Mr Han 2171

Chapter 2171: Go Down Faster, More Completely

She gritted her teeth and plastered her forehead on the brick pavement as she said, "I'll kowtow to you. Please, I beg you, please. I'm kowtowing to you now!"

As Cen Mengqing said that, she really started kowtowing to him.

But she still loved and cherished herself.

Yes, her forehead did touch the ground.

But each time she was nearing the ground, she would consciously slow down and then gently touch the ground

Then, her palms would sneakily move to the center.

In this way, every time she kowtowed, she was actually landing on the back of her palms instead.

That would really not hurt at all.

Xia Zhancheng saw that Cen Mengqing still wanted to play smart at such a point in time, as if she thought no one could tell.

Xia Zhancheng trembled in anger.

He might as well not have brought her along!

All she did was bring about the reverse effect!

"Mr. Han." Xia Zhancheng had to quickly say something. If he did not, who knew what else Cen Mengqing was going to do?

"No matter what, the two of us are elders. We've already lowered ourselves to this extent to plead with you, so can't you just forgive us? You can do whatever you want to deal with Xia Yixin. She was the one who did all of those things. Even my wife was deceived by her. My wife might not be able to be considered any more innocent, but at least she's much better than Xia Yixin.

"Xia Yixin has already received her punishment. Can you just spare our family?"

At this moment, the security officers that Shi Xiaoya had approached all rushed out and quickly pulled Cen Mengqing up.

As she was someone who was bent on kneeling down, it was really a little difficult to pull her up.

The two security officers expended quite a lot of effort before pulling her up.

Han Zhuoling also took out his phone and called the police.

"I don't know if you can both be considered to be causing a public disturbance," Han Zhuoling said after he called the police and put down his phone. "In any case, I'll have the police come over and handle this for now." After saying that, Han Zhuoling stopped talking.

The police came very quickly. They arrived within two to three minutes.

"These two people keep pestering me and my girlfriend here. I am afraid that my girlfriend will get hurt, so I told her to go into the office building first while I wait here," Han Zhuoling explained.

The other security officers at the scene also said, "Yeah, we all saw it. They kept making a ruckus at our office building and spouting nonsense. And they attracted such a big crowd of onlookers. They are almost blocking off our office building entrance. The people working in this office building cannot even come in now. Even if we drag them and tell them to leave, they won't leave either."

The police officers in this district felt that Xia Zhancheng looked quite familiar, and after someone recognized Han Zhuoling, they instantly recalled who Xia Zhancheng was.

They then said to Xia Zhancheng and Cen Mengqing, "You both are considered reputable people. How can you cause a scene and pull a cheap trick like this in the middle of the streets?"

Xia Zhancheng's face turned red. Although they embarrassed themselves so much, in part deliberately, they were not able to make Han Zhuoling relent, so their embarrassment got wasted.

Actually, why did he not think about it more? Just who was Han Zhuoling? Would he relent and bow down just because of his cheap tricks?

Although Han Zhuoling could not compare to Xia Zhancheng in age, he had also seen all kinds of situations before.

His rivals in business were even more shameless.

Why would he be scared of his little schemes?

"The Xia family is finished. If you still want to come and seek out Xiaoya, you can try," Han Zhuoling said coldly. "The more you come and look for her, the faster your family would go down, and the more completely. We are not afraid of you coming to harass us. On the other hand, you two probably won't have the leisure or energy to come and harass us anymore."

After saying that, Han Zhuoling left.

Chapter 2172: Completely Done For

When Cen Mengqing heard Han Zhuoling's words, even her heart was shaking.

She also could not be bothered with how there were so many people surrounding them and laughing at them. She clutched Xia Zhancheng's elbow, her face turning paler and paler as she asked hysterically, "Zhancheng, what should we do? What should we do now?"

"What else can we do?" Xia Zhancheng suddenly shouted.

But when he shouted these five words, it sounded as if he had used up his last remaining bit of energy.

After that, his energy seemed to have been sucked out by those five words, and his whole person seemed to have lost his soul.

His shoulders drooped lifelessly. When he started to slouch, it made him look completely like a stooped old man.

Clearly, a few minutes ago, he had his back straight and upright. His energy was also very good. He did not look like a fifty-plus-year-old man at all.

But within such a short time, it was as if all the energy had been sapped out of him and he aged ten years.

It was still clearly the same physique, but he looked like a 60-year-old old man, and his face looked utterly defeated and despondent.

"We're done for..." Xia Zhancheng mumbled.

As if he did not even have the energy to talk anymore, his voice sounded especially soft.

Cen Mengqing had to listen closely before she could hear him properly.

"We're completely done for..." Xia Zhancheng mumbled again. "I struggled all my life, but now, everything is gone just like that. The Xia family worked hard for generations to build the business up and develop it to its current scale, yet it will all be ruined in my hands.

"We're done for, we're completely done for. It's all because of you both, because of you and Xia Yixin. The two of you ruined the Xia family!" Xia Zhancheng's eyes reddened.

"You ask me what to do? You still have the cheek to ask me what to do?" Xia Zhancheng suddenly said with his spit flying out everywhere, "Why do I, Xia Zhancheng, have such a family-ruining wife and such a family-ruining daughter like Xia Yixin?!

"Are you both happy now? Happy? You both are so capable! You can ruin the Xia family by yourselves. This is something normal people won't be able to do!

"Enough. If this was in the past and Xia Yixin was really in jail, I could have still tried my best to make her live more comfortably in there so that no one can bully her. But now, our family is done for and can't worry about only her. Let's just each worry about our own matters. You, I won't be able to care for you either," Xia Zhancheng said weakly.

"Zhancheng, what are you saying? You don't want me anymore? Are you planning to abandon me?" Cen Mengqing asked in alarm.

Actually, the two of them did not really commit a crime. They just blocked the path on the street.

So the police did not bring them back to the police station.

After dispersing the crowd and educating the two of them, the police just left.

While Xia Zhancheng was being despondent and hysterical at this moment, there were still quite a few onlookers watching them.

Xia Zhancheng walked back to his car in desolation, and Cen Mengqing quickly followed closely behind him.

After they got in the car, the chauffeur asked, "Sir, are you going home?"

"Let's go home." Xia Zhancheng heaved a long sigh as he answered dispiritedly.

He really did not have the energy left to go to the company to handle matters anymore.

Ever since the Xia family had been suppressed, he had been struggling bitterly to keep things afloat.

Actually, his heart was already extremely tired out.

He had been working hard to make the company return to how it was initially, yet he had not been able to do that.

He had been getting setbacks and obstacles all along.

But he still persevered.

But now, he was not even given a chance to continue persevering.

It was also because he was old and no longer had the energy to rebuild his business.

If he were young, he could rely on his energy and zeal to carve it out for himself, and he might still have been able to give it a shot to make a comeback.

But now, his extremely tired out physique really could no longer shoulder such a great burden.

Chapter 2173: I Will Always Stay by Your Side

When this final blow came, he could no longer raise his energy anymore.

His whole person collapsed.

He did think about it sometimes. He was already so old, yet he did not even have a successor, and he could only struggle so hard on his own to keep it alive.

Now, it was perfect. He did not need a successor anymore.

Because he no longer had any family business he could pass on to any successor.

Cen Mengqing did not speak a word. She sat in this luxurious and spacious car and stared at the chauffeur in front of them.

She suddenly felt a wave of sorrow rising from the bottom of her heart.

Because all these things would be gone in time.

When she went out after this, she probably could no longer sit in such a luxurious car anymore. She would not have a chauffeur to drive her around.

Usually, when she went out, she would have a chauffeur to drive her around. If she did not have all these things, she did not even know what bus she should take, or where she should walk.

Who knew how many properties they could still keep at home?

Tears started streaming down her cheeks from her eyes. Cen Mengqing covered her face and sobbed as she started to cry.

Xia Zhancheng felt annoyed and did not want to hear her cry.

That their family ended up like this, wasn't it all because of her and Xia Yixin?

But he did not even have the energy to scream at Cen Mengqing now.

It was as if his soul had left his body. He just stared out of the window blankly.

The car stopped at the entrance of their family's villa.

Xia Zhancheng got off the car without a word.

Cen Mengqing cried the whole way back. She finally composed herself a little and stopped crying so hard, just sobbing in a muffled tone on her own.

On the way back, she did not dare to talk to Xia Zhancheng either, afraid that she would make him angry.

Xia Zhancheng was right.

The Xia family ended up in this state all because of her and Xia Yixin.

Ever since Xia Yixin had the audacity to commit adultery, then give birth to someone else's child and attempt to mix him in with the Han bloodline, the Xia family had been destined never to recover, ever.

Right after that was this incident. Xia Yixin had committed a big mistake, but she herself was an accomplice too!

It was her who did not listen to Xia Zhancheng and insisted on provoking Shi Xiaoya, and this became the last straw that crushed the Xia family to death.

After entering the house, Cen Mengqing then said, "Zhancheng, don't ignore me, don't stop talking to me. I know, it's my fault, it's me and Yixin who ruined the Xia family."

Cen Mengqing also hated Xia Yixin to death now.

That was her own biological daughter. For her to hate Xi Yixin, how much hate would she need to have in her heart?

"I won't bother myself about Xia Yixin anymore," Cen Mengqing said. "From now on, our family... no matter how hard life will be, I will always stay by your side."

Xia Zhancheng did not say a word and returned to the bedroom on his own.

He was being way too scary like this. Cen Mengqing was really afraid that Xia Zhancheng would not be able to take it and do something silly.

So she followed him closely, keeping an eye on him, afraid that he would take his own life.

This blow was really way too big for Xia Zhancheng.

The businesses that the Xias had accumulated over generations were actually totally ruined in his hands overnight.

No matter who it was, no one would be able to take it.

But Cen Mengqing clearly underestimated Xia Zhancheng's resilience.

Xia Zhancheng really felt agonized, but not to the extent that he wanted to end his life and not even have the will to live on.

Xia Zhancheng recovered after a period of dejection and desolation.

But as for Xia Yixin's matter, he had resolved not to care about it.

He did not even bother finding a lawyer for Xia Yixin.

What for?

The company was already bankrupt. He could not afford a lawyer's fees at all now.

The day that the Xia family announced its bankruptcy, the impact was way bigger than what Xia Zhancheng and his wife thought it would be.

This was not to say that their family had any impact on the economy whatsoever.

It was because Han Zhuoling received too much attention.

The incident where Shi Xiaoya had been slandered by Xia Yixin had just passed not long ago. Although it was no longer as popular, it was not so quickly forgotten by netizens.

On top of that, previously, Xia Zhancheng and Cen Mengqing had gone to Shi Xiaoya's workplace to make a scene and had caught the attention of a whole bunch of passersby.

Chapter 2174: Also Tragic

The people surrounding them had all taken out their phones and recorded their nonsensical ruckus before posting it online.

In Cen Mengqing's mind, she was an elder who was kowtowing to a junior. No matter what, Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya would get criticized, right?

But who would have expected that the impact of the statement on the real reason behind his divorce that Han Zhuoling had posted before would be way too big?

The netizens hated Xia Yixin to the core.

So even if they saw that Cen Mengqing kowtowed to Han Zhuoling, no one criticized him. They actually all flocked to bash Cen Mengqing.

At the same time, some sharp-eyed netizens could tell from the video that Cen Mengqing was not kowtowing at all. She was just kowtowing onto the back of her own hands.

On top of that, the video also captured how, throughout the entire scene, her words had been intended to implicate Shi Xiaoya the entire time.

In what world did this count as admitting her mistakes? She just wanted to try and smear Shi Xiaoya's reputation again.

The netizens instantly got pissed off and were all bashing Xia Zhancheng and Cen Mengqing.

"If you want to apologize, you should show your sincerity. People like you only know how to apologize verbally, but in fact, your actions say the exact opposite. And you still wish that people will forgive you? Serves you right that Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya won't forgive you at all."

The netizens all thought so.

So, Cen Mengqing once again tried to gain an advantage only to end up in a worse state.

And now, the Xia family declared bankruptcy.

On top of the influence from the previous incident, it was as if this matter continued to ferment.

When the netizens saw that the Xia family had declared bankruptcy, although it was not to the point that everybody celebrated, the people who really pitied and sympathized with them were really quite few.

"I don't know how Xia Zhancheng is like. But Xia Yixin and Cen Mengqing really deserve how they ended up."

The investigation results had been released long ago. Xia Yixin was found to be the one who'd slandered Shi Xiaoya.

But that night, when the video was posted online, Xia Yixin was in the police station under investigation, so it was impossible for her to have been the one who posted that.

Then besides Xia Yixin, who else could it be?

There was that statement of apology that Lu Chao had posted previously, and afterward, there were the videos that netizens posted of Xia Zhancheng and Cen Mengqing going to Shi Xiaoya's workplace to block the two of them. They even went down on their knees to apologize.

From Cen Mengqing's words from that time, everything became clear.

That video had been posted by Cen Mengqing.

This mother and daughter pair, they were really double trouble.

And the way they caused trouble was exactly the same.

The Xia family went bankrupt.

Xia Yixin and Cen Mengqing hence lost the family background that they had always been proud of, and who knew how many people clapped their hands for this?

But there were also people who pitied Xia Zhancheng. "I'm not familiar with Xia Zhancheng, but it is fairly common for businessmen to pursue their own interests. At least outside of the business field, I never really heard anything negative about Xia Zhancheng. In the end, he got implicated and harmed by

his wife and daughter to such an extent. The family business that the Xia family had worked so hard to build up all went down the drain. It's also quite tragic for Xia Zhancheng."

"As the saying goes, if the wife is virtuous, the husband will have little misfortune."

Cen Mengqing clearly knew that there would not be any nice words online, but she still could not help going online to take a look.

When she saw all these comments, she did not feel good.

But these netizens were right!

The trouble had all been brought about by her and Xia Yixin, but it harmed the whole Xia family, as it shouldered the blame with them.

In the midst of this arduous predicament involving the Xia family, how could they still hire a lawyer for Xia Yixin?

Of course, if they really wanted to hire one, they could indeed hire one.

Although their family was bankrupt, it was not to the point that they could no longer live on.

They were no longer as glamorous as they had been in the past, but a starving camel is still bigger than a horse.

They could still afford to hire a lawyer.

But now, whether it was Xia Zhancheng or Cen Mengqing, they both resented Xia Yixin.

The Xia family's bankruptcy started with Xia Yixin and all boiled down to Xia Yixin.

Chapter 2175: Offended People

How could the two of them be in any mood to hire a lawyer for her?

So be it if she was in jail. The two of them could not care about it anymore.

If they really tried to save Xia Yixin, she might continue to cause trouble.

The Xia family could no longer withstand any of her nonsense.

After much difficulty, Cen Mengqing's mood recovered a little.

Xia Zhancheng rarely talked to her during this period as well, but he did not mention divorce either.

Cen Mengqing also never thought of divorcing him.

She was wrong. Even if it was to make up for it, she could not divorce him either.

For the remaining part of their lives, the two of them would have to survive together. It was much better than living alone.

Today, Cen Mengqing, who had recovered from the setback, went to visit Xia Yixin.

This was actually the first time Cen Mengqing had gone to visit Xia Yixin after she got into trouble.

Xia Zhancheng did not even want to see her.

Cen Mengqing guessed that Xia Yixin was probably not living well.

Even normal people would not do well after they went in, much less Xia Yixin with that nasty temper of hers.

But she never expected that Xia Yixin would actually be living so horribly.

Xia Yixin could be said to have offended people the moment she went in.

Due to her rich girl attitude, she always felt that her family would still be able to save her and get her out somehow.

So even if she was in jail, she still kept up her bossy and arrogant demeanor, thinking she was above everyone else and throwing a temper whenever she wanted.

But how was this a place where she could throw a temper as and when she liked?

Even in here, there were also small gangs.

There were also people who stood at the top of this entire "food chain."

Those who came in early and had stayed here long enough were highly skilled in martial arts, and thus, they were the bosses here.

If the people below them wanted to get by decently, they either had to try their best to make themselves invisible, quietly hiding in a corner not to be noticed by others...

Or, they would have to go and flatter and curry favor to become the followers of the bosses, then bully other people alongside them.

And more than that, they would have to try their best to suck up to the other party, sacrificing some of their own things in exchange for a more comfortable environment to survive in.

For example, even women had their needs.

In jail, everyone was a woman. What then?

Won't they then have to find a woman to satisfy their needs?

If both parties were willing and both wanted to satisfy their own needs for the time being, or if they wanted to seek some comfort in this repressive place and find a partner to become lovers with, these were all the more optimistic scenarios.

There were also some who simply wanted to bully newcomers.

Just like people like Xia Yixin, who had their eyes above their heads and did not know how to learn their lessons.

She had been brought up spoiled and pampered, and she had good looks as well.

No matter whether it was out of jealousy or whether they just could not stand her nasty temper, others would show a "who do you think you are to even dare to throw a temper in front of me" kind of attitude towards her, and Xia Yixin would not be spared from a good deal of torture.

Just like Lu Man in her past life. It was only with Mi Qiansong's help that she was able to get out of that deep end.

However, Xia Yixin had not met such a problem yet, so she still did not know about it.

The bosses here had already started thinking about it.

Before the bosses in this jail came in, they had all been infamously ruthless people outside and were coincidentally lesbians.

They had long had their eyes on Xia Yixin, but because of Xia Yixin's nasty temper, they wanted to teach her a lesson.

So the people under them were more than happy to teach her a lesson.

When Cen Mengqing came to see her, Xia Yixin was being surrounded and beaten up.

When the prison guard came, they quickly separated them and helped Xia Yixin stand up.

Normally, the prison guard would not always be around.

They naturally picked a time when the prison guard was not around to start a fight.

Or else, they would not be able to start a fight in the first place.

The prison guard actually did not really like Xia Yixin either. She had been really arrogant when she first came in.

She looked down on everyone.

She was threatening this and that all the time.

Saying things like they would get it when she got out.

Chapter 2176: Down on Eight Lifetimes' Worth of Bad Luck

The moment she said that, everyone shot her down.

"We don't know whether you're going to make our lives difficult after you get out," the ringleader in the women's prison said. "But right now, you're here, and I know you're going to get it."

And hence, on the first day she entered the prison, Xia Yixin got beaten up.

And for the rest of the days, Xia Yixin got beaten up as punctually as the daily meals.

The prison's food was definitely bad.

Breakfast consisted of a bowl of watery porridge, a steamed bun, and some pickles.

Lunch and dinner were always steamed buns and boiled vegetables—mostly cabbage—without meat, and it was rather bland. It was hard to swallow.

Some of their families would send in other foodstuffs to supplement their diet.

The food people always despised previously when they were free women, like red intestines and ham sausages full of starch, were now treasures well-sought after. They couldn't bear eating it unless the craving got intense, and when it did, they would only consume one.

But no one sent any to Xia Yixin.

Some prisoners were on bad terms with their families, so no one sent them food as well.

But they worked in jail and earned some money, so they could buy from others.

However, Xia Yixin had just come in. What income did she have?

She could buy nothing.

Thus, she ate steamed buns and cabbages every day, and even those got stolen by others.

Sometimes, they stole it and threw it away, just to rob her of the chance to eat.

Xia Yixin felt as if she was going crazy from the torture.

Why hadn't Xia Zhancheng and Cen Mengqing gotten her out yet?

As she was being beaten up, the prison wardens arrived and separated them.

Xia Yixin heard the warden say as she was being help up, "Xia Yixin, your mother's here to visit you."

Delighted, Xia Yixin broke into a smile, almost bursting into tears from joy.

"My mom must have found a way to get me out!" Xia Yixin exclaimed agitatedly.

She quickly followed the warden out, and when she reached the door, she turned around and fiercely cautioned the others, "I'll remember you for beating me. Just wait and see!"

"Pfft!" The ringleader simply disregarded Xia Yixin's threat, sitting on the table and crossing her legs before pointing at Xia Yixin. "You caused your family's bankruptcy. You think your parents will want to get you out?"

"I've seen people who'd caused parents lots of troubles, but never on the scale that you have. Your parents must be down on eight lifetimes' worth of bad luck to have you, a prodigal daughter," the leader scorned loudly.

Her family was only a normal one; she couldn't bankrupt them at any rate.

She might be in prison, but she had never caused any trouble for her family.

"You're like this, yet you still think your parents will come and save you?" The leader guffawed. "If I had a prodigal child like you, I wouldn't save her at all!"

Xia Yixin still had no idea of her family's bankruptcy until now.

They had a designated time to watch the news.

But the news was from the official news broadcasting station, and there were so many events happening nationwide that they wouldn't report situations like a family's bankruptcy.

The others naturally had ways to find out about outside information.

Only Xia Yixin was kept in the dark.

When she heard the leader's words, Xia Yixin's expression changed and she said in disbelief, "Nonsense! You're spouting nonsense! How can my family be bankrupt!"

"If your family's not bankrupt, would you be in here?" the leader scoffed. "Your mom's here anyway. Ask and you'll know."

"Let's go," the prison warden urged.

Xia Yixin left with the warden, her face full of disbelief.

When she saw Cen Mengqing, Xia Yixin immediately sat in front of her.

Chapter 2177: How Can You Be So Heartless

Cen Mengqing saw the bruises blooming on Xia Yixin's face.

Some were new while others were old.

"Why are you beaten so badly? Are you being bullied inside?" She was her daughter after all.

No matter how much resentment there was, Cen Mengqing still felt bad seeing her like this.

Xia Yixin had been having a terrible time recently.

Not only was her face hurt from being beaten, but she also had cold sores on the corner of her lips.

Her mouth too had sores, and her tongue was not spared as well.

She was being bullied every day and eating poorly, but what's worse was that she couldn't even get the chance to eat properly.

Xia Yixin seized the chance to complain to Cen Mengqing. "Mom, I'm dying in there, being beaten up every single day. Look at my hair, they've pulled it out clump by clump, and here's already bald."

Xia Yixin lowered her head for Cen Mengqing to get a better view. There was a part of her scalp that was bald, almost as big as a coin.

"I'm beaten up every day, and my wounds haven't healed before new ones appear. You're only seeing the ones on my face, my body is also bruised everywhere." Xia Yixin began crying as she spoke.

"I'm eating steamed buns and cabbages every day without meat in sight. And they don't even allow me to eat, they always throw it away. I can't even eat a proper meal."

Cen Mengqing noticed that Xia Yixin had indeed become skinner.

Not only that, but there were even deep wrinkles on her face, almost as much as on her own.

Xia Yixin's complexion was bad too, waxen.

"Why... Why do they beat and bully you?" Cen Mengqing was worried.

"Mom, you and Dad should think of a way to get me out quickly. Before that, get me a solo room," Xia Yixin said. "Why are you both so slow? Quickly, get me out!"

Whatever heartache Cen Mengqing felt for her dissipated when she heard this.

"We can't get you out." Cen Mengqing's face was gloomy. "We're bankrupt. We've got no money or connections to help you."

Xia Yixin felt as if her world exploded.

"Im-impossible!" Xia Yixin refused to accept the truth. "You're lying, you're all lying!"

Her heart did waver when the ring leader said it just now, but she never believed her words.

Not that she didn't believe the leader, or that she was very confident in her family.

Rather, she didn't dare believe.

The moment she trusted her words and it turned out to be the truth, all her hopes would be dashed.

At least, if she didn't believe it, there'd still be hope in her heart. Hope of getting out.

But now, Cen Mengqing had burst her last bubble of hope.

"Is it that you don't wish to save me anymore?" Xia Yixin hit her chest with both hands. "I'm your daughter! And you don't even want to save me anymore!

"How can you all be so heartless!" Xia Yixin roared.

She yearned desperately to escape this hellhole.

The thought that she was going back to that place after she got a break while seeing Cen Mengqing made her go crazy.

"You're all gallivanting outside but not caring about my survival!" Xia Yixin screamed. "How are there parents like you?!"

Cen Mengqing's face blackened instantly. She looked at her in disappointment. "Is this how you think of us? You created the trouble, and it's fine for us to clean up after you. Isn't it fair for you to be punished too?"

Chapter 2178: What Goes Around Comes Around

"Our family's bankrupt. We're no longer the Xia family of the past. I'm not lying—why should I lie to you? Just ask any prison warden and they'll tell you," Cen Mengqing said coldly. "You say we don't care about you being in here.

"We do want to care, but we can't!" Cen Mengqing no longer felt any guilt towards Xia Yixin.

Xia Yixin never cared about them. She only thought of herself. She was that selfish.

Cen Mengqing couldn't help wondering, what if it was she or Xia Zhancheng who was inside? Would Xia Yixin think of ways to save them?

She probably wouldn't, Cen Mengqing thought sorrowfully.

"Why do you think our family went bankrupt?" Cen Mengqing sneered. "It's all because of you!"

Cen Mengqing said, "Because you slandered Shi Xiaoya, because you lied to me. You made use of me, making me post that video but neglecting to mention that the video was incomplete, that you found someone to slander her and seized the chance to film it."

Xia Yixin said anxiously, "If you'd known it, would you have sent it out?"

"That's right. If I'd known, I wouldn't have posted it. Because I know the consequence of offending Han Zhuoling!" Cen Mengqing replied. "I wouldn't be afraid if the video was real, because that wouldn't count as accusing Shi Xiaoya falsely. Shi Xiaoya should settle her own problems. Han Zhuoling's someone reasonable and wouldn't shift the blame on us because of Shi Xiaoya's mistake.

"But the video's fake! You clearly knew Shi Xiaoya would reveal what that woman did after that, yet you didn't say a thing," Cen Mengqing said. "You even hid it from the lawyer.

"If you'd been honest from the start, the lawyer could've helped you. But you refused to cooperate, you did this to yourself!" Cen Mengqing continued, "The lawyer wanted you to settle amicably out of court, and you refused. And even then, you still wanted to slander Shi Xiaoya!

"And after that, did you think Han Zhuoling would let you go scot-free, let our family off?" Cen Mengqing scoffed. "Han Zhuoling had let you off time and again, and you continued to speak badly of him. He didn't do anything to you, so you thought he had no temper whatsoever?

"He's not without temper, nor is he too lazy to settle scores with you. He's regarding you as something unimportant! But you hurt Shi Xiaoya, someone he cares about, so he wiped out all of us at once!" Cen Mengqing sneered.

"Why do you think he'd want to ruin our family all at once? Because as long as the Xia family is still standing, we'll be your backing. And you can then continue having the courage to create trouble." Cen Mengqing exhaled deeply. "Han Zhuoling's intent on removing the roots of your courage to make trouble.

"You created the trouble, yet dragged the whole family down with you. Now that you've landed yourself in prison, are you satisfied? The whole family's bankrupt now. We can't even help you if we wanted to.

"Your end now is your comeuppance. What goes around comes around. You landed yourself in this mess and no one else can save you. Had you been honest, our family wouldn't have ended up like this. You'd still be the Xia family's young lady, and even if our family's being suppressed by the Han Family and suffering a dent in finances, we could still have lived comfortably.

"To go further back in time, had you been content with life and loyal to Han Zhuoling, you'd still be Mrs. Han, and who'd make things difficult for you? You wouldn't be here..." Cen Mengqing pointed at the surroundings, "in this type of place, mucking around with the lowest dregs of society."

Chapter 2179: I'll Die If I Stay Here Any Longer

"We can't afford the heavy legal fees right now," Cen Mengqing said. "We've already taken out a mortgage for everything possible, yet we're still wondering how to survive from now on."

"So..." Cen Mengqing took a deep, long breath and exhaled slowly. "If you wish to come out, you have to sit out your full sentence. I've asked around. As long as you behave well, there's a chance for early parole."

The only uncertainty was if Han Zhuoling would allow that.

But at least, this could give Xia Yixin hope to sustain her for the rest of her sentence.

"You make it sound simple!" Xia Yixin broke down, totally and utterly.

Hearing Cen Mengqing's words made her realize that any hope was gone.

Her family's really bankrupt; no one could help her now.

"Even if you're broke, you're still outside, free!" Xia Yixin shouted in desperation. "Unlike me—forced to stay in this sh*thole and getting beaten up every day! Look at me! Look at me now!"

Xia Yixin pointed at the scars on her face, screaming in agitation while spittle flew everywhere.

"How do you want me to endure anything more? I'll die if I stay here any longer!" Xia Yixin yelled. "Do you want to see me die in here?"

Cen Mengqing's eyes reddened when she heard Xia Yixin's words—her heart ultimately ached for her daughter.

"But what can we do? Even if you shout at me, I still can't save you!" Cen Mengqing wiped her tears away. "You have a three-year sentence."

With Han Zhuoling around, Xia Yixin unsurprisingly got the heaviest sentence.

"Three years will pass quickly in the blink of an eye," Cen Mengqing said. "Look how fast every other year went past us."

"You're outside and free, living comfortably. Obviously, you'd feel as if time passes by quickly!" Xia Yixin gritted out, "But I'm in here, in a living hell, and every day feels like a year. How could I possibly feel as if time will pass in a blink?"

How she wished time would fly by within a single blink.

Yet things never were as she wished.

Every day's a pain from the moment she opened her eyes until bedtime. Only at nightfall would she then feel as if she'd finally endured another day.

That's right, every day was a test of her endurance!

The prison warden went over to remind them that visitation time was up.

Cen Mengqing stood up, sighing. "Yixin, no one will coddle and put up with your temper in here. Your temper has to be reined in. Otherwise, you'll be getting the short end of the stick.

"I can imagine how you got those scars. You must have been acting high and mighty, offending others. In here, you've got to grovel. This isn't a place for your tantrums." Cen Mengqing continued, "To stay here more comfortably from now on, admit your wrongs when you're wrong, and grovel when you need to.

"Doesn't matter if you're out there or in here. If you're not able to oppose the other party, you can only lower your head. That's how it should be when you're dealing with Shi Xiaoya too. When you got arrested back then, the lawyer had advised you to settle out of court and apologize to Shi Xiaoya. But you refused and stuck to resisting her. And what's the result? You ended up in here."

"Had you lowered your head back then, Shi Xiaoya might not have forgiven you, but you likely wouldn't be in this situation now." Cen Mengqing took a long and meaningful glance at Xia Yixin. "So, for your own good, to survive better, you've got to change your temper. We're outside, we can't help you."

Chapter 2180: Like Poison

"If our family were still doing alright, we could have at least allowed you to stay more comfortably here even if we lost the lawsuit." Cen Mengqing sighed. "But now, we really can't help it.

"We can't help you from outside. You have to take care of yourself in here. You must remember, you're no longer the young lady of the past. Even if you're outside right now, you'd still be just one of the masses. But you're in here, in the lowest rung of society, and anyone can bully you.

"Take good care of yourself anyways." With that, the warden ushered Cen Mengqing out instantly, and she was unable to say more.

Not that there was anything more to say.

She'd said all that she could.

It's all up to Xia Yixin's own understanding.

If she didn't understand, then she'd have a hard time enduring the rest of her sentence.

After Cen Mengqing's departure, Xia Yixin suddenly dropped onto the table, screaming and sobbing in utter hopelessness.

Cen Mengqing paused at the corridor, hearing Xia Yixin's screams.

Her heart twisted in agony too, and she left crying.

Xia Yixin was full of regrets.

She had a hand full of good cards, but she played them all wrong.

Cen Mengqing's words kept replaying in her mind.

She was right—she'd landed herself in this mess.

Had she not walked the wrong path... Had she not betrayed Han Zhuoling from the start...

Then at the very least, right now, she would be satisfied materially, even if she wasn't that blissful with Han Zhuoling.

She'd be glamourous, not fallen from grace.

She was wrong from the very start.

And every step taken after had only led her further down the road of no return.

"AH!" Xia Yixin cried.

Saying that her regret turned her insides out was no exaggeration.

"Stop screaming!" the warden said coldly. "Go back!"

"Ah!" Xia Yixin cried relentlessly.

She hit her own chest, for no words could begin to describe the regret she was feeling now.

The more she recalled, the more she realized how blissful her life was back then.

And the more she couldn't accept her misery now.

In the end, Xia Yixin was dragged back sobbing by the guards.

As if she'd lost her mind, Xia Yixin kept crying non-stop.

And apart from crying and shouting, she did nothing else.

The prison guard dragged her, so she walked without resistance.

The warden brought her back, and when the leader saw Xia Yixin, she scoffed. "Seems like she knows the truth now, and the truth hit her too hard, so she turned crazy?"

The warden got a scare hearing that.

Xia Yixin really seemed as if she'd lost her senses.

The warden quickly called for a doctor to check.

Initially, someone would report to Han Zhuoling about Xia Yixin's situation in prison.

But Han Zhuoling was uninterested.

He did not feel sympathy for her or her outcome, nor did he gloat over her misery.

To him, sending Xia Yixin to jail meant the end of the problem.

As for how Xia Yixin fared afterward, good or bad, it had nothing to do with him. He had no interest nor concern.

Xia Yixin no longer existed in his life.

The surname Xia was like poison.

Another family was having trouble, not just the Xia family.

It was the Lu family.

Xia Qingyang received a call from the director of the detective agency. Lu Qiyuan's mistress, as well as the home he'd set up, had all been found out.

Xia Qingyang immediately went to the agency.