

Pinnacle 481

Chapter 481

Helena throat moved as she gulped.

She came from a poor village and naturally wanted the money too. Fifteen million was undeniably a lot.

At that moment, she was stuck between the temptation of money and maintaining her principles.

“Mr. Waller, thank you for the kind offer, but I have to decline,” Helena rejected the contract.

“I won’t sign it too!” Helena’s other two companions followed suit.

“We’ll sign it!” Another three supporting actors couldn’t resist the temptation and agreed to accept the contract.

Before Helena and the other two left, Horace openly threatened, “Ms. Helena, despite how popular you are now, you have just limited your own options by rejecting the Triple Group’s offer. Haha...”

After Helena and the others left, Horace patted Maurice on his shoulders and smiled. “I think Zoey has something against you and wants to destroy your career.”

Then, Maurice told Horace about the incident with Levi.

benefactor anyway. All he did was to use you as cheap labor by only offering you five hundred thousand. Do you know how much both

Bang! Bang! Bang!

fist on the wall repeatedly and hissed, “Damn you, Zoey! I

why don’t you join me. I will guarantee that we will make you a superstar! I’m sure you are

sentiments exactly!

screenwriters are very capable too. I have a job for you. Get them to join us, and I’ll pay you a million for

recruit the core members of the Oriental Star

heard that he would be compensated

I would try my best to get her in

Horace licked his

She’s someone that’s just irresistible. It’s just that I don’t dare express myself to her in the company. If she weren’t the boss,

Horace stood up with a grin. “Maurice, I have prepared

room, Maurice’s eyes gleamed when

more gorgeous than

that ugly country bumpkin

Chapter 482

Everyone present was shocked at Maurice's remarks.

In their eyes, Maurice was someone so ambitious to the point that he would accept work for fifty to a hundred thousand.

So why did he turn down a job worth five hundred thousand?

"Maurice, the appearance fee is five hundred thousand. Did you mishear it as fifty thousand?" The staff clarified with him.

"I didn't get it wrong. Is five hundred thousand a lot? Do they think I'm that desperate?" Raising his voice, Maurice caused the staff to tremble in fear.

"Are you aware that the two movies I acted in grossed seven billion? That means I'm worth at least tens of millions. So, are they looking down on me by just offering five hundred thousand?"

With fifteen million in hand, five hundred thousand was peanuts to Maurice now.

crazy?" The staff

you are just a newcomer. The company not only provided you the opportunity but also

were the one that signed the contract willingly." The other members of staff

but they only gave me five hundred thousand. Why don't we make it public and let our peers decide whether they are taking advantage of

you doing? Come with me now!"

down this route. In life, we should have a conscience when making choices, or else we would end up with a bad reputation."

set of car keys and swung it around his fingers. It was obvious those keys were for

mansion now. Isn't it wonderful? Why do I have to stay back here and suffer?" "Helena, my advice to you is to sign the contract with Mr. Waller. I remember that your parents are seriously ill and need surgery immediately. Also, your siblings

was dumbfounded at

listen to me. Sign the contract with the Triple Group. With the one-off buyout worth tens of millions, your family's fortunes will be

"No! I'll still stick with Ms. Lopez. I don't mind

her, "You're

Chapter 483

As the Triple Group continued to expand, South City was no longer enough to satisfy it.

They wanted to penetrate the city with the largest economy in the region, which was North Hampton.

Soon, the list of guests for the charity gala was announced.

“Ms. Lopez, take a look at the guest list quickly!”

Gerry and his staff brought over the list hastily.

“Morris!, Wilford, Trisha...” Zoey read out their names solemnly.

There were ten in total, and they were all new stars who the Oriental Star Group was promoting.

They had surreptitiously signed a spokesperson’s contract with the Triple Group without the company’s knowledge.

Zoey was infuriated. “Didn’t I say that we would decline to work with the Triple Group? Why did some of them still sign a contract still? Go and get all of them here!”

doing is not illegal and neither does it breach the contract terms. If there’s any conflict with them, it would not benefit us at all. Given how well received the two movies are currently, it would damage both our reputation

we just bear with it?” Zoey

pretend that we don’t know

to have been promoting such an ingrate. Maurice was even more difficult to deal

Lopez, Maurice wants to

that moment, Maurice arrived and threw a set of accounts onto the

movie has grossed

accounts

these the respective accounts for the

supposed to be confidential. Other than the company and large broadcasting websites, no one had access to

did you get the accounts from?”

I just want to know – how much

being rude! You’re speaking to Ms. Lopez!” Gerry reprimanded

if she is? She’s still human. What’s wrong

“Five hundred thousand. Your pay for both movies is simply

all the actors’ salaries combined would not exceed ten million. The company still needs to spend on special effects and pay the scriptwriters. Everyone

Chapter 484

Gasp!

When Maurice stated his price, everyone present caught their breath.

Three billion, is he crazy?

Maurice laughed. "What is it? Do you think I'm being greedy? Both the movies are expected to earn eighteen billion in the end. Even after you paid me three billion, you still have fifteen billion in profits left. More importantly, if word gets out, the reputational damage would be devastating. Taking that into account, three billion isn't too much to ask for." Maurice explained confidently.

Gerry and the others exchanged glances as they weighed their options.

If Maurice blew the matter up, the controversy would easily cost the company more than three billion.

More importantly, the loss in credibility would be beyond repair.

"Maurice, let's discuss it further. Could you lower your demands? In return, we will pay you more for your next film," Gerry asked, trying his best to negotiate.

"No! It's three billion. Take it or leave it!"

Since Maurice had planned to sign a contract with the Triple Group, he didn't care about the next movie.

Gerry and the others were running out of ideas. All they could do now was look to Zoey for her decision.

what do you

no

scoffed, "No way. We won't give you anything, so

"Uh..."

stunned as they expected Zoey to continue

rejected

off guard as Zoey didn't even

unethical boss!" Maurice sneered as he

The impact will be huge if

compromise, it will open the floodgates for others

Manor, the Triple

a massive

who was somebody in North Hampton was invited. Even

famous of

and actresses were

as he

attention was focused on him as the viewers

gala was hosted by

charity and public welfare organizations. It would be used to build retirement homes, orphanages, schools, etc.”

same time, he handed a cheque of ten billion to the

Chapter 485

With her fist tightly clenched, Zoey, too, was trembling out of anger.

“This really is a capitalistic society. Power and influence can not only cover up the truth but also whitewash sins into virtues!”

Meanwhile, the charity gala was still being broadcasted.

The Triple Group had lined up ten poor kids in front of the cameras. Horace declared, “The Triple Group will take care of these ten kids up until they graduate from university!”

“That’s great!”

Many in the audience were clapping and cheering.

Thunderous applause rumbled throughout as the atmosphere there was ecstatic.

The Triple Group had won a decisive victory in both reputation and financial gains.

They were now known as a socially responsible organization.

“Ladies and gentlemen, our next segment may not be aligned with tonight’s theme. But I feel it’s an opportunity to help someone redress an injustice.” Horace changed the topic of the night.

“Oh? Does someone want to expose an injustice done?”

Everyone was curious to know what it was about.

At that moment, Maurice, Wilford, Trisha, and the rest stood on the stage.

introduce to you the most popular male actor currently, Maurice. Followed by supporting actor

popular their movie was, everyone recognized

on? Were Maurice and

Everyone was puzzled.

then passed the

the eyes, Maurice explained, “Everyone knows that I’m the male lead in the two recent blockbuster movies. Up till now, the Oriental Star Group had made more than twenty billion in profits. However, do you know how much I am paid for the

“Fifty million!”

too much. Guess lower!”

“Ten million!”

“No!”

less than five million, can it? Even if they paid five billion, it would still be

you the answer! I, alone, am paid with

exposed the answer, there was an

was

They only paid the lead five hundred thousand after making twenty billion?

practically abusing the

be removed from the industry! How can they lowball their actors like

was angered by the injustice that

with the impact he

I made up myself. I have proof

“Do you want

Chapter 486

Zoey knew that Maurice would take revenge, but she didn’t expect him to do it by defaming Oriental Star Group on the night of the charity gala.

Horace took the microphone and spoke into it. “I’d like to make an announcement. Maurice Lorraine and the ten directors here had been personally invited to attend this event. Their presence here tonight has nothing to do with Oriental Star Group.”

“Huh? How is that so?”

Some were confused.

“That’s right. It was a private invitation!” Horace explained with a smile. “I once proposed to Oriental to invite a few directors to the event, but the president turned me down.

She doubted my kind initiative and thought we were planning to use the charity gala’s reputation to earn blood money, so she refused to cooperate with us! Sigh... Triple Group sure has it rough. We get flamed when we don’t take part in charity, but when we finally involved ourselves, our motives end up being questioned. This is just cruel!”

“What? Oriental is that despicable? Why would they question someone else’s kindness?”

“How shameless can they be? Triple Group has really been doing charity work; they’ve already donated over two billion to South City and North Hampton! Is that not charity?”

“Oriental is a joke. A company like this deserves to fail. Let’s join forces and bring them down!”

...

With Horace adding fuel to the flame, the crowd became enraged.

and wanted the company to fall

was even

to boycott Oriental

movies with

two major films received tens of thousands of

in regard to sales

Star Group was now in a

to Maurice Lorraine and the rest of the directors here. Even though it

disregarded the company regulations and are risking their jobs just to be a part of this charity gala!

Therefore, I’d

“Wonderful!”

movie

Maurice Lorraine should become North Hampton’s charity

big shots

A thunderous applause ensued.

about Maurice and the rest of

ten directors were now regarded as powerful and fearless charity

this, Maurice curled his lips into a

to

the fame and fortune are now

Chapter 487

Zoey shook with rage in front of the television.

She was on the verge of tears.

She didn’t think that Horace and Maurice would pull such a trick.

Oriental Star Group has become public enemy number one.

Just the public's opinion is enough to put the pressure on Oriental, not to mention if all the huge corporations decides to close in on us.

"Don't be mad anymore, honey," Levi assured her as he pulled her into his arms. "Let him sit on that high horse of his for now. I'll make it clear to them that it's just as easy for them to hit rock bottom as it is to be loved by everyone!"

"Do you have a plan in mind, Darling?" asked Zoey.

"Not at the moment, but remember the saying, the heavens are always watching!" Levi replied with a smile.

The charity gala was a success.

Horace achieved two of his goals.

One, to bring fame and fortune to Triple Group.

Two, to send Oriental Star Group into chaos.

The next day, Zoey arrived at work and noticed how gloomy the atmosphere was.

hadn't slept all night, so their eyes were

turned to Zoey

situation was beyond their control. There was no way they could

to see

"Let them in."

knew what was

walked into the office with over thirty other

We can't carry on working

their heads, feeling rather

smiled. "It's fine. You have every right to

and the others

would let them

and producers had just given in their

the foundation of Oriental Star

were the most important crew members when it came

That was right.

had been bought over by Maurice

thirty million to

special

James. There's no point staying here with

convince the special effects team to

a smile, "I'm good. You guys go on ahead! I'm indebted to Oriental. I've worked for many companies, but this is the only one that has ever treated the special effects team with respect and taken

Chapter 488

Maurice Lorraine was giddy with delight.

The more viral he became, the higher his net worth got. Even his assets grew exponentially.

Today, he and Shawn Timmons, along with several others, had come to Triple Group to sign their new contracts.

Maurice immediately signed his contract without even going through it.

Everyone else did the same, simply because joining Triple Group meant receiving money and fame.

Shawn and his group received a settlement fee of several hundred thousand just from joining the company.

They, too, signed their contracts without even taking a look at the details.

Horace couldn't help but laugh as he glanced at his several dozen new employees. "Incredible! All of you are practically the foundation of Oriental Star Group. You'll certainly go far by joining me."

He then left with a smile.

Maurice gathered everyone to discuss their future.

"Huh? There's something weird about this contract!" exclaimed Steve White, a screenwriter.

"What's wrong?" asked Shawn and the others.

"Take a look at your own contracts! Something doesn't add up here," Steve urged.

Everyone began to flip through their own contracts.

a few screenwriters exclaimed, "We've been

of our reputation and copyrights will belong to Triple. We're practically their slaves now! And what's with the pay? I

Steve nearly passed out.

two major films from

paid a mere three thousand a month while working for Triple

ever accept such a
too. They've deprived me of all my rights!
was about
earned eight million from
was going to receive
other screenwriters shared the same
subject to
a
Maurice had started to
better than ours.

"What? A hundred thousand!?"

about to
hundred thousand for

This is madness!

that

at the start and allowed them

terminate our contracts! How can we ever agree to

Maurice trembled in anger.

Chapter 489

Just a while ago, they had even laughed at Helena for being stubborn. Thinking about it now, the woman certainly made the right choice.

Shawn whacked his own forehead. "I should've known! Triple Group is ruthless and greedy. They've had their dark past dug up in recent years. There's no way we'd ever get a single cent out of them. We were too naïve."

Steve dashed their hopes even further. "Most importantly, we can't reveal any of this. The contract says we'll end up in jail if we expose what's happening."

Everyone gasped.

"Horace Waller, you're an abomination!"

Maurice kicked the door as tears streamed down his face.

At that moment, the door opened and Horace walked in.

Behind him were about a dozen bodyguards watching over his safety.

“So, you’ve read your contracts, I presume?”

Horace smirked insidiously.

“I’m taking you down with me, Waller!”

Maurice rushed toward him, only to be held back by the guards.

Waller? This isn’t an agreement at all.

Triple Group’s part, it would always be difficult to protect one’s rights when
go to court for years, and it still wouldn’t

Group. There was practically zero chance of winning
not to sign it. Did I ever

“I...”

Everyone suddenly fell silent.

was true, Horace didn’t force them into signing their agreements at
it had I known what kind of contract it was! You

them if you didn’t agree, but did you even read the terms? I certainly gave you
so exasperated that he

all signed the contracts without going through the details, simply because
thought that

pay

Silence ensued.

have that

up, you’d better obey me

you think that

dogs now. Do your jobs well and

Chapter 490

The staff of Oriental Star Group were puzzled.

Just this morning, Shawn had left haughtily with a bunch of other people. So what is he doing back here
now?

Are they here to show off?

It doesn't seem like it though.

They look so tense, as though something bad has happened.

Zoey's assistant immediately informed her about Shawn's return.

"Hold them off. Don't let them come in," Zoey ordered.

Levi had just texted her about what Maurice and the others had gone through.

Shawn and his group were stopped at the entrance.

"What's going on? Let us in! Don't you know who I am, Zane?" Shawn bellowed at the security guard.

Maurice chimed in, "You're just a bloody security guard! What right do you have to stop us?"

He despised those who worked as security guards and janitors.

A few guards responded angrily, "You're no longer an employee of Oriental Star Group, so you can't enter however you please!"

"You..."

Shawn froze.

He had submitted his resignation letter earlier this morning, so he was indeed no longer a company staff.

do you think you are? How

these well-known directors were being held back by a few lowly security guards, their prides won't
guards refused to budge.

instructed them not

had nothing

that you want? Here!

and slapped the guards across

guards, and that's all you get

fumed in anger but

unusual for them to be treated this

white-collar elites, being a security guard was

could only suppress their rage

simply

"What's going on?"

suddenly rang

It was Levi.

“Mr. Garrison...”

eyes lit up when they

of support was

all the security guards, whether they were

security guard? Are they inferior to

“I...”

was at a loss for

Levi was. He was also Zoey’s husband, so they dared not tick

Maurice was

Lopez’s help.

“Apologize,” Levi demanded.