thoughts were instantly extinguished in Ye Shen’s mind.

He slumped down into the chair like he no longer had any energy left. “Fine, I will tell you everything but I have to warn you that I don’t know much either and you will not believe me even if I tell you the things I know.”

Xinghe’s eyes shone slightly. “Try me.”

“Do you believe in the power of prophecies?” Ye Shen stared at her while he asked.

Xinghe was taken aback. “Prophecies?”

For some reasons, hearing that word sent slight tremors through her heart. It reminded her too much of her foreshadowing dreams...

Ye Shen nodded excitedly. “That’s right, a doomsday prophecy to be precise! The prophecy states that the world will end in fifteen years’ time!”

Ye Shen purposely added as much drama as he could but he failed to elicit any response from Xinghe. She didn’t even call him a crazy.

“Who told you this prophecy?” she asked calmly.

This surprised Ye Shen. “You aren’t curious about its validity?”

“I will decide that on my own. Your job now is only to answer my questions.”

Ye Shen stared intensely at Xinghe and suddenly sighed with feelings, “Xia Meng, you truly have changed. I find myself unable to read your thoughts.”

This was a given since it was now Xinghe occupying Xia Meng’s mind.

“Your father told you about the prophesy?” Xinghe asked softly.

Ye Shen nodded. “That’s right, Pops told me the prophesy. Actually, I’m surprised you didn’t know that, then again, your father probably didn’t tell you because he didn’t want you to live your whole life in fear.”

“What is the usage of the black casket?” Xinghe ignored him and pressed on. Her every question was incisive and to the point.

Ye Shen had already revealed a big secret so he was starting to have second thoughts. “Are you sure you can get me out of here after I tell you everything?”

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Words from the author: I admit there is a sudden jump in the writing but please know that it might not be what you think it is. The focus of this story is still the face-slapping. I admit this might be hard for some of you to swallow but I have already tried my best to keep this interesting without getting repetitious. I hope you will keep on supporting me because the overall tone of this story doesn’t really change but I understand if you don’t. /cries~

Words from the translator: This chapter is where most people told me where they decided to drop this. I understand and respect your decision but please try not to write, ‘I’m dropping this’ or something of that fashion in the comments because it really decreases my drive ☐

This chapter and the next eight are sponsored by nine ladies dancing.

Chapter 312: Like a Joke

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“I swear, I will help you get Xi Empire off your back,” Xinghe promised with confidence.

Ye Shen was finally placated. “Anyway, you have to cooperate with me. After all, I don’t want to die in here when the end of the world comes.”

“If you can live until then, sure, I don’t mind cooperating with you. Of course, the premise is that you haven’t lied to me.”

For some reason, Ye Shen bought everything she said even without evidence. Then again, what other choice did he have? He was at her mercy. He needed her help to get out of there to prepare for the rapture in fifteen years. He might be penniless when he got out, but at least it was better than rotting inside the jail.

Furthermore...

He had his own plan.

After Ye Shen got Xinghe’s verbal promise, he cooperated and revealed everything he knew.

“That black casket is an energy crystal,” he corrected her.

Xinghe was visibly surprised. “What energy crystal?”

Ye Shen smiled smugly for able to break through her defenses. “Energy crystal to power the spaceship. Without it, we wouldn’t be able to escape from Earth.”

Xinghe narrowed her eyes at him. “What does this have to do with Project Galaxy?”

“You’re quite perceptive I have to say, you managed to make the link so soon,” Ye Shen sighed weakly. After talking for so long, he was feeling increasingly drained. “I’m not too sure about the particulars of this plan but based from the name itself, I bet the aim of the project is to escape Earth and find another planet to repopulate, don’t you agree?”

Xinghe was quiet with contemplation. Is that really the point of Project Galaxy?

“How is it related to our parents?”

Ye Shen sneered at her. “I just praised your intelligence and now you ask a stupid question. Since they’ve predicted the end of the world, of course, they needed to prepare for it. Project Galaxy is a plan formulated by those people who wanted to escape from Earth.”

“Is that so? Then where are those people?” Xinghe rebutted.

“Gone into the galaxy, obviously! Project Galaxy started so long ago so they must have left already. For some reason, they couldn’t bring us along with them so they left their progeny with these energy crystals. With these crystals, we’ll be able to escape when the end of the world comes.”

“Where is the spaceship then? How can we possibly escape with only energy crystals and not a spaceship?”

“I have no idea where it is, but I’m sure someone knows about the information regarding the spaceship, and that would be where you come in.” This was Ye Shen’s plan.

He smiled obsequiously at Xinghe. “Xia Meng, now the responsibility to secure the remaining energy crystals and spaceship will fall into your hands. Of course, if I’m not stuck in here and you find yourself with nothing to go on, maybe I can help shoulder the burden.”

That was a major hint. If she wanted his aid, then she had to let him go.

“What else do you know?” Xinghe pressed.

“That’s all,” Ye Shen said openly. He laughed. “It’s fine if you don’t believe me, just consider everything I said a joke then.”

“It does sound like a huge joke!”

Doomsday prophecy? Spaceship? It is simply too preposterous!

“You’re right, it is a joke.” Ye Shen guffawed. After all, he didn’t expect her to believe him from the very beginning. Plus

this was a matter of statistics, the more the people who believed him, the smaller the chance for him to get on the spaceship.

Xinghe stood up and challenged him, “Ye Shen, haven’t you considered plot holes like, could a group of people from the previous generation not only correctly predicted the end of the world but also created two spaceships, one for them to get away in and another for their future descendants to use decades later?”

Chapter 313: Shadows in the Dark

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Ye Shen was stunned into silence.

“Other than that, haven’t you considered the curious coincidence that both of our fathers appeared in City T 30 years ago and disappeared 12 years ago?”

“ ... ”

“What you have is a very small piece of the puzzle.”

Ye Shen’s face drooped.

Xinghe laughed. “Therefore, the truth might not be as what you said. Before finding out all the information, every theory is mere speculation, including yours!”

“No, you’re wrong!” Ye Shen’s eyes bored into her. “Pops would not lie to me, he has taken the spaceship and left Earth!”

“Let’s just assume you’re right, could it be that he left for a reason other than the end of the world? A doomsday prophecy is nothing new and maybe he found out some new information to confirm its validity or it was something else completely. However, I believe they did stumble upon something important and I will get to the bottom of it. If you want to know the actual truth, then you have to cooperate with me, so now tell me, where is your energy crystal?”

Ye Shen chuckled darkly. “I will not tell you this no matter what. This is my last bargaining chip, I will give it to you when the end of the world arrives. You want it now? Impossible.”

“So uncooperative?” Xinghe smirked. “I don’t believe in this doomsday stuff. If you refuse to tell me, then be prepared to stay here forever.”

“I don’t mind staying in here for a while longer because you will eventually come around. Not to mention, I have in my hands the energy crystal you need,” Ye Shen said confidently.

Xinghe stared at him coldly. “Fine, then be prepared to rot in here for the entirety of your life!”

To be perfectly honest, she didn’t intend to let him out in the first place. With the trade broken, Xinghe turned to leave. However, she did inform the police to send Ye Shen back to his usual jail cell, and save him from the fate of sharing a cell with sodomites. He did give her some information; she was only being fair.

She really didn’t mind waiting for Ye Shen to one day surrender his energy crystal because she didn’t really believe in this talk about a doomsday. Also, even if it was true, it was not going to happen anytime soon!

...

Little did Xinghe know, right after she left, a few mysterious shadows snuck into the jail that kept Ye Shen.

They used a secret pathway that eventually led them to Ye Shen. A weak Ye Shen was lying in his cot, preparing to retire for the night when he heard the steel door to his cell being opened. It was followed by a series of heavy footsteps.

He opened his eyes in alarm but the overall darkness and the fatigue from the earlier interrogation made it so that he could make see a few vague shadows standing beside his bed.

“Who are you people?” Ye Shen frowned and stared at them with trepidation.

“Mr. Ye, I heard you’ve been searching for a particular thing.” A man asked in a low voice. There was no emotion in his words, other than the heavy hint of threat.

Ye Shen had a hard time understanding him and the man continued, “You must have that thing on you as well, where it is?”

“Who the hell are you people?” Ye Shen sat up hurriedly, his whole body tensed. He could smell the danger in the air.

“Our identity is not important,” The man answered, “You only need to tell us, where is the thing?”

“What thing?”

“Look like you are unwilling to cooperate.” The moment the man finished the sentence, Ye Shen felt a cloth like substance strangling his neck from behind!

Ye Shen widened his eyes in shock and started to struggle, but he was too weak.

The chokehold on his throat tightened and the air was getting thin. Ye Shen’s face went from red to purple.

Chapter 314: Looming Danger

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, he realized the opponent didn't really want him dead because he could have ended this a lot sooner. Ye Shen knew they still needed the information from him. He still had a chance to live.

The man in front of him asked again, "This is the last time I'm asking, where is the thing?"

It was rather hard to believe, but it was only then that Ye Shen realized the man was referring to the energy crystal!

Who are these people? How do they know I have an energy crystal?

These questions popped up in his mind. However, he was crummy to the end, he wouldn't give up the location of his last leverage that easily.

"I, I gave it to my wife... It's with her, you can go get it from her..." Ye Shen squeezed out the words from his mouth with the utmost difficulty.

After hearing this, the leading man gave the person who was strangling Ye Shen a signal with his eyes.

The person's gaze turned chilly and tightened his grip.

Ye Shen started to struggle like crazy but he was ultimately too weak. In just a few seconds, his struggling started to slow, like a wind-up toy losing its power...

Ye Shen died with his eyes wide open with disbelief. His last thought was, Help, I've told you what you wanted, why didn't you let me live? Who are you people that you can waltz into a prison and assassinate someone?

The person finally released his grip after Ye Shen passed away. They later manipulated the scene in such a way that Ye Shen looked like he'd hanged himself...

To save the law enforcement's image, Ye Shen's death wasn't released to the public. Even Xinghe and Mubai didn't know about this.

Xinghe had no clue a great danger was coming her way...

...

Xinghe started researching about what Ye Shen told her after she returned to the villa.

She tried contacting Ee Chen through the internet but it was to no avail.

After Xinghe chased him away, Ee Chen had gone AWOL. If she had known the man could be so elusive, she would have kept better tabs on him. Xinghe swiveled in her leather chair and ruminated on what Ye Shen had told her...

In truth, she believed parts of what he said, but unfortunately, the answers he revealed only led to more questions. However, she would keep on researching because she wanted to locate her mom. A part of her was also afraid that the Doomsday Prophecy was true, because if it was, she needed to do something for her son.

In fifteen years' time, Lin Lin would only be twenty, his life would only just be beginning. It sounded preposterous in her mind but if there was really a spaceship out there, she was going to locate it and get Lin Lin on it.

Of course, she would take along her whole family as well.

Xinghe's thoughts started to unravel as she sat there in the chair. She eventually fell asleep.

An unknown amount of time had passed when she woke up due to an earthquake hitting the house!

She leaped up to evacuate but the moment she stood up, she crumpled weakly to the floor. The tremors made her feel incredibly dizzy and she felt suffocated.

Xinghe pinched herself hard, trying to force herself to stay awake. However, she eventually fell unconscious...

She was not the only one affected; everyone in the villa was knocked unconscious by the blast.

They couldn't have expected the villa to be assaulted by military-grade shock bombs.

When Mubai arrived at the scene after receiving the news, hours had already passed.

Chapter 315: Xinghe's Memory Is Worth Defending

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe had disappeared without a trace!

The bodyguards who were shaken awake reported to Mubai, "The house started shaking and we thought it was an earthquake. All of us rushed upstairs to help Miss Xia evacuate but before we knew it, all of us were unconscious."

Mubai inspected the house and his face was drawn.

"Someone used a shock bomb," he said solemnly.

The bodyguard was shocked. "But isn't that a military-grade weapon..."

He was right, the grenade was limited to Hwa Xia's military, normally used to neutralize terrorists. The grenade wouldn't cause any fatal damage but caused vibrations that could knock out everyone in a limited area.

Mubai was shocked that someone would use such a weapon against Xinghe. But why her?

"Go check on Ye Shen, now!" he ordered as he pulled out his laptop to do his own research.

The opponent, whoever that may be, obviously came prepared. The security cables around the villa were all cut. He had no way of telling who infiltrated the villa and kidnapped Xinghe.

Soon, Mubai received news that Ye Shen had committed suicide in custody!

Xinghe had just come back from visiting him and he died shortly after? This is too suspicious.

But who could have done all of this without triggering any alarms? Whoever it was, it must be an expert since they could do all these things without being detected.

Mubai suspected that their target was the black casket in Ye Shen's possession.

Mubai was partly relieved that it was Xia Meng's body that was taken and not the real Xia Xinghe. However, Xinghe's

memory was still trapped in Xia Meng's body, so he had to locate her as soon as possible. Even though it was only Xinghe's memory, he swore he would protect it with his life.

Xinghe must have found out some new information and he had to find out what or the danger would still linger. He could only breathe in relief after every possible danger was exterminated.

But now he had to locate Xinghe. Unless there was no other choice, he didn't want to activate the memory in Xinghe's original body. That knowledge calmed him slightly and was the only thing holding him together from lashing out at the world irrationally.

However, he was still worried. Even though the body was Xia Meng's, he was worried the kidnapper would do something harmful to her since the person suffering would still be Xinghe!

...

Xinghe had no idea how long she had been out.

She opened her eyes to a dimly lit room. There was little light in the room and everything was shrouded in semi-darkness.

It took Xinghe a moment to realize what had happened. She was kidnapped, but she had no as to who by.

"You're up?" a husky male voice asked. He strode towards her from outside. In the semi-darkness, his large body that loomed above her radiated an aura of danger.

Xinghe sat up and looked at him calmly. "Who are you?"

The man was surprised and praised her, "Not bad, I thought you would panic."

"What are you hoping to get out of kidnapping me?" Xinghe continued, her tone was as calm as if they were two friends chatting in the park.

The man didn't answer, instead he said, "You're much more impressive than your husband, no wonder he gave the thing to you."

Chapter 316: Bravery and a Clear Mind

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“You mean Ye Shen?” Xinghe chuckled mirthlessly. “He is not my husband.”

“I know the two of you are divorced but your relation to him is undeniable. Speak, where is the thing he gave you?” The man asked lazily. His tone was filled with confidence like a king. Perhaps in his eyes, women were nothing more than cute rabbits. They threw weak punches and could be easily strangled at any moment.

“What thing?” Xinghe raised her brow but the moment the words left her mouth, she understood. They’d kidnapped her for the energy crystal.

So who are these people and why are they interested in the crystals?

“Who told you the thing you speak of is with me?” Xinghe asked in return, not at all afraid to let him know she realized what he was referring to.

The man chuckled to himself. “Your ex-husband did.”

“And you believed him? Are you stupid or retarded?” Xinghe chided him mercilessly, completely unlike a person that had been taken hostage.

The man’s face froze over. “So, you mean, it’s not with you?”

“Where is Ye Shen?” Xinghe asked instead of answered.

“He’s dead!”

Xinghe expected as much but hearing it confirmed still shook her slightly.

“So the last information he gave you before he bit the bullet was the thing is with me?” Xinghe asked with disbelief like she was shocked at this man’s gullibility.

For some reasons, the man felt she was being angry at him and he was to be blamed for this situation.

“You are his ex-wife, even if the thing is not with you, surely you know where it is. After all, you seem to know the identity of this thing, don’t you?”

Xinghe laughed in his face. “That might be true but it’s hard to believe how foolish you people are. Didn’t you do some research before you decided to kidnap someone? Ye Shen and I are like fire and water! Therefore, how could he give the thing to me or even tell me where he hid it?”

The man’s face got even gloomier.

Indeed, from the information they’d gathered, it did seem Ye Shen had a penchant for using his wife as a punching bag. However, Ye Shen did admit he gave the thing to her and the almost-dead, in their experience, didn’t lie. So, the man was adamant the thing was with her or at least Xinghe knew where Ye Shen hid the thing.

In any case, they had no other clue to work with other than her.

Ye Shen’s mother and sister were beyond dumb. A little testing and it was obvious they had no clue what was happening. In contrast, the woman before him was brave and had a good head on her shoulders. She seemed to be the best bet.

“Miss Xia, I’m going you one last chance. If you tell me where the thing is, I will let you go. If not, Ye Shen’s end will be yours as well,” the man threatened. His tone was flat but that only added a more dangerous edge to his words. Any other woman and they probably would have peed their pants.

Xinghe though didn’t even blink. “Ye Shen is dead regardless, so just how believable are your words?”

The man smiled. “What other choice do you have?”

Either way, she was going to die.

“Therefore, I’m telling you one last time, I have no idea where the thing is. I have only seen it once and have no idea where Ye Shen hid it.”

“Miss Xia, looks like, after all, you’ve chosen to not cooperate,” the man stated softly, but the atmosphere in the

room dropped by several degrees.

He was going to kill her!

Xinghe felt this but she was unfazed.

“It’s not that I’m not cooperating but I can’t. I told you so many times I have no idea where the thing is. I would have given you the information if I knew. I’m not as dumb as Ye Shen to give up my life for the sake of some random object.”

Chapter 317: Stepped On His Tail

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Unlike Ye Shen, Xinghe really didn't care much about the energy crystal. If telling this man about its location would save her life, she would do it in a heartbeat. The issue was she had no idea where it was either.

The man studied her quietly and said with a smile, "I have to commend you on your acting ability. I can't tell whether you're telling the truth or lying to me."

"If you have suspicion in your heart, every truth I say will sound like a lie," Xinghe answered softly. This struck a chord within the man's heart, however it was not enough to convince him.

"If it's not with you, then I no longer have any use for you!" The man suddenly pulled out a handgun and aimed it at her heart. "I'm going to send you to go accompany your husband."

"Accompany him? He is not worthy!" Xinghe chuckled with derision.

The man thought she would be scared by the gun, but she was still unusually calm. She even had time to correct him.

In the dimly-lit room, the man had a hard time seeing her face but her pair of eyes was glowing brightly.

The man added with hint of regret in his voice, "It is indeed a pity that an incredible woman like yourself was married to a scoundrel like Ye Shen. Alas, now you're dead because of him as well. It's not worth it, don't you agree?"

"It's not worth it." He was surprised she agreed with him.

He was intrigued. "Then, you'd better tell me where the thing is, then you won't need to die for him."

"Haven't we been over this?" Xinghe complained impatiently, "I would have given you the thing if I had it, since the thing is of no value to me anyway."

"The thing is useless to an outsider like yourself..." The man nodded and concurred.

This sentence confirmed Xinghe's suspicion, which was that he had no clue Xia Meng also had a piece of the energy crystal. He only knew about the one in Ye Shen's possession.

From this observation, one could deduce he had no clue about Xia Meng and Ye Shen's fathers, and that they were related to Project Galaxy.

Xinghe groaned inwardly at Ye Shen's stupidity. If the plan was as important as he claimed it was, why would he conduct his investigation in such an open manner that would attract the attention of some mysterious group?

Xinghe was thankful that at least the man didn't know about the previous generation because then he might suspect that Xia Xinghe had one of the energy crystals as well.

If he did, he would come after her family and most likely the entire Xi family as well.

Xinghe had thought about telling him that the energy crystal is with Xi Mubai and by sending him at Mubai, he could trace the assassin back to her, but she didn't dare take the risk.

This man and his team were capable enough to assassinate Ye Shen in jail, and kidnap her without even leaving behind any trace. Mubai might be able to fend for himself, but what about Lin Lin?

Therefore, no matter what, Xinghe couldn't raise his suspicion towards the Xi Family.

Xinghe reached this conclusion in her mind in a matter of seconds.

Of course, this didn't show on her face. Instead she asked the man before her, "Hence, do you think I would use my life to protect a thing that is of no value to me?"

The man gave an evil smile. "Who knows, you might know that, although the thing is of no value to you, it will be of great value to some other people! It could be traded for riches that could last you multiple lifetimes so it is not surprising that you're willing to protect it with your life."

“You are such a contradictory person, confident in your ability and yet paranoid of everyone and everything.”

“What did you say?” Xinghe’s words seemed to have struck a nerve because his eyes turned murderously cold.

Chapter 318: Nightmare

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe raised her eyes and the man felt exposed – like she was seeing into his soul.

“Am I wrong?”

The man narrowed his eyes. “I’m impressed. You are not only brave in the face of death but also have quite a mouth on you!”

However, the scariest thing was she had the perceptive mind to back her words up, she wasn’t just prattling on out of fear. In just a few exchanges, she had read his personality. He had to admit, this woman was something else, which made it even harder for him to believe the thing was not with her.

The man took a short step forward and aimed the gun at her forehead.

His voice made Xinghe’s skin crawl. “I will ask you one more time, where is the thing?”

Xinghe looked into his face. At this close proximity, she finally got a clear view of her abductor. The man was tall, fit, and was blessed with perfect features.

His looks could rival Mubai’s, but the biggest difference between the two was their eyes.

Mubai’s eyes were always calm and focused. They spoke of self-assurance that could accommodate the whole world. In contrast, this man’s eyes kept darting around alertly. They spoke of deep rooted paranoia. Xinghe knew this kind of person was mostly cold-blooded and would do anything to achieve their goal.

Xinghe gave him a slow once-over, before adding, “Before you kill me, shouldn’t you at least tell me your name? At least let me who shall I haunt after I die.”

The man smiled chillingly. “Looks like you’re prepared to die by my hands.”

“Is there another choice?”

“Very well, then I shall fulfill your wish!” The man pulled on the trigger.

“You still haven’t given me your name.” Even at a time like this, Xinghe was scarily composed.

He answered, “You don’t deserve to know my name!”

A gunshot rang in the silence of the night!

...

“Xia Xinghe—”

Mubai woke up from his nightmare, breaking with cold sweat. He looked around a bit confusedly and realized he had fallen asleep in his study.

It was six in the morning. He had been searching for Xinghe since her disappearance yesterday but until now, there had been no news...

Frustration caused him to sweep the documents on his table away violently!

The papers fluttered down the room like snow.

Mubai couldn’t get himself back to sleep so he walked over to the other villa in the Xi family’s old mansion.

He walked upstairs to stand in front of a room. The nurse on duty saw him and came to enquire, “Mr. Xi, why are you here so early in the morning? Is there anything I can help you with?”

“How has she been doing lately?” he asked casually.

The nurse knew who he referred to and she answered truthfully, “Miss Xia has been giving her full cooperation. She does everything we ask her to.”

Mubai nodded and pushed the door open.

Xia Meng, who had heard the commotion, was already in a seated position when he walked in. Her expression became slightly guarded and nervous. “Mr. Xi, do you have any business with me?”

Mubai stared at her but he felt nothing within.

The face that stared back at him was definitely Xinghe's but Mubai couldn't recognize her. Xinghe's essence was missing and the woman before him might as well be a complete stranger.

A crucial part of her was missing, and he swore to find it back to restore the complete Xia Xinghe!

Chapter 319: She Didn't Beg For Mercy!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai stared at Xia Meng emotionlessly and the latter started to get anxious. Suddenly, he said, "I'm here only to tell you that I will procure a good body for you to inhabit after the research is over."

Xia Meng was surprised. She didn't expect he would personally come to tell her this.

"But in exchange, you must promise me to take good care of Xinghe's body. If not, I will not hesitate to keep the body in suspension against your will, do you understand?" Mubai asked coldly.

Xia Meng nodded somewhat blankly. "I understand."

"Very good." After he got the answer he wanted, Mubai turned to leave.

Xia Meng was curious, he came all the way just to tell her that? For some reasons, the girl felt something bigger was afoot...

However, it didn't seem to concern her. As long as she remained in Xinghe's body, at least Mubai would not let any fatal harm come her way. Nevertheless, she knew the protectiveness he had towards her was directed at Xinghe's body and not her. In fact, she was certain that, if necessary, he would sacrifice her without a second thought to protect Xinghe should the situation come to that. She was a minor inconvenience that just so happened to hold Xinghe's body hostage.

For some reason, that knowledge upset Xia Meng. Once more, she started to get envious of Xinghe because she knew no man would ever treat her like Mubai treated Xinghe.

...

Back in the dimly-lit room, Xinghe moved her body that was all curled up on the bed.

Her body was drenched with sweat, soaking into the mattress. Her body was incredibly weak, the smallest movement would drain her of all energy.

Xinghe didn't expect that after evading death, there was a bigger torture that awaited her.

Yesterday, the man averted the gun barrel at the last moment. The bullet grazed her temple and eventually lodged into the wall behind her.

However, the man shot her up with drugs. According to the man, the drug would activate every night, causing excruciating pain, a pain so intense that one would prefer death to get it over with.

Xinghe realized the man wasn't lying. She had suffered through the pain the entire night. If not for her personal experience, she wouldn't have known such a scary drug existed in the real world.

However, she didn't beg for mercy!

Yes, the pain was unbearable but she didn't surrender; she knew that was what the man was waiting for, to force her to reveal the location of the energy crystal.

The fact that Xinghe really didn't know the location aside, even if she did, she wouldn't have told the man.

No one could threaten her; she would rather suffer through the torture than give him the satisfaction. At worst, she would die with the knowledge and his trail would die with her.

The room door was slowly pushed open and the man walked in...

He looked at Xinghe struggling and he said in amusement, "I'm surprised you still won't give up. The drug I gave you has broken even the toughest military man."

Xinghe leveled him a cold stare. "If you're here to take my life, do it quickly. I tire of this conversation with you."

The man chuckled mirthlessly. "Looks like I've underestimated your stubbornness."

To be honest, Xinghe had completely impressed this man. He initially thought some scares and torture could get Xinghe to yield because she was a woman. However, even after such an intense torment, she was still unmovable...

That greatly surprised the man.

However, no one was able to survive his torture skills, so he took it on as his personal mission to break Xinghe.

“Miss Xia, yesterday’s torment was just the beginning. You’d better reconsider your options. If you’re willing to reveal everything to me then I will give you a shot through your heart. A fair trade, isn’t it?”

Chapter 320: Xia Meng, I Will Remember You

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The man's choice boiled down to die now or die later; it was despicable and cruel. The man's willingness to toy with another human being's life would qualify him as a demon! He had no respect for the sanctity of life!

Xinghe stared coldly at him. Even after a night of veritable torture, her pride remained intact. There was nothing in the world that was going to bring her down.

"My life is in your hands anyway, so do as you please," Xinghe said without fear, "But I must warn you, if I'm somehow still alive after all this, you'll regret it for as long as you may live!"

After all, she was no saint. How could she possibly forgive the man who had not only tortured her but also came for her life?

The man was surprised. Xinghe was not cowed by his torture but still had the audacity to threaten him in return.

"Quite the talker."

He tutted with derision, not at all phased by Xinghe's threat, then again, why would he be?

"Lady, as you've said, your life is in my hands. Wouldn't it benefit you to cooperate with me? Are you that unafraid of death?"

"You're the one that should be afraid if death doesn't claim me," Xinghe cautioned as she looked him in the eye.

"..."

Her lips curled into a smirk. "You'll see."

The man's face darkened. "Looks like you haven't received your lesson from yesterday's torture. Never mind, because there hasn't been a person on Earth that I was unable to break!"

"You're looking at one right now," Xinghe taunted.

The man suddenly pulled on her chin and looked at her with amusement. “You dare to talk back to me at a time like this? Lady, credit is where credit is due, you are one impressive woman, definitely one of a kind.”

“You are also the first man who’s ever dared to treat me this way; alas, this means that you won’t live for too long,” Xinghe responded with an equally lofty tone.

The man was taken aback once more and he couldn’t help but laugh. “Interesting, really interesting! But you know what, breaking individuals such as yourself is my favorite pastime, so please do not disappoint me.”

“You will not be disappointed.” Xinghe’s pair of clear and intrepid eyes stared at him.

For some reason, the man felt Xinghe’s eyes were incredibly beautiful. They were clear like a mirror, reflective of humanity’s ugliness and beauty and yet losing none of its own beauty.

It was a pity killing such a marvelous woman; it was a shame she had fallen into his hands...

“Xia Meng, is it? I will remember your name after you die,” said the man before he left.

Even though he was impressed by Xinghe, the torture never ceased. He didn’t send Xinghe any food or water for the whole day.

Xinghe spent the whole day in bed, drifting in and out of consciousness.

She had tried to figure a way out but the room that she was kept in was tough, and there was a guard outside her door at every minute of the day. She was too weak to put up a fight. She had no way to send for help.

Perhaps she might really perish there. Xinghe was not afraid of death because, at the end of the day, the body was not hers. However, she was going to persevere because she refused to let this man who put her through such torture survive! She needed her whole memory intact so she could take revenge against this man after she got out of there!

Chapter 321: Xinghe's Suicide

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Alas, her hope for survival was so dim. The only thing she could do was to commit to a bet!

As the plan formed in Xinghe's mind, the drug in her body started working.

Pain shot through every part of her body, her internal organs felt like they were repeatedly stabbed by knives. The intensity of the pain slowly escalated...

Xinghe let slip of a groan before gritting her teeth to silently suffer through the pain. It was like her body was being chopped apart. The pain was more heightened compared to yesterday. Perhaps her fatigue had amplified the sensation of pain...

Xinghe clenched her teeth tightly and sweat started pouring out of her every pore. Her body shook violently and her face was scarily white.

As the pain scratched at her sanity, she thought about her family, her uncle, Xia Zhi and most importantly, Lin Lin. She had to hold on for the sake of her son.

She rolled on the floor and her face was twisted in pain. However, the man might have underestimated women because it had been proven that woman's pain tolerance was greater than men's because of childbirth. The pain was greater than yesterday, but it was only slightly greater than when she gave birth to the meaning of her life.

Xinghe tightened her knuckles and slammed them repeatedly against the walls and floor, hoping the external pain would distract from the pain within. This continued until most parts of her body were bloodied and bruised.

Everyone would have sympathy watching her struggle but the man stationed outside the door observed her through the peephole coldly. There was no trace of emotion in his eyes. He was waiting for Xinghe to grovel for the sweet release of death.

The time slowly passed...

It had been two hours and Xinghe still hadn't surrendered. The man was getting impatient, he was turning away to leave Xinghe to her misery when he heard a sudden scream.

He raised his eyes into the peephole and saw Xinghe ran headfirst into the sharp angle of the bedframe. Blood oozed from her forehead and she crumpled to the floor like a lifeless doll.

"Open the door!" the man ordered.

He rushed in to check on Xinghe's vitals. She was alive but was hanging on a thread, a small pool of blood had gathered underneath her body.

Anger flashed across the man's eyes. He glared at Xinghe. "The damned woman is really unafraid of death!"

"But you think you can die on me so easily? Impossible!" He scooped up her body and strode out the room. "Call an ambulance immediately!"

One of his subordinates responded to his order.

Xinghe was quickly rushed to the hospital. Her situation was dangerous, the doctors took a long time to rescue her from the brink of death.

After the surgery, she was wheeled to a secret sickroom. Other than the few medical personnel, no one knew of her existence.

"Sir, the woman's condition has stabilized but she probably will not wake up anytime soon. She needs to stay at the hospital for a few days for further observation as her body is too weak," the doctor informed the man respectfully.

The man nodded and replied in a low voice, "I understand. Help me keep her alive and make sure her existence is kept a secret from everyone else."

Chapter 322: Time to Escape

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After all, the woman seemed to be related to Xi Mubai and his subordinates had confirmed that Xi Mubai was also looking for her.

It was still too early for him to take on the Xi Family...

“Please do not worry, we know what to do!” The doctor nodded repeatedly.

The man nodded satisfactorily in return. “You can leave now.”

“Yes, sir!”

The man stayed even after the doctor had left. He studied Xinghe who was recuperating on the bed closely. She had features that could help her disappear easily in a crowd. He didn't expect such an unassuming woman would such a spirited character. She had an inimitable and unbendable will, a very special woman.

The man was truly surprised by this discovery. She would opt for suicide rather than suffer through his torment. Under such circumstances, she still had the state of mind to consider suicide, the woman was truly something else.

Of course, he understood her suicide was not out of fear or weakness. She would rather succumb to death than to him, it was a giant middle finger to his face!

It was an expression of her absolute freedom, something he could not take away from her no matter what.

Xinghe thought that would anger the man but she was wrong. The man was intrigued. He even considered the possibility of letting her live if she would just reveal the location of the energy crystal.

Unbeknownst to the man, for the first time in his lifetime, sympathy welled up in his heart.

However, it lasted only for a second, because his gaze turned deadly almost immediately.

The man stayed for a little longer before leaving. He ordered the guards posted outside the door to look after her.

“Call me immediately when she wakes up,” he ordered.

The two guards nodded in reply.

The man finally left, he was certain that Xinghe would wake up in about one or two days. That was the doctor’s professional prognosis.

Who knew Xinghe woke up so fast...

When she recovered her consciousness, she didn’t open her eyes instantly but she used her sense to feel out her surroundings. She picked up the unique hospital smell and a lack of human movement around her.

She opened her eyes slowly and she was indeed alone in the room. Xinghe’s eyes flashed with triumph; her plan was slowly falling into place!

Her plan was simple but risky, she was to pretend to commit suicide and bet and see whether the man would take her out with a shot or send her to the hospital.

Based on what she knew about the man, she was sure he would not let her die on him. She was right, he did send her to the hospital.

Now that she was at the hospital, she could start her escape plan.

Regarding why she woke up so early when she was supposed to be dying, the answer wasn’t perfectly clear. Maybe it was an unintended effect of the memory cell, or her strong determination and will, or perhaps it was her main character’s plot armor, pure and simple. Either way, it was not yet time for her to leave the scene. [1]

With that out of the way, Xinghe prepared to escape!

If she managed to get out of there alive, she would let the man know what the price of crossing her was!

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

[1] The original explanation is such an asspull, I cannot in good conscience translate it. In any case, the raw stated that she managed to wake up so early because she hypnotized herself before she committed suicide, and the hynopsis skill was taught by a mysterious gentleman so many years ago... I figured, might as well be frank and make a joke out of it instead.

Chapter 323: The Chase

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe steeled her eyes with determination as she gritted her teeth and pulled herself up...

Several minutes later, a nurse came in to check up on her.

“Are you awake?” the nurse questioned as she stared at the human shaped object completely covered by the bedsheets.

She went up to pull off the bedsheet. The moment she saw some pillows arranged in a human shape under it, she felt a heavy blow to the back of her head and she collapsed onto the bed.

Xinghe who held the drip shaft in her hands was breathing heavily, standing behind the unconscious nurse. The endeavor had taken a serious toll on her health, she felt her sight going black.

However, she knew she had no time to waste. She quickly switched outfits with the nurse. She rearranged the pillow and replaced them with the nurse. Then, Xinghe pulled out a few towels from the bathroom and used a scissors to cut them up into strips. Xinghe tied all of them together and created a rudimentary bandage to bind around her crippled left leg.

Under the cover of the nurse’s long skirt, her leg looked passably normal. She tried walking in it and her gait looked normal enough. Xinghe put on the nurse’s hat and mask before leaving the room.

The two guards looked at her but didn’t do anything. Their suspicions weren’t raised. After all, the doctor said that Xinghe would wake up only several days later.

Therefore, Xinghe walked out of her room under their watchful gaze. Eventually, she turned the corner and got out of their sight.

Every single one of her steps was painful because she needed to make sure her gait appeared normal. That combined with the weakness of her body made her feel faint.

Eventually, she started to sway and the pretense started to fall. Her breaths came faster and faster...

Sweat pooled on her forehead and her sight became increasingly blurry. Xinghe could even feel her senses giving...

It was a case of mind over body because she only held on through the power of will. She was taking a breather when she slipped and unexpectedly bumped into one of the doctors.

“Are you okay? What’s wrong with you?” the doctor asked with concern.

Xinghe couldn’t see his face to tell whether it was the doctor assigned to look after her but she knew her disguise was about to be seen through.

She bit on her tongue and the sharp jolt of pain snapped her into attention.

Xinghe ignored the doctor and hurried away.

The doctor frowned and decided to come after her. “Nurse, do you need help? Hello, nurse?”

Xinghe closed her ears to the man’s calls, there was only one thing on her mind, RUN!

Soon after, she heard a series of hurried steps coming from behind her. She turned back to see and her heart seized with panic.

The guards were coming after her!

“Stop her!” The guards yelled at her. Spurred by the appearance of the guards, Xinghe took off and ran.

She dashed into an open elevator and pressed the close button in a hurry. The door closed right as the guards reached her.

One of the guards cursed, “F*ck, call the guards upstairs to stop her, don’t let her get away!”

However, when the people at the ground floor went to intercept the elevator, it was empty.

“She descended on another floor, go search for her!”

A commotion started in the hospital.

The atmosphere was anxious and nervous...

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

These ten chapters are sponsored by ten lords a-leaping.

Chapter 324: Finally Found Her

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

About ten guards scoured the hospital building, leaving no stone unturned.

Eventually, they found something curious in the second floor's female washroom. A rope that was made out of strips of towels was tied to the window railing. Using it, one could drop down to the floor below.

The guards stood at the window and when they raised their eyes towards the rising sun, they could even see a limping figure running out of the hospital grounds.

Damn it, she got away!

“Attention, the target has left the building. She is heading towards the hospital gate, regroup and pursue!” ordered one of the guards through his walkie-talkie.

The group of guards quickly reformed and ran to catch up to Xinghe.

Xinghe didn't dare to slow down. She ran the best she could even though every sharp intake of breath was a knife that pierced at her lungs. Finally, she broke through the hospital gate and found herself by the side of the road. She could hear the group of guards closing in on her.

It was early in the morning so there was little to no cars on the road.

Xinghe turned back to look at the pursuing guards and she leaped out into the road to block a car that was driving past.

The driver honked loudly, spooked by her sudden appearance. He slammed on the brakes and his car jumped from the sudden breaking. The driver felt his heart stop because he thought he had killed the woman. Thankfully, his car stopped in time and the impact wasn't that strong. The woman climbed up in front of his disbelieving eyes and she proceeded to pull open his passenger door.

She jumped in quickly and yelled, “Drive and I will pay you one hundred million!”

The driver was shocked at the sudden development.

“Quick, or we’ll both die!” she screamed at the stunned driver. The driver saw the scary-looking guards coming their way and, even though he had no idea what was happening, he subconsciously stepped on the gas pedal and sped away before the guards had a chance to lay their hands on them!

“Stop—” The group of guards gave chase after them and the scared driver stepped on the gas even harder.

Xinghe stared at the rear-view mirror. After she made sure they had lost the guards, she told the driver, “Bring me to the police station, someone will give you the money later!”

“Miss, what exactly is happening?” the driver asked anxiously as he tried to calm his beating heart.

However, no reply came. He turned to look at her direction and was shocked to realized the woman had already fainted.

Not only that, there was blood trickling down her face and her face was frighteningly pale...

The driver thought she had died. He quickly stopped the car by the side of the road and tested her breath with his shaking hands.

He sighed in relief when he felt her weak breathing. “Miss, what’s happening? Are you okay?” He asked nervously, afraid that she would die in his car thus causing him a lot of trouble.

Xinghe lifted her eyelids weakly and opened her lips to breathe out, “The police station, now...”

After she said that, she collapsed again. The driver couldn’t resuscitate her after that.

He thought about taking her back to the hospital but he saw those people chasing after her and he was sure they meant her harm.

He thought about it and finally decided to heed her order and took her to the police station.

He zipped through the city because he was deadly afraid she was going to die in his car!

The moment Xinghe arrived at the police station, Mubai received the news!

To find her, Mubai had sent out feelers all over City T, the police station being one of his focuses.

Chapter 325: More Mysterious Than Us Xi

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

When Mubai received the news, he was at his second uncle's.

“Really?” He asked with shock and joy. “Keep her safe, I’m coming over now!”

He hung up in a hurry and informed his cousin, Xi Munan, “We’ve found her, she’s at the police station!”

“That’s great news, I’m going with you!” Munan offered.

Mubai nodded and the two of them rushed to the police station. Only when they arrived did Mubai realize how serious Xinghe’s injuries were.

She was still unconscious and the police had helped her find a doctor. Mubai was furious when he saw her bruised body and pale face. “What happened to her?”

A police officer answered as he pointed at the driver, “Mr. Xi, according to this kind sir, Miss Xia appeared to be targeted by some mysterious group of people. However, her conditions have stabilized. She is only resting now.”

“Targeted?” Mubai whipped his head around to look at the driver. The driver’s mouth was wide open. Mubai was a person with legendary status in City T, he was star-struck. Am I dreaming?

“Excuse me, but can you walk us through what happened?” a tall, handsome-looking man who stood beside Mubai asked politely. The driver took a look at him and realized the young man and Mubai had striking similarities in facial features.

“I was driving past the hospital when this miss here jumped into the road...” The driver told them what had happened clearly and carefully.

After he finished, Mubai gave the police a look and the police officer said knowingly, “We’ve sent out our men to check. However, we found no suspicious activities, those people, whoever they are, retreated very quickly and efficiently, leaving no evidence behind. We’ve checked the hospital as

well, there was no record of Miss Xia even staying there. The opponent must be someone remarkable to be able to accomplish something like this.”

Mubai sneered. “No matter how remarkable, I will sniff the weasel out!”

“In this city, no one is more remarkable than our Xi family,” Munan seconded with a smile. He turned to Mubai, “Big brother, leave this to me. I will inform you when there’s any developments.”

Mubai nodded before picking up Xinghe in his arms and leaving.

However, he only took a few steps before turning back to address the driver, “She said that there was a one hundred million reward?”

The driver left out no details in the recounting of his story, and that included the conversation between Xinghe and him.

The driver waved his hand in a hurry. “It was not because of money that I helped this miss. We should always help those in need.”

Mubai looked at one of his bodyguards. “Write him a cheque for one hundred million.”

“Yes, sir!”

The driver was astonished. He said quickly, “Mr. Xi, this is really too much, it’s not necessary...”

However Mubai had already walked away. He didn’t give the driver a chance to reject him.

The bodyguard wrote a cheque to the driver and offered with a warm smile. “Thank you, sir, for your kindness. This here is not much, but it’s a token of appreciation from our Young Master. Please accept it.”

“This, okay...” The driver held the cheque in his and stared vacantly at Mubai who was leaving.

With a sudden one hundred million in his hands, he pinched himself to check whether he was dreaming.

...

Mubai took Xinghe to meet Lu Qi because he was the best doctor in town.

Mubai might have disavowed him as a friend but he'd brought them into this whole mess to begin with, so he could help them now; he owed them that much.

Chapter 326: She Won't be Alive for Long

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Lu Qi treated Xinghe to the best of his ability. His face was drawn after he gave Xinghe a cursory exam.

“How is she?” Mubai asked solemnly.

“It's not looking too good; she was injected with a corrosive drug,” Lu Qi answered truthfully, “I've never seen such a vicious drug before, it has completely destroyed Xia Meng's body.”

Mubai sharpened his gaze. “Corrosive drug?”

Lu Qi nodded. “The drug will gradually shut down the body's vital organs. Whenever the toxin activates itself, the person will experience unimaginable pain. If the person isn't given the antidote soon, he or she will experience a painful and elongated death. According to Miss Xia's condition, some time has passed since she was given the drug. I'm sorry to say but she must have suffered.”

The air around Mubai froze, his gaze became as chilling as death itself! The thought of Xinghe being tortured made him simmer in a fury that could only be quenched by chopping the perpetrator into million pieces! Even though the body was Xia Meng's, the one who suffered was Xinghe!

Most of all, he felt angry at himself because he had failed his job as her guardian.

Mubai narrowed his eyes dangerously and ordered, “Get her cured immediately, we cannot allow her to suffer like this anymore!”

“Don't worry, I will but I feel sorry for Miss Xia Meng because we would have to abandon this body...”

Mubai pulled on his collar roughly and said threateningly, “You should feel sorry for the woman lying in front of you. You brought her into this mess so I will hold you accountable for everything that happens to her. Finish your research on the memory cells as soon as possible and return Xinghe's memory to her, this circus has gone on long enough!”

Lu Qi nodded calmly. "I will move as fast as I can. We're very close to the end, I promise you."

"For your own sake, I hope you're right." Mubai shoved him away but the intensity of his anger didn't drop.

Lu Qi looked at him quietly, relieved that the one lying there wasn't the real Xia Xinghe or he believed he would be dead...

...

"So many of you couldn't look after a half-dead woman?" a physically impressive man observed lazily, but his tone was full of pressure and authority.

The guards arranged before him all hung their heads in shame, they didn't even dare to breath.

"Young Master, this is our fault! We didn't expect her sudden discovery and her forethought to assault the nurse and disguise as her. We had her cornered but she jumped down the building from a second floor window, it was simply too unexpected..."

It wasn't only them; the man was also blindsided by that woman's cunning plan. Her 'attempted suicide' was most likely part of her plan as well. It was faked to create a chance for her to escape.

Her bold and incisive way of thinking impressed him. She surprised him at every turn and now she even managed to swindle him!

The man chuckled silently. "I agree she is an unpredictable woman. Alas, without my antidote, she is not long for this world."

"Young Master, should we go capture her back? We know she is now with Xi Mubai."

The man denied that outright, "That won't be necessary. I believe she has no information on the thing. Furthermore, doing that would only reveal our activities. She has no idea who I am so let her be, she's going to die anyway."

The guards nodded in unison.

The man might have said so, but something didn't sit quite right in his heart.

Chapter 327: I Will Remember You Even After You Die

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

It seemed a waste for the woman to die just like that. After all, she had played him for a fool; how could he just let her go so easily? In this world, no one was capable of doing that before, it taunted him deeply. Life would be more interesting with her in it.

However, if she didn't die, his identity would be found out sooner or later; how could he possibly allow that?

The man hesitated for a moment before ruthlessness and mercilessness entered his heart.

Xia Meng must die! But...

"Xia Meng, Xia Meng, I promise you'll always have a space in my heart even after your death," the man said with an eerie smile. It must be said that his interest in the woman had gone beyond just platonic. After all, this was the first time he had come across such an intriguing woman in his life.

If you were not Ye Shen's ex-wife and standing right in the middle of my path, it probably would've been fun having you around. But... you have to die! However, rest in the comfort that I shall remember your name ever after you die, that is not an honor I bequeath just anyone.

On the other hand, Xinghe had no interest in having that honor. The only thing she wanted from the man was his life!

Xinghe had been unconscious for a whole day and Mubai had been by her side for the same amount of time.

Xinghe's eyes eventually fluttered open. However, before she could say anything, the first thing that came out of her mouth was a deep cough of blood!

The smile that Mubai had on his face from seeing her awake instantly disappeared.

"Xia Xinghe, what's wrong with you?" Mubai asked concernedly as he moved to hold her body.

The answer he got was another bloody cough. Xinghe averted her face and the blood dripped onto the mattress. It dyed the fabric instantly. This scene filled Mubai's heart with fear.

He jumped up, leaned out the door, and yelled, "Lu Qi, get over here quick!"

"What's going on?" Lu Qi dashed over immediately. He was also shocked when he saw Xinghe's conditions.

"You tell me!" Mubai demanded as he dragged the good doctor into the room forcefully.

"Let me take a look..." Lu Qi rushed to administer aid. He said nothing after his examination but injected Xinghe with some medicine.

Xinghe's conditions had stabilized visibly after Lu Qi did his thing, at least she stopped vomiting blood. However, her face was still as pale as a dead body.

"How can this happen?" Mubai asked chillingly. God knows how much self-discipline he was exerting to prevent himself from exploding.

Lu Qi frowned and answered, "Even though I've given her plenty of antitoxin, the damage caused by the drug was simply too much. Almost all of her internal organs have reached their limits."

"Will she die?" This was the only question Mubai cared about.

"I can keep her alive but only in this vegetative state. If she had arrived one day sooner, she wouldn't be stuck with this irreparable damage," Lu Qi commented solemnly.

Mubai's only reply was, "Keep her alive!"

Vegetative state or not, at least she was alive.

Lu Qi nodded. "I will try my best."

"Finish the research on the memory cells as soon as possible. Lu Qi, my patience is running thin. Don't make me treat you as an enemy," Mubai warned icily.

Lu Qi looked at him, his eyes filled up with guilt and shame. "I will."

He was also beating himself up for betraying his good friend for the sake of medical research.

The only thing he could do now was to keep his promise, to make up for the pain he had caused Xinghe and Mubai.

Mubai ignored him after he received Lu Qi's promised and turned back to care for the weakened Xinghe.

Chapter 328: Feng Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai bent down and whispered gently, “How are you feeling? Is it better?”

Xinghe shook her head slowly and wheezed, “I’m fine...”

“Who did all this?” Mubai asked after a moment’s pause. Seeing Xinghe like this tore at his heart. He wished he could scoop her up into a hug, to give her some physical comfort but he knew he couldn’t... because that would be crossing the line. He could care about her from afar and he would need to satisfy himself with that for now.

Xinghe shook her head again. “I have no idea...”

“Any useful information?”

“The man is looking for the energy crystal. The one with Ye Shen, we mustn’t let it fall into his hands.”

“Alright, I will arrange for my man to go search for it.” Mubai nodded his promise.

Xinghe looked at him and said weakly, “Don’t let me forget the things that happened to me, I must make them pay...”

With that, she tumbled back into darkness. After that, she had a few episodes where she woke up but she was never lucid. Xinghe’s health condition was also jumping all over the place, like an old machine, it could break down at any moment.

At Lu Qi’s behest, Mubai decided to send Xinghe back to the hospital. They had more doctors and better equipment there. It would be more conducive to her recovery.

This news reached the ears of the mystery man as well. He also knew she was still unconscious and things were not looking up for her. Even though Mubai had a lot of experts taking care of her, her body was beyond rescue.

The man swirled the glass of red wine in his hand and smiled wickedly after his subordinate finished the report. “This might be the best ending for her. If she doesn’t wake up, she can still live on in a suspended state.”

This was because if she did wake up, he would have no choice but to finish the job and kill her.

“Leave her be then, I will be quite sorry if she dies after all...” the man said with a chuckle. There was a hint of sympathy in his voice. This confused his subordinates because they knew him to be a heartless person.

“Young Master, the Xi family has been looking around trying to find out the truth. What if they trace it back to us?” One of his men asked anxiously.

The man laughed. “They won’t be able to. But let’s just say that if they did, what can they do against me? After all, the Xi family will soon be my prey!”

Viciousness flashed across his eyes.

...

Munan employed every method available but he got no closer to the mysterious party that silently assassinated Ye Shen in jail and kidnapped and tortured Xia Meng...

From this perspective, this group must have some unusual background. In City T, there were only a handful of parties who could avoid his detection and Feng Family would be one of them.

Munan revealed his suspicion to Mubai, “Big brother, do you think it’s possibly that this was done by the people from the Feng family? As you know, that Feng Saohuang is famed for his ruthless tactics.”

Mubai had also suspected that this was the Feng family’s handiwork, but it would be extremely difficult to prove.

City T, due to its proximity to the international trade route and history had a prominent military presence, and the military forces were roughly separated into two camps: one was the Xi family’s, the other the Feng family’s.

The Xi family’s side was represented by Mubai’s second uncle and cousin, Xi Munan.

The Feng family had always been the Xi family’s bitter rival. Each tried to suppress the other, aiming to claim the whole of

City T for themselves.

Currently, Xi Family had Elder Xi holding the fort down so it still had the upper hand in terms of military power.

However, the Feng family was catching up to them fast, especially as Feng Saohuang grew into his own man. He had a firm hand and decisive mind, the Feng family had grown considerably under his lead.

Chapter 329: Xi Mubai Became a Slave to His Ex-Wife

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Currently, the Xi family still had them under control but the moment Elder Xi passed away, the Feng family would rise up and retaliate. Therefore, all these years, the Xi family had been finding ways to deal with this threat. However, the Feng family was not a rival that could be dealt with easily.

Regardless, Mubai was not afraid of them. If it was found out it was truly the Feng family who were the culprits, he would crush them like the bugs they were!

“No matter what, it’s about time to settle the differences between our Xi family and their Feng family anyway,” Mubai told Munan in a low voice.

Munan nodded solemnly. “You’re right, the sooner this is over, the better.”

This was because the Xi family would truly be threatened if Feng Family was given the chance to grow. After all, the military world was not one known for being kind to the losers. Xi Family might be on top now, but if the military power fell into the Feng family’s hands, they could be toppled easily.

After discussing all this, Munan couldn’t help but ask the question that was weighing down his heart, “Big brother, I’ve been meaning to ask, why you are so concerned about this Xia Meng? Didn’t you tell me you’ve been trying to pursue my little cousin’s mother back?”

Mubai gave him an uninterested side-eye. “Who said I’m concerned about Xia Meng?”

Munan was curious. “If you’re not, why are you so worried about her safety?”

He even had them mobilize all the manpower the Xi family had to find help for this woman. He had done so much, so how could he say he didn’t care about Xia Meng?

“This has all been due to Xinghe’s orders,” Mubai explained with a straight face.

“Ex-sister in law’s orders?” This confused Munan even more.

“That’s right, she wants me to save Xia Meng and maybe then she might accept my romantic advances,” Mubai lied with blinking an eye.

Munan believed him, he tutted at Mubai. “Who would have thought the great Young Master of the Xi family would become such a slave to his ex-wife. Hell must have frozen over without me noticing.”

The thought of Mubai bowing to his wife’s every demand made Munan shiver uncontrollably. The pictures in his mind completely undermined the respectful image he held of his elder cousin. He needed bleach to clear his mind of those thoughts.

Mubai stood up slowly and said, “At least I have a chance to be someone’s slave, unlike a certain someone I know.”

With that, he turned and left. Munan contemplated his words for a moment before realizing Mubai was chiding him for still being single!

But you’re also technically single since ex-sister in law hasn’t accepted you back yet! Munan grumbled internally.

...

After Mubai left, he went straight to the hospital. Every day he would stop by the hospital to check up on Xinghe to make sure that she was still surviving.

That day, Mubai wasn’t her only visitor.

Even though there were guards posted outside her door, the man still leaped easily into her room through the window. He was so agile in his movement that none of the guards noticed his entrance. The physically impressive man walked to Xinghe’s bedside, staring intensely at the unconscious woman lying in front of him.

A gloved hand squeezed Xinghe’s chin and, after some more checking, the man was certain Xinghe was indeed unconscious. Not only that, her condition was deteriorating. Her breath was weak.

The man smiled indulgently. “This is what you get for coming up against me. However, after some deliberations, I’ve decided it’s better that you die. Letting you live might lead to some unnecessary complications.”

The man took out a syringe filled with lethal poison. With the one shot, she would die peacefully and quietly, given a permanent solace from all the pain and suffering.

Chapter 330: Someone Was Here!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“This is my last kindness towards you,” the man said gently while his eyes flashed with bloodlust.

The syringe in his hand went straight for the blood vessel on Xinghe’s arm.

Right at that moment, Xinghe opened her eyes!

Their eyes met and the man froze in his motion. Of course, he wasn’t expecting her to wake up at a time like this.

To be fair, neither did Xinghe expect that the first thing to drift into her ears when she gained consciousness would be his monologue before he killed her.

She peeled open her eyes from sheer desire to live. She glared daggers at him.

Faced with her sudden awakening, the man was understandably flustered, however he quickly collected himself. Naturally, he was not cowed by Xinghe’s evil stare.

He chuckled coldly before adding, “Now that you’ve woken up, the more reason for me to kill you. Goodbye, Xia Meng.”

To his confusion, Xinghe suddenly collapsed back to unconsciousness. Everything was so sudden that the man suspected he was dreaming.

Was that some momentary recovery of consciousness before death? the man questioned himself.

Regardless, the man knew that dragging this on would only be detrimental to him. He pulled Xinghe’s arm straight and stuck the needlepoint into her blood vessel.

However, before he could press down on the syringe, the guards outside the door said, “Young Master!”

Mubai nodded in response before walking into the room. The room was empty except for the unconscious Xinghe who lay on the bed. However, the window was open and a draft was

blowing into the room. For some reason, Mubai felt a strange presence in the room.

“Who opened the window?” Mubai demanded ferociously.

Xinghe was still recovering so the draft would do her more harm than good. Which idiot left this window open?

The guards huddled at the door and looked at each other curiously. “We have no idea, none of us opened it.”

Mubai walked to the window to check at its corner like he saw something but there was nothing out of the ordinary there.

Furthermore, this was the fifteenth floor, no one could have climb in from the window. So what was this sinking feeling in his stomach?

Mubai’s face gloomed over and ordered the guards, “Spread out and be on the lookout for suspicious individuals. Someone was here!”

The guards were caught by surprise but soon moved to oblige.

Mubai sat back down beside Xinghe to inspect her situation. Eventually his eyes zeroed in on the small puncture wound her arm. Even though there were many wounds on her arms due to the IV but Mubai was sure this was a new one.

“F*ck!” Mubai quickly called for Lu Qi to check on Xinghe. He was deadly worried someone had done something harmful to her. Thankfully, Lu Qi didn’t find anything worse than usual about her condition. Xinghe was still weak and dying.

“Maybe you’re overthinking this,” Lu Qi comforted him. He believed Mubai’s psyche had been pulled a bit too taut recently.

Mubai was working on his laptop. He was looking through the security footage.

He chuckled mirthlessly at Lu Qi’s words. “Someone has tampered with the hospital’s security records and you still think I’m being too paranoid?”

“What?” Lu Qi frowned. “Can you recover the original data?”

Mubai shook his head. “The opponent tampered with the files before they made their move and not after, so there is not much I can do.”

The security videos were useless.

“Who are these people that they are so hell bent on taking Xia Meng’s life?” Lu Qi asked solemnly.

Mubai’s eyes flashed gruesomely when he answered, “We’ll know when you finish your research.”

Chapter 331: Xia Xinghe Is Coming Back (End of the Body Swap Arc)

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe would tell them herself when she returned to her body.

Speaking of which, Lu Qi exclaimed excitedly, “I’ve reached the breakthrough I needed last night. The research is coming to an end!”

Mubai raised his head suddenly and uttered in disbelief, “What did you say?”

Lu Qi repeated with a smile, “I said the research is coming to an end.”

Mubai stared at him dumbly as a sense of happiness blossomed in his heart.

He turned to look at Xinghe who was unconscious and his eyes started to tear up.

Very soon, his original Xia Xinghe was coming back...

...

The breakthrough in Lu Qi’s research was the best news for Mubai. After he moved Xinghe to another hospital, he supported Lu Qi with the full power of the Xi family.

Lu Qi said that when he cultivated enough memory cells, they could be implanted into Xinghe and Xia Meng’s brains.

Then, they would need to wait for the memory cells to replicate their memories and then everything could be returned to normal, or at least as normal as it could be. Since Xia Meng’s original body was too damaged, with Xia Meng’s personal permission, Mubai procured for her a new body.

The body belonged to an orphan. She had been a vegetable for many years due to a car accident. Lu Qi confirmed that the chance of the girl ever waking up was close to nil.

Therefore, it harmed no one using her body. After all, if allowed to continue any longer, the girl’s body would eventually waste away from atrophy.

The girl was still young so Xia Meng was basically given a new lease on life after she assumed her body. Xia Meng was excited at the prospect of starting over. She was immensely thankful to Mubai and Xinghe for giving her this opportunity. She felt ashamed by what she had done.

Therefore, before Xinghe woke up, Xia Meng voluntarily surrendered the energy crystal in her possession. Mubai accepted it on Xinghe's behalf. It was because of this thing that Ye Shen was murdered and Xinghe was tortured.

It was not purely out of kindness that Mubai aided Xia Meng. It was clear to him that if Xinghe didn't experience this part of Xia Meng's life, they wouldn't have known the latent danger that was always around them. Eventually, the mysterious man and his group would've come after Xinghe because she also had one of the crystals.

Therefore, Xinghe's swap with Xia Meng wasn't completely unlucky. At least she had come into contact with this enemy before the designated time, and what's more was that the enemy had no clue as to what her real identity was.

This way, Xinghe could prepare sufficiently before the enemies set their sights on her. In fact, she could even manage to snuff out the danger before it came openly at her. Therefore, technically speaking, it might be Xinghe who ultimately benefitted from this memory swap.

Of course Xia Meng couldn't be said to get a bad bargain as well. She knew in her heart she was lucky because Mubai and Xinghe were not malicious like her ex-husband, if not, she would not have gotten such a good outcome.

Xia Meng decided to face the future with her head held high when she started her new life. That was the lesson she'd learned from Xinghe, it was to live with pride and determination. She would no longer rely on other people's charity...

Mubai didn't stay to find out more about Xia Meng's thoughts. His focus was on Lu Qi and his research.

One week had passed and Lu Qi finally cultivated enough memory cells to initiate the transfer. The memory transfer experiment could finally begin.

“It takes times for the memory cells to do their work. It’ll require about half a month to fully replicate the memory. After that, they will be transferred into each other’s brain but it will require another half a month for the memory cells to integrate with the human brain cells,” Lu Qi explained to Mubai after he made the insertion.

Chapter 332: He Can Be Xinghe's Private Nurse

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai nodded. "In other words, Xinghe will need another month before she regains her consciousness?"

"That's about right," Lu Qi concurred.

One month or thirty days was an awkward time to wait, it was not too long yet not too short. Mubai spent his days alternating between hopefulness and anxiousness...

Of course, this didn't mean that was all he did. It was work as usual for him, managing Xi Empire and the company's future projection while fending off advances from hostile forces. In conclusion, he tried to grow his company as much as he could within this one month period because he wanted to give Xinghe the best aid, asset-wise, when she returned.

...

Xia Zhi and his father were clueless about Xinghe's situation. The only information he received was that even though Xinghe had awakened, she still needed to stay at the Xi family's old mansion because her physical condition remained fairly weak.

Xia Zhi barely exchanged a few sentences with Xinghe whenever he visited.

To keep up the ruse, Xia Meng pretended to be asleep or sick whenever he visited. This gave Xia Zhi the impression that his sister had become quite low-spirited. However, he comforted himself with the fact that at least she had awakened; he believed she would be her old self as time passed.

Therefore, it came as a real surprise to Xia Zhi when he realized Xinghe once again had gone unconscious.

"What happened? Wasn't she recovering? How come she is suddenly knocked out?" Xia Zhi demanded from Mubai during one of his visits to his sister.

Mubai found it difficult to explain to Xia Zhi the complexities of the situation so he lied. Other than that, it was for Xia Zhi's

own safety that the knowledge was kept away from him.

“Do not worry. The doctors recently performed another operation on her and she will wake up in about half a month. She will be fully recovered then,” Mubai told Xia Zhi with confidence.

Even though Xia Zhi was more than a bit curious about his explanation, he chose to believe Mubai.

“My poor sister, I must take good care of her when she wakes up later!” Xia Zhi promised with determination.

Mubai looked at him and added softly, “Your sister has me watching over her. That’s more than enough.”

He wanted to take on the full responsibility of caring for Xinghe, he didn’t want to share that responsibility with anyone else.

Xia Zhi grumbled unhappily, “How can that be enough? Plus, leaving my sister in your hands alone is the reason why I’m worried!”

“How so?” Mubai asked with a raised brow. Why would my actions be anyone’s cause for concern?

Xia Zhi nodded. “Because who knows what kind of intentions you harbor towards my sister. I’m telling you, I will not let you hurt my sister again. Then again, she won’t be so easily swayed by your actions. After all, she is such a wonderful woman; no man is good enough for her.”

Xia Zhi’s words were laced with pride. In his eyes, his sister was the most wonderful woman ever lived.

Mubai replied with a smile, “You’re right, your sister is indeed the most wonderful woman...”

Xia Zhi looked at him curiously. He agrees with me?

“And is only deserving of the best man in the world, which is what I strive to be, so that one day I will be good enough for her,” Mubai said before he turned to leave.

Xia Zhi stared at his back and grumbled to himself, “Then you’d better don’t disappoint us...”

If Xi Mubai let them down again, he swore on his life, he would not let him get close to her!

Of course, after Xinghe woke up, he had to remind her to be extremely cautious of Xi Mubai's intentions. She mustn't let her guard down and only accept him only after he proved he was truly good enough!

Xia Zhi believed his sister deserved the best, nothing less than that.

...

The days ticked by, one by one. In the blink of an eye, the period of half a month was almost over.

In recent days, Mubai spent most of his waking hours in Xinghe's company. His work was even done by her bedside.

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

A short and sweet arc focusing on one half the introduction of new villains and the other, romance development between the two leads 331 – 369. Mini Arcs: Munan's Predicament 331 – 355. The Date: 356 – 369

Chapter 333: We'll Become History!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He did this because Xinghe might wake up at any moment. He wanted to be the first to greet her when she did.

Today, he was in Xinghe's room again doing his work. After some time, he received a call from his grandfather, saying he had an emergency to discuss with him.

Mubai had no choice but to leave.

...

"Grandfather, why did you call for me?" Mubai asked as he walked into Grandfather Xi's study.

His grandfather had a glum expression. Mubai could sense the severity of the situation. His grandfather acknowledged him with a look before saying, "Your second uncle just called. Munan is in trouble."

Mubai was dismayed. "What happened?"

"Munan has recently been investigating a group that is profiteering from illegal munitions sales. Last night he caught the break he needed and managed to confiscate the illegal munitions. However, they found that half of the munitions had gone missing this morning; since the munitions were Munan's responsibility, he has been taken away for investigation."

Mubai narrowed his eyes instantly. "This was obviously a set-up."

The Xi family had more than enough assets to not lower themselves to be involved in illegal dealings like the reselling of military munitions.

Grandfather Xi and announced solemnly, "It was a set-up. However if we cannot find the evidence to clear Munan's name, he will be sent to military court. This had to happen at this juncture where he was about to be named the commander of the Flying Dragon Unit."

Flying Dragon Unit was Hwa Xia's newly formed unit. Different from most military units, it employed the advantages

of a lot of advanced technology. Its unit members not only had to be familiar with high-tech combat strategies but also proficient in naval, ground, and air combat.

In other words, it was a highly-trained unit that was competent in all manner of warfare. Hwa Xia had decided to invest in developing this type of unit. Since City T had such military presence, it was selected as first test site.

Thanks to Grandfather Xi's background in politics, the position of leader of this newfound unit naturally fell into the Xi family. After Munan became the commander of this unit, his future would be set. That would, in turn, consolidate the Xi family's standing.

Munan's incident was simply too convenient if it was not a set-up. Someone didn't want him to take the commanding right of Flying Dragon unit.

"Could this be the handiwork of someone from the Feng family?" Mubai suggested.

This was because the next in line to take the commander's post after Munan was disqualified would be them.

Grandfather narrowed his eyes sharply. "If that's true then it means they have hidden relations with this group that is profiteering through illegal munitions sales!"

"There must be suspicious activities behind the Feng family's rapid expansion during this last decade, so it wouldn't surprise me if that's true," Mubai concluded.

The air in the room seemed to have frozen as his grandfather said, "Their evil claws are coming for our Xi family because I'm too old to shield this family anymore. Mubai, listen to me, if we fail to overcome this hurdle, our Xi family will become history!"

Mubai's brows furrowed deeply. If his grandfather had said so then it was true that the Xi family faced imminent danger.

...

While Mubai was convening with Grandfather Xi, Xinghe finally woke up!

She opened her eyes slowly and realized she was inside a small and comfortable room.

Her attending nurse noticed that and quickly rushed to her side. “Miss Xia, you’re finally awake. How are you feeling?”

Xinghe stared at the nurse before pushing herself up. She then lowered her head to study her own two hands.

Chapter 334: The One and Only Xia Xinghe

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

It was her tapered fingers with the lines that she used to hate. She found them very meaningful at that moment because they were her own. They belonged to the original Xia Xinghe, she was finally staring at her own hands!

She turned to ask the nurse, “What date is it today?”

“It’s the second of November.”

That meant that she had been unconscious for a little bit more than a month. It appeared that her memory had switched back. Xinghe pulled away the mattress and made to get off the bed.

The nurse quickly stopped her. “Miss Xia, what are you doing? You just woke up, please don’t stress yourself.”

“To the toilet,” Xinghe answered softly. Even though her body was still weak, her gait had a natural confidence in it.

The nurse studied her with a curious expression. She had a feeling something had changed within Xinghe. She appeared to be quite different from before...

Xinghe stood in front the bathroom mirror and studied the face in the mirror. Her eyes shuddered. It was her old face again. The memories had really been swapped, she was her old self again. She liked the feeling because only this way could she really have her future under her control. Her body, her fate.

Xinghe smiled and accepted the fact that her body had returned without much fuss.

She exited the bathroom and asked the nurse, “Where’s Mubai?”

Now the nurse truly felt Xinghe was a changed woman. The earlier Xia Xinghe was someone incredibly normal, if anything a little bit weak. However, the Xia Xinghe before her had a queen-like presence. Her words pulled you in and dared you to defy her.

The nurse answered respectfully, “Mr. Xi was here just a moment ago but he was pulled away by a phone call. Recently,

he's spent all his time here, waiting for you to wake up.”

Xinghe nodded before adding, “Can you help me prepare a change of clothes, I would like to take a bath.”

“Alright...” The nurse moved to prepare but she turned back after some hesitation. “Miss Xia, you just woke up, so you ought to delay taking a bath until you've regained more energy.”

“No worries, I'm fine.” Xinghe said before heading back into the bathroom.

She realized there were probably people who came to give her a daily scrub but she still wished to reward herself with a good bath. After all, this was her own body and she had earned a new appreciation for it.

After the bath, Xinghe changed into her new clothes and had a bowl of porridge. She instantly felt much better.

She closed her eyes as she leaned back on the sofa. The air in the room carried the hint of flowers from outside. She felt reborn, which in a way, she was.

She thought back to the period of her marriage to Mubai, the feeling of disgust she had for herself, the helplessness and forlornness...

But now, she liked the person she had become. She was glad she had returned to her old self and she swore to cherish herself no matter what happened in the future. After the whole episode, she had a new appreciation for how good it felt to be herself. To have full control of her own destiny, it was the most meaningful thing in the world. Therefore, from then onwards, she would only be Xia Xinghe, the one and only Xia Xinghe!

After a rare, sentimental moment, Xinghe picked herself up and went to work. She didn't waste any time and started working using the computer in the room.

Previously, the computer was for Xia Meng to watch television or play game when she was bored.

Now, it was an item of convenience for Xinghe. She downloaded a 3D facial modeling program and started shaping the mystery man's face from memory...

Chapter 335: His Boiling Blood

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The moment Mubai returned to the small villa, he received news of Xinghe's recovery. The first time the maid informed him, he thought he was dreaming. After a second confirmation from the maid, he finally believed that Xia Xinghe had really awakened!

He quickly dashed to meet her, there was a natural spring in his step. As he got closer to Xinghe's room, his heart beat quickened. It had been a long time since he felt so nervous...

He felt like a kid going to meet his crush.

He pushed open the room door and when he saw Xinghe sitting quietly in front of the computer, he released the breath that he didn't realize he was holding. He stared intensely at her, not willing to avert his eyes as he stepped closer to her. It was as if he was afraid she might disappear in front of his eyes if he didn't pay absolute attention.

Xinghe heard his approaching footsteps. She lifted her head and looked straight at him. "Thank you for everything."

Xinghe knew that without asking that it was him who had been taking care of her when she was unconscious. She was not good with expressing her emotions but she would take note whenever someone was nice towards her. She realized he had been lending his aid whenever things got slightly out of hand, she was appreciative of that. Even during this recent predicament, he helped her unconditionally, without asking for anything in return.

Her previous prejudice against him had completely disappeared. In fact, she was starting to warm to him. If he needed any help in the future, she would return the favor.

"Xia Xinghe..." Mubai called her name gently as he stared, enraptured by her.

"Yes?" Xinghe asked him in return.

"Xia Xinghe..." he repeated as a big smile bloomed on his face, his pupils were even shaking. "It really is you."

Xinghe looked carefully at him and confirmed, “Yes, it is me.”

Mubai suddenly leaned forward and his fiery lips touched hers without warning! Xinghe widened her eyes in surprise—

She didn’t expect such a response from him. When she realized what had happened, she tried to evade but Mubai’s hands had her gripped in a tight lock.

His lips pressed down hard and they burned with irrepressible passion...

When his tongue got some stray ideas, Xinghe finally shoved him forcefully away. Her face was a mixture of shock, disbelief, and bewilderment.

Mubai was panting slightly, his gaze blazing with insuppressible emotion. Like a scorching flame, he seemed to be melting her within his gaze.

His heart jumped violently, the sudden kiss boiling his blood.

Even a distance away, Xinghe could hear his beating heart. She felt curious, why was he so nervous when she was the one being taken advantage of?

The two stared at each other wordlessly for two seconds. Mubai leaned in for another kiss but Xinghe averted her face and locked eyes on the computer screen instead.

“It’s good that you’re here. See whether you recognize the person,” she said in a calm voice as if nothing had happened.

Chapter 336: He's the Feng Family's Young Master

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai was still recovering from his sudden, uncontrollable passion. His gaze turned towards the screen following her words.

“It's him!” Mubai narrowed his eyes with menace. The face of the man on screen was awfully familiar. The air around Mubai became charged with killing intent.

“This is your kidnapper?” he asked chillingly.

Xinghe nodded. “That's him. Do you know him? Who is he?”

Mubai laughed joylessly. “So it is him. In City T, there is only one party powerful enough to come after the Xi family and that is the Feng family. This here is the Feng family's Young Master, Feng Saohuang. Not only that, he is currently a major general.”

“The Feng family?” Xinghe was not familiar with City T's politics so she hadn't heard that name before.

Mubai explained, “The Feng family is our bitter rival. In recent years, they have expanded greatly and now their target has finally turned towards our Xi family. For your information, something bad happened to Munan yesterday, now I'm even more certain it has everything to do with them.”

“Your cousin, Munan?” Xinghe was surprised.

“That's the one.”

“What happened?”

Mubai told her everything. Xinghe was shocked that a force as powerful as the Xi family would face a predicament as serious as this. Then again, the higher one climbs, the greater the number of people who would want you to fall. After all, the Xi family had too big of a market monopoly, only by taking down the Xi family could other people rise.

Xinghe understood how ruthless the world could be, especially the business and military worlds. It was eat or be eaten.

Feng Saohuang would stop at nothing for the sake of power and profit. She'd personally tasted his methods before; she knew he was a cold-blooded person. Now that his target had switched to the Xi family, his goal was most likely greater than taking down the Xi Family. He must be aiming to crush the Xi family until there was no chance of a comeback!

She couldn't allow that to happen! She did promise to help Mubai whenever she could and she couldn't allow any harm to come to her son!

Therefore, for the sake of Lin Lin, she had to help neutralize this threat; she had to neutralize the Feng family.

"Have you put any counter measures in place yet?" Xinghe asked suddenly.

Mubai admitted solemnly, "Not yet. There is no proof so we can't do anything against him. The most pressing thing now is to help Munan clear his name so that Feng Saohuang's ploy wouldn't succeed."

Xinghe nodded. "However, that is easier said than done. We should concentrate on smoking out the traitor first before we can start looking for the stolen munitions."

Mubai looked at her and smiled handsomely. "You think there's a traitor as well?"

Xinghe raised her brow. "Only a traitor could steal the munitions so silently from under your cousin's nose."

"You're right," Mubai's eyes filled with vengeance. "Whoever it is, their ending won't be good for betraying our Xi Family."

"Do say something if you need my help," Xinghe said, "After all, my rage can only be quenched by dealing with that Feng Saohuang myself!"

Mubai asked, "Why is he going for the black casket? What is his connection to Project Galaxy?"

Only then Xinghe realized she hadn't told Mubai the information given to her by Ye Shen.

"Do you want to know what the big secret Ye Shen had been hiding is?"

“What?”

“According to him, the end of the world will happen in the next fifteen years, and the black caskets are energy crystals to power the spaceship that will take us away from Earth.”

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

The eleven bonus chapters today are sponsored by eleven pipers piping.

Chapter 337: Help You with Everything I Have

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Project Galaxy, according to him, is a plan to find another habitable planet and this project was initiated by our parent’s generation.”

Mubai was dumbstruck! No sane person would believe something like that really existed!

“That is what Ye Shen said?” Mubai tried to confirm.

Xinghe nodded. “Indeed, but I find his belief to be highly suspicious.”

Mubai concurred, “Me too. However, considering the fact that Feng Saohuang had gotten involved, this Project Galaxy has to be something important.”

“Ye Shen’s, Xia Meng’s, and Ruobing’s fathers and my mother share a similarity. All of them appeared in City T thirty years ago and disappeared twelve years ago. Ye Shen must have used this connection to locate Xia Meng, like how Ee Chen used this to find Ruobing. However Saohuang only knew that Ye Shen had the energy crystal but not Xia Meng. He has no idea about this similarity so his parents should have nothing to do with this project. Then, this means that he knows about this project from other sources and fully believes its implications.”

Mubai understood what she meant. “You mean to say that there is validity to this Project Galaxy stuff since it has been confirmed by Saohuang’s involvement?”

“That’s right.”

“If the apocalypse stuff is true then we have to get involved as well.”

Xinghe nodded. “That’s correct. Therefore, we need to find the two energy crystals Ye Shen hid and try to pry more information from Saohuang.”

“Did he know you have an energy crystal as well?” This was the question Mubai was most worried about.

Xinghe shook her head. “Not yet. My mother probably had thought all these would happen so she took me away from City T to overseas. No one but myself knows about her time of disappearance. Furthermore, you can’t find anything on her, she wiped out all the information there is on her.”

“But your name is such a giveaway.”

“Xinghe is a common name. The most they will do is suspect me, there is no way they can tell for sure. Take Ee Chen and Xia Meng for example, they only suspected that I have something to do with it, they couldn’t confirm it.”

Ee Chen suspected she had something to do with the project after working with Xinghe, while on Xia Meng’s side, Xinghe herself admitted the truth.

Mubai was still worried. “Regardless, we have to be careful. Even suspicion could lead to a lot of danger.”

“I understand.”

“From now on, I will have my men protect you at all times. You just rest well and leave everything to me.”

Xinghe shook her head with determination. “I cannot do that. I will only feel safe if I personally have a hand in it.”

Mubai expected as much. He knew she was not a woman to hide in a man’s shadow. Furthermore, she had proven herself to be more intelligent and brave than most men. She didn’t need a man to shield her from the world because she was more than capable to take on the world with her power alone.

Mubai looked at her and said helplessly, “I didn’t realize you have such competitive personality.”

“I’m not being competitive. I just prefer to have my fate in my own hands.”

After all, who could make the best decision for her other than herself?

This was the quality Mubai valued the most in Xinghe. If she didn’t stay true to herself, then she wouldn’t be Xia Xinghe.

“Alright, then I will support you in any way I can,” Mubai offered, “Tell me should you need any help and I will do everything I can to help you.”

Chapter 338: Start to Care About Him

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe was surprised he would promise such a thing.

Tell me should you need any help and I will do everything I can to help you.

That was a serious promise that Mubai gave.

Xinghe turned back to the computer and responded, “In that case, I will do my best to help your family. I’m sure that, with our cooperation, we can overcome this predicament.”

“Sounds great!” Mubai said with a winning smile. He was overjoyed because he realized Xinghe was looking out for him. It had been hard work getting to this stage. There was finally a small space for him in her heart...

Then he thought back to the sudden kiss that they shared. When it happened, her response wasn’t repugnance but surprise. If Xinghe loathed him as her pursuer, he knew she would have slapped him or worse.

They had once been married so they had done the ‘deed’ before but those were compelled by lust. However, his kiss earlier wasn’t born out of lust but love. That was probably why she was shocked.

Mubai didn’t dare push his luck; he was satisfied with the kiss. As they say, baby steps. It was because he respected her and cared about her that he would attend to her concern and take things at her preferred pace. After all, he couldn’t afford to scare her away. She was too important to him.

“Before we deal with the Feng family, do take a rest. You just woke up today so don’t exhaust yourself. Rest for a few days first,” Mubai reminded her gently.

Xinghe had other plans. “I’m perfectly fine, I will rest when my body tells me to. Speaking of which, where’s Xia Meng?”

“Her old body was no longer usable so we transferred her memory into a coma patient. Actually, I think she might be

awake now too since you are. Also, she already gave me her energy crystal, I can pass it to you anytime you want.”

Xinghe nodded. “I’m glad she has a new start. It’s good that she passed you the energy crystal, this is our secret weapon against Feng Saohuang.”

Mubai thought of that too. “Saohuang thought Ye Shen only had one, right? This can be the one variable that screws up his plan completely.”

“Indeed. However, we must be careful to not let him find out the location of the two crystals Ye Shen hid first.”

Mubai sighed helplessly. “If only we knew where Ye Shen hid it.”

Mubai’s men had almost turned the city around but there was no progress. However, this probably meant that Feng Saohuang’s men would have the same trouble locating them as well.

Xinghe had a lightbulb moment, and she said quickly, “Can you get me Xia Meng’s energy crystal? I have an idea I wish to try out.”

“What idea?”

“The energy crystals are a type of rare metal, right? We can use that property to create a detecting instrument.”

Mubai looked at her curiously. “You have confidence that you can make it work?”

“No promises, but it doesn’t hurt to try.” Contrary to her words, Xinghe sound absolutely confident.

Mubai’s eyes were gleaming when he looked at her. He loved witnessing her acting confidently. To him, it was the most beautiful thing in the world.

“Alright, I will give it to you in a bit,” Mubai couldn’t help but smile. “But you have to rest for now, I’ll have the cooks prepare something for you. What are you in the mood for?”

“Anything is fine.” Xinghe was not a picky eater.

Mubai nodded as he moved to support her up. “Then, I shall help you retire to bed for now. I will call when the food’s ready.”

Xinghe was inclined to demur but she was feeling rather tired. Mubai was right, she was still recovering. She had been up for only one or two hours but she felt weighed down by great fatigue.

Chapter 339: Implicated

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

With reluctance, Xinghe nodded and allowed herself to be led back to the bed. Mubai helped her get into the bed and tucked her in.

“Clear your mind for now and sleep. Sweet dreams,” he whispered.

Xinghe nodded and shut her eyes. Very soon, her breathing became more and more rhythmic...

Mubai sat beside her bed, studying her profile. After he was certain she was asleep, he leaned in and gave her a light peck on her forehead. Then, he moved away. He laid his eyes one last time on her sleeping face before getting up lightly. He left and closed the door behind him.

Unknown to him, the moment the door clicked shut, her eyes opened. She was still awake when Mubai leaned in to give her a goodnight kiss. This was the second kiss she received from him that day and her feelings were complicated. She knew perfectly well how Mubai felt about her but she was unsure whether she reciprocated those feelings or not. She couldn't say for a fact that she loved him but it was true that she was no longer averse to his romantic advances.

Her mind was clouded because it was not her habit to concentrate on things like romantic relationship and feelings. She was unsure how to react towards Mubai's active pursuit because she too had no idea how she really felt. She was willing to give everything for the person she loved but it was hard to tell whether Xi Mubai belonged in that category of people or not...

Either way, it was not yet time to deal with questions like those, at least not until the threat of the Feng family had been resolved. Xinghe sighed and went to sleep.

...

Xinghe had a long sleep. No one came to disturb her so she had no clue that the atmosphere within the Xi family had

gotten increasingly strained. Munan's predicament had turned into a colossal disaster. All the collected evidence pointed towards him. He was the biggest suspect. Even his father Xi Jiangnan who was Hwa Xia's senior military official was also implicated.

If this charge of illegal profiteering of military munitions was pinned on Munan, the whole Xi Family would be dragged into the investigation and that included Mubai.

Even though Mubai wasn't part of the military, but business elite, he would also be implicated.

In recent few years, Mubai's company had an exponential growth. Rumors were saying the source of his company assets actually came from a suspicious background. So, almost every day his company and accounts were crawling with federal investigators.

Mubai was not afraid of these allegations because they were unfounded but being framed and backstabbed by his business partners-cum-competitors was a bit hard to swallow. The whole Xi family was furious.

Elder Xi had to reach out for aid. Only with his personal involvement could the Xi family get some breathing space. This meant that leadership of the Xi family had temporarily fallen to Mubai's father, Xi Jiangsan.

Mubai, for his part, had mobilized his men to locate the missing munitions. Currently, only with the restoration of the munitions and capture of the traitor could the Xi family's name be cleared, or the Xi Family would fall before this hurdle.

If Munan was indicted with this charge, the Xi family could topple overnight. In the world of politics, there was no lasting winner. One day you might be at the top but the next you would be at the bottom.

One careless mistake and there would be a whole line of people waiting for you to fail, to add insult to injury. The world was a cruel place, one had to step on other people's corpses to rise to the top.

Therefore, when people heard the news regarding Xi Family, they were already prepared to usurp the throne.

When approached, they promised verbally to lend the Xi family aid, but those were nothing more than empty promises.

Chapter 340: Come After Me? Not So Easy

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The Xi family was most familiar with these rules, after all, they themselves practically wrote the playbook. Therefore, they knew that they had to rely on themselves and no one else to get over this hurdle. The most pressing issue was to clear Munan's name of the charge of illegally selling military munitions.

However, the munitions had disappeared without a trace. There was no clue for them to even follow up on...

Other than that, they had to secure the evidence within a month, because after the one month, Feng Saohuang would replace Munan as the leader of the Flying Dragon unit. In other words, they didn't have much time left. They had to work fast or the consequences would be unimaginable.

The Xi family had pooled all their resource to solve this issue and, of course, had prepared for the worst.

...

"Mubai, you have to stay out of this whole mess," Jiangsan told his son solemnly, "If, god forbid, this is unsalvageable, at least we will still have some standing in the business world."

Munan's father, Jiangnian nodded in agreement. "Your father is right. Mubai, leave yourself out of this. We can't put all our eggs in one basket, if Munan is to fall, at least the Xi family will still have you to fall back on."

Mubai's face was creased with a smile. "Dad, Uncle, you're being too optimistic. Even if I were willing to bow out, the enemy would not allow it since it is their goal to ruin the entire Xi family."

"They may try but our Xi family is not so easily ruined." Jiangsan retorted with dignity. Jiangnian thought the same way. From their perspective, the Xi family was immovable, not even the Feng family could do them any real harm. The most they could do was plot against Munan but that was where

the plotting stopped because they wouldn't be able to touch the larger Xi family.

Mubai thought otherwise. "The Xi name is very precarious at the moment. Our family's future lies with Munan, the fact that they came after him showed how far our enemy is willing to go to hunt our Xi family down. After Munan is taken out, I will be their next target because I'm the next biggest threat."

After all, Mubai had rich financial backing and strong influence in the city. If he fell, the Xi family would follow. Without the younger generation to hold up the family, the Xi family would eventually dwindle in power and die out. It was a given that the enemy would go after Mubai with all they had after they took care of Munan.

"It is exactly because of this that you must extricate yourself from this mess," Jiangnian advised.

"Unless the Xi family disowns me, that will not happen," Mubai replied with finality, "Plus, as a proud member of the Xi family, how can I just stand and watch? Father, uncle, do not worry about me, I will not be so easily taken down. Of course, that is the same for the Xi family!"

"If we manage to weather this storm, we will definitely let the enemy taste the Xi family's wrath and teach them all lesson for daring to come after us, the Xi family!" Jiangnian hissed through gritted teeth. Jiangsan shared his anger.

"Our Xi family got to our position today from sheer hard work and talent. We did not do one despicable thing, yet these people dare to harm us from the dark! After we find the culprits, they will be punished severely!"

However, this wasn't the point that angered them the most. The most furious thing was that they knew who the enemy was but could do nothing against them. They could only fume in anger as they watched the enemy come after their family members. This was where most of their grievances came from.

Therefore, this time, the bitter rivalry between the Xi family and the Feng family had come to an ugly climax. It could only end with one of the parties dead.

Of course, the Feng family understood this as well. Needless to say, they too were giving it everything they'd got to land a fatal blow on the Xi family.

Chapter 341: Something On His Mind

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

All these reasons meant that Mubai couldn't just stay clear of this trouble. If anything, it meant that he had to give it his best or else it would be over for the Xi family.

...

Xinghe finally woke up when the night fell. The first thing she saw was Mubai sitting on the sofa against the wall, reading some documents with extreme focus. The only light in the room came from a wall sconce above him. The light was mellow and not harsh to the eyes. He flipped through the papers gingerly, careful not to wake her. Xinghe couldn't help but be drawn in by his sculpted features.

"You're awake?" Mubai raised his eyes feeling her gaze on him. Instantly, a brilliant smile appeared on his face.

Xinghe's heart skipped a beat. She had to admit, Mubai's look was... exquisite.

Pulling herself up, Xinghe asked softly, "What time is it?"

"Nine o'clock in the evening." Mubai put down his documents and called the maid to send up some food. Xinghe was surprised that she had slept half the day away.

"How are you feeling?" Mubai asked as he walked towards her. He sat down beside her and his hand naturally went to feel her forehead.

"Feeling much better, thanks," Xinghe answered truthfully. She did feel better after a good sleep.

Her temperature felt normal to Mubai and some color had returned to her face so he said happily, "Come, I'll help you up. I've had the cooks prepare a lot of good food; they're all light in flavor, perfect for a recovering patient like you."

Xinghe pulled away the cover and got out of bed. After she cleaned herself up in the bathroom, the food was already placed on the table. Mubai waved her over to sit beside him.

Xinghe looked at the table of scrumptious meal and her stomach started growling.

She was out for almost a month so her body was already yearning for real food. Mubai smiled hearing the growling from her stomach. He put some vegetables in her bowl and urged, "Enjoy your meal while it's hot."

Xinghe blushed slightly. After two mouthfuls, she asked suddenly, "Where's Lin Lin?"

She missed her son even though she'd just woken up. Mubai answered instantly, "He should be asleep now. I'll have him come over to visit you tomorrow."

"I'm leaving tomorrow," Xinghe said bluntly. She didn't want to stay forever under someone else's roof; she had a house of her own.

Mubai's chopsticks that was getting her more vegetables stopped in mid-air. After a beat, he nodded. "That's fine. Do you want Lin Lin to go with you? I'm sure you will appreciate his company."

Xinghe was surprised he would be kind enough to voluntarily offer that. However, she shook her head, "That's fine. He will receive better care here, I'm afraid I won't have time to look after him over the coming few days or months."

"You have a point." Mubai nodded. They would indeed be quite busy for a period of time.

Xinghe could see there was something on his mind. She couldn't help but ask, "What's wrong? Something worse happened to Munan?"

Mubai was taken aback. He thought he had covered his bases but she could read him like an open book. He didn't think Xinghe was a woman that needed protecting so he spared her no details.

"Unfortunately, you're right. Our investigation has stagnated, there is no evidence that support his innocence." Mubai sighed.

"How did the munitions get stolen?" Xinghe asked.

Without hiding any details, Mubai answered honestly, “After they caught the actual criminal, they hauled both the munitions and people back to base. However, they were unlucky enough to get caught in a landslide so they had no choice but to rest at the side of the road.”

Chapter 342: Too Surprising

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Almost everyone lay down to sleep because the operation was physically demanding and it was almost midnight. However, when they woke up, half of the munitions disappeared and the ones tasked with guarding them were unconscious. The most surprising thing was that none of them heard anything. Post investigation showed that their water was drugged with sleeping pills.”

“But why should the suspicions fall on Munan, sounds like they’re all equally guilty.”

Mubai shook his head. “That’s not how the military works. Munan is the operation leader so he has to shoulder all the blame.”

“In other words, he has to take the fall if the munitions are not discovered.”

“Yes.”

“What is the consequence of that?” Xinghe asked again.

Mubai explained with a low growl, “Probably not that bad, at most a suspension from duty. Of course, I don’t think the culprit will stop at that.”

“They aim to crush the Xi family in one fell swoop?” Xinghe questioned.

Mubai looked at her with awe. “What made you think that?”

Xinghe smirked. “Isn’t that obvious? If the culprit is the Feng family, they will only rise to the top with the Xi family out of the way. Furthermore, Feng Saohuang is a heartless character, he will not give his enemy a chance to recuperate in case they gather enough strength to retaliate.”

Mubai nodded. “You’re right, we see eye to eye on this.”

“This means that they will make sure the charge is pinned on Munan. While suspension from duty is not serious but the criminal charge will be. After all, in the world of politics,

reputation speaks volume. The Xi family will be shunned politically if it produces a national traitor.”

“I agree.”

Xinghe continued her analysis. “Therefore, they will definitely plant the munitions in some premise related to the Xi family. Do you have any idea where that might be?”

Mubai’s eyes shone brightly. “Xi Empire’s Pier!”

Xi Empire was involved in a myriad of business interest, its products branching into multiple territories. The Xi family had a corporate pier and many containers got shipped through there every day. If the munitions were discovered there, it would be the best proof of criminal activity. It was a ‘kill two birds with one stone’ plan; it would not only incriminate Munan, but also Mubai as well! The Xi family would be taken out in one fell swoop.

Mubai was considered a genius already but he completely hadn’t considered that possibility. He needed Xinghe to remind him!

If not for her, the Xi family would truly be in deep waters. Even Mubai shuddered considering the worst scenario. However, the bigger part of him was in awe with Xinghe’s brilliance!

At that moment, Mubai’s heart was a mess of emotions, he needed time to pick them apart.

Xinghe slapped down her chopsticks. “Let’s go to the pier now!”

Mubai stood up to leave and he was shocked to realize Xinghe intend to follow him.

“You’re going too?” He asked in astonishment.

“Of course, you might need my help.”

“No way, your health...”

“I’m fine,” Xinghe’s gaze was unwavering. “Taking care of Feng Saohuang is our focus. If we let him pull this off, all of

our lives will be in danger, so my health can be ignored for now.”

Mubai’s eyes darkened. He gripped Xinghe’s hands tightly and promised firmly, “I swear as long as I’m around, I will not let anything happen to you.”

Xinghe’s eyes shook and she changed the subject, “Let’s get to the pier for now.”

“Okay.” Mubai pulled her along and this time, Xinghe didn’t shrug off his grasp.

After some brief preparations, they left for the pier. In the car, Mubai called his men and started issuing orders.

Chapter 343: The Intruders Are Here!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe sat beside him, her fingers flying over the keyboard. In the luxurious, armored car, there was a built-in computer. The car drove smoothly and rapidly. This afforded Xinghe the convenience of further research as they sped towards the pier...

The moment Mubai finished his orders, Xinghe had hacked into the pier's security system.

"How's everything?" He put away the phone to ask.

"Everything's fine according to the surveillance, nothing's out of place yet."

"But they should be doing this tonight," Mubai mused. After all, the longer this was dragged on, the greater the chance of it not working out.

Xinghe nodded. "If they do it tonight, I will be sure to pick up on it."

The moment she finished, she noticed a suspicious movement on the screen. She smirked. "They're here!"

[The intruders are here!]

Inside a hidden room, a man with a pair of gold-rimmed glasses was facing a giant computer. He was overwriting the pier's surveillance video. There was a certain expertise to the way his fingers moved. It didn't take him too long to finish the job.

"Done!" the man said with a smug smirk. He raised his head to look at a tall man standing near the window and reported, "Boss, I've fixed the videos."

The man nodded and responded in a chilling voice, "Very good, then we shall proceed with the plan."

"Yes sir!" The bodyguard in black who stood beside him nodded deferentially. Their plan was to smuggle the stolen munitions into one of the containers under the cover of the night. Of course, before all that, they had to first manipulate

the surveillance videos. The video feed for the guards at the security office was a pre-recorded surveillance from a few days ago; they had no idea what was really happening.

Of course, the enemy couldn't have foretold that Xinghe was already one step ahead of them...

Mubai's car was parked in a secluded corner near the pier. He watched the video and grumbled coldly, "So, they are committing their operation tonight. I will make sure they pay big time."

"You want to capture them now?" Xinghe queried.

Mubai replied with a wicked smirk, "Wouldn't that be incredibly boring? At least, we have to wait until the traitor shows himself first."

Xinghe smiled lightly. "I'm of the same opinion. Well then, let's enjoy ourselves and watch a good show."

Mubai shared a meaningful look at her and they both smiled, sharing a certain understanding, exclusive to the two of them.

...

The night had finally drawn in. The workers at the pier slowly left and the sprawling pier started to quiet down. It was time for the men in the dark to mobilize as well.

They smuggled in a bunch of stolen munitions and spread them across many different containers. The guards weren't notified of their activities because the surveillance had already been tinkered with.

Alas, the men in the shadows failed to realize their actions had been recorded. Even when they retreated, they didn't notice they were tailed. Their actions had been thoroughly exposed...

"Young Master, the plan was a success!" The bodyguard in black outfit informed the tall man after he received the update from his crew.

The man turned around slowly to reveal his good-looking face.

"Nicely done," he said with an evil smirk, his eyes dancing with a manic glint. "Tonight will be the last night that the Xi

family resides at the top. Tomorrow, I will let the world know that the times have changed!”

The times indeed had changed but what changes it would bring was still an unknown.

After a long night, the morning sun finally appeared on the horizon. Like Mubai, Xinghe worked throughout the night.

Chapter 344: The Lin from the Capital

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, they didn't feel tired, instead they were quite hyped. After Mubai made one last phone call, he looked out the window and a wisp of a smile appeared on his face. It caught the soft light of the rising sun. This was because everything was within their control.

"We can go now," he told his driver.

"Yes, sir."

The car left the pier towards the Xi family's old mansion. At the same time, a group of men rushed towards the pier and under the watchful gaze of the leader, all the planted munitions were removed from the containers.

The workers that were arriving were shocked to see the military munitions on open display. They thought it was over for the Xi family!

In the car, Mubai received the information.

"Young Master, they've found the munitions. I bet they are going to the Xi family next with an arrest warrant," Mubai's bodyguard reported to him on the phone.

"Understood," Mubai hung up his phone but his face was calm, not one trace of nervousness.

Xinghe asked with an arched brow, "They're coming?"

"They will be here soon," Mubai replied with a smile. Then he got down from the car to open the door for Xinghe.

"My lady," he said with a proffered hand. Xinghe hesitated for a moment before taking it. Mubai squeezed her palm, and escorted her towards the living room. Before they could even reach the door, the house butler accosted them, "Young Master, Elder Xi is home and has been looking everywhere for you."

"Thank you," Mubai answered indifferently and led Xinghe into the room.

In the spacious living room, Grandfather Xi took the main seat and beside him were Jiangsan, Jiangnian as well as Mubai's mother. Joining them was a young lady with an unusual presence. The moment Mubai and Xinghe stepped in, all eyes turned towards them.

The young lady saw Xinghe let go of Mubai's hand at last minute, and her lips curled into a condescending smile. Her gaze swept Xinghe's face and the condescension within her grew.

So my competition is just a pedestrian nobody?

The derision in the young woman's eyes was caught by Xinghe. Women were particularly sensitive to these kinds of things after all. She was confused. Who is this woman?

Grandfather Xi provided the answer in the next moment.

"Mubai, it's good that you're finally home," Grandfather Xi opened his mouth to announce authoritatively, "Come, let me make some introductions, this here is Miss Lin Yun. She is a special guest I've invited from the capital. Miss Lin might be a young woman but she is already a national intelligence service agent, and she holds quite an important position in it as well."

Grandfather Xi's introduction had a special meaning to it. After he made the introduction, Mubai knew instantly this Lin Yun's actual identity. She was from the capital's Lin Family...

Mubai looked at her uninterestedly and nodded politely. "Nice to meet you, Miss Lin."

Lin Yun stood up gracefully and gave Mubai a confident smile. "Mr. Xi, nice to meet you. Your name precedes your actions, so it's nice to finally meet you in person."

"The pleasure is mine." Mubai's tone was still as indifferent as before. He didn't treat her differently like everyone else had when they learnt of her identity.

Lin Yun didn't mind, because a proud man was her exact type.

"Mr. Xi, please take a seat, we're in the middle of discussing Mr. Xi Munan's case. However, can the outsider please excuse herself first; after all, everything we discuss will be

confidential,” Lin Yun commanded as she sat down like she owned the place.

Everyone understood her comment. The outsider she was referring to was Xia Xinghe!

Chapter 345: Big Brother Xi

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Even though the Xi family no longer had much prejudice towards Xinghe, she was ultimately not a Xi. Her seat at the table wasn't warranted.

Mrs. Xi smiled politely at Xinghe and said, "Xinghe, you just recovered, right? Why don't you go and rest? You need to take good care of your body."

Xinghe obviously understood what Mubai's mother was hinting at. However, before she could come to a decision, Mubai pulled her down alongside him and said with finality, "She is not an outsider. She deserves to be part of the conversation."

Lin Yun's face fell but she quickly turned it into a smile. "Mr. Xi, the things we will be discussing concern many important parties, are you sure she deserves to be here?"

"This is indeed a family business, it doesn't concern Xinghe," Grandfather Xi announced with authority. "Maids, escort Miss Xia back to her room."

"I've told her everything, so she can stay," Mubai dropped the news suddenly. This surprised even Grandfather Xi.

Jiangsan had a grim face. "This is outrageous, how can you reveal such important information to random strangers?"

"Xinghe is not some random stranger, she is the mother of my son so, technically, this still stays within our family." Mubai's tone was staunch, he was telling them that, on this point, he was unmovable.

Lin Yun proffered a thin smile. "If Mr. Xi says so, then she can stay."

She assumed Xinghe was the stubborn ex-wife that still clung to Mubai's fame and money, so she didn't consider her a threat. She had met similar cannon fodder in her life.

Grandfather Xi glared at Mubai but turned his face up to talk to Lin Yun, "Xiao Yun, I've told you basically everything. Our

two families go way back and your grandfather knows the honor the Xi name holds so he naturally understands that my grandson would not do something like this. However, we are unable to find the proof to clear his name so this time, I will have to leave everything in your capable hands.”

Lin Yun nodded and smiled confidently. “Grandfather Xi, do not worry. I’m here today because my grandfather told me to give the Xi family my full support. I believe in the character of the Xi family members, so I will have my people investigate this further and return to Mr. Xi Munan his innocence. Until this thing blows over, I will stay in City T, come find me if you ever need anything.”

Grandfather Xi laughed happily. “Alright, I will remember your grandfather’s kindness. If you have any needs, please do not hesitate to tell us. Of course, we will pay for all the expenses.”

Lin Yun smiled and her gaze landed on Mubai. “Grandfather Xi, I don’t have much to ask but this is the first time I’ve been to City T and I’ve always been impressed with Big Brother Xi’s reputation. I’m wondering if Big Brother Xi can be my guide and give me a tour of City T?”

Seconds ago, she still called Mubai Mr. Xi and now it had become Big Brother Xi? Even the blind could see what Lin Yun was getting at.

Xinghe took a short glance at Lin Yun, her eyes devoid of interest.

“Of course, this can be arranged...”

Mrs. Xi was going to agree with a smile when Mubai jumped in to say, “Miss Xin, I don’t have time to entertain you unfortunately. As you know, the Xi family will be incredibly busy in the upcoming few days and weeks, but do not worry because I will assign you the best tour guide.”

The rejection didn’t faze Lin Yun. In fact, she smiled confidently and said, “Big Brother Xi you’re being too kind, but I assure you I will not take too much of your time. Plus we can discuss your cousin’s case during the tour.”

“If you want to discuss Munan’s case, then Miss Lin should go to my grandfather,” Mubai rebuffed her again.

Lin Yun was born with a silver spoon in her mouth and came from a loaded family background. She didn’t deal well with rejection.

Chapter 346: Pander to Her? Impossible!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Normally, people tried their best to get on her good side, so getting rejected twice by Mubai was making her feel extremely touchy. She retracted her smile and observed with a tone laced with iciness, “Looks like Mr. Xi is not welcoming of my presence.”

“Of course I welcome you,” Mubai responded instantly but he couldn’t keep the perfunctory tone out of his words.

“If that’s the case, why do you insist on rejecting my request?” Lin Yun asked directly. Even though the Xi family was a powerful family, they were in her debt so she could afford to be direct.

Furthermore, the fact that Mubai didn’t give her face did anger her for quite a bit. If not for the fact he still had his uses to her, she wouldn’t have tried to ingratiate herself to him.

Grandfather Xi saw this unfortunate turn of event and quickly lectured Mubai, “Mubai, Xiao Yun is after all our esteemed guest. As a host, you should treat her nicely. Even if we did not need her help, which we do, you should act like a gracious host.”

“Your grandfather is right, Mubai. Accompanying Xiao Yun wouldn’t take up much of your time anyway,” Mrs. Xi advised him too. They knew he currently had eyes only for Xinghe but they didn’t exactly ask him to fall in love with Lin Yun. They only needed him to accompany Lin Yun for a few days and turn up a smile once in a while because the Xi family was in need of her help.

After all, the Lin family had immense influence and Lin Yun worked at the national intelligence bureau, her help would be instrumental in getting the Xi family out of this predicament.

Mubai naturally understood his family’s thoughts. However, they had no idea they didn’t need the Lin family’s support. Even if they did, he would not demean himself to suck up to another conceited woman, wasn’t one Chu Tianxin enough?

Mubai replied with an apathetic smirk, “I think everyone has misunderstood me. It is not my intention to not be a gracious host but I really don’t have the time to accompany Miss Lin. I’ve said I will arrange for her the best tour guide and, of course, if Miss Lin needs anything beyond that, I welcome her to name it.”

But I will not bend over backwards to pander to this woman!

Lin Yun was surprised by Mubai’s ego. Elder Xi even had to beg the Lin family for aid and Mubai still refused to bow down to her demands? Does he really think his Xi family is so great?

Lin Yun was a beauty with great family background and ability. There was no man in the world that would not go out of his way to get into her good books. Therefore, the fact that Mubai had so rudely trampled over her face incensed her deeply.

If not for his good looks, she would’ve given him a slap on the face! However, she quickly calmed herself, eventually he would need to crawl back to beg for her help.

Lin Yun smiled lightly and stood up with grace. “Grandfather Xi if your Xi family doesn’t welcome me, then I’m going back home. Plus, based on how Mr. Xi is acting, I’m sure he can come up with his own solution to solve Mr. Xi Munan’s problem, so I see that I’m not needed. Goodbye.”

Lin Yun turned to leave. Before she took take another step, Grandfather Xi, as she expected, called after her, “Xiao Yun, wait, please sit back down! You are my special guest, so of course you are welcomed here. Your Big Brother Xi has always been this way, so please don’t lower yourself to his level.”

The perceptive Mrs. Xi stood up in a hurry to pull on Lin Yun’s arm and said kindly, “That’s right, Mubai acts like this around everyone. Xiao Yun, you have to forgive him. If you want to tour City T, Auntie will accompany you. Name any place you want to go and I guarantee we will make sure that you have the most fun.”

Even Jiangan and Jiangnian tried their best to make her stay.

Chapter 347: Chase Her Away!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Every member of the Xi family was person of importance. The fact that most of them had to beg her to stay greatly soothed her inflated ego. She knew where to draw the line; plus, for the sake of future plans, she couldn't cross the Xi family outright.

“Grandfather Xi, Auntie, and Uncles, since you've said so then it would seem inappropriate for me to leave just that that. However, how could a junior like me trouble auntie and uncles to accompany me? Since Big Brother Xi is busy, how about asking that lady to accompany me,” Lin Yun smiled as she turned towards Xinghe.

Xinghe raised her eyes slowly, she was rather bewildered as to why she'd been drawn into this political song and dance. Mubai darkened his eyes instantly. Even Grandfather Xi paused for a moment...

Lin Yun took in the shift in their expression and proffered an innocent smile like she didn't know any better. “This lady looks like an old friend of mine, so I would like to spend some time with her. Of course, between her and Big Brother Xi, I don't mind either one.”

Lin Yun was purposely putting them in a tough spot. Since Mubai didn't give her face first, then she was going to target the woman that he seemed to care about. If the Xi family dared to reject her again, then she would have more than enough reason to not be decorous anymore.

The whole Xi family knew she was purposely giving them a hard time. If this was before, no one would've dared treat them this way. However, they needed her help so they had to accept being bossed around by a little girl.

Grandfather Xi's face was drawn but eventually he suggested solemnly, “Xinghe, since Xiao Yun appears to have a liking for you, why don't you spend a day with her?”

“That's right, Xinghe. Since Mubai is not free, why don't you accompany Xiao Yun on his behalf?” Mrs. Xi urged, the hint couldn't be more obvious.

This was make or break for the Xi family and they desperately needed Xinghe's cooperation.

Xinghe was a paragon of serenity, she kept her calm countenance. However, Mubai couldn't help but scoff out loud. He raised his eyes to look at Lin Yun. Even though he was sitting down and she was standing, it felt like he was looking down on her.

"Miss Lin, our Xi family might have come to you for help but that doesn't mean it gives you the right to lord over us. You're too much of a nothing to boss the members of the Xi family around, much less her. If you want to see City T so much, there's the door. Please."

"You!" Lin Yun widened her eyes in anger. Her face was red from fury. She didn't think Mubai would dare to disrespect her so openly! He dared to chase her away!

Grandfather Xi knew things were going south fast. Before he could say a word, Mrs. Xi quickly berated Mubai, "Mubai, how can you talk to Xiao Yun in that manner. Xiao Yun, let's leave him be. Come, follow Auntie because Auntie has a present for you, it's a diamond necklace worth tens of thousands of dollars..."

"Not necessary!" Lin Yun shrugged Mrs. Xi off. She glowered angrily at them. "Don't you think your Xi family has acted out of line? Have you invited me to get insulted? I'm leaving now and I'm telling my grandfather how you've treated me!"

"Xiao Yun, please don't be mad..." Mrs. Xi was quick to console her. At the same time, she gave Mubai and Xinghe an evil glare. The two of them were simply too rash.

It was not like they didn't know the Xi family's situation. It was one thing if they didn't want to help but did they have to anger Lin Yun?

This would only make things worse for the Xi family.

No matter how Mrs. Xi and Mr. Xi tried to comfort Lin Yun, her anger wouldn't dissipate.

Not only that, her sense of entitlement was slowly surfacing.

“Fine, if you want to me to not be angry, I demand an apology!” Lin Yun pointed at Xinghe and Mubai, and ordered haughtily, “I want a sincere apology from the both of them. If not, then I’m leaving right this moment and your Xi family can handle your trouble on your own!”

Chapter 348: To Capture Young Master Mubai

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai narrowed his eyes menacingly. Even Xinghe was feeling increasingly annoyed.

From the beginning until now, she'd done nothing. Is this Lin Yun crazy, why should I apologize to her?

Xinghe had no idea Lin Yun couldn't stand her the moment she laid her sight on Xinghe. Lin Yun didn't care for the calm way Xinghe carried herself. In Lin Yun's eyes, that spoke of arrogance.

Furthermore, the actual aim of her visit was to draw Mubai into the fold of the Lin family. Since Mubai valued Xinghe so much, it was obvious to Lin Yun that Xinghe was an obstacle to her goal. Mubai even dared to chase her out to protect Xinghe, so Lin Yun was irked by Xinghe's presence.

So what if Xinghe had done nothing wrong, she still demanded an apology from her. This unreasonable demand finally crossed Mubai's bottom line.

He smirked coldly and ordered sharply, "Then leave! Don't stop her, let her leave!"

"Xi Mubai, you..." Mr. Xi was shocked and angered. Son, do you need to act this way?

If Mubai had conceded to Lin Yun's demand in the beginning, things wouldn't have reached this stage.

Lin Yun was understandably incensed by his words. She dropped the last façade of decorum. "Fine, Xi Mubai, you dare to treat me this way? Is this how the Xi family begs other people for help? Fine, then I shall leave now, don't even think my Lin family will ever lend our aid in the future. Solve this problem on your own if you're so capable! I can't wait to see how horribly this will end for all of you!"

Lin Yun shoved Mrs. Xi away roughly and stormed out. At that moment, Grandfather Xi, Jiangan, and Jiangnian's hearts were seized with anxiety. This couldn't have turned out any worse.

They not only didn't help Munan clear his name but also had crossed the Lin family... Could this really be the end for Xi family?

They had angered Lin Yun so that the only way to win her back was probably to kneel down before her and beg for forgiveness. There was no way Xi family would demean themselves to that standard.

But, was there any other choice?

As the uncomfortable atmosphere hung in the air, a maid rushed into the room anxiously. "Elder Xi, this is not good! There is a military platoon outside saying they're here to capture Young Master Mubai!"

What?

Everyone widened their eyes in disbelief. Even Lin Yun who had reached the door was surprised. She stopped, suddenly deciding that she wanted to stay a while longer...

"What did you say?" Mr. Xi accosted the maid and asked with a deep frown.

The maid repeated, "There is a military platoon outside saying they're here to capture Young Master Mubai!"

"Capture Mubai?" Mrs. Xi's face was pale, she turned to Mubai worriedly. "Mubai, what's going on? You didn't do anything, right?"

Mubai was calm before the storm. He comforted them, "Don't worry, nothing will happen to me."

"But there are soldiers outside looking for you." Tears were coming into Mrs. Xi eyes.

Jiangsan asked the maid, "Who is the platoon leader?"

"The man said his name is Feng Saohuang..."

Feng Saohuang!

Xinghe shared a quick meaningful look with Mubai. They read each other's thoughts easily. That man dared to come in person. Looks like he couldn't wait to take the Xi family on.

“Let him in,” Xinghe said suddenly. This was the first thing she was ever since she walked in. Everyone was shocked.

Mrs. Xi frowned. “What are you talking about? They’re here to capture Mubai, how can we let them in?”

“Let him in!” To her surprise, Mubai repeated Xinghe’s words but more forcefully.

Of course, they would let the man in because they already couldn’t wait to face-slap Feng Saohuang!

Chapter 349: It's Over for the Xi Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

It was indeed Feng Saohuang who led the group of soldiers to detain Mubai. He was responsible for overseeing Munan's case so it naturally fell on his shoulders to detain Mubai. It was also because it was him who headed Munan's case that the Xi family had trouble clearing Munan's name.

The Xi family didn't dare to pull some behind-the-scene strings because this was a sensitive time, one wrong step and they would show a weakness for their enemy to exploit. This was why Grandfather Xi had gone looking for Lin family's help.

The Lin family had great influence around the capital. Furthermore, they had easy access to the national intelligence agency.

In the end, to their consternation, they formed a new enemy in Lin Yun whom Grandfather Xi had expended a great deal of effort to invite over. And now, Feng Saohuang had led his troop over to capture Mubai!

Things couldn't get any worse for the Xi family.

Grandfather Xi's face was one of distress but he could still hold his own. He stood up and calmed everyone with his authority. "Everyone calm down! They might be here to capture people but that requires evidence too. As long as I'm still here, nothing will happen to the Xi family!"

Hearing that, the group was greatly allayed. Grandfather Xi was right, the Xi family wasn't so easily beaten. If necessary, they didn't mind facing the predicament with everything they'd got. However, that would be a not so brilliant plan because it would severely hurt the Xi family's vigor. The best outcome was naturally getting over this hurdle without suffering much damage. Either way, the Xi family would not fall!

Even Mrs. Xi had straightened her spine, ready to face the storm.

However, when Feng Saohuang stormed into the room with a platoon of gun-toting soldiers, the atmosphere in the room became instantly tense. The hostility in Saohuang's gaze was obvious for all to see.

"Elder Xi, it has been a long time," Saohuang greeted with a cold smirk.

Grandfather Xi stared him down with authority. "Feng Saohuang, what is the meaning of this? Why did you bring so many armed forces into Xi family's grounds?"

Saohuang sneered. "The meaning is simple, to capture the accomplice to the case of profiteering from stolen military munitions!"

"What?" Mr. Xi frowned in shock. "What accomplice? You'd better explain yourself."

Everyone except Xinghe and Mubai was surprised by this accusation. Lin Yun smirked smugly.

This was the end of the Xi family. She was just waiting for them to come crawling back to her on their knees. Lin Yun crossed her arms arrogantly and watched the events unfold with a conceited grin...

Saohuang's finger suddenly pointed at Mubai but he didn't even deign to look his accused in his eyes. "Your son, Xi Mubai is the accomplice to the crime of profiteering from stolen munitions. We have ironclad evidence to prove he is the accomplice so I'm here to capture him as the law compels me to."

"How could my son be the accomplice? Our Xi family would never do anything that violates the law!" Mrs. Xi retorted.

"Mr. Feng, you said you have evidence, but where is it? You can't just go around pointing fingers at people."

"That's right, where is your proof?" Grandfather Xi also demanded.

Saohuang broke into a smug smile. He put down his finger and announced proudly, "The evidence is the report we received this morning that states that Xi Empire Pier has been hiding illegal munitions. We followed the report and searched Xi

Empire Pier. Indeed we found a batch of military munitions there and they matched the ones stolen under Xi Munan's watch!"

"Impossible—" Grandfather Xi knocked his walking stick and it sent a tremor throughout the room. "Our Xi family would never such a thing, this is a set-up!"

Saohuang was not impressed by this old coot's show of power. He grinned slyly.

Chapter 350: I Have Something to Say

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Whether this is a set-up or not is not my concern. I’m here only to exact the law; you can take your objection to the military court’s judge. Men, detain Xi Mubai this instant!”

“I want to see who dares to do so!” Grandfather Xi hollered loudly the moment Saohuang finished his order. His still had a commanding presence, this one holler stopped all of Saohuang’s men.

Grandfather Xi took two steps forward authoritatively and glared sternly at Saohuang. “Just because the military munitions appeared at our piers, it must belong to our Xi family? Perhaps someone planted them there to frame our Xi family!”

Saohuang, of course, understood Grandfather Xi’s hidden meaning; the ‘someone’ in question was referring to him. But what if it really was his handiwork? The Xi family couldn’t do anything against him.

Saohuang laughed arrogantly. “Elder Xi, I’ve told you already, whether this is a set-up or not is not my concern. I’m doing everything according to the law or is it your intention to obstruct justice?”

His harsh and pointed question greatly angered Grandfather Xi.

Saohuang was not afraid of him. His eyes burned with rancor. “If Elder Xi really wishes to stop us, I wouldn’t mind detaining you as well!”

“Feng Saohuang, you are acting way out of line!” Jiangnian stepped in front of Grandfather Xi to shield him. “Our Xi family is not a place for you to run rampant!”

“General Xi is pulling ranks on me?” Saohuang added another charge to their name. Jiangnian might have a higher rank than Saohuang but Saohuang had the law on his side; no one could stop him. Saohuang had undeniable proof to back up his insolence.

He scanned the whole Xi family coldly and said mercilessly, “Xi Mubai’s criminal proof is in my hands and I have every right given by this great country’s law to detain him. Which one of you Xi dares to have any opinion? Who dares to argue with the law?”

“You...” Jiangnian was angered beyond words but their hands were indeed tied. They could influence things in the dark but the supposed evidence had brought this to the open and they couldn’t openly violate the law. This meant that they had to stand there helplessly and watch Mubai be taken away. However, if both Munan and Mubai were detained, then it would really be over for the Xi family.

“Perfect, because I do have an opinion!” Suddenly, Xinghe’s clear voice cut through the room.

Everyone was shocked and turned to her in an instant—

Saohuang met her gaze and he was caught by surprise. This sharp gaze... is so familiar...

“You have an opinion?” Saohuang asked politely but his eyes were full of menace. However, facing him, there was not one trace of fear in Xinghe.

“That’s right, you heard me correctly.” Xinghe returned him a similarly vicious gaze and enunciated her words one by one.

Mubai stood beside Xinghe and stared at Saohuang like he was a dead man. “Feng Saohuang, I actually have quite a strong opinion regarding your wish to capture me.”

Saohuang cackled out loud as his eyes turned colder. “You’re a criminal and she’s just a woman. Unfortunately, you have to be more qualified than that to have an opinion.”

“That’s just a kettle calling the pot black.” Xinghe replied with a smile, “Because I fail to see how you’re qualified to barge in here and capture people.”

Saohuang narrowed his eyes warningly. “You said I’m not qualified.”

“Indeed, you are not,” Xinghe replied indifferently like he wasn’t worth to be taken seriously.

Translator's Thoughts
Lonelytree Lonelytree
Christmas is officially over

Chapter 351: Feng Saohuang, I Advise You to Leave

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Saohuang's eyes were burning with killing intent. Everyone was shocked at Xinghe's attitude. No one could have known that she would be so fearless against Saohuang, to the extent of challenging him directly...

"I will give you a chance to repeat yourself. Did you say that I'm not qualified to be here and capture Xi Mubai?" Saohuang said slowly, his tone as flat as a dead man's.

No one woman had dared to talk to him like that before... well, all but one.

Xinghe looked at him disinterestedly. "How many times you want me to repeat myself? Yes, you are not qualified."

The air around Saohuang froze. His lips curved dangerously upwards. "Do tell, how am I not qualified? If not, jail is waiting for you."

"We'll see about that." Xinghe maintained her fearlessness. "Feng Saohuang, I advise you to leave now before things turn ugly for you."

"What did you say?" Saohuang squinted his eyes that were brimming with killing intent.

"Xinghe, you need to have a better filter..." Mrs. Xi tried to stop her. "This is not the time to spout nonsense!"

Saohuang was not some 'Townsperson B', angering him had no benefits for Xinghe.

"Mrs. Xi, please don't worry, it's not my way to talk nonsense," Xinghe replied calmly, "It is my sincere advice to Mr. Feng that he packs up and leaves."

Saohuang suddenly laughed like a crazy person before calming down. He leveled a murderous gaze at Xinghe. "Who gave you the guts to talk to me like that?"

"I gave them to her," Mubai opened his mouth slowly to say. Like Xinghe, his eyes spoke of the disdain he had for Saohuang. "You have a problem with that?"

Saohuang started laughing maniacally again. “Of course I do! Men, detain the both of them and haul them away!”

He was waiting to see who else dared to defy him.

“Who dares to stand in the way will be taken away as well, no matter who that person may be!” Saohuang’s chilling gaze swept the whole Xi family, taunting and warning them. As the soldiers marched into the room, the whole Xi family had their hearts at their throats.

Lin Yun couldn’t help but chuckle with derision. “Idiot!”

From her perspective, Xinghe was, even for some random cannon fodder, the most idiotic person she had seen.

However, she still raised her voice and said, “Wait...”

Saohuang’s platoon turned to her in confusion after hearing her sudden voice.

Lin Yun smiled and said with confidence, “Major Feng, is it? Nice to meet you, I’m from the capital’s Lin family. My name is Lin Yun.”

Saohuang was slightly taken aback before offering a charming smile in return. “An honor to make your acquaintance, Miss Lin. How can I help you?”

Lin Yun replied with a smile, “I’m here on my grandfather’s order to help Xi family with a case. Could you please consider giving me face and give them a chance?”

Saohuang didn’t deny nor accept. “What kind of chance does Miss Lin want me to give them?”

“It’s not much, I just wish that you give them two days of extra time. If, in two days’ time, the Xi family still can’t produce the proof to clear their name, feel free to take them all in. Of course, if Mr. Feng is willing to give me this face, my Lin family will remember it forever.”

Saohuang knew of the Lin family’s great influence so he came to a decision quick.

“If this is Miss Lin’s personal request then I can consider it,” he said with a thin smile. He had full confidence that he could

pin this whole thing on Xi family so he wasn't in a hurry.

After receiving his promise, Lin Yun turned to Xinghe and Mubai with a pompous smile. "Well, that depends on them. If the two of you are willing to beg for my forgiveness, I, Lin Yun, am more than willing to lend my aid."

Chapter 352: Open Your Eyes and Watch Closely

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Not necessary,” Xinghe rejected her directly. “We will not demean ourselves to ask for your help.”

“What did you say?” Lin Yun was one step away from looking like a crazy woman. How dare she say that it’s below them to ask for help from me?

“Just who do you think you are to you dare talk to me that way? One word from me, Lin Yun, and your whole family could survive. Fine, Major Feng, just arrest this whole family. Take them away now. I want to see just how good they can fend on their own. This time even if any of you get down on your knees to beg me, I will not step in! Your Xi family deserves to end up this way and I can’t wait to savor your sweet downfall!”

“Shut up!” Mrs. Xi had just about had enough of this girl. She glared angrily at Lin Yun and berated her, “Miss Lin, while it is true that our Xi family asked you for help but that doesn’t mean that you are automatically one station above us! We respect you so we were courteous towards you but perhaps that was a mistake because your uncouth nature has proven how undeserving you are of our respect!”

“You...” Lin Yun’s red was red from fury; she didn’t think that even Mrs. Xi would talk like that to her.

She cackled continuously. “Fine, if your Xi family is so great, then solve this problem yourself. Don’t even dare think of coming to my Lin family for help. However, I wish to see whether the Xi family is really so full of bravado that you will choose the collapse of your whole family over begging me for help!”

“Looks like the Lin family is going on the decline if its future is the hands of one such as yourself,” Grandfather Xi announced condescendingly. “If that’s case then we have nothing more to say. If you want to capture people then feel free to detain me as well. I want to see for myself who the culprit is that dares to frame my Xi Family in this way!”

“Take me too,” Jiangnian stood forward. “I want to see who dares to pin this criminal charge on us, the Xi Family, before the military court.”

“Brother is right. Our Xi family will stand and fall together, but not before pulling the real sinner down with us!” Jiangsan added with fervor.

Lin Yun chuckled condescendingly. She realized her grandfather’s decision to have her ingratiate herself to the Xi family was a giant mistake. The whole Xi Family was a bunch of idiots, and they were going to meet their end soon.

Saohuang was overjoyed with this development. He couldn’t wait to drag the whole Xi Family into jail.

“If that’s the case, drag them all away!” He waved his men forward and ordered coldly.

“You sure about that?” Xinghe asked suddenly.

Saohuang was ready to kill Xinghe. “Woman, you must be yearning for death for obstructing my job constantly like this!”

“You’re the one looking for death barging into our Xi family’s grounds with a platoon of soldiers.” Mubai said, “Feng Saohuang, I hate to tell you this, but you’ve miscalculated.”

“All that scheming was for nothing,” Xinghe added pointedly.

Mubai smiled wickedly. “Feng Saohuang, I advise you to come back later after double-checking your report. Do you really think my Xi family is so easily bullied?”

Saohuang again narrowed his eyes in malice. “I will not concern myself with the wailing of the almost dead. However, Xi Mubai, I also have a piece of advice for you. Open your eyes and look around, the Xi family is finished!”

“Our eyesight is perfect, yours is the one that needs fixing.” Xinghe suddenly pulled out a stack of photographs and slapped it directly at Saohuang’s face.

The photographs fluttered slowly to the floor.

Saohuang frowned as he looked closer at the picture and he reeled slightly back in shock.

“What are all these?” Jiangnian picked up a few photos to study. His face became increasingly drawn. “These are... pictures of people planting military munitions at Xi Empire Pier?”

“What is going on?” Grandfather Xi also asked out of curiosity.

Chapter 353: Get Out of our Home!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Although they might not understand it, the moment Saohuang laid his eyes on those pictures he understood what they meant...

He was in utter disbelief, the operation from last night had all been captured on film!

When did Xi Mubai and his family find out about it, how could I have allowed myself to be set up like this?

“You seem to be extremely familiar with these pictures,” Xinghe observed as she stared right at him. Saohuang raised his eyes from the pictures to meet hers and, for some reason, he saw hatred as well familiarity in them...

However, he was good at pretense so he revealed nothing in his expression. Instead, he demanded coldly, “What are you insinuating? And what is the meaning of these pictures? What, you think you can get out of the criminal charge with these?”

“Of course not, other than pictures, we have the whole thing on tape and have captured the real culprit!” Xinghe took her time to reveal everything.

Saohuang’s pupils shuddered a tiny bit. Mubai caught that slight shift in his expression and chuckled mirthlessly. “Feng Saohuang, the traitor has been uncovered and has been sent to the police station alongside all the evidence. You’re barking up the wrong tree here. Speaking of which, do you want me to tell you who the real culprit is, so you get the right person next time?”

Saohuang smiled awkwardly. “Is that so? Well, who is the culprit?”

“Turns out it was Munan’s second-in-command, Zhou Jiaming.”

“...”

“Looks like this comes as a surprise to Major Feng as well.” Mubai said with a light smile, “Honestly it was a surprise to us

too. However, we feel there might be a bigger criminal hiding behind him. Unfortunately, we have no idea who is it... yet.”

The smile on Saohuang’s face froze.

“You’d better be telling the truth or none of you will be getting off lightly for falsification of evidence!” he warned severely. He was probably angry from the fact that his plan had been utterly ruined.

“Well, some of us here definitely know whether the evidence is falsified or not.” Mubai wasn’t backing down. “At the same time, I would like to remind Major Feng that all the people that had tried to come for my Xi family in the past have met horrible ends!”

Saohuang glared at Mubai with a pair of emotionless eyes.

“Was that threat directed at me?”

Mubai chuckled to himself. “It’s your prerogative if you want to take my kind reminder as a threat.”

The air around Saohuang immediately froze.

“However, the fact that you have stormed into our family grounds on the basis of false information, that you should have checked out earlier, has greatly ruined my family’s name. But rest assured, we will pursue the damage compensation accordingly,” Mubai stated with a hefty warning like a king delivering his judgment to his constituents.

Saohuang was not afraid of his threat. He smirked coolly.

“Fine, you can take this up with the military. You’d better not let me catch any more of your family’s misgivings in the future or I will not be so courteous next time!”

“Today’s performance was you being courteous?” Mubai observed sarcastically, “Regardless, I thank you for your advice. Now, collect your men and get the f*ck out of our Xi family home!”

Saohuang gave a nasty scowl as his eyes shone with a vicious glint. However, it was true that he didn’t have any reason to stay on Xi family grounds anymore.

“Let’s go!”

He turned swiftly and left with gritted teeth. No one saw how gloomy his face was at the end.

However, everyone could see how much of a sorry figure he cut as he retreated. The Xi family didn't have to do much, he was face-slapped by his own carelessness and overconfidence.

The anger roiling within Saohuang then was so great that he wished he could murder every single one of them there!

Chapter 354: Xinghe's Contribution

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The thing that made him the angriest was the fact that his plans had all been undone. The moment he left the Xi family grounds, Saohuang rushed towards the police station. He needed to ascertain whether Zhou Jiaming had really been captured or not!

...

The negative miasma over the Xi family dissipated with Saohuang's departure. Mrs. Xi asked Mubai with joyful surprise, "Mubai, is what you said true? All the accusations aimed at our Xi family have been cleared?"

Grandfather Xi and the rest looked at him expectantly. Mubai nodded with a smile. "That's right, everything has been cleared, including the suspicion against Munan."

"Really?" Jiangnian exclaimed with excitement. "What happened? How did you manage that?"

Mubai replied in a slow drawl, "No need to hurry, let's get back in first and we'll explain everything."

He turned and the rest of the Xi family followed. The only exception was Xinghe. She leveled an indifferent gaze at Lin Yun who still hadn't left.

Her face was as smelly as a pile of sh*t. She met Xinghe's gaze and scoffed, "You people were lucky this time but it won't be that way next time."

"Is that a promise?" Xinghe asked sarcastically.

Lin Yun harrumphed with condescension. "I wouldn't even need to lift a finger to make this dumb and useless family fall. You all will trip on your arrogance and stupidity, just you wait and see."

"The only thing I see is a dumb bimbo who refuses to leave," Xinghe said as she looked right at Lin Yun.

Lin Yun was burning up from the insult. "Who do you think you are to dare talk to me like that?" Xinghe shrugged and the

Xi family didn't even turn to acknowledge her. This was the first time Lin Yun received such a slap to her face; she was close to blowing up.

"I swear the lot of you will regret crossing me!" Lin Yun hissed through clenched teeth before leaving. Xinghe looked at her back coldly. She eventually turned and saw Mubai's intense gaze on her.

Mubai then turned to look at Lin Yun's back before asking with concern, "What did she say to you?"

"Nothing but the usual." Mubai knew Xinghe was more than capable of standing up for herself so he wasn't worried. With a smile, he pulled her hand and said, "Come, let's go in. Grandfather and family are still waiting for our explanation."

"I..." Xinghe wanted to tell him to leave her out of it. He could explain perfectly fine on his own. However, Mubai dragged her to the study against her will, where Grandfather Xi and the rest already sat waiting.

As both of them walked in, Grandfather Xi offered a rare smile. "Quick, take a seat and tell us what happened."

Mubai turned to Xinghe and said with a curved smile, "This is all thanks to Xinghe."

The revelation astonished everyone present. This was Xinghe's contribution?

"What did Xinghe do?" Mrs. Xi asked in obvious shock, "Didn't she just wake up?"

Her question was not unfounded because it was indeed hard to believe a recently recovered patient would solve their biggest problem. It was incredibly hard to believe.

Mubai explained, "It was Xinghe who figure out that our enemy would plant the stolen munitions at our pier to further frame us. We went to the pier last night and saw everything with our own eyes. The opponent manipulated the pier's surveillance but Xinghe managed to overwrite that and take down everything on video."

Chapter 355: Conquered the Xi Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“We followed the trail to sniff out the traitor. In other words, if not for Xinghe’s brilliance, we wouldn’t have survived this ordeal.”

As he finished, Mubai looked at Xinghe with pride. He was proud of her. Grandfather Xi and the rest widened their eyes in shock. They didn’t expect that the one who helped them overcome the hurdle was Xinghe. Not only that, she did it so effortlessly.

The solution that eluded the whole Xi family came to her so easily; they were all worried for nothing. Especially Grandfather Xi who travelled to the capital to beg others for help! In the end, that wasn’t even necessary...

When they thought about it, Xinghe’s solution wasn’t that complicated. They were too caught up in the urgency of the situation to realize their enemy didn’t plan to play with them step by step but planned to crush them in one fell swoop. Of course, they didn’t expect someone would frame them so openly.

Mubai was right, if not for Xinghe, the Xi family would really be in hot water. Thinking back to how arrogant Feng Saohuang looked earlier, if Mubai had really been taken away, some ‘accident’ would’ve befallen him in custody. Without Munan and Mubai, the Xi family really would be over...

Thankfully, Xinghe had the foresight to predict their enemy’s movement and handily resolve the crisis. The way they regarded Xinghe had changed. Xinghe had already impressed them with the artificial limb and now she had completely won over them.

They were appreciative of her and even started to like her.

Grandfather Xi was never good with praises; he merely nodded and said, “Well done, exceptional job this time. Especially Xinghe, you’ve helped our Xi family a great deal this time.”

Xinghe didn't show an ounce of smugness. She was calm as ever. "It was really nothing, just a random thought that came to me."

"Regardless, it is undeniable that you've been an instrumental help to our Xi family. Without you, Mubai and Munan would have been in serious trouble," Jiangnian offered with thanks.

Mrs. Xi smiled and said, "Indeed, Xinghe. This time, it is all thanks to you."

Xinghe was slightly taken aback by Mrs. Xi's gentle and kind smile but didn't comment on it. Mrs. Xi was ashamed. She was the one most prejudiced against Xinghe and had plotted against her many times. Now, she regretted her shortsightedness deeply. Finally, she realized the real gold digger was the one she'd liked, Chu Tianxin, and not Xinghe. Xinghe was not useless, she was an impressive woman that could stand tall on her own and deserved everyone's respect.

In conclusion, Xinghe used her capability to conquer the Xi family and received all of their approval. It went without saying that no one would object to her getting back together with Mubai anymore. In fact, they encouraged it.

"However, we might have Zhou Jiaming but can we really use him to get to the final culprit?" Jiangsan asked suddenly.

Mubai frowned. "That is unclear. I believe that Feng family will not be taken down so easily."

Chapter 356: Home

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Everyone nodded in agreement. If the Feng family were so easily taken down, they wouldn't have risen to the status they held that day.

“Regardless, this is now an all-out war between us and them, the Feng family! From now on, be careful around anyone from the Feng family and try your best to collect evidence against them!” Grandfather Xi announced.

Everyone but Xinghe nodded. However, even so, she would not forgive the Feng family. The fact that she was tortured by Saohuang when she was Xia Meng aside, he was coming after the Xi family now and there were people she cared about in the Xi family...

Hence, she would not let him off the hook so easily. After the brief discussion, everyone dispersed. Jiangnian left in a hurry to check on his son, Munan. Xinghe also planned to leave, it had been too long since she last spent time with her uncle and Xia Zhi.

“Come, I'll drive you home,” Mubai offered considerately. Of course, he wanted her to stay but it was true that she hadn't been home for a long time and he respected her wishes.

Xinghe didn't reject and follow him to his car. Mubai took the opportunity to pass Xia Meng's energy crystal to her. Along the way, Xinghe kept studying it.

“That thing is really a power source of some sort?” Mubai glanced at it and asked.

“No clue but I would love to find out,” Xinghe answered.

“Use the lab then, I will have someone keep a room open especially for you.”

Xinghe thought about it before nodding. “Thank you.”

The Xi family's lab was the best in country. If she was going to get any results, it would be there.

“But you have to be careful to not let Saohuang know that you have such a thing,” Mubai reminded with obvious concern. Even without his reminder, Xinghe knew what to do. Even though Mubai believed in her carefulness and capability, he couldn’t help but worry.

“Why don’t you move in with me?” he suddenly suggested. “We are going to work against Feng family so who knows what kind of danger might be coming your way. Stay with me so at least I can keep you safe.”

Xinghe shook her head. “That won’t be necessary, I’ll be fine.”

“But...”

“I will reconsider if such a need arises.”

Mubai smiled. “Okay.”

He was glad because at least she didn’t completely reject him. For some reason, he found himself unable to resist her demands. He probably would kill himself if she ever asked him to...

His car quickly arrived at Purple Jade Villa.

When Xinghe was getting out of the car, Mubai pulled on her arm. “You worked very hard last night so go and rest well. Don’t trouble yourself with anything just yet.”

Xinghe nodded. “I know.”

Mubai’s eyes shook and eventually pulled her in for a hug before letting her go reluctantly. “Alright, take care. Give me a call if you need anything.”

Xinghe nodded slightly before getting down. She walked to the front door and knocked.

The one who opened the door was Chengwu. He was almost in tears when he saw Xinghe. “Xinghe, why did you return so suddenly without telling uncle first? I would have prepared something to welcome you. How are you feeling? How’s your body? Have you recovered?”

Chengwu fussed over her so much that Xinghe was at a loss as to how to respond. She could hear the engine of Mubai's car still idling so she pulled Chengwu and said, "Uncle, let's go in first."

"Okay!" Chengwu finally spotted Mubai. He nodded at him awkwardly in way of a greeting.

Chapter 357: Your Mother Was Something Else

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai nodded back politely which surprised Chengwu. He'd thought Mubai was hard to please like most Young Masters, but he didn't seem like that...

After they went inside the house, Mubai finally drove away. An onslaught of questions awaited Xinghe. She hadn't seen her uncle for a long time so she missed him a lot. Therefore, she answered all of his questions patiently.

After making sure she was indeed feeling better, Chengwu concluded happily, "It's wonderful that you're back. You have no idea how worried the whole family was. How could I face your father if something were to happen to you? You're his only daughter after all."

Out of the blue, Xinghe asked, "Uncle, do you know how my father and mother met?"

Chengwu smiled, reminiscing. "Your father told me about this before. When they met, we, the Xia family, hadn't made a name for ourselves yet. Your father was the manager of a small restaurant. One day, your mother appeared in front of your father's shop and sat there for one whole day. Your father realized she probably hadn't eaten because she had been sitting there all day. Out of concern, he invited her in and offered her a job in exchange for food and housing. That was how they met.

"However, not long after that, your mother left but about two or three years later, she suddenly reappeared again. She came to your father saying she would like to cooperate with him to open a hotel. She provided most of the capital and your father agreed after a short consideration.

"They eventually got together and gave birth to you. However, for who knows what reasons, your mother didn't seem to like your father. At the peak of their business, a few years after you were born, she asked for a divorce. In their settlement, the wealth was to be split half, and your father agreed after thinking it over for a few days.

“He told me, your mother didn’t belong to him so he had been preparing for that. He knew the divorce was inevitable.”

Xinghe was confused. “Father saw the divorce coming? But why?”

“No idea, I’m not very clear about the details of what happened between them. Your father didn’t like to go into details but I know from spending time with her that your mother was someone incredibly unique. It was like she was some entity different from the rest of us.”

Xinghe knew basically everything Chengwu told her. She’d thought she could get more information from him but it looked like it was useless. She continued chatting with her uncle for a few more minutes before retiring to her room. She hadn’t slept the night before so she went out like a light the moment her head hit the pillow.

...

On the other side of city, someone was having trouble sleeping. Saohuang was informed that the Xi family’s suspicion had completely been cleared.

He didn’t expect that Mubai would find out about his plan beforehand and even manage to capture Zhou Jiaming.

Even though Jiaming wouldn’t rat him out, the plan was undeniably an utter failure!

His plan was to crush the Xi family with one move and not give them any chance to recuperate. The plan had failed, revealing his plans to the Xi family meant it would be that much harder to come after the Xi family next time!

Saohuang was furious. He was also given punishment by his superior due to his insolence towards the Xi family.

Saohuang’s face was drawn but he kept his anger in check until he got home. The moment he got home, he blew up like a pent-up volcano! Things went flying all over the place!

Chapter 358: Sudden Visit

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Under normal circumstances, Saohuang radiated an unapproachable aura. Now, in the height of his anger, he looked like a law enforcer from hell, no living soul dared to get close. Even the guards outside of the door didn't dare breathe lest they offend him. However, one of the guards eventually approached him with much hesitation. "Young Master, a young lady by the name of Lin Yun is here to see you."

Saohuang stopped in his rampage. "Lin Yun?"

"Yes."

Saohuang immediately cooled down and ordered coldly, "Clear this mess up and invite her in."

"Yes!"

The guards were efficient because, when Lin Yun entered the living room, all the damage had been cleared away.

Saohuang took two steps forward and asked with a light smile, "To what I owe the honor of Miss Lin's visit? Your sudden arrival humbled me. You should have called me beforehand so that I can go pick you up."

Saohuang's deferential tone and natural good tone rubbed Lin Yun's ego the right way. It made her feel good.

Her lips curved into a smile. "Major Feng is being too kind, it's my honor to make your acquaintance. Everyone knows that Major Feng has already accomplished a lot at his young age; I'm honored that Major Feng is willing to make time for someone as insignificant as me."

Saohuang knew this was political talk. He clapped and offered more praise in return, "It is rare for someone of Miss Lin's stature to be so humble. I bend my knee to someone as impressive as Miss Lin."

Saohuang's flattery greatly improved Lin Yun's mood. She smiled with good manners. "Major Feng is too kind."

“If Miss Lin doesn’t mind, please call me by name. Major Feng makes it sound like we’re strangers.”

“Then I shall call you Big Brother Feng.” Contrary to Xinghe, Lin Yun knew how to play to man’s ego.

As she expected, Saohuang broke into a wide grin. “Since you call me Big Brother, then I shall consider you family. Then I will directly ask, why would Miss Lin pay me such a sudden visit? If you don’t mind, please join me on the sofa and we can discuss this slowly.”

Lin Yun, with Saohuang’s coaxing, eventually sat down beside him. She looked at Saohuang and asked cautiously, “Big Brother Feng, I hear that the Xi family has been completely cleared of suspicion. The person responsible for selling stolen military munitions has been captured?”

Saohuang narrowed his eyes slightly and went for the tact of praise. “Miss Lin is indeed an impressive woman to find that out so fast. Everything you said is correct.”

“The Xi family sure was lucky to be able to solve this problem so fast.”

“This should be all thanks to Lin Family’s help, right? At the end of the day, it’s the Lin family that’s incredible. You were able to solve such a complicated case in such a short period of time,” Saohuang said respectfully but he too was posing his own test. He wanted to know whether the Lin family was friend or foe.

Lin Yun’s smile faded and said, “This has nothing to do with the Lin family. We did intend to help Xi Family after they came begging us for help but they blew that chance; you saw how they treated me this morning.”

Saohuang also dropped his smile. “What they did indeed has crossed the line. No matter what, Miss Lin is an honored guest, so how could they treat you that way? But I’m sure there was a misunderstanding somewhere.”

“What misunderstanding? It is obvious that the Xi family’s arrogance prevented them from accepting other people’s help.

I've never seen a more ungrateful tribe of human beings," Lin Yun voiced her dissatisfaction at the Xi family openly.

Chapter 359: Everything the Xi Family Owns

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Saohuang took the hint and ventured cautiously, “Does Miss Lin also have grievances about the Xi family?”

Lin Yun smiled and asked in return, “Why? Could it be that Big Brother Feng also feels the same way?”

Saohuang laughed. “I don’t have the guts to harbor such thoughts, but you know how disheartening it can be being suppressed by others for a long time. Alas, my Feng family is not powerful enough to fight back, so what can we possibly do?”

Lin Yun naturally knew about the beef between the Xi and Feng families; it was why she was there.

Lin Yun said with sympathy, “Big Brother Feng, from my perspective you are much better than that Xi Munan. Why should he be the leader of the Flying Dragon Unit and not you? I do not understand.”

“This is my superior’s decision, I cannot question it,” Saohuang stated with a thin smile, “But I’m gratified that Miss Lin would look out for my well-being; I’m flattered.”

Lin Yun understood the words left unsaid. Saohuang was deeply annoyed by the fact that the Xi family had stolen the position of the Flying Dragon Unit’s leader away from him.

Lin Yun gave a charming smile. “However, I would advise Big Brother Feng not to give up so soon. If you don’t mind, I could offer some help.”

Saohuang’s eyes shone. “You can help me?”

Lin Yun nodded with a triumphant smile. “Indeed. As you know, my Lin family’s ancestor is one of the founding fathers and my grandfather holds a lot of weight in Hwa Xia. Helping Big Brother Feng is well within our means.”

Saohuang immediately turned serious. “I dare say, how will the Lin family help me? Of course, I, Feng Saohuang, will remember this kindness for as long as I live.”

This was the sentence Lin Yun was waiting for. She looked at Saohuang and said with a mysterious smile, “Big Brother Feng, before that, I have to ask and ascertain your dedication to surpassing the Xi family; I couldn’t just cooperate with any wimp now, could I?”

Saohuang smiled chillingly. “My greatest wish is to step on the bodies of every Xi family member to rise to the top; I wonder, am I dedicated enough?”

Lin Yun chuckled. “Enough, more than enough. I know Big Brother Feng and I will be able to see eye to eye. Let’s work together from now on.”

Saohuang asked directly, “What is the term of this cooperation?”

“Very easy, I’ll help you get what you want and you help me get what I want.”

Again, Saohuang asked, “What exactly is it that you want?”

Lin Yun smiled slightly and a flash of enmity appeared on her beautiful face. “Everything the Xi family owns!”

Saohuang was shocked. Xi family’s wealth was enough to buy out a small country. In fact, their presence was enough to influence Hwa Xia’s economy. The most he could hope for was to topple their political standing, it would take more than Feng family to eradicate Xi family. Therefore, he was surprised that the Lin family’s ambition was so big.

Saohuang advised her kindly, “Miss Lin, the Xi family’s entire assets are not so easily obtainable.”

“I know,” Lin Yun continued with pride, “That wasn’t the original plan but it is their fault for disrespecting me so much. Since they’ve asked for total demolition, then that is what they’ll get. Only by eradicating them can we sleep peacefully at night, wouldn’t you agree, Big Brother Feng?”

Saohuang laughed out loud. “Of course, you’re right. But my current position is still too minor...”

“Worry not, you do not need to care about that side of things. The only thing you need to focus on is surpassing them and

making sure that they lose their standing in the political world.
We will handle the rest.”

Chapter 360: Sis, Welcome Home

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Of course, Saohuang wouldn't let such a good opportunity slip away.

He smiled, satisfied. "Then, I will gladly accept your proposal. Miss Lin, I hope we have a good experience working together."

Lin Yun replied with a gracious smile. "Let's shake on that."

At the same time, her eyes flashed with venom. Xi Mubai, this is all your fault for passing on the chance to work together with me. Don't blame me when I crush your entire family!

...

Xinghe took a long rest. When she woke up, it was already dark. She freshened up and went downstairs, only to find that the house was crowded.

Xia Zhi was home and Xiao Mo as well as Xiao Lin was there. Chengwu was the main chef while the rest helped around in the kitchen.

When Xia Zhi saw Xinghe, he immediately put down the plate in his hands and rushed over to her to give her a big bear hug. "Sis, welcome home! I'm so glad to see you!"

Xinghe was picked up and twirled in the air for a few times, she couldn't help but laugh.

"That's enough, quick put me down!" she screamed with a laugh.

"Yes, madam!" Xia Zhi set her down but retained his giddiness. "Sis, you're finally home. Are you feeling better? Is everything fine?"

Xinghe nodded. "Yes, everything's fine."

Xia Zhi ceased his excitement to look at her seriously. There were tears in his eyes. "Sis, you're finally home. This feels like a dream..." He then choked on his own words.

"What's wrong?" Xinghe asked with concern.

Xia Zhi continued through his tears, “You have no idea how worried I was when you were unconscious. And then, after that, when you woke up, you were like another person. I’m so happy to finally see you like this. You’ve finally returned as that big sister that I love.”

Xinghe felt tears pricking her eyes and comforted him, “I’m so sorry for making all of you worried. I promise you it’ll not happen again.”

“Definitely, Sis, you will live to a hundred years old and still be as healthy as a horse!”

“Miss Xia, congratulations on your recovery. I’m relieved to finally see you looking so well in person.” Xiao Mo also joined in their conversation. It wasn’t only Xia Zhi who cared about her condition, actually Xiao Mo cared about her as well.

Today, when Xia Zhi told him about her return, he followed Xia Zhi home.

Xinghe nodded with a light smile. “Sorry for putting so much pressure on you over these past few months and thank you for helping out with the company when I’m not around.”

“As long as you’re fine, everything’s worth it,” Xiao Mo said with a serious expression.

Xia Zhi became his wingman. “Sis, Brother Xiao has helped managed the company so well. Our profits are through the roof!”

“That is within my responsibility. Miss Xia, please don’t worry because I will focus completely on managing the company.” Xiao Mo assured her with confidence. He was forever in Xinghe’s debt so he swore he’d help her as long as he lived.

Xinghe didn’t really help him much, she’d only proposed a collaboration, and in return he repaid her with such loyalty. Xinghe was glad she had faith in him back then.

“Miss Xia, thank you.” Suddenly Xiao Lin also walked over. She was still reserved and socially uncomfortable but it was clear that there was great appreciation in her eyes.

Xinghe was surprised. Doesn't Xiao Lin have a mental problem? She looks so normal now.

Xiao Mo seemed to have read her thoughts and explained, "Miss Xia, my sister's illness has gotten much better. She is still receiving treatment but at least now she can converse normally with other people. If not for you, the two of us will still be in that hovel. You have no idea how much you mean to us."

"Thank you so much..." Xiao Lin moved forward to take Xinghe's hands and her eyes were glistening with tears. Other than thank you, she really didn't know what else to say.

Chapter 361: Sister-in-Law

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe was flustered because she didn't know how to deal with such a torrent of emotions. She replied awkwardly, "You're welcome."

Xiao Mo saw how uncomfortable she was and quickly changed the topic. "Miss Xia, to welcome you home, we've prepared a scrumptious meal. You must be hungry by now, come let's have dinner."

"He's right, dinner is served." Chengwu called them over happily.

"Sis, let's go!" Xia Zhi pulled her along to the dining table happily. Xinghe saw the table full of food and her heart was warmed.

"Sis, these are all your favorite dishes. You've lost a lot of weight during your period of sickness so you must eat a lot today to balance things out," Xia Zhi reminded her.

Chengwu also poured her a bowl of chicken soup. "Xinghe, this here is for you. Be careful, it's hot."

"Miss Xia, these are all your uncle's labor of love so you must finish them all to not disappoint him." Xiao Mo added. Xiao Lin didn't say anything but still looked at her with a pair of appreciative eyes.

Xinghe felt overwhelmed by their concern and kindness. Xinghe had been completely independent ever since she was young; she could take on the world on her own. Therefore, she was foreign to the concept of human warmth. However, she'd also yearned for it at the same time...

Looking at the room of people that showered her with love, Xinghe suddenly realized she actually had a happy life, and in return, she was willing to do anything to protect this group of people that cared deeply about her.

Xinghe, always a non-sentimental person, said with a smile, "Let's dig in. Please don't be shy."

“It’s dinnertime!” Xia Zhi announced joyously. As they picked up their chopsticks, the doorbell rang.

Xia Zhi was curious. “Who could it be?”

“Go take a look,” Chengwu ordered. Xia Zhi moved to open the door and was surprised to find that the unexpected guest was Xi Mubai! Trailing behind him was Munan.

The two handsome and tall men walked into the room and instantly captured everyone’s attention. Almost everyone did a double take.

Chengwu and Xiao Mo knew Mubai but they had no idea who Munan was. However, from the similarities in their features and the same presence that they both shared, they could guess that Munan was from Xi Family as well.

The moment Mubai walked in, his gaze zeroed in on Xinghe. They just parted this morning but it felt like it had been forever since he last saw her. He could feel his heartbeat quickening as she came into his view.

“Uncle Xia, nice to meet you, and hello to the rest of you as well,” Mubai greeted as he walked over.

Chengwu also greeted him politely because it was his kind nature to do so. “Nice, nice to meet you too...”

“Uncle Xia, nice to meet you,” Munan added with an unsophisticated grin.

“Nice to meet you, but you are...” Chengwu was confused and Munan quickly introduced himself.

“I am Mubai’s cousin, Xi Munan. You can call me Munan.”

“Oh okay, nice to meet you.” Chengwu nodded honestly.

“Why are the two of you here?” Xinghe asked curiously.

Mubai sat down beside her naturally and replied with a smile, “Munan said he wanted to thank you personally. Sorry for interrupting your dinner though.”

“Actually, sister-in-law, this is just right because my brother and I haven’t had dinner yet.” Munan took the other seat

beside her and the title sister-in-law just came out naturally from his mouth.

Xinghe frowned slightly and corrected him, “Just call me by my name.”

“How can I do that, I’m afraid someone will kill me from disrespecting you. Am I right, big brother?” Munan turned to Mubai with a mischievous grin.

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

‘What? We’re going back to 3 chapters a day?’ I hear you say.

Yes, the release frequency is dropping but the good news is that thanks to our wonderful Patrons (see the link below) we have reached our next community goal meaning that on Fridays/Saturdays we will be releasing 2 bonus chapters, making our weekly release rate 23 chapters per week.

We hope you’ve had a great holiday season and wish you all luck for 2018 😊

Chapter 362: His Alone

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai shrugged innocently at Xinghe as if saying, I can't help it.

Meaning this was all Munan's handiwork, he couldn't do anything about it.

"Sister-in-law, can we join you for dinner?" Munan again asked naturally. Xinghe didn't answer and Munan instantly turned towards Chengwu, "Uncle Xia, sorry for disturbing your family dinner; I hope you don't mind if we join in."

"Of... of course not. I'll go get you too some utensils."

It wasn't just Mubai; it appeared that Chengwu was also helpless before Munan.

Xia Zhi, on the other hand, was getting increasingly annoyed at Munan because he had stolen his place!

Mubai and him each took the seat beside Xinghe so where was he going to sit? He also wanted to sit beside his sister...

The thing that made him gloomier was the fact that his father had welcomed his competition in with such enthusiasm.

Chengwu quickly returned with two new sets of utensils.

Munan accepted them from Chengwu and really started to dig in.

Unlike his cousin, Mubai picked up some food to put into Xinghe's bowl. The practiced way he did it showcased how often he had done it in the past. His open display of love and kindness towards Xinghe made the atmosphere around the table rather weird and complicated. Chengwu kept stealing glances at them, Mubai pretended he didn't see it and kept putting the food onto Xinghe's plate.

Even Xinghe felt embarrassed. "That's enough, I can eat on my own."

"Okay," Mubai took back his chopsticks with a smile but not before adding, "You have to eat more, you've lost too much weight."

However, she had a hard time raising her appetite being gawked at by Mubai. Xia Zhi suddenly coughed and asked, “Just now you said you’re here to thank my sister, what is that all about?”

Munan replied with a smile, “Sister-in-law helped me with a giant favor so I’m here to personally thank her.”

“What kind of favor?”

“Work-related favor. Sister-in-law is truly impressive.”

Xia Zhi said proudly, “Of course, she is. She is my sister, my idol.”

Munan nodded in agreement and looked at Xinghe with admiration. “Sister-in-law, from now on, you too will be my idol!”

“Please call me by my name,” Xinghe corrected him with a frown.

Munan shook his head vehemently. “How could I do that? The utter disrespect! Plus, in my heart, you will always be my sister-in-law. Or how about this? I will call you Big Sister Xia!”

“But that’s my sister,” Xia Zhi finally couldn’t help but chime in with jealousy.

Munan nodded smilingly. “And my sister-in-law.”

“...” Xia Zhi really wanted to chase this person out. My sister has nothing to do with their family, why must he try to steal my sister away?

Mubai found the two of them extremely juvenile because Xinghe could only be his.

Xinghe finally couldn’t stand Mubai’s constant gentle gaze on her anymore. She asked softly, “Other than thanking me, is there another reason why the two of you are here?”

“Not really, we just want to discuss some things with you, but those can wait, let’s finish dinner first,” Mubai said gently and he moved to pick up more dishes for Xinghe.

“Then, let’s finish this meal quickly,” Xinghe said and started eating in a hurry, she just wanted this awkward dinner to be over with.

After she finished her meal, she put down her utensils and stood up to say, “Come, we can continue this conversation in my study.”

She didn’t care whether they had finished their meal or not and strode upstairs. Mubai naturally moved to follow.

Munan who was still eating also put down his chopsticks and ran to catch up.

Xia Zhi thought of following but, for some reason, he felt his sister would just chase him away.

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Hello, people I’m back <3 This is lonelytree btw. Lol. The mass release earlier has nothing to do with me, millman has taken over the publishing duties but now that that’s over, I’m back helming this thing again. So... I guess... hate me? Cause if I’m around, there shall be no mass release.

Chapter 363: The Boss

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

His sister's world was once only big enough to encapsulate her family. Even though he was happy that the limit of her world had gotten bigger, he couldn't help but feel that she was being taken away. Mubai and Munan were obviously in love with his sister, albeit the nature of their love was wildly different. Xia Zhi couldn't say he was happy about this development.

He shoveled the rice in his mouth angrily and failed to realize there was another man at the table who was doing the same. Xiao Mo felt the same way that Xia Zhi did, but his anger was directed more at himself. He realized he was too insignificant to demand a space in her world.

Her world was too beautiful and many wanted to be a part of it. Alas, he was not to be one of those...

...

After they entered her study, Munan turned serious and thanked her with much solemnity. "Big Sister Xia, you've practically saved my life this time; from now on, come to me should you need my help and I will commit to it no matter what!"

"I wasn't aiming to help you, I just wanted to take Feng Saohuang down a notch," Xinghe replied matter-of-factly.

"Regardless, it is undeniable that you've helped me greatly. I will remember that forever."

Xinghe didn't want to continue this line of conversation so she turned to Mubai, "So what is it that the two of you want to discuss?"

"Let's take a seat first," Mubai said gruffly. After that, Mubai said, "The culprit behind Zhou Jiaming has been revealed but it was not Feng Saohuang."

"Who was it then?" Xinghe was understandably confused.

"We are unclear about the person's identity as well. We only know this person is deeply related to an international military

organization. This whole operation was the organization's order. The stolen munitions detained by Munan belong to them, so they ordered Jiaming to steal them back."

"So, it really had nothing to do with Feng Saohuang?" Xinghe queried. "I don't believe that."

Mubai continued, "Neither do I. However, according to Jiaming, there is a big boss operating this organization but he has no idea who that boss is, he never reveals himself and handles all the operation logistics from the dark. The boss' orders usually came to him through the faceless international organization. In other words, while the organization has many members, other than the boss, no one knows who the other agents are. They are very careful because every order came through the anonymity of the organization and not a single person. That way, even when an agent was captured, they wouldn't be able to reveal another agent's identity."

"So, could Feng Saohuang be the boss?" Xinghe guessed, "This operation's target was directly aimed at the Xi family; he stood to gain the most."

"I agree with you." Mubai nodded.

Munan said in a low voice, "Who could have thought Feng Saohuang would be involved in so many illegal activities? If we can find any evidence of this, it is definitely over for him!"

Xinghe said, "Sadly, we won't be able to get to him through Zhou Jiaming."

After all, the two of them hadn't physically met.

Mubai looked at Xinghe and said, "That's the reason I'm here today. I'm leaving the country for a while."

Xinghe's eyes shook slightly. "You want to personally go to investigate this organization?"

He should have known she would have guessed it. Mubai nodded. "Yes, this is the only way we can pin this on Feng Saohuang. Even if that boss is not Feng Saohuang, they are still targeting my Xi family, I need to smoke them out."

“Are you sure it’s fine for you to go alone?” Xinghe asked, she couldn’t keep the concern out of her voice.

Chapter 364: Fetching Xinghe with Lin Lin

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After all, he was investigating a dangerous illegal armed organization. Mubai heard the concern in her voice and couldn't help but smirk. "I have to. Only by going personally can I find out about this organization and perhaps uncover some proof."

"When are you leaving?"

"In two days."

Xinghe nodded and didn't say much more. She merely said, "After you've ascertained more about the organization's identity and structure, leave the rest to me."

Mubai arched his brow but understood what she meant.

"Okay." He didn't reject her offer.

Munan though was in the dark. "Big Sister Xia, what do you mean by leave the rest to you? You have ways to trace it back to Feng Saohuang?"

"That's right." Xinghe nodded.

Munan widened his eyes in shock. "Really? But how can you do that? Even with information on the organization, it will be extremely difficult to connect them to Feng Saohuang."

Xinghe smiled lightly. "Difficult yes but not impossible. As long as he has made contact with this organization in some way, I will be able to prove it."

With a computer and internet connection, no information could avoid Xinghe's detection. Munan knew she was good with computers and now he finally understood what she meant. He immediately raised his thumb at Xinghe and the glow of admiration in his eyes increased. Xinghe didn't feel proud being admired, but pride was evident in the way Mubai looked at Xinghe.

He told Munan, "Xinghe's ability is beyond your wildest imagination. When I'm not around, you should come to her if you need help."

“Okay, no problem.” After a few more words, Mubai and Munan decided to leave.

Before he left, Mubai reminded Xinghe, “I have no clue what the Lin family’s attitude towards the Xi family is at the moment but I doubt it is friendly. Furthermore, I found out today that Lin Yun and Saohuang have made contact. Be careful because I’m afraid the two of them might come up with some harmful scheme.”

Xinghe nodded. “Understood.”

“Then we’re leaving. By the way, let’s have breakfast together tomorrow, Lin Lin will be coming along.”

Mubai stared at her with anticipation in his eyes.

Xinghe was caught by surprise. That was their original plan but it was ruined by Chu Tianxin’s scheme and after that, a whole slew of surprises had happened. Then, without realizing it, months had passed.

Xinghe nodded again. “Alright.”

Mubai had an ear-to-ear grin. “We will pick you up at home tomorrow, wait for us okay?”

He was afraid something might happen to her should she travel alone to meet them like last time.

Xinghe nodded once more. Mubai was ecstatic, if not for Munan, he would have leaned in to kiss her.

“See you tomorrow then.” Mubai left with a wicked smile. Munan winked at Xinghe before following Mubai.

Xinghe, for some reason, was feeling anxious about tomorrow’s breakfast. She would feel this way whenever she was meeting her son...

Xinghe worked out her nerves by doing research on Feng Saohuang. Saohuang’s information was clean as a whistle. Other than his impressive military career, there was nothing suspicious. It looked like they really needed a lead to follow from the illegal organization.

...

Early the next day, Mubai arrived to fetch Xinghe with Lin Lin in tow.

Xia Zhi had long left for the company so it was Chengwu who greeted them at the door.

Chengwu was pleasantly surprised to see the big and small pair that looked very much like each other.

Chapter 365: Ignored Him Completely

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

From that, Chengwu could tell this was Xinghe's son, Xi Lin.

"You're Lin Lin?" Chengwu asked with obvious surprise.

Lin Lin nodded and answered politely, "That's me, Grandpa, nice to meet you."

Chengwu was taken aback and then realized Lin Lin should definitely call him grandpa. This was the first time he had been called grandpa so he couldn't stop grinning.

"Good, good, Lin Lin, nice to meet you. Please come in, you're here to see Xinghe, right? She'll be down in a bit! Please come in to wait!"

Chengwu invited them with enthusiasm, the awkwardness he'd had around Mubai yesterday had completely disappeared. Lin Lin's presence had completely diffused that. Lin Lin might be precocious beyond his years but he was simply too cute. Lin Lin was well-behaved and good looking to boot. His adorableness was off the charts. He hadn't come across someone that he couldn't charm.

"Lin Lin, have you had your breakfast? Do you want something to eat?"

Xinghe was coming down and saw how her uncle was pampering Lin Lin. Lin Lin shook his head obediently.

"Second Grandpa, I'm not hungry, but thank you for offering."

"You're not hungry? How about some sweets, fruits, or a glass of juice then?"

Xinghe couldn't help but smile. When they spotted her, Chengwu turned to her and commented happily, "Xinghe, Lin Lin is too cute and very intelligent."

Xinghe's bright eyes that fell on Lin Lin softened with tenderness.

"Lin Lin," she called his name softly.

The little fella responded with a wide grin. "Mommy."

Xinghe couldn't suppress the happiness that bubbled up within her. For some reason, even though they had spent years apart, there was no distance between them. Happiness was apparent on their faces.

Lin Lin half-hopped to her side and naturally took her hand. He then raised his head to look up at her and asked, "Mommy, are you ready? We've booked the restaurant."

Xinghe nodded with a big smile. "I am."

"Then, let's go." The little fella didn't forget about Chengwu, he waved as they headed towards the door. "Second Grandpa, we're leaving but I'll visit again next time."

"Alright, Grandpa will be waiting," Chengwu bid them farewell reluctantly.

Lin Lin nodded in promise as he happily pulled Xinghe outside. Xinghe's eyes were constantly on him.

Mubai who sat on the sofa felt his heart squeeze in vexation. Haven't they forgotten about something? How can they ignore me so completely?

Even Chengwu who turned back in after bidding them farewell at the door was shocked to find him still sitting there. "Huh, why didn't you join them?"

"Uncle Xia, then I shall be leaving. Goodbye."

"Okay."

Mubai strode towards his car as naturally as he could. When he got close, he realized Xinghe and Lin Lin were already inside and seated. They were happily chatting among themselves. Even after they noticed him, they didn't respond in any way but continue talking between themselves.

Mubai suddenly had a curious thought. Was it wrong for me to bring Lin Lin along for this meal?

After he got in, Mubai wanted to sit beside Xinghe but Lin Lin refused to budge. In fact, the little fella purposely used his butt to push Mubai back so that there was a large distance between Mubai and Xinghe.

“Mommy, are you feeling better?” Lin Lin ignored Mubai’s frustration and focused all his attention on Xinghe.

Chapter 366: You Wouldn't Even Exist Without Me!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe nodded. "I'm fine now."

"Do you promise that won't happen again?" Lin Lin asked with intense concern.

Xinghe smiled. "I promise."

"Wonderful!" Lin Lin cheered. "That means you'll stay with me forever, right?"

"Of course."

The smile on Lin Lin's grew bigger. "Mommy, do you promise to never leave me and be by my side forever?"

"Of course, I promise." Xinghe nodded. This was her wish as well, she wanted to stay by his side forever. Lin Lin was delighted hearing her promise, so was Mubai. After all, if Xinghe stayed by Lin Lin forever, it also meant that she would stay by his side forever.

"I also want to stay with Mommy forever," Lin Lin grabbed hold of her hands and said seriously, "Even if you don't plan to remarry daddy, I'm staying with you forever."

"Okay." Xinghe answered with a cheerful laugh.

Mubai frowned instantly. What the hell is the meaning of this 'Okay'? She really doesn't plan to remarry me?

"Will Mommy marry again in the future?" Lin Lin pressed on innocently even though his questions were loaded.

Xinghe answered truthfully, "I won't."

"No matter who the groom is?"

"Yes."

"Then, you will be my one and only mommy." Lin Lin offered a dazzling smile. Xinghe patted his head lovingly. "Of course, I'll always be your mommy, silly."

"Mommy, when I grow up, let's stay together. I will support you. What do you think?" The moment Lin Lin finished his

sentence Mubai couldn't help but lecture him sternly, "Enough with the questions."

The sudden lecture made Lin Lin turn around to look at Mubai with a curious expression.

Mubai continued coolly, "You aren't so talkative normally. A man should always talk less and think more."

"I'm not a man, I'm a boy," Lin Lin countered righteously, "Plus, I'm chatting with Mommy... my mommy."

"I know that's your mommy but you wouldn't even exist without me!" Mubai argued rather unreasonably.

"But, I came out of Mommy's stomach. I was literally a part of her, so naturally we have a lot of things to discuss." The little guy was quite the little debater. "Furthermore, we've spent so many years apart, it's only natural that we have a lot of things to catch up on."

"You're just a child, what things do you have to catch up on? Go sit in the front, we adults have serious things to discuss," Mubai ordered sternly.

Needless to say, Lin Lin didn't move to the front. Instead he curled onto Xinghe's lap and snuggled deep into Xinghe's embrace, or what he called his no-disturbance mode. "Feel free to discuss, I won't make a noise. You won't even realize I'm here."

Unamused, Mubai stared at him and sighed helplessly. Xinghe cuddled with Lin Lin and told Mubai softly, "It's good to be tough with kids, but you have to be fair too."

Mubai's tone immediately softened. "I am a fair father, it's just that he seems to be forgetting his manners today."

Xinghe was confused. "Forgetting his manners, when? Lin Lin didn't do anything."

What 'didn't do anything'? It's one thing for the little devil to not help with my remarriage plan but to encourage you to oppose it? He's done a lot of wrong.

Of course, he had to keep those thoughts to himself. Mubai knew that continuing this debate would only backfire on him

so he cleverly changed the topic, “How about we go for a movie after brunch? I’ve booked three movie tickets.”

Xinghe nodded insouciantly. “Sure, why not.”

Since you’ve booked it, why still ask me?

Chapter 367: Today's Date

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Wonderful, so we’ll go for a movie date after brunch.”
Mubai’s lips curved into a smile. He was greatly anticipating the date. He hadn’t dated before so he followed the traditional route. According to the routine Munan told him, after movie would be coffee, and then dinner. Finally, Munan said that if it was successful, it would end with a visitation back to the house or a hotel...

A deep V appeared between Mubai’s brows when he thought about the last item on his itinerary. If he suggested that to Xinghe, she would probably kill him. Therefore, he decided to stick with movie and food for now.

Rome wasn’t built in a day and romance was a probably even more work than that. As always, something happened to spoil his plan. Their car passed by a street food carnival. They had to slow due to the crowd.

Lin Lin pointed outside the window with excitement.
“Mommy, what are they doing?”

He had never experienced a food carnival before.

“It’s a food carnival. They sell many different kinds of food here.”

His eyes fixating on the variety of street food, Lin Lin enquired eagerly, “Can we go try them out?”

“Do you want to?” Xinghe asked.

“Yeah, I haven’t had any of these food items before.” The little fella was practically drooling watching the parade of colorful food on display.

Xinghe agreed immediately, “Okay, then let’s go.”

Mubai retorted, “But I’ve booked the restaurant.”

“There’s no need to rush then, let Lin Lin have some fun.”
Xinghe was 100 percent pro-Lin Lin. The only reason she agreed to this date was to accompany her son so she wouldn’t deny his request, and Mubai wouldn’t deny her request.

“Alright, stop the car.” Mubai ordered his driver.

As they prepared to descend, Lin Lin suddenly turned to Mubai and said, “Daddy, you can’t go out like this. The crowd will recognize you. It would be too inconvenient.”

For the purpose of this date, Mubai wore an exquisite custom suit. The tuxedo was hand-sewn and worth several hundred thousand. It was definitely attention-grabbing. Even those that couldn’t recognize him would be staring at him.

That’s why I said we should have gone straight to the restaurant. Mubai grumbled inwardly. He had even booked the entire restaurant.

“Why don’t you wait for us in the car, I will go with Lin Lin,” Xinghe suggested.

“That’s right, Daddy. I can go with Mommy.” The little fella nodded in agreement.

Mubai gave his son another side glance. He spotted a menswear shop not far away. He told them, “You two go first. I’ll catch up, don’t wander too far.”

Xinghe understood what he was planning to do so she nodded before leading Lin Lin out the car. Lin Lin followed her obediently. His eyes glowed with childish innocence and interest, he wanted to have everything he saw.

“Mommy, what’s that, do you want to try one?”

The little fella was smart. Instead of saying he wanted them for himself, he asked if Xinghe wanted to try them.

“That’s a sugar doll 1 . Sure, let’s try one.” Xinghe naturally understood his plan and bought one for him.

Lin Lin took a bite out of the sugar doll that was shaped like a monkey and was surprised by its sweetness. He thought it was very delicious, better than all the delicacies he had ever tried.

“Mommy, this is very delicious. Here, have a bite.” He passed it to Xinghe with great enthusiasm.

Xinghe bowed down to take a bite and commented with a smile, “It is very delicious.”

Lin Lin beamed happily before pointing at another food item not far away. “Mommy, that meatball thing looks very delicious too.”

Chapter 368: Let's Accommodate Him

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Let's go take a look then...”

After that, no matter what Lin Lin said he was interested in, Xinghe would buy it for him. Just like that, the mother-and-son pair ate from almost every stall there was. When Mubai finally arrived with a normal looking outfit, they were full. However, even in a normal get-up, he was still extremely eye-catching so he had to put on a pair of sunglasses.

“Daddy, we're full. What do you want to eat?” Lin Lin asked considerately as he walked over.

Mubai was caught by surprise. “You're full?”

“That's right. Mommy and I have had our fill, there are so many delicious food, go try some!”

“We're going to the restaurant!” Mubai hissed through gritted teeth before turning to leave. He went through all the trouble of changing into another set of clothes and they already finished eating without him...

Mubai was morose on the way to the restaurant. Lin Lin seemed to read his mood and entreatingly offered, “Daddy, actually I can still eat...”

Mubai was silent. That was all good but he was concerned that Xinghe might not be able to take another bite.

He was proven right. In the luxurious restaurant, Xinghe had less than a few spoonfuls of the scrumptious feast the chef prepared for them. It was the same with Lin Lin. They only took a few bites before putting down their knives and spoons. Instead, both of them started slowly sipping their glasses of water. Sitting across them, Mubai also lost his appetite.

“This comes recommended from the chef, try some,” he said as he helped Xinghe to a generous helping of lobster.

Xinghe seriously couldn't take another bite but felt bad for rejecting his kindness so she cut up some of the meat to share

with Lin Lin. “Here, have some too. It’ll help you grow faster.”

“Okay.” The little fella also couldn’t take another bite but, since it was given to him by Xinghe, he forced himself to eat it. A tormented Lin Lin cut up the already small piece of lobster meat into minute kernels and started nibbling on them. Mubai sighed helplessly looking at the both of them but he was still optimistic.

“How about we skip lunch and go to the movies?”

He picked an artsy romance film. It was suitable for kids but children would have a hard time understanding what was happening.

According to his research, a touching romance could improve a couple’s relationship so that was what he went with.

However, when they arrived at the cinema, Lin Lin was instantly attracted by the poster of a newly released animation.

“Mommy, let’s watch this, I bet it is very interesting!”

The little fella recommended the film to Xinghe with glittering eyes. From his perspective, the animation was not only action-packed but also educational, so Xinghe certainly would like it. Xinghe conceded to his demand with a smile.

Mubai couldn’t let his son ruin another one of his plans so he said, “I’ve already booked the ticket for another movie. If you want to watch the animation, we can come again next time.”

Without waiting for an answer, he strode into the viewing hall. Xinghe and Lin Lin looked at each other and communicated wordlessly.

Lin Lin shrugged and explained, “That’s daddy for you, he can get a bit bossy sometimes.”

“I’ve noticed.”

“Let’s just accommodate him this time.”

“Alright.”

The two of them decided to play along. Mubai was overjoyed because things were finally going according to his plan. He sat

beside Xinghe, eager to experience the feelings of romance with her.

However, Xinghe wasn't interested in romance and Lin Lin was at a complete loss. It didn't take long for the little fella to start yawning from boredom.

Xinghe finally couldn't help but suggest, "Let's go watch that animation. I'm more interested in that."

Chapter 369: Finally Doing Something Right (End of the Intermission Arc)

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“I agree!” Lin Lin sprung up from his seat and nodded in quick succession. A pair of big and small eyes shone at Mubai like two deer in headlights. Mubai relented with a laugh. “Alright, we can change the film.”

With that order, the cinema worker helped them change the film. They could do that because the whole viewing hall only had the three of them...

The atmosphere was a lot better when they were watching the animation. Lin Lin kept explaining the scene and characters to Xinghe, afraid she couldn't understand the plot. Xinghe nodded along with enthusiasm. Mubai was initially brewing in his resentment, that his son had stolen his spotlight. However, he soon had a paradigm-shifting thought. It couldn't be helped when he saw the bright smile on Lin Lin and Xinghe's faces.

It didn't matter what food they ate or which movie they saw, as long as the people he loved were happy...

He would give up the whole world to keep the two of them laughing. With this change in thought, he loosened up significantly and the date became a lot more interesting. Lin Lin approached everything with bright-eyed enthusiasm. With him leading the way, Xinghe and Mubai got to experience many different things from the innocent perspective of a child. The joy was pure and simple. Experiences like this were rare after one was no longer a child.

...

Night had fallen when they finished playing.

The car reached Purple Jade Villa and reluctance was apparent on everyone's faces. Xinghe was the first to say, “I'll be leaving then. Remember to sleep early when you get home.”

“Okay, you too, Mommy.” Lin Lin suddenly pulled her in for a hug and kissed her on her cheek shyly. “Mommy, I've had the best time today, thank you.”

Xinghe's eyes shuddered and returned a kiss on the little fella's forehead. "I've also had the best day of my life."

"Me too." Mubai leaned in unexpectedly and before Xinghe could react, planted a peck on her cheek. Xinghe was taken aback and, as she reeled back slightly, she met his burning gaze.

Lin Lin tried his best to suppress the smile on his lips and asked innocently, "Mommy, aren't you going to return Daddy's kiss?"

Mubai's lips immediately curved into a smile. Finally, the kid got something right.

Xinghe averted her eyes and said softly, "I'm going in, thanks for the ride."

She opened the car door and disappointment flitted across Mubai's face.

After Xinghe walked away, Lin Lin consoled him, "Daddy, don't worry, there's still next time."

"You ruined my plan completely today so don't think I'll bring you with me next time," Mubai threatened him half-jokingly.

Lin Lin smiled victoriously. "But Daddy, without me, do you think Mommy will agree to go out with you?"

"..." The little devil!

However, Mubai had to concede to his son. Without Lin Lin, today probably wouldn't have been as fun, and Xinghe wouldn't have agreed to this date in the first place. Therefore, the little kid was still useful...

...

The next day, Mubai left the country and Xinghe returned to the lab to conduct her research.

They were careful against the dark forces that were possibly targeting them. After tasting what they stood to lose, they were more determined to protect the happiness they could have. They would not be merciful towards those that threatened that!

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Breakdown of the next Arc [Munan's Military Camp Arc]: 370 – 420. Mini Arcs: 370 – 375 [First Drill], 376 – 394 [Proving Herself], 395 – 406 [World's Third Best], 407 – 412 [Second Drill], 413 – 420 [Her Best and Worst Asset]. Yes, it's going to be a military arc.

Chapter 370: Sudden Change of the Appointment

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe and Mubai were no saints. They would not hesitate to decimate their enemies, and this time, their enemies happened to overlap so that person would not have a good ending. Now they were waiting for Mubai to return with the good news and Feng Saohuang would be nothing but a worry in the past. In other words, Feng Saohuang's days were numbered.

Similarly, Saohuang also thought the same way about the Xi family. This was because with the Lin family's help, the letter of appointment that named Munan as the leader of the Flying Dragon Unit had suddenly been changed!

Both Munan and Saohuang were up for the appointment.

They were each given a separate platoon to train. After six months, they would participate in a drill. Whoever's platoon was better would be the leader and the other would be the platoon's vice leader. In other words, the meat that was in front of Munan's mouth had suddenly been taken away. The commander's role had now become something up for grabs. His opponent couldn't be taken down easily, he would have to focus completely to have a chance at winning.

When they received this news, the Xi family quickly went to investigate the truth. Needless to say, it had everything to do with the Lin family. The Lin family's influence enabled the opportunity to fall into Saohuang's laps as well.

"Looks like the Lin family is planning on making an enemy out of us," Grandfather Xi said solemnly with obvious displeasure.

Jiangnian added with equal distaste, "Father, they already did. This is such an obvious move to oppose us."

"Just because we were impolite to Lin Yun?" Munan scoffed. Their impression of the Lin family had dropped below ground. Actions spoke louder than words, and their actions proved their narrow-mindedness and despicability.

Grandfather Xi shook his head. “There’s much more to it than that. The Lin family must have some darker plans against our Xi family. Everyone must be extra careful, we’re taking on a whole family here.”

“Grandfather, don’t worry. I will not let Feng Saohuang take this away from me!”

Grandfather Xi nodded. “You’re right, the most immediate thing now is to help you beat Feng Saohuang. No matter what, you mustn’t let him win, we can’t miss this opportunity. If we do, our weakness will be exposed and that will give our enemies the opening they need.”

“Yes!” Munan promised with severity. Underneath his happy-go-lucky appearance was a reliable young man. Grandfather Xi believed in his capability.

However, they also knew that Saohuang was not ordinary. Saohuang had the ability to back up his ambitions. He would have made a bigger name for himself if he was born in a better family. However, the fact that he had managed to get so far was proof of his immense talent.

If he snatched a win, he would soar high into the sky. Then, the Xi family’s days would be numbered. Therefore, no matter what, they had to ensure that Munan became the commander of the Flying Dragon Unit!

...

To facilitate the appointment, the training soon began. Saohuang and Munan reported to the military camp.

They were given equal amount of resources. This was to be a fair competition and the victor would be decided six months later. Therefore, the following six months would be a high-pressure period.

Munan had great experience under his belt and valuable contacts. His platoon improved tremendously on the first day alone.

The same happened with Saohuang’s platoon. He was equally capable but had a more militant training style.

Chapter 371: A Challenge

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Every day, both platoons grew at an incredible speed. No one dared to slack off because if one did, they would be chased out. Munan spent his every waking moment in the military camp; he didn't even have time to eat. The same was for Saohuang.

The platoons they trained were equally good, it was hard to predict an obvious winner. However, there was one thing that would decide their difference in strength. Flying Dragon Unit was a high-tech military unit so they required talents that would be good with high-end technology.

Talent like this was something inborn, it couldn't be trained. This would be the variable that decided the difference in strength of the two platoons. The Xi family was never lacking in human and monetary resources. The group they assembled for Munan was top of the field.

They thought they would have an upper hand over Saohuang on this factor but to their consternation, the talent Saohuang found was even better!

Software to simulate military training was written quickly. With the aid of such software, the training of Saohuang's platoon became more effective and convenient. Their improvement occurred a lot faster.

Munan quickly felt the distance between them increasing. This worried him deeply, he was afraid that the small gap would soon become a giant chasm. His men had tried their best but still couldn't overcome Saohuang's talents.

At a time like this, Saohuang dropped them a gauntlet. The official reason was constant competitions was conducive for improvement. People would only improve with comparison!

To seek improvement, Saohuang had tried everything he had his hands on. His feisty attitude was truly something else.

When Munan's camp received the challenge, the few important adjutants were furious.

“The guy is too arrogant!” a buff soldier by the name of Yan Lu roared angrily. “Does he think we’re really afraid of him? When I joined the military, he was probably still chasing after girls! I say we accept his challenge and teach him a lesson or two!”

The strategist of their team, Gu Li looked at him and shook his head. “It is undeniable that Feng Saohuang is a capable soldier and leader, we cannot accept his challenge so easily. This will be the first contest between us, it will be crucial to morale. If we lose, our morale will plummet so much that I fear we will have to deal with the soldiers developing a defeatist attitude. That will not help us one bit.”

Yan Lu glared at him. “So what? You’d have us run away like coward? If we do that then we’ll really lose!”

Gu Li smiled. “I didn’t say that. But every fight has its strategy, we need better preparation.”

Munan nodded. “Both of you are right. We have to accept this challenge but not without sufficient preparation. This contest is too important for our morale. If we lose, our morale will be lower than theirs all the way to the actual drill. The one thing that a military unit needs is morale; we cannot afford to lose.”

“Then, when will we finish preparing and accept his challenge?” Yan Lu asked, getting straight to the point.

Munan frowned. “We’ll have a team discussion tonight and we’ll accept the challenge tomorrow!”

For this contest, Munan’s group spent the whole night coming up with strategies. According to Saohuang’s platoon weaknesses, they came up with many strategies. Of course, the strategies weren’t perfect but it was still better than nothing. Plus, if they gave it their all, who knew what the result would be?

With the strategies in place, Munan accepted Saohuang’s challenge the next day!

Chapter 372: Grind the Xi Family into the Ground!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Saohuang cackled evilly when he received the reply. “Very good! This time, I will make them taste despair!”

Sun Yu, in his gold-rimmed glasses, gave a thin smile. “Last night, they even came up with strategies. They are not bad, alas, they’re all useless now.”

Saohuang laughed smugly. “Well, useless people can only come up with useless plans. Watch me, from this moment onwards, I will personally start grinding Xi Family into the ground!”

“Congratulations, boss.” Sun Yu praised.

Saohuang continued laughing. He could see the victory in his grasp. Of course, his life target was more than winning this little contest. One day, he would have the whole world under his feet. His target was the very top of the human pyramid! And he would reach there by stepping on the Xi Family’s dead bodies!

...

Every single drill within the military was highly anticipated. However, this particular drill was even more attention grabbing than usual because it was deeply related to the life or death of either platoon. It was indefinitely hard to come back from an early defeat. Furthermore, the superiors only gave them both six months to prepare. They couldn’t afford any missteps or victory would probably be taken away from them. Therefore, for the purpose of this drill contest, each party swore to win and deal a heavy blow to their opponent’s morale!

From Munan’s perspective, even though Saohuang’s platoon was slightly better, his men weren’t that much worse. If they gave it their all, they had a chance to win. This thought was shared by his entire platoon. Alas, they didn’t expect defeat would arrive so soon!

Their initial hope and confidence were completely decimated by reality. Their loss was so absolute it was laughable. They had the strength but, for some reason, the losses kept coming...

Air combat, LOSS!

Marine combat, LOSS!

The final ground combat was also close to being lost...

Munan was beside himself with shock at this development. "How could this happen?"

This was the biggest loss he had experienced in his military life. His adjutant, Yan Lu, who had fought alongside Munan almost from the very beginning couldn't believe it either. "This is impossible!"

He slammed heavily on the table and the layered glass top started to crack. "Our soldiers aren't that bad. We're a military unit that has taken down multiple international, illegal organizations before, how can we be losing so badly?"

Within this platoon, many followed Munan since the start of his career. They were comrades that had been through many harsh challenges together, like taking down drug lords, insurgencies, and various criminal organizations...

They were like a sharp knife; no one could stand in their way. No matter how strong their opponents were, they wouldn't be defeated so completely. However, for this drill contest, Saohuang's platoon wiped the floor with them. They were annihilated without even taking down one of their opponent's soldiers.

Chapter 373: Humiliation and Loss!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The ease with which Saohuang's platoon defeated them showcased their absolute failure. A failure of this scale was hard for anyone to accept.

“Report!”

At a time like this, a scuffed-up soldier rushed in. “Sir, our opponent has broken through our last line of defense, we're going down fast!”

“F*ck, I'll go kill them myself!” Yan Lu slammed on the table again as he picked up the drill-specific laser gun.

Munan stood in front of him and said seriously, “I'm coming with you, if we fail, we'll fail together!”

“Let's all go then!” Everyone picked up the laser guns, prepared to have a last stand with their opponent. This might be a drill, but they treated it with the severity a real combat deserved. They were overwhelmed by grief and indignation facing this imminent loss. However, even with Munan personally leading, their loss was inevitable.

They were merely delaying their inexorable defeat. Their strategies were broken through before the war even started. They were destined to lose. When everything was said and done, self-doubt cropped up in Munan's mind, but he quickly tossed that out of his mind. He was the commander. He was the only person that couldn't be affected by the defeatist attitude!

Plus, one loss didn't equate to total loss. The real drill was still several months away. However, from Saohuang's team perspective, their opponent had already lost.

“This is just a small drill, was it really necessary for Major Xi to enter the battle?” Saohuang sauntered towards Munan and commented with a nasty smirk. Compared to Munan, who had mud all over his uniform, Saohuang did not have a speck of dust on him.

Over the few days of the drill's duration, he'd led his team from behind. He didn't once participate in actual combat. A contrast was immediately made between the two. Munan was the obvious loser...

Such a loss was an unmitigated humiliation.

However, Munan kept his cool, his gaze as sharp as ever. "What's wrong with entering the battle personally? It's my pride to fight alongside my brothers."

Saohuang sneered. "Indeed, one must find pride even in losses."

His words were dripping with sarcasm.

The commented irked Yan Lu. "Feng Saohuang, let's have a one-on-one if you dare! This defeat doesn't define our ability, one of our men could easily kill any of yours!"

Saohuang shot him a chilling gaze and scoffed. "Indeed, your people are very impressive, so impressive that my men barely used their full might to crush the whole lot of you. Do you know what my platoon's fatality rate is?"

Under Munan and his adjutant's saddened gaze, the words floated out of Saohuang's mouth. "Twenty percent."

The faces of Munan's group fell. Only twenty percent...

While they had already suffered sixty percent loss and it was still climbing!

Such a stark contrast highlighted how severely they had been defeated. It was a one-sided slaughter. Facing such a startling statistic, Munan's group barely had the energy to summon a retort. The atmosphere lowered even more.

Saohuang patted Munan on his shoulder with a condescending smile and consoled him, "But don't let it get you down. This is a test drill, after all. Maybe next time you can turn the tables on us. Major Xi, good luck. At least give my men a challenge next time."

Chapter 374: We Are The Best

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Saohuang parted with a smile. His adjutants also left with smug smiles on their faces. Their arrogance was palpable. It was something that weighed down heavily on Munan's men. Everyone felt angry and aggrieved!

“F*ck! I want to smash that guy's face in so badly!” Yan Lu growled angrily. The anger was shared by every soldier in Munan's platoon...

“Sir, we've failed you this time, we've brought you shame!”

“We're sorry, sir. We promise to do better next time.”

No one blamed Munan, they took on the blame themselves instead. Munan looked at this group of people who had been through life and death situations with him, his brothers-in-arms that he would gladly sacrifice his life for, and he felt ashamed.

“No, this is entirely my fault! I underestimated our enemy, I didn't think they would see through our strategies completely, I've failed as your commander. I've brought shame to this platoon. I'm very sorry!” Munan bowed ninety degrees to ask for his men's forgiveness. The men were touched.

“Sir, this is not your fault, in fact this is no one's fault. We've lost once but we will definitely next time!”

“That's right, we'll show them next time!”

Yan Lu also said confidently, “Boss, we'll definitely beat the shit out of them next time, because we are the best!”

“That's right, we are the best!”

Munan took in the faces of these men and he was moved. He smiled. “Thank you. And yes, next time we will win! I'm sure of it!”

None of them would surrender after a small defeat. If they did, they wouldn't have survived so long. However, a loss was a loss. That reality couldn't be denied.

It was impossible for the morale to not get affected. Some became dispirited, others disheartened. The worst was that some started to doubt Munan's capability...

Munan was a military child, his schooling years were spent in military school. He'd taken on assignments since he was a teen and he had about eight years of combat experience. He might be young but his ability was indisputable. However, for those that didn't know him personally, they assumed the reason he could climb the ranks so high was because of his family background.

Why else would he lose so horribly this time?

This caused even Jiangnian to lose face among his colleagues. This time, Munan's defeat had brought immensely shame to the Xi family name...

The Xi family had been at the top for so many years, deserving and demanding other's respect. However, recently, troubles kept assaulting them at every turn. Some even said this was the beginning of the end for the Xi family.

Grandfather Xi, when he was young, was a decorated general, capable both on the battlefield and in the political waters of Hwa Xia. Now that he had reached a certain age, people started to walk all over the Xi family. This made him sigh out of sadness and irritation. Of course, he wouldn't give up just like that.

The Xi family had gone through hell and high waters to reach its current standing, how could he let it fall so easily overnight? Even with his last breath, he wouldn't surrender without putting up a fight!

Therefore, the only thing they could do now was to dust themselves off, recuperate, and try again.

“Tell grandfather honestly, do you have faith in yourself?”

In the study, Grandfather Xi asked Munan a relatively broad question. His pair of intelligent eyes scanned Munan's facial expression closely.

Munan answered with no trace of fear or evasion in his eyes, “Definitely!”

“Very good.” Grandfather Xi nodded satisfactorily. “As long as you have faith in yourself and your team, victory will eventually be yours. Grandfather knows how good you are and will support you every step of the way. Make us proud because the Xi family’s future is now on the shoulders of our younger generation.”

Chapter 375: Spirit of the Xi Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Yes, sir!” Munan straightened himself and gave his grandfather a standard military salute. “Grandfather, I will not let you or the whole Xi family down.”

“Good, good.” Grandfather nodded and laughed from pride and relief. “I know you won’t. Now, go busy yourself. Come to grandpa if you need anything. Remember, you have the whole family supporting you.”

“Yes, sir.” Munan’s lips quivered slightly and something glistened in his eyes. He said no more and turned to leave.

His most recent defeat might be serious but he understood it was nothing more than a bump compared to the Xi family’s illustrious history. Therefore, he wouldn’t live in self-doubt or self-denial. He must rise above the defeat or he wouldn’t have the right to bear the Xi name. He had to power on and face the cruel reality with courage and determination.

...

The belief and bravery exuded by Munan had a lasting impact on Lin Lin who was also in the study. The little fella would spend time with his great grandfather to study every day. Therefore, he heard all of their conversation.

Grandfather Xi didn’t have him leave the room also because the words were intended for Lin Lin’s ears as well. After Munan left, Grandfather Xi asked Lin Lin in a low voice, “Do you think your second uncle will rise above the occasion?”

“Definitely!” the little fella answered without thinking. His eyes shone the same way Munan’s did earlier. The spirit of the Xi family was apparent in them.

Grandfather Xi looked at him and saw the shadows of Mubai in his four-year-old great grandson. Mubai had never shied away from difficulties. To him, difficulties were nothing but challenges that were meant to be overcome.

Lin Lin would grow up to be an upstanding young man like his father. Grandfather Xi was sure of it.

“Xi Lin, I had you stay in the room because I want you to know you have a great responsibility on your hands. You are also the hope of the Xi family’s future. The Xi family’s glory came from a bloody and stormy history, so you mustn’t look down on the contribution of each Xi before you, and more importantly, you mustn’t let them down. For the sake of every Xi that has paved the way for you, you must make sure that the Xi legacy lives on. Do you understand?”

The little fella had on a serious countenance and nodded determinedly. “Great grandfather, I understand. I will do my best to be better than Daddy and second Uncle!”

Grandfather Xi started laughing again. He felt gratified because he knew that the Xi family was in competent hands.

...

After Lin Lin got left Grandfather Xi’s study, he was deep in contemplation. He knew he shouldered a lot of responsibility so he never once slacked during his studies.

However, after the talk between Grandfather Xi and his second uncle as well as Grandfather Xi and himself, he had a new understanding of the Xi family name. He understood his family’s status was more precarious than he assumed.

Second uncle’s small mistake had caused the whole family to be on edge. It made him more determined to study harder so that he would not disappoint the sacrifices of the Xi’s that came before him.

...

After Lin Lin returned to his own small study, he called Xinghe. After their little outing, he would have daily phone call with his mother.

Normally, he would tell her about his day but today he wanted to discuss something different.

Xinghe was still at the lab doing her research. She was studying and improving her computer skills. Even though she might be the best computer expert in the world, it didn’t mean that she had reached the pinnacle of her ability. Study is never-ending.

When she saw it was Lin Lin calling her, she decided to take a breather.

However, from her son's first word, she could tell something was different about Lin Lin's mood that day.

"Lin Lin, what's wrong?" Xinghe asked over the phone.

Chapter 376: Can You Help Munan?

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Lin Lin told Xinghe everything, not withholding any information.

“Mommy, I feel so weak because I don’t know how to help everyone even though I want to,” Lin Lin told Xinghe helplessly. “Plus, Daddy is not home now. This must be very hard for second uncle to face alone.”

Xinghe consoled her, “Actually, no one has it easy but they definitely can handle it well, so don’t worry yourself too much.”

“But great grandfather said, second uncle mustn’t lose or it will greatly affect his future.”

“Your second uncle will not lose, he will succeed,” Xinghe said affirmatively.

“Really?”

“Of course, you have to believe him. You have to believe that the Xi family will not be defeated so easily.”

Lin Lin finally smiled. “Mommy, of course you’re right...”

Lin Lin felt better after talking with Xinghe. They chatted for a while longer before hanging up.

Xinghe put down her phone and started thinking. Her thoughts were interrupted by Mubai’s phone call. Much like Lin Lin, Mubai would call her daily as well.

Mubai was still overseas. The armed organization was a lot more elusive than he’d predicted. He was still trying to sniff them out. Mubai faced a bit more resistance because he was not in Hwa Xia. The Xi family, albeit still influential, weren’t as influential overseas as they were within Hwa Xia. However, after exhausting much money and manpower, Mubai still managed to unearth some information regarding this mysterious group.

Of course, Mubai never once burdened Xinghe with those issues. In any case, for Mubai, issues that could be solved with

money weren't technically issues.

"I heard from Lin Lin that it is not going so well with Munan, is that right?" Xinghe asked Mubai.

"That's right, things are a bit bumpy. Honestly, that is what I want to talk to you about today. I was hoping you could lend Munan a hand," Mubai told her directly.

Xinghe asked in return, "In what way?"

Her tone implicated that she was willing to help.

Mubai smiled and said, "We're losing on the computer science front. Go look for Munan and he will fill you in with the details. This might turn out to be pointless because it is very hard for us civilians to get involved in military affairs. Of course, I wouldn't pin that on you if it happens, you've tried your best."

"Alright, I'll give it a try."

"Thank you," Mubai told her gently, "Ordinarily, I wouldn't disturb you, but Munan really could need your help."

"That's alright, I need to contribute my fair share after all." Xinghe said truthfully. Furthermore, she wasn't doing the heavy lifting. The only thing she could help with was computer stuff, the real dangerous part was carried out by Mubai and Munan.

Xinghe's perspective had changed. She understood she couldn't take on the world on her own. Along the way, she realized that Mubai's aid had been instrumental in helping her defeating certain enemies. They needed each other's help and Xinghe wasn't so conceited to think she could do everything on her own.

"Then, take care and be careful."

"I know."

"Alright, I won't disturb you anymore. Call me if you need anything," Mubai said with reluctance.

"You be careful too," The words slipped out of Xinghe's mouth. It surprised even herself. Mubai on the other end of the

phone was smiling wickedly.

Xinghe was an action-orientated person. After she put down the phone, she stopped her research and went looking for Munan.

With Mubai's orders, Munan quickly met up with Xinghe and explained to her everything.

Chapter 377: A Special Talent

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After Munan filled her in, Xinghe had roughly figured out the bulk of his problem.

“I can try,” she said softly.

Munan was overjoyed. “Big sister Xia, if you can help us overcome this problem, name any reward that you want, and if possible, I will fulfill it!”

Xinghe shook her head. “By helping you, I’m helping myself, so I don’t need any reward.”

“Regardless, I’m forever in your debt.”

“I’ve not done anything yet; you can save your appreciation for later.”

“Okay!” Munan didn’t waste time, he told her directly, “Big sister Xia, getting you into the military camp will be a bit troublesome. We have to go through some procedures first. Temporarily, you’ll be joining my team as a special civilian agent.”

“I don’t mind either way.”

Just like that, under Munan’s arrangement, Xinghe entered the military as his platoon’s special civilian agent.

For the past few days, Munan’s platoon had been idling. Even though they had lost but they didn’t consider the option of giving up. However, Saohuang’s platoon had increased greatly in morale from their victory. They trained even harder, dragging the difference between the two platoons even farther. Furthermore, Saohuang’s platoon had the better computer expert. Their training was a lot more efficient. This placed a huge psychological weight on Munan’s men, causing a pervading sense of hopelessness among his troop.

Under such a condition, training was practically a waste of time. There was zero improvement. The fiery Yan Lu spent his days in a haze of anger. Even the comparatively mellow Gu Li was at his wits’ end. The only one staying strong was Munan.

He was the commander; he had to hold the fort no matter what.

One day, Munan arrived in the camp with the solution to their problem: he had them a computer expert of their own.

After Yan Lu and Gu Li heard the news, they were excited. They couldn't wait to find out who this expert was.

...

On the day Munan said he would bring the mysterious expert to the camp, his adjutants had been waiting at the office since early in the morning.

"I wonder, what kind of person this expert will be like? Since he comes with Boss' recommendation, I'm sure he is someone impressive," Yan Lu commented confidently.

Gu Li nodded smilingly. "I also believe in him."

They had been through a lot with Munan and he had never once let them down so they were in great anticipation about the talent whom Munan said he would bring.

Just as they were discussing excitedly among themselves, Munan entered the room with Xinghe behind him.

"The boss is here!" Yan Lu yelled happily when he saw Munan walked in. Everyone's gaze turned to Munan immediately before falling on Xinghe.

Everyone was confused. Why does boss bring with him a woman?

"Boss, where's the expert?" Yan Lu asked with confusion. He looked around but couldn't see the so-called expert.

Munan said with humor, "Are you blind? Here she is."

He motioned at Xinghe.

Yan Lu widened his eyes as he once again looked at Xinghe.

"Her? She's the top expert you mentioned?"

Munan nodded even though he heard the disbelief in Yan Lu's words. "That's right. Come, let me make some introductions, this here is Miss Xia Xinghe. She is a computer science expert

that I've spent a lot of effort in locating. So, please show some respect."

"No offense, boss, but you're kidding, right?" Yan Lu exclaimed, "Number one, she is a woman. Number two, she's so young. How can she be a top expert?"

Chapter 378: A Woman?

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Disbelief was plainly written on everyone's faces. After all, Xinghe was indeed too young...

There was a stereotype that experts were all wizened old men who got where they were with years of experience behind them.

Even Gu Li stepped forward to ask, "Boss, you're not kidding?"

Munan replied with a solemn expression, "Do I look like I'm kidding?" He certainly did not, but...

"How can she be a computer expert?" Yan Lu groused unhappily, "Boss, you got lied to by certain people it seems."

"What nonsense!" Munan lectured him severely, "Do you guys not believe in me?"

"We do, but... this is too unbelievable..." Yan Lu grumbled.

"I'm sorry Miss Xia, if you don't mind me asking, which university did you graduate from?" Gu Li decided to give Xinghe the benefit of a doubt.

Xinghe replied insouciantly, "I was once an Academy S student but I dropped out."

Gu Li was impressed. "Academy S is a good school, not everyone can get in, but why did you drop out?"

"Personal problem." Xinghe's answer was rather unapproachable.

Gu Li thought Xinghe did have the temperament of an expert. "Then you majored in computer science as well?"

"Mathematics."

Yan Lu couldn't help but object, "A drop out majoring in mathematics, how does that have anything to do with computer science? Is this woman capable or not? We need the best of the best, not some rookie who only knows only to write some rudimentary programs!"

“That’s right, Boss. You sure she can do this?”

The suspicion spread across the room quickly. Munan knew this was inevitable. If he didn’t know Xinghe, he would’ve been suspicious as well. However, since she came with his big brother’s recommendation, she must be incredibly good. Munan believed in Mubai’s eye for talent unconditionally. However, it was a different story with his men.

“None of us believe her? Then, let us try her out! Gu Li, you can give her a test and find out for yourself,” Munan said directly.

Gu Li accepted easily. “Alright, I don’t mind learning a thing or two from Miss Xia.”

“Please.” Xinghe was as calm as ever, not a trace of nervousness or dissatisfied on her face.

Gu Li nodded somewhat approvingly, at least Xinghe appeared to be a sensible person.

Gu Li was the computer expert in Munan’s platoon. Whether Xinghe was bluffing or not, he would know with a test. Everyone else was also interested to find out, they crowded the office, none of them willing to leave.

Yan Lu even made a bet out of the occasion, to see whether Xinghe would pass Gu Li’s test.

Faced with the troop’s suspicion, Xinghe kept her composure. She didn’t feel the need to defend herself with words because actions spoke louder than words.

Gu Li, due to his compassion, gave her the task of hacking through a computer’s password as her first test.

“Our computers here are fitted with the best security. If you can crack through them, it means that you’ve passed my first test.” Gu Li informed her.

Xinghe nodded before working on the computers. The moment that happened, Gu Li was convinced Munan really wasn’t lying. Xinghe’s speed was not something achievable by a rookie. He was immensely surprised by the speed at which

Xinghe cracked the password. Her fingers flew over the keyboard so fast that he had trouble following her motion...

The code that appeared on screen kept on appearing that they had a hard time catching up!

Chapter 379: Actions Speak Louder than Words

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Yan Lu had no idea what was going on, but he was duly impressed by Xinghe's performance. "Gu Li, what is she doing so fast?"

"I have no clue either," someone in the crowd answered.

Yan Lu nodded. "Same, could it be that she's just typing nonsense?"

"Done." The moment she said that, Xinghe stopped and leaned back in the chair. Gu Li was dumbfounded because the computer had been successfully hacked!

Everyone widened their eyes in shock. They might not understand much about computers but they could still discern whether a computer was still locked or not, and the fact was Xinghe's was definitely not. The bigger issue was how long did she take?

The whole process had gone on for less than half a minute! She took less than half a minute to hack through the military's computer. Even Gu Li couldn't do that.

Munan was equally shocked, he had no idea his sister-in-law was that good! For some reason, he felt proud. He looked at his men as if saying, See, you people should have trusted me.

"What's the second test?" Xinghe asked Gu Li softly, pulling him out of his shock.

He asked with utter disbelief, "It was really you who hacked the computer?"

Xinghe didn't answer. Instead she rolled her eyes at his stupid question. Who else if not me? A ghost?

Gu Li also later realized how dumb he sounded. He coughed awkwardly and praised, "Miss Xia, I didn't expect you to be so good at this. You took so little time to overcome the first test."

"It's nothing, give me something harder," Xinghe said directly.

The crowd was silent. Truth be told, the room of men felt she was being a little bit too arrogant but they did doubt her first. This was their idea to begin with.

“Give her the hardest test!” Yan Lu yelled excitedly, “Gu Li, give her the hardest test you have, I want to see whether she can pass it or not!”

He wasn't making things difficult for Xinghe but was egged on by the hyped-up atmosphere in the room. Since Xinghe wanted something harder, they might as well give her their hardest test and have this settled once and for all!

Munan glared at Yan Lu a bit unsatisfactorily. Can this guy not be so easily swayed by the crowd's emotions, what if you make my sister-in-law lose face?

Then again, he knew this couldn't be helped. Xinghe wouldn't win them over without passing the most difficult test.

So many years ago, he had also challenged this group of men many times, and each time winning absolutely until they surrendered to his authority.

This group of men could only be won over by real talent. Xinghe understood that so she didn't object to be tested with the hardest task. Gu Li didn't hold back, he also wanted to find out how good Xinghe really was.

“Alright then, I will give you the hardest test there is!” Gu Li agreed and had someone get him a stack of information. “This here is the programming detail for a mini-sandbox software. If you can write it out by the end of the day, then you've passed the test.”

The main reason Xinghe was there was to help create high-end software, so naturally, the test was to challenge her programming skill. The software Gu Li wanted from her was simple but it would normally require more than a day to finish.

If she could complete the task within the time limit, it proved that she was truly a genius at computer science. If not, she would have to leave. In the military, actions spoke far louder than words. Incapable people would be cut off, it was the natural way of things.

Therefore, her eventual fate of staying or not depended completely on Xinghe herself.

Chapter 380: 10 RMB in Favor of Xinghe

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“So, the time limit is nightfall?” Xinghe asked.

Gu Li thought about it and realized that might be a little harsh so he decided to be a little lenient. “As long as it’s before dawn tomorrow, then it’ll count as a win for you.”

“Alright, no problem.” Xinghe nodded slightly.

“Then I shall leave you be, come and get me when you’re done,” Gu Li said. Xinghe nodded and the men filed out of the room. They needed to catch up to Saohuang’s platoon and they had wasted a lot of time with Xinghe, so they had to hurry back to work. However, when they left the office, a crowd started to form just outside.

“Hey, do you guys think that woman can accomplish the task or not?” Yan Lu asked in his boisterous voice.

Gu Li hesitated. “I’m not sure but it is undeniable that she is rather talented.”

“Come come come, the bet continues, this time to see whether she can pass this test or not. Same old rules, 10 RMB wager, cash only, no credit and no debt.”

An adjutant chided him immediately, “You have the face to say that? You lost the earlier bet, where’s the money?”

Yan Lu glared at him shamelessly. “How did I lose? The bet is on whether she can pass the test or not, the test is not yet over!”

“Your bet was on whether she can pass the first test or not and she did. Out with the money.”

The few adjutants ganged up on Yan Lu. Even though they suspected Xinghe’s capability, but they betted in her favor mostly out of deference to Munan. This was an unexpected windfall.

Most of the time, they would lose whenever they wagered against Yan Lu so earning this win felt immensely good! Yan Lu who had to hand over his money was in a bad mood. Even

though his losses were small, the fact that he had lost irked him to no end!

“Never mind, I will get this money back! Come, the bet is still open. I’m also betting against her this time!” Yan Lu said confidently.

The few adjutants looked at one another and stood across from him in agreement. “Then, we will bet in her favor.”

“Then, be prepared to lose!” Yan Lu laughed happily, thinking this group of people was too naïve. How could it be possible for Xinghe to pass such a difficult test?

Yan Lu looked at Gu Li who hadn’t placed his bet. “Brother, now don’t say that I don’t look out for you. Bet alongside me and after we win, we’ll go for a drink.”

Gu Li looked at him and hesitated. “I think I will bet that she’ll win. Enjoy the drink if you win.”

“Eh, you too? I can understand these people because they don’t understand computers but you should know how impossible this task is.”

Gu Li smiled. “Of course I know how hard it is, but I have confidence in Miss Xia. Call it a vote of confidence.”

“Well, looks like we have a group of saints on our hands. Fine, I’ll go alone after I win, don’t think I’ll invite anyone of you!” Yan Lu claimed gloatingly. However, he couldn’t have predicted he would be the only one left out...

...

Munan stayed even though the room had cleared out.

He asked Xinghe with concern. “Big Sister Xia, can you finish this before tomorrow? Is it too hard?”

Xinghe flipped through the stack of document with absolute focus. “Should be fine.”

Munan sighed in relief after hearing her answer. “Then, it’s good. I will have some men positioned outside the office. Tell them if you need anything. I’ll be back later.”

“Okay.” Xinghe nodded. Munan left soon after, he didn’t want to disturb her. His plan was to approach Gu Li for an extension of time limit if Xinghe couldn’t complete the software before tomorrow. After all, this was his ex-sister-in-law, he didn’t mind bending the rules a bit for her.

Little did he know, Xinghe came with the news that she had completed the program after only three hours!

Chapter 381: Too Impressive

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Everyone was shocked when they heard the news. The office was instantly crowded.

“Is this real or not? Gu Li, quick, see whether it’s real or not!” Yan Lu rushed him, even though Gu Li was already checking Xinghe’s software...

“It’s real.” He deeply exhaled in disbelief. “And it’s perfectly done, there’s no mistakes at all!”

“Then, how about the fact that she finished it in three hours?” Yan Lu asked again.

Gu Li answered, “It would take me at least six hours to do something like this.”

“My god, this is too much...” Yan Lu was stunned, the way he looked at Xinghe had completely changed. It was the same for everyone else.

Munan said smugly, “Well, does anyone else here still believe that Miss Xia’s talent is lacking?”

Gu Li was the first to respond, “Miss Xia, it’s my fault for not recognizing a talent when I saw one. I sincerely apologize for my earlier offense.”

“It’s okay, I don’t mind it at all.”

“Miss Xia, you’ve truly impressed us all. Don’t worry, from now on, I, Yan Lu, will be your shield whenever you’re in the army, no one will dare to bully you here!” Yan Lu exclaimed happily, he was overjoyed that Munan had found them such an incredible computer expert. “Now, I can’t wait to see the looks of those people’s faces when we beat them next time!”

Yan Lu was already imagining the victory they would secure against Saohuang.

Munan chuckled. “Don’t be too optimistic and think that it’s all down to technology alone. We have to train harder and give it our best and only then can victory be in ours!”

“Yes, sir!” Everyone gave a solemn military salute. The atmosphere in the room turned serious. However, it only lasted for a second before the group of adjutants surrounded Yan Lu asking for money.

“You’ve lost again, it’s time to pay.”

“Quick, give us the money, the brothers are going to the bar to celebrate later tonight.”

“We’ve just found ourselves an incredible computer expert, we should be celebrating and not hung over small details like a childish wager. Isn’t it a bit improper to demand money over something as auspicious as this?” Yan Lu clamped his wallet to his body but the group of men, of course, wouldn’t let him go so easily.

“Buddy, come on, cough it up or we’ll take it ourselves.”

“That’s right, and the money’s not even that much. Do you need to act this way?”

“Fine, I’ll pay but you have to bring me along with you when you go drinking,” Yan Lu took the opportunity to demand.

“No way!” The group of adjutants rejected him in unison.

“...” This group of brothers is even worse than hyenas!

Munan laughed heartily as he those events unfold. He then turned to Xinghe. “Big Sister Xia, from now on, you will officially start working for my platoon. But don’t worry, we’ll give you the best treatment because you’ve proven that you deserve such a treatment.”

“Alright, let’s get to work now.”

“How about tomorrow? It’s already quite late, I suggest you go rest for the day.”

“I’m fine, I would like to familiarize myself with the environment.”

“Alright. Gu Li, give Miss Xia a tour of the compound,” Munan ordered. Gu Li accepted the task gladly.

He first took Xinghe to their tech department, along the way, he made small talk with Xinghe.

“Miss Xia, I seem to have heard Boss call you Big Sister Xia, what is your relationship to him?” Gu Li asked curiously.

“Technically, there is no relationship between us,” Xinghe answered matter-of-factly, “He insists on calling me that even though I’ve corrected him many times.”

Chapter 382: Giving Her So Much Preferential Treatment

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Gu Li couldn't understand. "What do you mean by that?"

"I'm Xi Mubai's ex-wife." Xinghe used a single sentence to explain everything. Gu Li was shocked to find that out! In that case, the relationship was indeed complicated...

Gu Li cleverly avoided pressing and changed the subject. Very soon, they reached the tech department. The military compound was huge, the tech department alone took up an entire building. Everyone in the department was wearing military fatigues. Everyone was an expert that survived layers of elimination.

In other words, the people that worked there were the best of the best. Therefore, the members of the tech department were more than a little arrogant but still maintained a good overall discipline.

The special unit that oversaw the combat software was located on the top floor. Gu Li led Xinghe into the lab and the workers within immediately looked their way. They were curious as to who this woman was.

"Everyone, stop your work for a moment, I would like to make a simple introduction," Gu Li began in a serious tone. "This will be the expert that will be joining our group, Miss Xia Xinghe. She will be joining as my second-in-command so whenever I'm not around, you will have to listen to her orders? Understand?"

"Second-in-command?" someone exclaimed in shock.

This woman that came out of nowhere will be lording over us? Is she even capable enough?

Even Xinghe herself was shocked by this announcement, she didn't expect Gu Li to give her such a privilege. He trusts me so much?

Gu Li trusted her not only because of her ability but also her identity. Since Munan called her Big Sister Xia, she deserved all the respect he could give her.

“That’s right, second-in-command! This is an order, understand?” Gu Li asked authoritatively.

“Yes, sir!” everyone answered, but Xinghe could see that none of them were satisfied with this arrangement. They couldn’t object because it was a military order.

Gu Li understood this as well, so he added, “Don’t be suspicious of Miss Xia’s ability, she comes with my and Major Xi’s personal recommendations, if anything, she might be better than all of you here.”

After that explanation, most of the crowd started to have a little more faith in Xinghe, or at least, their dissatisfaction wasn’t as obvious as before...

“Alright then, get back to work. Remember from now on, Miss Xia will be your colleague.”

“Yes, sir!” The group of people returned to work.

Finally, Gu Li turned to Xinghe, “There are a few empty seats around here, pick anyone you like.”

Xinghe asked, “Is there an individual lab?”

Gu Li was taken aback before nodding. “There is a central control room. Why, you prefer to be alone?”

“Yes, I don’t like to be disturbed when I’m working.”

Gu Li thought about it before agreeing. “Alright, you can work at the central control room. Come, I’ll show you there.”

“Thank you,” Xinghe said with sincerity. She knew Gu Li was showing her a lot of faith or he wouldn’t have given her so much preferential treatment.

Gu Li smiled. “No need to thank me. Your contribution to our platoon will be bigger so it should be us that’s thanking you.”

This was because if Xinghe could help them defeat their opponent, their future would be bright.

After Gu Li led Xinghe away, the people in the lab started discussing among themselves.

Chapter 383: Asking Her Out

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Sister Mei, do you think that she is really that capable?” a young man asked the woman beside him. Shu Mei was the best of the few ladies working there. The many men there couldn’t wait to get into her good books. This made her feel very good about herself. Therefore, Xinghe’s sudden arrival irked her greatly.

Shu Mei answered nonchalantly, “Who knows, but she manages to become the second-in-command the day she arrived, I bet her looks and connections have many things to do with it.”

“I think so too, but our leader is not someone who would do something like that.”

“Didn’t he say that this woman is Major Xi’s guest?”

“But Major Xi is not someone who would bend the rules due to someone’s connection as well.”

“Major Xi managed to be a Major at his young age. Think about it, other than his capability, what other factors could have been in play?” Shu Mei whispered in meaningful manner.

The young man gave a curious expression and went back to work. The meaning of Shu Mei’s words was quite obvious. The reason Munan could become a Major and have a chance at leading the Flying Dragon Unit wasn’t just his ability. It relied on his family background too.

Therefore, that Xia Xinghe probably had a great family background propping her up as well...

Suspicious such as these were inevitable, because these people realized they’d lost at birth and they couldn’t help but envy those who’d been born into a better family...

...

Xinghe’s arrival rocked the military camp a tiny bit, so much so that even Saohuang’s side had received the news. However, Saohuang only managed to find out that Munan had hired a

new computer scientist but had no way of finding out who that person was. After all, both sides were highly defensive against one another, the defensive measures were well put in place.

“They finally realize the spot that they are lacking in, but from how I see it, no matter who they find, it will still be pointless,” Sun Yu said smugly.

This was because his computer skill was unparalleled; he didn't think a worthy rival even existed on Earth. Furthermore, his team of technicians was all capable people. They were truly a force to be reckoned with.

Saohuang said coldly, “We're now in a critical period, we mustn't make light of any information. Who this person is and how good he is, we must find out soon.”

“Should we hack into their system again?” Sun Yu asked.

Saohuang warned him with a withering look. “One time is more than enough for such a risky measure! No one is allowed to bring that up again without my order!”

“Yes, sir!” Sun Yu answered seriously, “But Boss, this will be extra difficult because the news might not even be true. Xi Munan is highly defensive against us now so this might just be nothing more than a smokescreen.”

Saohuang smirked. “So what? His team is not impenetrable, there is a mole in there that I can make use of.”

Sun Yu was surprised. “Who?”

Naturally, it is Shu Mei!

Shu Mei once worked alongside Saohuang before. She was madly in love with Saohuang, even then her love towards him hadn't dissipated. However, this relationship was known only to Shu Mei and Saohuang. Therefore, he could make use of this hidden relationship to his advantage without getting found out.

Saohuang's lips curved into a smile as he pulled out his phone to send a text.

Tomorrow's a weekend, how about we go for lunch together?

The sudden message from Saohuang made Shu Mei almost faint from joy!

She didn't expect Saohuang to actively ask her out. This was something unimaginable for her. Shu Mei started to blush and her heart started to beat like a little girl going to meet her crush.

She couldn't wait for tomorrow to arrive.

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Thankfully, this cannon fodder will be taken care of swiftly. I remembered rolling my eyes when she appeared.

Chapter 384: A Woman?

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Shu Mei couldn't concentrate for the rest of the day, obsessing about the reason why Saohuang asked her out. Could it be that... he is interested in me?

The thought alone was enough to excite her for the whole day. She spent the whole night readying herself for the next day's date. Almost everyone was working overtime at the time but Shu Mei still found a reason to skip work.

...

Saohuang asked her to meet him at a secluded restaurant. Shu Mei arrived early and Saohuang was a few minutes later than her.

Saohuang was wearing a black, high-end suit. A simple get-up but it highlighted his natural elegance, his presence not less than an actual prince. His arrival seemed to breathe life into the simple restaurant.

Shu Mei's gaze couldn't leave Saohuang. Her face was as red as a ripe apple, the admiration in her eyes couldn't be suppressed.

"Major Feng, long time no see." Shu Mei quickly stood up to greet him.

Saohuang smirked. "Don't need to be so formal, please sit."

"Thank you," Shu Mei responded politely.

The duo sat across each other. Shu Mei proffered a bright smile and commented wistfully, "I wasn't expecting Major Feng to invite me out so suddenly. I thought we wouldn't cross paths again."

"Why would you think that? We are still colleagues, I'm sure fate has its way of straightening things out," Saohuang said with a smile, his deep dark eyes gazing at Shu Mei.

It made Shu Mei's heart pound violently. Naturally, Shu Mei misunderstood Saohuang's meaning. She really thought she

and Saohuang would have a future together. She was led into Saohuang's trap easily.

"How's work been lately?" Saohuang asked with concern.

"Not bad but you must be very busy," Shu Mei observed shyly.

Saohuang nodded and added purposely, "It's quite busy. By the way, we are competitors at the moment, is it okay for me to ask you out like this?"

"No problem! Of course, it is not a problem!" Shu Mei said in a hurry, "Even though we are competing now, but like you said, we're colleagues. Plus, this is a well-meaning competition so I'm sure this is fine."

"Well said, I like your eloquence," Saohuang praised, causing Shu Mei's face to burn even redder.

He... he said he likes me!

She almost jumped out of her seat from sheer excitement.

"Major, this was really a good idea, I'm glad you thought of it..."

"Me too. But I realize you've gotten thinner, too much work? I'm sure your department must be extremely busy," Saohuang said with a smile.

"It is quite hectic now but your tech department is obviously better, what I wouldn't give to work for you," Shu Mei commented half-jokingly.

"I'm sure there's a chance for that in the future. By the way, I heard your department had a new person that just joined, what's his name?" Saohuang came out and asked.

Shu Mei wasn't at all alarmed, even if she was, she probably would have given Saohuang the information willingly.

However, the mention of Xinghe did turn her smile into a frown.

"There is a new person that joined us but it's a she, not a he. She's extremely young but she was promoted to be the leader's second-in-command on her first day. Of course, none of us are willing to buy it."

Saohuang raised his tea cup slightly and said curiously, “Is that so? What’s her name then?”

“Xia Xinghe!”

Chapter 385: So It's Her

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Saohuang's tea cup stopped suddenly in mid-air. "Who?"

Shu Mei didn't catch his reaction and said with condescension, "Some woman by the name of Xia Xinghe, who knows which hole she crawled out from."

Shu Mei didn't know Xinghe but Saohuang certainly did. Isn't she Xi Mubai's ex-wife? The woman that was there during my showdown with the Xi family? The woman whose gaze was eerily familiar?

Saohuang's lips curved into a smirk. Looks like she has some talent if Xi Munan went to her for help.

He could still remember the recorded video that was supposed to be deleted. That was probably that woman's doing as well.

Saohuang knew where the direction of his investigation would go next. With the information he sought already procured, Saohuang lost all interest in Shu Mei.

He looked at his watch and said nonchalantly, "I forgot I have something else to do. I have to go but enjoy the meal, it's on me."

Shu Mei was disappointed. "But you haven't even had a bite yet..."

"Having the opportunity to see you is more than enough, I'll see you again," Saohuang replied with a charming smile. Shu Mei was drawn into his handsome features and her face started burning again. She didn't even realize his smile didn't reach his eyes.

He stood up to straighten his suit. He walked before turning back to say, "By the way, I think I know that Xia Xinghe. She was once the Xi family's eldest daughter-in-law, so watch out."

With that, Saohuang left with wide strides, leaving behind Shu Mei all alone nursing her complicated thoughts.

...

Xinghe spent only a day familiarizing herself with the mission. Creating programs was not difficult, the difficult part came from creating one in a short period of time. The training of the troops changed every day. Changing of the training style would ensure a speedy improvement. Plus, most of the training was about teamwork.

This could be aided with some simulation software which the soldiers could refer to and learn from. It would help increase the efficacy during actual training.

Saohuang's platoon won on the fact that their software was written faster. Munan's team was already quite fast, but Saohuang's team always seemed to be one or two days faster than them.

If viewed in isolation, the one or two days might be miniscule but the accumulated effect would be disastrous, which was why Munan was so agitated. Their tech team was already very good but no matter how good they did, they would be lagging behind Saohuang's team.

Therefore, he asked Xinghe for her help, hopefully to increase productivity. Xinghe was a fast worker. After she familiarized herself with the job scope, she separated the team into groups and delegated them their own tasks. Cooperation was key.

The tech team was actually in groups before Xinghe arrived so what Xinghe actually ended up doing was rearranging the people around based on their strengths and weaknesses.

One of the task forces was responsible for writing codes. It used to have five people, including Shu Mei who was the time leader. However, Xinghe had moved one away, leaving them with four.

Other than that, Xinghe also ordered, "This part of the code, I want them ready before the day after tomorrow. Remember, I need them on my table before midnight tomorrow."

Shu Mei was stunned. "Meaning before tomorrow night?"

Xinghe nodded.

Shu Mei commented with a laugh, "Miss Xia, I think your arrangement is a bit illogical."

“How is it illogical?” Xinghe asked her in return. She didn’t mind other people pitching in because they might spot a mistake she hadn’t.

Chapter 386: Here to Give Orders

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Shu Mei stood up and continued in a tone that was not so friendly, “First, my task group has always had a large workload. You not only didn’t increase the number of my members but reduced our members. Now you want to move our deadline forward, how do you expect us to do that?”

The three other people nodded in agreement.

“That’s right, we have less people but you want us to produce faster results. Who could possibly do that?”

“Miss Xia, we also think this order is a bit illogical, can you please change it?”

Since they were all disciplined military men and women, they didn’t dare to go against Xinghe’s orders too harshly and openly.

Xinghe said softly, “I think the request is entirely reasonable. I’ve studied what each of you is capable of and I fully believe that this task can be accomplished before tomorrow night.”

“You’ve studied us? You’ve only been here for two days; how can you possibly know what each of us can do so well and so soon?” Shu Mei was starting to lose it. “Miss Xia, we do not accept this arrangement. I think the original arrangement was a lot better.”

“The old arrangement is not bad, but we’re in a critical period. We have to push ourselves or there will never be improvement.”

“We’ve been pushing ourselves! There is no holiday and every day we’re working overtime!” Shu Mei retorted. She was not Xinghe’s biggest fan from day one and now she only hated her even more. With Shu Mei leading the way, others started agreeing.

Everyone thought Xinghe’s arrangement was unfair. Not only Shu Mei’s task force had their workload increased, everyone else did too. Only those task groups that required special skills had an increase in members.

Furthermore, they'd doubted Xinghe's capability from the beginning and were dissatisfied with her sudden appearance. At that time, their resentment burst into the open.

Xinghe was unfazed facing the room's rejection of her, while Shu Mei was having the time of her life.

She gave a smile and advised Xinghe kindly, "Miss Xia, you're new here so you wouldn't understand our work. If the task could be completed earlier, we would skip eating and sleeping to rush it to completion, but the thing is, this is mission impossible."

"Are you skipping eating and sleeping?" Xinghe suddenly asked in return.

Shu Mei was stunned...

Xinghe scanned everyone there. "Are the rest of you not eating and sleeping to do your job as well? If you have not, then don't tell me the task is impossible! Plus, my arrangement wouldn't even force you guys to such a level. I've arranged everyone with their team mission and I need them to be completed on time. If there's any complaints, you can refer to your leader or the Major. I'm just here to mind my business and do my job!"

With that, Xinghe turned to leave. She didn't want to waste time explaining herself, because she knew it wouldn't have worked. No one would believe her without a trial by fire. Therefore, she decided to do things the hard and fast way.

After Xinghe assigned the tasks, she left the rest to Gu Li. Gu Li chose to cooperate with her and used his power to squelch all the voices of dissatisfaction.

"Sister Mei, the woman really thinks she's something else," the quintessential lackey that followed Shu Mei grumbled to her.

Shu Mei laughed condescendingly. "But of course, she has a unique background after all."

Her voice was purposely loud so almost everyone heard her.

“Unique background? Do you know who she is?” someone immediately asked.

A disgruntled Shu Mei said suggestively, “Of course I do. After all, she has such a long history with the Xi family...”

Chapter 387: I Will Make Them Submit

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“So, is she really related to Major Xi? What kind of relationship do they have?”

The room’s interest was piqued.

Shu Mei chuckled and threw the room a question, “Everyone knows the relationship between Major Xi and Xi Empire, right?”

“Of course, they are from the same family. The CEO, Xi Mubai, is Major Xi’s cousin.”

“This Xia Xinghe used to be Xi Mubai’s wife, but they’re divorced now.”

When Shu Mei said the last phrase of her sentence, her mouth curved involuntarily up in disdain.

A b*tch like this Xia Xinghe deserves to be divorced.

The people who heard the news were shocked. “So, she had such a relationship to the Xi family. I know Major Xi himself has a young cousin, so that must be her son.”

“It must be, no wonder Major Xi looks out for her so much.”

“I knew she got in here through connections. She has no right to lead us,” someone said with condescension.

“Well, she does have a strong background. The Xi family is like a gold mine, get in their good graces and you’ll be rich.”

“I must say the Xi family is quite generous to allow her to continue feeding off them considering she is a divorcee.”

“You’re right,” Shu Mei said pointedly. “Alas, this is the military we’re talking about, not someplace where you can survive with only connections. Just wait and see, her comeuppance will arrive soon enough.”

Everyone nodded in agreement, because they wouldn’t be able to finish the orders Xinghe gave them. If they had no results to show at the end of the day, then the fault would lie completely with Xinghe.

Of course, most of them wouldn't do that on purpose, but the fact of the matter was, it couldn't be done.

In fact, it was in their advantage to give it their all because when it came tumbling down, Xinghe would have nothing but her own irresponsible orders to blame.

...

Gu Li nodded satisfactorily at everyone's improved performance.

He walked into the main control room and asked Xinghe, "Do you really think they can finish their tasks on time?"

To be honest, he was skeptical as well. After all, he was the leader for this group of people, he knew where their limit was. Xinghe's orders were a bit demanding.

Xinghe who stood in front of the giant super computer shook her head and said, "I have no clue."

Gu Li was slightly shocked. "You have no clue either?"

"I'm just pushing them."

Gu Li didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Then, is it possible that the order is a bit too rash?"

"This is the only way to win against our opponent. There will be no improvement if we don't force the people to work harder."

"I know," Gu Li nodded. "But, I'm afraid they will snap or fight back from too much pressure."

"They won't," Xinghe answered confidently, "I have a plan to win them all over."

A shine entered Gu Li's eyes. "Miss Xia, what's the plan?"

Xinghe smiled and said, "You'll see."

Her answer only heightened his interest, but no matter how hard Gu Li thought about it, he couldn't figure out a surefire plan that would win over the whole group of people at once.

He even wondered if his team could even fulfill her tall order.

...

After two consecutive days of non-stop slavery, Xinghe's deadline finally arrived!

When the clock struck twelve, someone immediately complained out of sheer frustration.

“Ah, I can't stand this anymore! This is crazy, we can't possibly finish all this!”

“That's right, my eyes are popping out of their sockets and I'm nowhere near the end.”

“Did anyone of you finished your task?”

The task group that did was pitifully small, and about 80 percent had incomplete work.

Chapter 388: I Will Bear Responsibility

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Told you we wouldn’t be able to finish it.”

“Where is that Xia Xinghe? Tell her to come and look at this herself. How can we possibly finish a mission so demanding?”

The moment this complaint was voiced, Xinghe suddenly walked out of the main control room. The more senior technicians quickly stormed forward to berate her.

“Miss Xia, just take a look for yourself. Every one of us has tried our best but we simply couldn’t finish the task. Your arrangement was wrong, pure and simple. This will only lower our morale!”

“It’s not that we don’t want to cooperate with you, because we all did, but almost none of us have finished the work.”

“That’s why I said those that you didn’t know our work and shouldn’t come and pretend to be a leader,” Shu Mei added sarcastically.

Everyone was pissed. It was one thing if the mission was a success but being forced into a failure ruffled quite a few feathers. If not for Xinghe’s unique background, they would have lampooned her even harder.

These people were not dumb. They might look down on Xinghe but they wouldn’t dare to really cross her. Furthermore, they were in the military and Xinghe was at a higher rank than them.

...

Xinghe listened to their complaints quietly and nodded. “No matter whether you’ve finished the work or not, send me all your copies. I’ll be arranging tomorrow’s mission.”

Xinghe passed the assistant that Gu Li assigned her a stack of documents. “Pass this around.”

“Yes.” The assistant moved to oblige. The room was stunned watching this unfold.

“Miss Xia, we’ve not done the things on our hands and you’re already giving us new assignments?”

“What are you planning to do? This is the military not some outside company, not some place where you do anything you want!”

“You have no idea how the military operates! How can you do things so willy-nilly?”

“Where’s Leader Gu, let him come and see how this person operates his team! This is a bloody mess!”

Finally, the room exploded. Xinghe’s arrangements were too chaotic. How could she assign them another assignment when the current one hadn’t been completed?

“Miss Xia, don’t tell me you want us to work overnight to complete these and then give us another set of assignments tomorrow?” Shu Mei asked pointedly. Her condescension was palpable.

Xinghe answered softly, “Give me all the copies and you all can call it a day. You can continue the work tomorrow, if there’s any issues, I alone shall bear all the responsibility!”

“How exactly do you plan to do that?”

“You are not a real military person, you’re just a civilian agent, how do you expect to bear the consequences?” Someone complained unsatisfactorily.

Before Xinghe could answer, Munan’s low voice suddenly appeared in the room.

“Then I shall bear the consequences, is that enough?”

The crowd was shocked as they turned to look at him!

Munan was in full army uniform, he looked sharp and handsome. Behind him were Gu Li and Yan Li.

The more senior technicians immediately crowded around them, “Major Xi, this Miss Xia doesn’t even know how to operate a computer, look at her...”

Munan raised his hand to stop them.

“I know.”

“If you know, then why would you allow her to create such chaos? This is the military, not children’s playground?”

“Since you know this is the military, why are you people openly defying your orders?” Munan demanded with authority. It silenced the room.

Translator’s Thoughts

Chapter 389: Trust in Mubai

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He looked at everyone before adding, “Since I’ve asked for Miss Xia’s help, it means that I believe in her capability. She must have her reasons behind such an arrangement. The only thing demanded from all of you is cooperation!”

“But we’re just worried about the troop’s training speed...” someone retorted.

Munan laughed mirthlessly. “I don’t think anyone is more worried about that than me.” Since he didn’t say anything, why should they care so much on his behalf?

“The Major is right, we have to believe in Miss Xia’s ability. Follow her orders and do the best you can.” Gu Li also came to Xinghe’s rescue.

Yan Lu also chimed in with his loud voice, “That’s right, we have to believe in Miss Xia, believe in Major’s eye for talent!”

Since the three of them said so, what else could the rest of them say?

“Fine, if that’s the case, we will follow the orders. Major, we shall take our leave first, goodbye.”

“Okay, thank you very much for everyone’s hard work. I know it has been a hard few weeks.” Munan didn’t forget to console them. Finally, it was only Xinghe and the few of them left in the room.

Munan asked Xinghe, “Big Sister Xia, are you doing fine? I know the team hasn’t been particularly welcoming.”

Xinghe shook her head. “I’m fine.”

She was not that fragile, plus the one thing she couldn’t care less about was how others think about her.

Xinghe asked after some thought, “You guys really believe in me so much?”

Munan smiled. “Of course.”

“But why?” Xinghe didn’t get it. Even from her own perspective, her actions that day should warrant some questions.

Munan contemplated for a moment or two and gave an answer that surprised Xinghe, “Because my big brother believes in you.”

Xinghe was shocked...

Munan smiled, “Since he trusts in you so deeply, I have to do the same.”

Turned out it was all because of Mubai’s trust. Xinghe’s eyes quivered and she added, “I will not disappoint both of your trust.”

“I know. Big Sister Xia, the time is late, why don’t you retire to the hostel for now?” Munan advised her.

“I still have some work to do. You guys go first, I’ll be leaving in a bit.”

“But...”

“This will only take a while longer.” Xinghe confirmed.

Munan conceded. “There will be people posted outside, call them if you need anything.”

“Okay.” Munan then led Gu Li and Yan Lu away.

Finally, only Xinghe was left in the room. She scanned the spacious and empty lab before sitting down in front one of the computers and started working...

The technicians didn’t give her their copies before they left so she had to manually copy them one by one...

...

The sun rose soon after. The morning horn call shattered the peaceful dawn. The disciplined soldiers pulled themselves up from their beds, ready for a new day of training.

Xinghe stood by the window, watching the marching troops go by in their smart outfits. She had been there a few days and had felt the liveliness within the military camp. She could feel

the pulse of life there. Furthermore, she could see the indomitable spirit in each and every one of the soldiers.

She realized she enjoyed her experience working there, it was an eye-opening experience.

Soon after, the tech team's members also shuffled into the lab.

Translator's Thoughts

Chapter 390: But I Don't Like It

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

They had also been contributing for the sake of their troops, but now, they were more than a little annoyed by it. This was because they thought that Xinghe's arrangement was too ridiculous. How could she assign a new task when the old one hadn't even been finished yet?

Everyone was feeling a little bit resentful after what happened yesterday. They even started to think Munan was exploiting his position for private gain. In any case, they started to get prejudiced against their Major...

At that moment, a group of people entered the lab. The one in front was naturally Munan, and then Yan Lu's group. Trailing behind them were three officers from Internal Affairs Department. The technicians were shocked watching the Internal Affairs officers stride into their lab.

However, the next second, they could guess why. Unexpectedly, Munan soon asked, "Is Xinghe here?"

"She hasn't arrived yet." Someone answered immediately.

"Who's looking for me?" Xinghe's soft voice floated from the main control room as she walked out. The lab was shocked, they had no idea she was already there. The three officers immediately moved forward.

"You're Xia Xinghe?" the leading man asked.

"I am." Xinghe nodded. Her eyes saw the solemnity in Munan's dark eyes. It looked like trouble was brewing.

"Miss Xia, nice to meet you. We're from the Internal Affairs Department. We received a report this morning that you gained the position of the second-in-command for the tech department even though you are grossly unqualified. That violates the military structure and rules. Therefore, we ask you to follow us to assist in our investigation."

Munan was afraid she might be scared so he quickly added, "Xinghe, I will also be investigated. Don't worry, this is just a

formality.”

Xinghe scanned the room of technicians and saw many were giddy with excitement. It was obvious the person who made the report came from this room. She just didn't expect that the person would report Munan as well.

Xinghe looked at all of their faces and asked, “Which of you made the report?”

They didn't think she would ask that question outright. But only an idiot would admit what they did!

“It's one thing to be suspicious of my ability, but to report me? Looks like someone is really resentful of me,” Xinghe said matter-of-factly.

The officers frowned. “Xia Xinghe, what do you mean that? The Internal Affairs Department is not someone's instrument to punish others. We in the military have always welcomed reporting of unlawful conduct!”

“The fact is I don't like to be treated this way,” Xinghe commented coldly.

The room was stunned...

Isn't she being a bit too arrogant?

Even Munan was shocked by the fact that such incendiary words came out of Xinghe's mouth.

The Internal Affairs officers had already lost it. “Xia Xinghe, follow us to complete the investigation now!”

Xinghe laughed. “Sure, but before that, I would like the person who reported me to know how foolish they have acted.”

Shu Mei couldn't take it anymore. “Xia Xinghe, what kind of attitude is this? Do you need to be so petty and vengeful because someone doubted you and reported you? Furthermore, reporting you was for the sake of the platoon!”

“Sister Shu is right. If you're that good, then why are you afraid of being reported?”

“It must be because she knows she's unqualified!”

“Definitely, why else would she threaten us in return?”

“Threaten?” Xinghe laughed. “I will say it again. I find this whole thing foolish!”

Chapter 391: That's the Truth

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Foolish?” the room exclaimed in shock.

Shu Mei couldn't help but laugh. “You're the one being foolish, contesting the truth behind your report.”

“So, you're one who made the report.” Xinghe stared straight at Shu Mei.

Shu Mei was shocked but flared up instantly. “Preposterous accusation!”

“If you say so.” Xinghe nodded. “Then again, no matter who that person is, I find their actions not only foolish but also laughable.”

“I think your defense is the laughable one,” a technician argued back. “If it's so laughable, show us why is it that you think that?”

“Alright, I'd be glad to show all of you that.” Xinghe turned and walked back into the main control room. They were curious about what she was up to.

To their surprise, the big screen in the middle of lab suddenly lit up. It was a realistic simulation of combat scenes...

The crowd stared at the screen with bulging eyes! Is... isn't this the simulation we couldn't finish yesterday? Why is it finished all of a sudden?

Furthermore, the simulation was flawless. It was as if the battle scenes simulated really happened. However, they really didn't finish the simulation yesterday!

The technicians weren't dummies, they understood what had happened.

Shu Mei mumbled in disbelief, “Impossible...”

“Miss Xia, you did this?” Yan Lu's loud voice rang through the stunned crowd.

Xinghe, who'd just walked out of the room, nodded slightly. “I finished the remaining parts yesterday.”

“Impossible!” Shu Mei was the first to object, “How could you have possibly finished everything in one night? There were too many loose ends. So many of us couldn’t finish it, much less you alone!”

“Sister Shu has a point.”

The crowd shared her suspicion. The feat was indeed impossible. They all suspected that Xinghe had cheated somehow. The truth was literally right in front of their eyes but they still couldn’t believe it!

Xinghe looked at them and commanded, “How is it impossible? I picked up the rest of your slack and that is the truth. The evidence is right in front of you, what is there to be suspicious about?”

“But we thought you didn’t know anything...” Some people still couldn’t buy it.

“I don’t believe your own ability is better than all of us combined!” That was the crux of their disbelief. They couldn’t accept that a single person could be better than their whole team and that person was even a woman!

Such a genius was inhumane. If there were such an individual, shouldn’t they be world renowned already? They hadn’t heard of Xinghe before.

Furthermore, no one saw with their own eyes that it was Xinghe who designed the simulation so they simply wouldn’t believe it no matter what.

Xinghe didn’t deign to explain herself. “It’s your business whether you believe it or not, it doesn’t concern me, but that is the truth!”

“We demand to see the surveillance video!” Shu Mei said suddenly, “Then we will know for sure.”

“Knock yourself out,” Xinghe replied without blinking an eye. She turned to the Internal Affairs officers and said, “Don’t you need me for the investigation, let’s go.”

The officers were at a loss. They had no idea whether Xinghe was still worth investigating or not.

“Isn’t her ability plain to see? This investigation is a waste of time,” Yan Lu concluded excitedly.

Yan Lu, Munan, and Gu Li’s eyes that looked at Xinghe were all filled with exhilaration.

Chapter 392: Godlike

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

They didn't expect Xinghe to bring them such a big surprise...

This was like a treasure falling from the sky!

"How about we all go watch the surveillance video?" Munan asked the Internal Affairs officers seriously, but the hint of a smile on his lips couldn't be suppressed. The officers nodded, that was their intention. Munan quickly ordered his men to pull out the previous night's surveillance video. Finally, the truth was on full display...

After everyone left, Xinghe sat down in front of each computer, operating them one after another. Her expression was serious and her hands as fast as lightning. It took less than a few minutes on each computer before she moved on to the next. Even though the video couldn't show what was on each computer clearly but it was clear enough to show it was indeed Xinghe who did everything! She completed the impossible task all on her own!

She was familiar with every single isolated assignment and her speed was inhumane; she didn't even stop for a second ever since she began. If it wasn't for the fact that the evidence was right before their eyes, they wouldn't have believed it.

Shu Mei's face blanched, like she was face-slapped by despair. How can such a human being even exist...

She, like most of the people there, thought Xinghe was there because of her connections. They were sorely mistaken. Xinghe's capabilities were way beyond their imagination!

Everyone's emotions were a complicated mess...

Before the video finished, Yan Lu exclaimed, "Miss Xia, just how can you be so scarily good? You're like a God!"

"He's right..." Gu Li was shaking with excitement, "I couldn't have imagined your ability would be so ridiculously good!"

Earlier, she already impressed him, but now, she practically shook him to his core!

Xinghe's ability was already something beyond his comprehension. Furthermore, this might not even be the best of her ability yet...

The rest looked at Xinghe with reverence reserved for a deity. They felt Xinghe was no longer a human like the rest of them, because how could a normal human being do something surpassing a human's abilities?

Xinghe understood what they were thinking and explained, "I just familiarized myself with the job scope. When you guys were working, I was figuring out a way to finish the mission."

That was why she could be so fast. She had done a mountain of preparation. However, her explanation did nothing to decrease the admiration the room had for her.

"Even so, what you did was incredible. Miss Xia, we were too blind to be able to recognize your talent, please forgive me for my previous slight!" a shame-faced technician apologized.

The apologies kept coming.

"Miss Xia, I also wish to apologize for what I said earlier, please don't take it to heart."

"Miss Xia, I'm so sorry..."

"Miss Xia, from now on, you'll be the idol of this platoon's tech team! Do the rest of you agree?"

"Of course, we do!"

Xinghe, as she'd promised, won over everyone with one fell swoop.

There were a lot of experienced technicians and young talents working there but they all submitted to Xinghe's capability. Xinghe's ability was so superhuman that they couldn't get envious if they wanted to. That was the power of true talent...

Even Shu Mei had to admit that Xinghe was the best computer expert she had ever met.

Chapter 393: Most Intelligent Woman

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

It still bothered her internally but she definitely couldn't let it show anymore. She could only stand there quietly, watching everyone praise Xinghe.

Yan Lu berated everyone half-jokingly, "Didn't I tell all of you to trust in our Major? How could the agent he personally invited be someone awful? You guys should have waited before reporting Miss Xia. You see, now, isn't this awkward?"

"Adjutant Yan, you're right. I'm sure the person who made the report is kicking themselves as we speak, I'm sure that no one will dare to report Miss Xia in the future."

"That's right, we will fight them to the death if anyone dares to do that!"

Everyone had done wrong by Xinghe this time but if anyone dared to go after Xinghe in the future, they would not take it lying down. That was how it was in the military. After you won them over, and became part of the group, they would have your back from then on.

Yan Lu guffawed listening to everyone's responses. "Now this is more like it. Treat Miss Xia with more respect in the future. Like the rest of you, she is our hope and pride!"

"That's right!" Munan nodded with a bright smile. "If every one of us works together, I'm sure victory will be within our grasp!"

"For sure!" everyone replied in unison. The merriment was at an all-time high. They even asked the Internal Affairs officers to drop the investigation. They all believed in Xinghe's ability, she deserved the second-in-command position. Everything from before was a misunderstanding, they trusted her fully now.

The officers were also there when everything unfolded so they also believed Xinghe but the bureaucratic process had to be done.

Xinghe and Munan cooperated, they followed the officers to do some paperwork and were quickly released.

Along the way, Munan couldn't stop smiling. "Big Sister Xia, that was unbelievable. No wonder big brother has such deep trust in you; you're like our savior.

"With you on our side, I can already see the Fengs' faces turning sour from losing. Big Brother should have called for you earlier, but it's better to be late than never, please help take care of us from now on."

Xinghe looked at him and said softly, "Actually, this couldn't be done with my efforts alone. Your biggest asset will be the tech team, only by increasing their willingness to work and learn will success be within reach."

Munan understood what she meant. He kept his smile and commented admiringly, "Is that why you did those things?"

Purposely force them with an impossible task, causing them to riot and then use actual talent and ability to win over them. This way, the tech team would realize how long they had been coasting and would work harder.

Xinghe nodded slightly.

Munan stared at Xinghe like she was some international starlet. "Big Sister Xia, you're the most intelligent woman I've ever met. No wonder Big Brother is still so hung over you until now. You are the only woman he has ever fallen in love with and you have taken up the entirety of his heart."

Even at a time like this, Munan didn't forget to help slip in a few good words for Mubai.

Xinghe's eyes had a strange glint in them. "I'm going to rest for now. You guys can carry on with the next phase of your training; the next software will be ready soon."

"Alright, thank you for everything. Leave the rest to me."

Xinghe nodded to bid farewell. The moment she did, Munan rushed to the office to call Mubai to update him on the situation.

Chapter 394: I've Missed You

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He dropped his commanding, military presence when talking to Mubai, it was as if he was a kid again.

“Big Brother, Big Sister Xia really is something else. I like her so much. How do you think she can be so clever? No wonder my little cousin is a little genius as well. I'm so impressed, she's like my goddess.” Munan sighed as the words poured out of his mouth.

Mubai frowned on the other end of the phone, feeling like his treasured secret had been found out.

“No matter how good Xinghe is, it has nothing to do with you; you don't need to get so excited,” He warned Munan, which was something he didn't do often. Munan didn't take the hint, and continued matter-of-factly, “How can it not has anything to do with me? She's my Big Sister Xia.”

“Be that as it may, she is still going to be your sister-in-law. A little respect may be nice.”

“Big Brother, are you getting jealous of me?” Munan added with a wicked smile but he quickly assured him, “Big Brother, don't you worry, I have nothing but respect for Big Sister Xia. However, I have to say that you've gotta work harder because it doesn't seem like she is into you very much.”

That struck a nerve. Mubai replied coldly, “That has even less to do with you; mind your own business.”

“Fine, fine. By the way, Big Brother, when will you be coming home?”

“Not sure, probably a little while longer. I will return as soon as possible after I wrap things up here.”

“Big Brother, thank you. I will also work extra hard to not bring shame to our Xi family name.”

“Okay, that's all then. I'm hanging up.” Mubai hung up crisply because he couldn't wait to call Xinghe. After a bath, Xinghe received the call from Mubai.

“Hello.” She picked up the phone and had a pretty good guess as to what the call was about.

As she expected, Mubai said solemnly, “I’ve heard everything from Munan. Thank you and sorry for putting you through all that.”

“It’s nothing, I’m used to it.”

She didn’t like to explain herself and didn’t care about anyone else’s opinion of her because she believed that, at the end of the day, actions spoke louder than words. Therefore, she wasn’t affected by people’s suspicions or words because she knew she would prove herself right in the end and the one being shamed would not be her. She had confidence in herself and didn’t feel the need to bend over backwards to please others.

Mubai loved this about her. He smiled. “Maybe I should call the people that came up against you and apologize instead... for sending you their way.”

“Is that everything you wanted to talk about?” Xinghe asked.

Mubai’s lips curved into a smile. “Of course not, I have something important to tell you.”

“What?” Xinghe thought he was going to say something important, so she focused all her attention to listen.

On the other end of the phone came Mubai’s intimate declaration, “I miss you.”

Xinghe was taken aback...

Before she could react, Mubai said, “I will return as soon as possible. Take care of yourself and get plenty of rest.”

After that, he hung up the phone. Xinghe looked at the phone and thought about the supposed important thing he needed to tell her. So, he missed her...

Xinghe lay down on the bed but she didn’t feel drowsiness because her mind was a hive of activities. Now she realized that her mind, and perhaps even her heart, had started to react to Mubai’s words. Maybe he had really succeeded in wearing her defenses down...

...

Things at the tech team went as Xinghe had planned.

Chapter 395: Xinghe Is Too Famous

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

As according to her plan, there was a new flare to the work of the tech team. They recognized their shortcomings and pushed themselves to overcome them. Previously, they'd taken their jobs as simple occupations, there was a lack of interest for discovery, but now they treated it as a learning experience...

With Xinghe's guidance, they became much more invested in their work. Under such circumstances, increased productivity and improvement was only natural. This worked wonders on the whole platoon because Munan's team progress started to catch up and then overshoot Saohuang's.

His men, excited by this development, increased in morale and improved in training efficiency. There was a vibrant energy throughout the camp. They wished each day was more than 24 hours. They appreciated every minute and every second of their work. This kind of positive zeal was absent before Xinghe's arrival.

Munan couldn't have foreseen this chain of events brought upon by Xinghe. Yan Lu spent his days laughing. Whenever he had time, he would drop by the tech team's room and praise Xinghe. She was the star of the camp. Everyone couldn't wait to help her. Even Xinghe's food had gotten much better, a contribution from the kitchen crew who tried their best to please Xinghe's palette by changing up the menu every day.

Such preferential treatment was because she was not an official soldier, she was a special civilian agent. They were in her debt. Furthermore, she was not undeserving; she'd earned all the preferential treatment they lavished her with. If anything, some felt the treatment was not enough.

As time passed, the people realized Xinghe was not a bad person despite her icy exterior. There was no pretense with her, and she treated everyone fairly. However, the thing that impressed the tech team the most was her willingness to teach others. Therefore, the tech team was soaking up her knowledge every day like a hungry sponge!

Through Xinghe, they had learnt better programming techniques and short cuts. Xinghe had practically opened up a new world for them. Even Gu Li spent his days by her side, trying to learn as much as he could from her. He even denied Yan Lu's invitation for beer! Gu Li didn't have time to play with them because he needed to savor the time to learn from Xinghe.

...

Of course, the giant change in Munan's team didn't escape Saohuang's detection. He didn't even have to rely on some covert operation to find out what had happened. This was because Xinghe was simply too popular. Everyone knew Munan had brought in an impossible talent.

This surprised Saohuang. No wonder the Xi family kept her around; she is that good.

Sun Yu said snidely, "She is still so young and, from the information we have, she didn't even finish school, how can she be so good? This must be a mistake, they're playing a trick on us."

Saohuang glanced sideways at him. "If you continue to be so stubborn, we'll be dead before we know what hit us!"

Sun Yu was shocked. "Boss, you believe this? But if the woman is so powerful, how come I've not heard of her before?"

"Because she suffered from amnesia for many years."
Saohuang seemed to have understood everything.

Chapter 396: Feng Saohuang Is Coming

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“From the information, she should have regained her memory half a year ago, just look at what she has done ever since then.”

Sun Yu read through the document and saw Xinghe’s accomplishments: Defeated Chui Corps, opened her own company, designed the perfect artificial limb. Even the Chu family’s ruin was related to her in some way. Every single one of those things was magnificent and she managed to do all of them in quick succession. Sun Yu might not know Xinghe but he begrudgingly admitted she was not a simple character, or at least, a character they needed to watch out for.

Sun Yu lowered his voice and asked, “Boss, do you want us to take care of her?”

Saohuang replied coldly, “Why do you think she’s living in the military camp?”

“She’s guarding herself against us?”

“If she isn’t, Munan certainly is. However, it’s still too early to tell whether this woman is a threat to us or not. I think it’s time for us to find out.”

“Let me do it, I’ll see just how strong this woman is!” Sun Yu said with derision. Xinghe might be good but he still thought she wouldn’t be as good as he was. His skill had almost no competition in the whole wide world. Plus, this was just a woman, not someone he should be worried about.

Saohuang also wanted to test Xinghe. He immediately arranged some men because he was going to pay Munan’s camp a visit.

...

Very soon, Munan’s side received the news.

“Feng Saohuang is coming over,” Munan told his adjutants.

Yan Lu widened his eyes in fury. “Why?”

On the surface, this was a friendly competition but they knew it was really a battle to the death. Therefore, no one was going to welcome Saohuang, so why did he insist on coming?

Munan chuckled mirthlessly. “Naturally, because he’s worried. He’s apparently bringing his men over to communicate with our tech team.”

“So, he’s trying to test Miss Xia out,” a clever adjutant suggested.

Munan nodded. “I think so too.”

After all, their progress had increased a lot with Xinghe’s arrival. Saohuang must have heard as much.

Yan Lu slammed his fist on the table and said, “Let them come! We’ll let them have a taste of our power; we’ll let them know we’re not pushovers!”

Munan said calmly, “Let’s discuss what we shall do more closely. Be on your toes when they’re here tomorrow.”

“Yes, sir!”

After the meeting, Munan went to discuss the things over with Xinghe. He wanted to get Xinghe’s opinion as well. Perhaps she would have a different perspective.

After hearing him out, instead of answering, Xinghe asked, “Will Feng Saohuang suggest another supposedly friendly competition?”

Munan nodded. “Possibly, even if he doesn’t, I will. There’s limited time to the actual competition, we have to keep challenging the other party so that we can make our adjustments accordingly.”

Like last time, if Saohuang didn’t challenge them, Munan wouldn’t have known they were lagging so far behind.

With the first competition out of the way, both parties were definitely more cautious.

This time, their tech team appeared to be better than Saohuang’s. Based on Saohuang’s personality, he wouldn’t sit idly and let this continue.

Xinghe nodded. She understood everything already.

“In other words, the next competition is inevitable.”

Munan shook his head. “That’s not exactly right, Big Sister Xia. The subsequent competitions are inevitable. There will be more than one.”

Chapter 397: Putting On Airs

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The competitions would happen again and again until the real one. The closer they got to the final battle, the harder the competitions would become. Xinghe understood what he meant. “Therefore, no matter how small the competition, if we can win, we must.”

“That’s right!” Munan nodded. That was the only way to keep the soldiers’ morale high. A greater number of competition victories would translate to a great final victory. The superior wouldn’t like a platoon that loses constantly, after all.

“Then, you have to suggest a friendly competition this time,” Xinghe told him.

Munan was shocked. “You mean now?”

“Yes, pose them a challenge tomorrow.”

“But, wouldn’t the challenge be too sudden? Will we have time to prepare?”

Xinghe said softly, “You should always be in a prepared state.”

Munan turned serious. “You’re right! I’ll ask them for a challenge tomorrow!”

No matter the result, a soldier should always face a challenge with all he had and with absolute bravery.

...

The next day, Saohuang arrived at the camp with his men. The whole camp was on high alert, afraid to show any weakness before Saohuang’s group. Munan spent some time going through the perfunctory greetings with Saohuang before they got to the point.

“Major Xi, I hear you have recruited someone impressive. For the sake of mutual improvement, I’ve brought my men to have an exchange of information with your people, I’m sure you’re okay with that, right?” Saohuang asked with a thin smile. The reason he gave was official but it couldn’t cover up the fact that this was to check Munan’s new talent out.

Munan smirked, not at all afraid of them. “Of course not, but how does Major Feng expect to do that?”

Saohuang laughed. “Simple, the military’s rule.”

The military’s rule was to have a competition of some sort, after all, in the military, actions spoke louder than words.

Munan glanced at Saohuang’s men and said smilingly, “Of course, but I have to remind Major Feng that my aide is not military personnel, she’s a civilian expert. She’s here of her own prerogative and is somewhat outside of the military chain of command. Therefore, it depends on her decision as to whether we accept your challenge or not.”

“Then, call her over and we’ll ask her in person,” Saohuang pressed. Munan nodded and had someone inform Xinghe. The reply given was Xinghe was not coming and was not going to accept any challenge.

Munan laughed. “Looks like she’s not interested in having any kind of exchange.”

Saohuang didn’t expect that Xinghe would be so disrespectful. There was a chill in his eyes but his smile was still present.

“Looks like Miss Xia is rather eccentric in person,” he observed with a thin smile.

Sun Yu scoffed. “Sounds more like she’s afraid of losing to me.”

Saohuang quickly made an introduction, “Major Xi, I forgot to mention, this is the computer expert working for me. He heard that Miss Xia is really good at her job so he’s interested in meeting her in person and also hoped to have a friendly competition.”

“A big man intends on bullying a weak woman, how quaint,” Yan Lu added snidely.

Sun Yu didn’t get provoked but retorted with a chilling smile. “Then what about a group of men who had to rely on a weak woman for help?”

“Is that an insult?” Yan Lu asked in a scary voice.

Sun Yu replied calmly, “Well, that depends on whether your previous comment was an insult or not?”

“You...” Yan Lu was ready to flare up but Munan suddenly opened his mouth to command, “Knock it off, both of you!”

Chapter 398: Below My Station to Do So

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He was looking at Saohuang even though his words were meant for Yan Lu and Sun Yu. Saohuang smirked viciously. “Major Xi, thank you for helping me teach my subordinate a lesson.”

“You’re welcome.” Munan nodded. “But since Miss Xia is reluctant to accept your challenge, please leave. I’m not inclined to force Miss Xia to change her decision.”

How could Saohuang leave before his goal was achieved?

Like a worm in Saohuang’s stomach, Sun Yu added provocatively, “If this Miss Xia doesn’t come out, it means that she has surrendered! She might be a civilian but she is now a member of your platoon, which means that your team has surrendered as well!”

Munan’s gaze that studied them turned cold instantly. The man was purposely slandering them. How could a military man like himself taking such an insult lying down?

Yan Lu gritted his teeth in anger. If that was the battlefield, he would have thrown this Sun Yu to the floor. Almost everyone there felt that way. Ever since they were beaten by Saohuang’s platoon, they had been nursing this grievance.

Saohuang realized the point had been made so he stood up with a smile. “Fine, if the lot of you are afraid to take the challenge, then so be it. Major Xi, I shall take my leave.”

“And I thought how impressive this woman will be. Looks like she’s a scaredy cat like the team she belongs to,” Sun Yu stage whispered.

Just as they were prepared to leave, Xinghe’s clear voice rang out.

“Who said I’m scared?”

She walked in slowly, holding full eye contact with Feng Saohuang. Everyone was shocked watching her sudden

appearance. Saohuang's eyes that zeroed in on her intensified, his lips curved into an amused smile.

Sun Yu scoffed. "You're that Xia Xinghe? What, have you finally found the courage to face me? Too bad for you because I'm no longer in the mood."

He thought that would provoke Xinghe. Xinghe smiled demurely. "Perfect, because I find it below my station to challenge the likes of you anyway."

"You!" Sun Yu's face fell, he didn't expect a woman would have such a sharp tongue.

Yan Lu seconded, "That's right. It is indeed beneath our Miss Xia to challenge someone like you!"

"Indeed, not just anyone is qualified to challenge Miss Xia," Gu Li added.

"Definitely, people should measure themselves before they go issuing challenges to other people!" someone in the rowdy crowd shouted.

"So this is how you treat your guest? We come to issue a challenge out of admiration and this is how you treat the challenge? I should have known! I shouldn't have come today because the lot of you don't deserve my presence!" Sun Yu countered sarcastically.

Xinghe wasn't angered, instead she smiled. "It is the truth that I look down on you but it seems like the feeling's mutual. If that's the case, why don't you let me show you why I look down on you by letting me defeat you fully?"

Sun Yu wanted to vomit blood from bottled-up frustration. He knew he shouldn't have argued with a woman. They were the scum of the Earth. He wanted to tell her so badly that he didn't want to have anything to do with her anymore, but he hadn't forgotten the purpose of their visit.

Sun Yu smiled. "Fine, then let's have a competition. I will let you know what the meaning of humility!"

"We'll see." Xinghe answered coolly, further incensing Sun Yu.

Chapter 399: Watch and Learn

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

This damnable b*tch, I must teach her a lesson!

Sun Yu couldn't wait to tear Xinghe a new one, to humiliate her completely! Saohuang was thinking the same thing. He stared sharply at Xinghe and lightly smiled. "Miss Xia has such confidence, hopefully, you won't trip up on it later."

Xinghe's eyes that met his dropped in temperature. "How quaint, I was about to tell you the same thing."

Saohuang felt her enmity at full force, he thought it was because of the Xi family. He chuckled chillingly. "We shall see who is right then."

"If that's the case, open your eyes and watch closely!" Xinghe commanded, her presence suffocating the room. Many were shocked by this sudden display of aggression because they had always thought of Xinghe as a mellow, apathetic person. They had never seen her being so aggressive before. Saohuang, on the other hand, narrowed his eyes.

Xinghe turned to Sun Yu and said arrogantly, "What kind of competition? It's your choice."

Sun Yu exchanged a quick gaze with Saohuang and a tacit communication was done. Saohuang wanted him to completely beat Xinghe!

With the received order, Sun Yu said coldly, "Fine, I will decide the competition type if you're so gracious to let me do so. How about a hacking skills competition first?"

In the world of computer science, the most demanding work was hacking. Since Xinghe arrived in the role of a computer expert, she must know something about hacking as well. That was perfect, because Sun Yu was confident in his hacking ability.

Xinghe replied without blinking an eye, "Why not?"

"We'll see who can hack through the military's defense system first," Sun Yu said with an evil smile, he couldn't wait to see

Xinghe lose. The military defense system was different from those outside. It was the most secure, the best of all available security software. It was unbreakable without the highest level of skill. However, Sun Yu had perfect confidence because, before this competition, Sun Yu had already practiced multiple times. He was familiar with how to do it. How could Xinghe be his competition when he had such an unfair advantage?

He was ready to face-slap Xinghe! To face-slap Munan's entire platoon!

As he expected, the moment he suggested this, Munan's brows furrowed in dissatisfaction. Yan Lu scolded angrily, "F*ck, this is cheating!"

Sun Yu smirked triumphantly. "Why, you people are that afraid of losing?"

"That's the best you can come up with?" Xinghe sighed condescendingly. "Let's get this over with then."

Sun Yu's eyes glossed over with frost. "You will regret ever saying that!"

Xinghe glanced at him and there was only disinterest in her eyes. Sun Yu's constant barking reminded her of a stray dog. She felt annoyed...

For the purpose of the competition, they moved to a special computer lab.

The lab was crowded with many people and it was clearly split into two camps, one for Munan, another for Saohuang. They were hoping for the other party to lose, because it concerned their platoon's face and morale. These two were important, very important!

"Begin!" Gu Li, acting as the referee, announced.

Sun Yu immediately started typing on the keyboard, so did Xinghe.

Chapter 400: Magical Hands

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Their speed was almost equally fast. The competition was just beginning but Sun Yu started to feel pressured. He didn't expect Xinghe would be able to type so fast...

Typing speed was a manifestation of ability as well. Pricked by pressure, Sun Yu kept on increasing his speed until eventually people couldn't see his fingers anymore.

However, Xinghe quickly caught up to him. He increased his speed again and Xinghe did the same!

No matter how fast Sun Yu made himself, Xinghe could catch up in an instant. Others might not be able to pick up the minute difference, but Gu Li and Sun Yu himself could.

Under such a stressful, competitive environment, Xinghe had the ease of mind to pick up Sun Yu's change in speed and also made her own adjustments easily. This spoke volume of her talent!

This stressed Sun Yu quite a bit, he kept increasing in speed but he was already at his limits, he felt his fingers straining. However, this didn't matter because he couldn't lose, he already knew how to hack the military's defense system.

This was a test to which he already knew the answer. He didn't even need to think to figure out the answer, he only needed to regurgitate the answer he'd memorized earlier. How could he lose with such advantage? Not even a genius could beat him!

Sun Yu was confident and excited, excited to see Xinghe lose horribly to him. However, he quickly realized Xinghe's speed had surpassed his. Sun Yu's heart shook a tiny bit but that surprise and fear kept growing because Xinghe's speed kept increasing, the distance between them growing wider and wider.

Every time he thought she was at her limit, she would surprise him. Her speed was already at a superhuman level!

This observation was noticed not only by Gu Li and Sun Yu but also everyone else. Everyone stared unblinkingly at

Xinghe's hands. Her pair of hands seemed to dance nimbly on the cold unfeeling keyboards. As if possessing magic, her pair of hands drew everyone's gaze in and refused to let them go. Just what kind of hands were those that they could be so fast...

Munan's group gripped their hands tightly, silently cheering Xinghe on. Saohuang's group though were drawn and reserved. Saohuang looked at Sun Yu and realized the man was starting to sweat. Xinghe's presence was so huge that it was starting to pressure Sun Yu.

Others might not know Sun Yu's capability but Saohuang certainly did. He was definitely one of the best computer experts in the world. Furthermore, he had hacked the military's security before. Even with such advantages, he still felt threatened by Xinghe. Therefore, it showed that this Xia Xinghe's capability was even greater than they had anticipated!

Saohuang also gripped his fists tightly, his eyes were as dark as black holes. They were eerily scary. He was not a fool. He already knew Xinghe's ability was definitely above Sun Yu.

The only thing he could hope for was for Sun Yu to win as soon as possible. After all, he'd already done this before...

Xinghe, no matter how good she was, still needed to explore. However, they didn't understand Xinghe actually hadn't spent any time on trial and error. It was smooth sailing for her all the way.

Sun Yu couldn't afford to bring himself away from his work to check. Only Gu Li realized this, his fists were gripped even tighter and there were tears in his eyes!