Rebirth Of The Villainess: Young Master Lu's Wicked Wife -Chapter 231 : Being With You (1)

Chapter 231 - Being With You (1)

Su Xiaofei felt that days were passing too quickly for her liking. With Qin Muyao officially signing under Bluemedia as her artist, she found herself occupied throughout the week. The Qiao family also stayed for another week and Su Xiaofei had to meet Qiao Yuhan in the afternoons while Xi Qian and Lu Qingfeng weren't around to accompany her after classes.

On top of that, she also needed to continue her visits at Bluemedia, under the guise of a prospective recruit that was about to join the company. Until now, Xiao Rufeng had no idea that the person who had been giving her private lessons on Saturdays was the daughter of the CEO at all.

However, now, as she looked at the syllabus of the things she needed to review before her entrance exam, Su Xiaofei thought she would have a mental breakdown soon. Neither Lu Qingfeng nor Xi Qian were free, and she could only rely on herself.

As Su Xiaofei grumbled about how hard it was to study on her own at the library after class, Song Yiran suddenly appeared in front of her, dropping his books on the table.

'Can I join you? It's hard to find a study partner these days.' He smiled at her.

Su Xiaofei arched her brow at him. She didn't have anything to do with Song Yiran nor was she interested in getting acquainted with him.

'Is there something you need from me, Classmate Song?'

'I heeded your advice and decided not to go abroad to pursue my studies. I've given it a good thought, and you are right. My brother needs me here more than anything. Let me thank you for your advice.'

'It's nothing. I'm merely stating my opinion on the matter. Your problems had nothing to do with me.' Su Xiaofei ignored him and went back to focus on the paper in her hands. She needed to finish answering this questionnaire before she could go home. She would have to ask Lu Qingfeng to double-check her answers later.

Su Xiaofei heard Song Yiran huffing, but didn't

pay him any more attention. She was inwardly weeping, hoping that Lu Qingfeng was here to help her. In her past life, she was only able to graduate from high school with Lu Qingfeng's help. She had grabbed him and demanded him to tutor her for her finals, despite him being three years below her.

Both Lu Qingfeng and her lost a lot of weight because of the remedial class and lessons she had to take. Regardless of the lifetime she was living, Su Xiaofei still didn't like studying. After a long day of studying, she felt like her small brain had already dried up and couldn't function anymore. However, now that she was given a chance to correct her mistakes, she decided to work at Bluemedia and take over the company in the future. This only meant that she needed to study more. The university entrance exam was hard, according to their seniors, but Su Xiaofei still wanted to try her luck.

Other students looked in their direction, wondering since when did Song Yiran become close with Su Xiaofei. With her recent change in personality, it attracted more attention from other young men studying at QCA.

Su Xiaofei was aware of this, but she didn't give a damn about other men aside from Lu Qingfeng at the moment. In the past, because she cared too much about what irrelevant people would say and think about her, she had wasted a lot of time that could have been used on more important people.

'Hey, can't the two of you stop being lovey-dovey ?' Feng Xue'er's sudden appearance made Su Xiaofei more annoyed than ever.

What were these two thinking, trying to disturb her studying time? She could understand Feng Xue'er trying to annoy her, but what about Song Yiran?

'What kind of nonsense are you talking about, Classmate Feng? Please watch your words or other people will misunderstand you.' Su Xiaofei was tempted to leave early to avoid these two.

'Right.' Song Yiran agreed with her. 'Classmate Feng, I know you've been busy with your newly opened boutique, but you aren't that busy not to know that Classmate Su already has a little hubby, right ?!' He waved his hand, gesturing for Feng Xue'er to leave them alone.

'Hey!' Su Xiaofei exclaimed, dropping the paper in her hand carelessly upon hearing what Song Yiran had just said.

'What?' The young man gave her a confused look. 'Everyone thinks that you and Lu Qingfeng are together now.'

Su Xiaofei was taken aback at that. Since when did such rumors start to spread around the campus ? She pinched the bridge of her nose and took a deep breath to calm down. Such rumors about her and Lu Qingfeng were ridiculous in her opinion. Whether they were seeing each other or not wasn't others' business to poke into.

'Is there something you two need from me? Because you are getting in my way.' She didn't need to be polite with them at this point. Her patience was already running thin by their disturbance.

'Nothing.' Feng Xue'er flipped her long hair over her shoulder and was about to turn to leave. 'Just want to say that Ye Mingyu has just gotten a scholarship to study overseas. I don't know how she did it.'

Su Xiaofei cupped her chin and furrowed her brows. Ye Mingyu was leaving to study overseas? Just where did she snatch such an opportunity? She wondered. She couldn't remember anything from her past life for Ye Mingyu to gain such luck out of the blue.

'Something must have happened.'

'Xiaofei, are you ready to leave ?'

Lu Qingfeng found her talking to her two classmates, whom he could recognize as Song Yiran and Feng Xue'er.

'En, but give me a minute. I need to tidy up my things before we can leave..' Su Xiaofei replied, but her mind was still preoccupied with the news she just heard from Feng Xue'er.

Chapter 232 - Being With You (2)

Su Xiaofei wasn't sure if Lu Qingfeng had overheard her conversation with Song Yiran and Feng Xue'er as she wasn't aware that he'd arrived to pick her up from the library. He didn't even make any indication that he heard it.

She looked out the car's window, but her mind was somewhere else. Su Xiaofei felt that things were starting to get out of hand and unpredictable. She had long expected that her rebirth and choice to change her fate would eventually affect those around her.

Not only did Lu Qingfeng change, her mother and Ye Mingyu did as well. Su Xiaofei didn't know what to expect anymore.

'Did something happen ?' She heard Lu Qingfeng asked.

Su Xiaofei pondered for a moment, wondering if she should ask for his help again, but decided not to. Lu Qingfeng had done enough to help her already, and she didn't want to abuse his kindness towards her by asking for more.

'Just heard that Ye Mingyu got a scholarship, and she'll be studying abroad.' Still, she didn't dare to hide what she found out from Feng Xue'er that afternoon.

'Su Haoran is probably sending her away as a precaution. Since he was arrested and is currently being held by the authorities, Ye Mingyu's future could be compromised if she remains here.' Lu Qingfeng explained.

'I see. That makes sense, then.'

Su Xiaofei hadn't seen Su Haoran since the last time she met him at Chen Li's trial. However, she was aware that the cheating bastard had finally received retribution for the things he had done towards her mother.

Yun Qingrong had denied him any further financial assistance and had already cut ties with him, much to Su Xiaofei's relief. In her previous life, her mother's hesitation to leave Su Haoran was one of the reasons Su Xiaofei had argued with her. She couldn't understand why her mother had forgiven her father after he betrayed their family.

'So even a heartless person like him can still be a father to his precious daughter, huh.' She chuckled amusedly.

Su Xiaofei used

to envy Ye Mingyu for being doted on by Su Haoran in the past, but now that she had met Qiao Fengying, she could see that the differences between the two men were like heaven and earth.

Her real father was man enough to work hard for his family's future, while Su Haoran would rather take advantage of his wife's hard work for his own vested interest. So how can Su Xiaofei not feel proud of her birth father?

If only she had Qiao Fengying by her side when she was growing up, perhaps her standard when it comes to choosing a husband would be better, and she wouldn't have to beg for Mo Yuchen's attention.

She had begged for his love and lost her self respect because of it. Aside from that, she only felt emptiness and loneliness.

'What are you thinking ?' Lu Qingfeng asked when he saw the slight smile on her face.

'Just thinking that I now know what kind of men I should avoid in the future. Men like Su Haoran and Mo Yuchen are the kind of men a woman should avoid getting involved with. But I do admit that I'm also responsible for being foolish, chasing after Mo Yuchen before. I shouldn't have done that.'

Lu Qingfeng remained silent, as he pondered over her words. It was good that she didn't want to be with Mo Yuchen anymore, but he didn't want her to get traumatized and deny love because of what happened before. 'Feifei, do you know that to love someone, one would need a lot of determination and courage? It takes guts to accept someone because most people aren't ready for pain. They are afraid of heartbreak and isolation.' He said after a moment of silence.

Su Xiaofei tilted her head to give him a good look. She then thought of how courageous and persistent Lu Qingfeng was for loving her despite the pain she had inflicted on him without her knowledge. She had poured her heart and effort for someone who couldn't love her and missed out on someone who was far better. It baffled her why Lu Qingfeng didn't learn to hate her because of it.

Still, she needed time to sort her feelings and she wanted to become a better version of herself. The one that Lu Qingfeng deserved. Su Xiaofei hated that she was hesitating to accept Lu Qingfeng as a result of the trauma she experienced with Mo Yuchen, even though she knew that Lu Qingfeng truly loved her.

She kept thinking that he was too good to be true, and she was expecting him to get tired of her someday. But every day, he just proved to her that he's the same person he's been from the start. Lu Qingfeng had given her no reason to question him, but it wasn't him she didn't trust,? it's everyone in the past.

Su Xiaofei lowered her gaze and rested her head on his shoulder. After experiencing such hardship in her previous life, her faith in love was shaken a bit. She didn't have the same outlook on love, and she thought she wouldn't fall in love anymore. 'Xiao Feng, don't get tired of me, okay ?' She said all of a sudden, making Lu Qingfeng wonder if something else had happened while he wasn't around.

'How could that be? Regardless if I'm with you or not, I always think of you.' He said in a low voice. 'You won't be able to get rid of me so easily, Xiaofei.'

'I'm maybe going away after graduation, but don't think that even for a moment I would forget about you. You can take the time I'm away to do whatever you need to get done. You don't need to rush yourself. If love is a learning process, I want to learn it with you.'

'Sounds like a plan to me..' Her lips curled up in a satisfied smile.

Chapter 233 - I' 11 Help You Become A Queen (1)

Friday came just a day before Xi Qian's entrance exam. Su Xiaofei invited her best friend to hang out in a nearby mall. She also wanted to see what the current trend was and if she would be able to meet Zhao Yi, her previous talent manager.

Xi Qian easily agreed as she wanted to relax before the big day. She was confident that she was ready to face tomorrow's papers.

As they were checking out the newly released trendy clothes at several boutiques, Xi Qian noticed that Su Xiaofei stopped on her tracks and looked at the other side of the mall. She followed her best friend's gaze and saw Ye Mingyu being accompanied by her two classmates and was talking to a woman in her late twenties with a proud smile on her face.

'Huh? I haven't seen Ye Mingyu for some time. If I didn't see her today, I would have thought that she left school already.' She commented next to Su Xiaofei.

'What is it, Feifei? Do you know who that woman is?' She asked when she saw that Su Xiaofei was more interested in the woman talking to Ye Mingyu, ignoring the latter. They watched as the woman handed Ye Mingyu a card before leaving.

'Hmm, just a guess. It seems like she's a talent scout.' Su Xiaofei answered Xi Qian's question.

'Oh ? So does this mean she's trying to scout Ye Mingyu to become a celebrity ?'

Xi Qian thought that with Ye Mingyu's personality and looks, she could easily fool anyone into thinking that she had a potential to become a celebrity, but since Xi Qian was biased towards her best friend, she would say that Su Xiaofei was way more eye-catching than Ye Mingyu.

Ye Mingyu was known as a campus belle at QCA along with Su Xiaofei. She was part of the cream of the crop and had a lot of suitors around her, but Xi Qian knew that Ye Mingyu's gentle personality was just a facade and that she was hiding a rotten heart behind that 'angelic'

mask.

'Who knows.' Su Xiaofei shrugged and leaned against the handrail while taking a sip from her cold drink. 'But how could Ye Mingyu accept an offer to become a trainee when she's going overseas to pursue her studies ?'

'So the rumors about her leaving the country are true?' Xi Qian gasped. 'Scholarship, my ass. Her father could have stolen Aunty Qing's money and used it to fund her studies abroad.' She scowled as she thought of how Su Haoran and Ye Mingyu's family had tried to scam her Aunty Qing by sending Ye Mingyu to live with them.

'What about her mother ? Is she still alive ?' She asked Su Xiaofei.

'No idea. Last thing I heard was that Housekeeper Chen made a scene in their house and had a fight with her. The old woman was accusing Ye Mingyu for ruining Chen Li's life with her lies.'

The same woman who was talking to Ye Mingyu earlier was named Zhao Yi and in Su Xiaofei's past life, she was the one who discovered and scouted Su Xiaofei to become a celebrity. However, before she became Su Xiaofei's manager, she had worked with Ye Mingyu first.

Just like Su Xiaofei, Ye Mingyu was scouted by Zhao Yi. Under her guidance, Ye Mingyu easily became one of the most sought after young actresses after her debut.

However, once Zhao Yi got involved in a drug scandal and was falsely accused of selling her talents to prostitution, Ye Mingyu got rid of her, earning sympathy and pity from the public at the same time. Su Xiaofei had taken Zhao Yi under her wing, not because she pitied the woman, but because she knew how capable Zhao Yi was and the allegations about her weren't able to stand in court due to the lack of evidence.

As Zhao Yi turned to leave, pleased that she was able to meet Ye Mingyu today, she suddenly halted when someone took her attention from a distance. A young, beautiful woman caught her eye. Compared to the one she met earlier, this one was truly a breathtaking beauty.

The young woman was smiling with a beautiful set of white teeth and pink lips to her companion, while holding a lemonade cup with one hand. She was leaning lazily against the handrail, but it made her look appealing in one's eyes.

Just like Ye Mingyu, this young beauty seemed to come from the same school. Same school uniform, yet this young woman made it look expensive and elegant. Zhao Yi had seen a lot of beauties ever since she started working in the entertainment industry, but she hadn't seen a woman who could be this enchanting, aside from Bai Qingyue.

If she was able to scout this young beauty, Zhao Yi only needed to find out if she had other talents to offer. Anyway, being beautiful is one thing, but it wasn't enough to succeed in the industry.

Zhao Yi decided to seek this young woman and introduce herself.

'Hello! I'm Zhao Yi, a talent manager from Top Tier Entertainment. May I know if you are interested in becoming a celebrity? With your excellent looks, I'm sure the camera would love you.' She introduced herself to Su Xiaofei nervously as she gave the young woman a good look up close.

Zhao Yi noticed that Su Xiaofei wasn't wearing any makeup and her skin was smooth and dewy. Her height was a little shorter than Ye Mingyu, but her cool countenance was enough to make one appreciate her beauty.

'Top Tier Entertainment is known to produce A-list celebrities and some queens. As long as you are willing to join our company, I'll help you become a queen one day!

Zhao Yi was quite eager to have Su Xiaofei sign under their company. She had already started thinking of various ways to polish this rare diamond she just found.

'A queen, you say, huh?' Su Xiaofei's lips curled into a slight smile.

Chapter 234 - I' 11 Help You Become A Queen (2)

'En! I believe with your looks. It would be very easy for you to debut. Of course, you'll need to first go through dome training to learn how to perform well on stage and in front of the camera. I will certainly help you become a queen!

Su Xiaofei stared at Zhao Yi and inwardly sighed. It was a pity that she wasn't interested in becoming a queen anymore. She wanted to have the freedom to do whatever she wanted and enjoy life on her own terms. If she became a celebrity, she would be bound to endless criticism by other people and she already had enough of it from her past life.

Zhao Yi handed her card to Su Xiaofei and beamed her a wide smile.

'If you have any doubts, you could visit our company and see for yourself whether I could vouch for my claims today. You may visit us anytime you want.'

Su Xiaofei glanced at the card, then returned her gaze to Zhao Yi. By this time, Zhao Yi was probably already facing turbulence at Top Tier Entertainment.

While it's true that Zhao Yi had a good eye to discern a potential candidate to become a celebrity, others viewed her methods as too harsh and always pushing her talents to their limits. For this reason, many of the talents she handled before canceled their contracts with her and demanded the upper management to hand them another manager.

Zhao Yi viewed acting as an art and those so-called celebrities were complacent and were satisfied with what they had now and refused to grow as an artist. Their conflicting views was the reason why Zhao Yi decided to come out to scout for a talent that could rely on her and fit her criteria.

'Miss Zhao, I have to apologize. I have to decline your offer.' Su Xiaofei replied. If it was her former self, she would surely not be able to decline Zhao Yi's invitation. Zhao Yi was visibly stunned by her answer, and it took her a moment before

she recovered from her shock. Obviously, she didn't expect that this young woman would decline her invitation without batting an eyelid.

'Miss, won't you consider? I'm not trying to scam you.' She told Su Xiaofei. Other young women would be thrilled upon hearing such an invitation, but this young woman seemed unfazed by what their company could offer.

Meanwhile, Xi Qian looked at the two with astonishment. It was obvious that Zhao Yi truly wanted to scout Su Xiaofei, as her eagerness could be seen in her face. It was far different from the professional smile the woman had earlier when she was talking to Ye Mingyu.

Xi Qian already knew that her best friend wasn't interested in becoming an actress, and supported her decision. Having a peaceful mind and freedom were way better than having fame and living with limited free will at all. After witnessing Qin Muyao's recent controversy, Xi Qian now believed that being a celebrity wasn't a walk in the park like everyone assumed it to be.

'Sorry, but I've already made up my mind. However, I do have a proposition for you, Miss Zhao, if you are interested.' Su Xiaofei said, before asking Xi Qian a favor to hold her drink for a moment so she could pull out something from her school bag. Su Xiaofei then handed a business card to Zhao Yi with Yun Qingrong's name and details on it. Of course, she was aware that this was where Zhao Yi met Ye Mingyu and the reason why she had come to see her.

'I'm Su Xiaofei, and the president of Bluemedia is my mother. If Miss Zhao is thinking of moving to another agency to work, may I invite you to join our company instead ?' She said, much to Zhao Yi's surprise.

She was the one who sought Su Xioafei to recruit her, but why was she the one being poached instead? As Zhao Yi stared at Yun Qingrong's name on the business card, something stirred in her heart, telling her to give it a good thought.

Actually, Zhao Yi was already having thoughts of resigning from Top tier Entertainment. Not only did her talents leave her, but her seniors weren't giving her any support at all. At this rate, Zhao Yi wouldn't be surprised that celebrities with subpar talents would be rampant in the industry if the trend continued.

What was wrong with challenging her talents and testing their limits? If they didn't know their limitations and didn't accept any room for improvement, what kind of performance would they be able to offer to their audience?

'Bluemedia would branch out to producing quality TV series and films. With Miss Zhao's expertise, I hope you will be able to help us with this goal in the future.'

She said this in a polite and professional tone, but Zhao Yi felt some kind of familiarity with it. Zhao Yi didn't know why, but she felt like she had known this young woman from somewhere, but it's impossible, right? This was the first time she met Su Xiaofei.

'Have you really decided not to become a star?' She asked Su Xiaofei. 'May I know the reason why?'

'It's simple. I just want to lessen my mother's burden at the company. I know that by being a celebrity, I won't be able to help her at Bluemedia as much as I wish I could. Also, I believe that there are other careers I could try aside from it.'

'I see.' Zhao Yi nodded in understanding. If Su Xiaofei put it that way, it would be hard for Zhao Yi to convince her to change her mind.

Anyway, Su Xiaofei's proposition didn't sound too bad for Zhao Yi.

'Give my mother a call. I'm sure she will be thrilled to hear from you.' Su Xiaofei said, before bidding goodbye.. Since she had already achieved her purpose here, there's no need for them to linger any longer.

Chapter 235 - Exam Day (1)

It was the day of Xi Qian's entrance exam, and Su Xiaofei informed her mother that she wouldn't be going to Bluemedia that day to show her support for her best friend. Because Xi Qian was almost a sister to her, Su Xiaofei would surely not miss this important day.

Oddly enough, Lu Qingfeng volunteered to come with her today, so Su Xiaofei was waiting in a nearby café with him, checking the time on her phone occasionally, worrying about Xi Qian.

'Xiaofei, you have to calm down. It won't help Xi Qian if you are worrying like this.' Lu Qingfeng said as he lifted a hand to call the attention of the waiter to settle their bill. They had been waiting for two hours, seated here, doing nothing but watch the passersby come and go.

'I know that, Xiao Feng, but I can't help but worry. Qian has been spending sleepless nights preparing for this day.' She muttered while trying to check her phone for Xi Qian's message.

'Xi Qian won't fail. You have to trust her on this.' Lu Qingfeng tried to assure her. Even in their previous lives, Xi Qian excelled in academics and aced most of their exams. Whether she would pass the exam today, it would depend on her abilities and luck.

'You also need to relax, Feifei. You are pushing yourself too hard these days.' He reminded her.

Su Xiaofei nodded at that. She had been preoccupied with her studies and fixing Qin Muyao's projects and endorsements. Now that they were able to clean his name in public, his fans, as well as his role as the second male lead in 'The Poisonous Concubine' had returned to him. However, she had yet to meet Tang Liyan, whom she was planning to use to snatch the lead role from Bai Qingyue.

With her previous suggestion to Fang Yi, the management had now opened auditions for the title role and declined Bai Qingyue's demand for a higher talent fee.

As her problems were being solved one after another, Su Xiaofei wondered if she would be able to catch a break

anytime soon. She hadn't felt this kind of pressure to keep up with everything for some time.

Who said being a student wasn't stressful? Su Xiaofei would skin them alive if someone dared to say this in front of her. Coursework deadlines, exams, and balancing study with other commitments were stressful enough.

After their graduation, they would have at least two months vacation time before the semester commences at the university. However, Su Xiaofei knew that she would be spending most of that time at Bluemedia rather than staying at home doing nothing.

'Are you going to leave as soon as the graduation ceremony is over ?' She asked Lu Qingfeng. Su Xiaofei couldn't remember being this disappointed in her previous life when Lu Qingfeng told her he was leaving to pursue his studies abroad after graduating from high school. At that time, she was busy with her training at Top Tier Entertainment and barely had any time to speak with him. She had almost missed his flight when she overslept on the day of his departure, but not this time.

'I'm going to stay for another week after graduation. Why? Do you have any plans in mind?' Lu Qingfeng raised a slender brow at her.

'Hmm, not me, but Mama. Since you are turning sixteen soon, she wants to host a birthday dinner for you before you leave.' Su Xiaofei noticed a gentle smile that crossed Lu Qingfeng's lips upon hearing that.

'Aunty Qing shouldn't have bothered. I'm just moving to Shenjing. It's not that far.'

Su Xiaofei shrugged. She understood that this was her mother's way of sending off Lu Qingfeng.

'Well, what can I do? That's what Mama told me yesterday. Don't decline, Xiao Feng. Who knows when we will be able to see you again.'

What Su Xiaofei didn't know was that she wasn't the only one who had regrets from their previous life.

Lu Qingfeng regretted that he wasn't able to return and wake up from his deep coma earlier. If he had, then Su Xiaofei wouldn't have married Mo Yuchen and his Aunty Qing wouldn't have lost her life and company in the process. When he heard that Yun Qingrong passed away, he had been stricken with great grief and guilt. Yun Qingrong had treated him very well and had been very kind to him ever since he was younger.

'Fine, but please tell Aunty Qing not to host a party. A simple dinner would do.' He conceded easily, knowing that he can't really deny Yun Qingrong's wish if she had already made up her mind to host something for his birthday.

'Great. I will tell her at once.' Su Xiaofei picked up her phone and sent her mother a quick message, informing her of Lu Qingfeng's answer. She knew that Lu Qingfeng wouldn't be able to decline her mother's request at all.

As they continued to wait for Xi Qian, Lu Qingfeng turned his attention back to the passersby.

'What are you thinking ?' Su Xiaofei asked when she noticed that he had fallen silent again and was looking at people.

'Nothing. Just trying to calm my mind by watching people.' Lu Qingfeng replied, and when he noticed that she was waiting for him to continue, he sighed inwardly.

'Feifei, when you look at other people, have you ever wondered what kind of life they have? When I look at them, I could see a glimpse of the kind of life they're living and what they are enduring.' He continued explaining.

Su Xiaofei followed his gaze and looked at the passersby. Among them, an old man was walking slowly with a little boy on his side.

It seemed like they had just come out from a nearby bakery, as the boy was holding a paper bag with some bread rolls in it.

Just by looking at them, Su Xiaofei then understood why it piqued Lu Qingfeng's curiosity.. Indeed, one can learn a lot by paying attention to other people.

Chapter 236 - Exam Day (2)

When Xi Qian finally arrived at their meeting place, she looked like her energy had been sucked out from her body as she had unceremoniously dropped on the seat next to Su Xiaofei. She then rested her head on Su Xiaofei's shoulder, murmuring incoherent words to herself.

'So how was the exam, Qian?' Su Xiaofei pitied her best friend, but at least Xi Qian didn't have to spend sleepless nights for some time, now that the entrance exam was over.

'Harder than I thought.' Xi Qian answered. 'What kind of hell did I get myself into ?'

'Xi Qian, you should know by now that it will be harder in the future. This is just a start, that is, if you passed the examinations.' Lu Qingfeng commented.

'Of course I know that, Lu Qingfeng. You really don't have to remind me.' Xi Qian huffed and thanked Su Xiaofei for the sliced cake. Now that the exam was over, she was becoming increasingly aware of how hungry she was. 'Then do you intend to quit your part-time job once you're admitted to med school? I doubt that you would have time for that anymore.' Lu Qingfeng continued to question her.

Xi Qian lifted her gaze and scrutinized the young man across from her. She wasn't sure why Lu Qingfeng was asking her these questions. Was he truly concerned about her, or was this another one of his ploys to make himself look good in front of Su Xiaofei?

'I decided to resign from work onces the classes start. I intend to focus on my studies instead.'

Lu Qingfeng hummed, pleased with her answer. It's important for him to know that Xi Qian would be fine on her own, so Su Xiaofei won't have to constantly worry about her welfare.

'What were you two doing while waiting for me?' Xi Qian asked, as she took another bite from her cake and ordered a cold, refreshing drink.

'Nothing important, Qian. We were just watching the passersby.' Su Xiaofei replied, noticing that her best friend and Lu Qingfeng's treatment of each other were getting better these days.

'Watching people ? Is that interesting ?'

'I don't know, but Xiao Feng said you can learn a lot by paying attention to other people.'

'Is that so?' Xi Qian then followed the people outside the café with her eyes.

Indeed, she could tell that each person was unique in their own ways. There couldn't be a person who shared similarities in every aspect of their lives. Even twins had a few minor, if not major, differences from each other.

'You've got some weird pastime, Lu Qingfeng.' Xi Qian commented, but Lu Qingfeng didn't take it seriously.

Xi Qian had said meaner words than this before anyway, and Lu Qingfeng had learned to tolerate her at times for Su Xiaofei's sake.

'But you have a point.' Xi Qian continued, 'I could tell that that woman is having issues with her knees by the way she walked.'

Su Xiaofei and Lu Qingfeng followed her gaze and saw a young woman dressed in sportswear, dragging her feet as she walked.

'She probably pushed herself too hard and hurt her knees in the process.' Lu Qingfeng said. 'Everything needs to be done in moderation, including exercise.'

Xi Qian scoffed and couldn't agree more with him.

'What do we know? Some people are just impatient to get results and don't even consider what could harm them in the process. I'm surprised, though, by Feifei. You've been eating more recently. Do you still have time to work out?' Xi Qian turned her attention towards her best friend.

'En. I made sure to work out to burn the excess calories I've consumed, but not that much.'

'I could tell you gained weight.' Xi Qian said. 'In a good way, though. You look better and healthier now compared to before.'

Su Xiaofei used to starve herself and refuse to eat anything in order to keep her 'ideal' weight. Xi Qian and Yun Qingrong had been worried sick about it and no matter how hard they tried to persuade Feifei to eat more, she was adamant to eat much less.

'Just like Lu Qingfeng said, in moderation. I get to enjoy delicious food, but not splurge on it.' Su Xiaofei said.

Her attention was then drifted to her phone as she received a response from her mother.

'I guess we need to finish our snacks now.' She hummed and checked the schedule sent to her email by her mother. It was Qin Muyao's itinerary for the following week.

'Xiao Feng, do you mind sending us to Bluemedia? I need to be there for a meeting.' She asked Lu Qingfeng. Since she had sent the Zhangs siblings for some errands, they won't be coming back anytime soon.

'Okay. No problem. I also want to meet Aunty Qing anyway.'

Xi Qian looked at the two in confusion.

'Huh? Why am I tagging along with you?'

'Oh ? I thought you wanted to meet your idol, Qin Muyao ? I specifically moved our meeting this afternoon, so you could meet him in person. Guess who his new manager is.' Su Xiaofei gave her a mischievous grin. It took a moment for Xi Qian to understand what her best friend was trying to say, but when she did, she pounced on Su Xiaofei and gave her a bear hug. She hadn't expected that Su Xiaofei would arrange a special meeting with her idol.

'Ah! Feifei! You really are the best! I thought you're only observing at Bluemedia now, but you're going to work with Qin Muyao? You should have told me earlier!

Su Xiaofei burst into a round of laughter, seeing the excitement and happiness on Xi Qian's face.

'How could I do what? I know how important it is for you to focus on your studies. If I told you about meeting Qin Muyao earlier, I bet you wouldn't be able to focus on your exam.'

'Then what are we waiting for? We should hurry!' Xi Qian immediately released Su Xiaofei and finished her cake.

Chapter 237 - Better Roles (1)

The drive towards Bluemedia in Guangshang took an hour and the moment Xi Qian alighted from Lu Qingfeng's car, her eyes scanned the place and held onto Su Xiaofei's hand. She was reminded once again of the difference of the status between her and her best friend.

The world Su Xiaofei and Lu Qingfeng were living in was vastly different from where she came from. Still, this wasn't enough for Xi Qian to disregard befriending Su Xiaofei after years of knowing each other. 'Feifei, are you sure that it's okay for me to be here?' She questioned Su Xiaofei for the umpteenth time of the day. Xi Qian still couldn't believe that she was going to meet her idol right now.

'Calm down, Qian. I have met Qin Muyao before, and he's a decent person. I'm sure he would appreciate meeting a loyal fan after enduring the recent controversy.' Su Xiaofei replied as they sauntered inside the building and walked straight to the private elevator leading to her mother's office.

Xi Qian didn't fail to notice that some people stopped in their tracks to give the three of them a good look, probably discerning Su Xiaofei and Lu Qingfeng, given how good-looking these two were. It wasn't the first time it happened anyway, and Xi Qian was already used to it.

It wasn't like her face was lacking. In fact, she was also beautiful in her own way. However, standing next to these two, it would make one think that Xi Qian's appearance was ordinary.

'Who are they ? Are they Boss Fang's new recruits ?' Someone asked.

'Who knows, but I have to say that their appearances are more appealing than other young celebrities we've encountered in the past. Both of them would look good in print ads, don't you think ?'

Bluemedia wasn't only catering and managing artists anyway, they also manage some popular models in the industry. This was why, even if a recruit didn't excel well in his or her training, they could opt to join the modeling department later.

When the doors of the elevator opened at the

top floor where Yun Qinrong's office could be found, they were greeted by Wan An, who had a bright smile on her face upon seeing Su Xiaofei again.

'Hello, Miss Wan. I'm here to see President Yun.' Su Xiaofei greeted her, Lu Qingfeng and Xi Qian behind her politely nodded at Wan An in greeting.

'Yes, President Yun and Boss Fang are both waiting for you. You may go inside.' The woman led her into the President's office and opened the door for the three of them.

The three found Yun Qingrong seated with Fang Yi and talking to a familiar young man across from them.

Qin Muyao stood up the moment he saw Su Xiaofei and greeted her.

'Manager Su, good afternoon.'

'Good afternoon, Mr. Qin. I'm happy to see that you look better than the last time I saw you.' Su Xiaofei replied.

The young actor avoided her gaze, feeling a little ashamed that Su Xiaofei remembered the shameful condition he was in during their first meeting. 'E-en. Thank you for your help, Manager Su. I'm indebted to you.'

Su Xiaofei shook her head. She felt like Qin Muyao was forgetting that he had agreed to become her cash cow. Until she was satisfied with the fortune he brought in for her, he'd be bound to this contract.

'Feifei, come here and join us.' Yun Qingrong's gentle tone called after her daughter, reminding Su Xiaofei of the purpose of her visit.

'Mama.' Su Xiaofei came to her mother and gave Yun Qingrong an affectionate hug before taking a seat next to her. 'I brought Xi Qian and Xiao Feng with me. Xiao Feng said he needs to discuss something with you.'

'Qian, I heard that today is your entrance exam's day. How was it?' Yun Qingrong asked Xi Qian.

'Aunty Qing, please don't remind me. My head is aching.' Xi Qian replied once she was seated next to Lu Qingfeng. She rubbed her temple, thinking that her soul almost departed from her body when she saw the questionnaire.

Yun Qingrong and Fang Yi laughed at Xi Qian's expression. They both could tell that it hadn't been easy for this young woman.

'Anyway, Feifei, these are the brand endorsement and project offers that arrived for Qin Muyao. I invited him here to ask for his opinion, but he said that he would trust your judgment on them.' Yun Qingrong then passed a folder to her daughter for Su Xiaofei to check.

Su Xiaofei quickly gave it a good scan and sorted the brand proposals first, while Qin Muyao looked at her nervously. It didn't take long for her to decide which ones they should accept and which ones to decline.

'Here, Uncle Fang. Please accept these endorsements for Qin Muyao. As for the other projects, I would need to study the roles and the scripts first, if that's alright.' She handed the folder back to Fang Yi.

'It's fine, Feifei, but are you sure you don't want to look at these projects?' Fang Yi eyed the stack of scripts Su Xiaofei discarded earlier.

Su Xiaofei shook her head.

'The roles are repetitive in my opinion. If Qin Muyao portrays the same roles repeatedly, I fear that he wouldn't be able to get more challenging roles in the future.' She paused and glanced at Qin Muyao's direction.

'What do you think? Is this okay with you?' She asked him.

'I trust your judgment, Manager Su.' Qin Muyao repeated his claim earlier, but it only made Su Xiaofei frown.

'This won't do, Mr. Qin. Since your future roles are at stake here, you have to take this more seriously. I don't expect you to be a more 'Yes, boss' guy. If a script takes your interest, you have to say it vocally. If you are displeased with something, you need to tell us so we can understand you better..' She insisted.

Chapter 238 - Better Roles (2)

Su Xiaofei was looking at him with scrutiny, which made Qin Muyao sit straight and nod his head in understanding. She was beautiful to look at, alright, but Su Xiaofei's serious face was intimidating even for Qin Muyao.

'I apologize. I'll listen to your advice from now on, Manager Su.' He responded. It was a mistake on his part to think that Su Xiaofei wouldn't be strict as his manager.

In his previous agency, his manager and the upper management were the ones who decided which project to take on and what not. Qin Muyao had never questioned them, as he feared that if he dared to oppose their decision, he would be suppressed in the future.

That was why most of the previous roles were male leads with a humble and gentle personality, who loved the female lead unconditionally. Actually, he was starting to get tired of playing the same thing and wanted to try something new.

Qin Muyao was glad that he was able to find a manager who truly understood his wants and needs. Someone who also took his opinions seriously. 'Then, what do you think of those rejected scripts ?' Su Xiaofei asked once again.

'I've seen it earlier, and I believe that they aren't challenging enough as I've already played the same roles in the past, so I agree with your decision, Manager Su.'

'Good.' Su Xiaofei was pleased with his answer this time. 'It's good to be vocal with your opinions once in a while. I expect that you would not only work hard, but work smart.'

Yun Qingrong was paying attention to how her daughter handled her first talent, and she couldn't be more proud seeing how attentive Su Xiaofei was. She loved her daughter, and no matter how unruly she could be at times, Yun Qingrong still treated her well.

However, seeing her daughter being so mature and professional almost made her tear up. The beautiful baby she once held in her arms now had so much potential in running the company she had built over the past two decades.

Of course, her Feifei still

had so much to learn, but Yun Qingrong would make sure to impart most of her knowledge and teach her daughter to be resilient even through the stormiest days to come.

'Alright. It's settled then.' Su Xiaofei continued. 'Please study your script for 'The Poisonous Concubine' and be sure to be on time for your commitments. I expect that your new assistant has reported to you?

'En. Thanks again, Manager Su.'

Before the young actor left, Su Xiaofei didn't forget to introduce Xi Qian to him. He was kind enough to take a selfie with her and signed his autograph for her.

Xi Qian temporarily forgot her worries as she fawned over how she was able to meet her idol that day. She didn't waste time and posted a selfie on her social media profile.

Meanwhile, Lu Qingfeng requested a private meeting with Yun Qingrong, which baffled Su Xiaofei. What was so important that he wanted to speak to her mother privately, but couldn't bother to tell her what it was?

'This won't take long, Feifei. I'll come to find you and Xi Qian once I'm done speaking with Aunty Qing.' Lu Qingfeng told her.

Su Xiaofei narrowed her eyes on him with suspicion.

'Fine. You don't have to tell me if you don't want to.' She harrumphed and dragged Xi Qian with her to the training room, where the other new recruits and Xiao Rufeng were. Since she had missed the morning classes, she wanted to know Xiao Rufeng's now.

'Feifei, are you sure it's alright for us to come here?' Xi Qian asked when she read the label, indicating that they had just arrived at the training room for recruits.

'It's okay, Qian. The afternoon class should be over by now. So we aren't disturbing anyone.' Su Xiaofei answered her, her eyes sweeping around the room to find Xiao Rufeng.

She found the young woman at a corner, busy wrapping her ankle with a bandage. Xiao Rufeng flinched when she accidentally touched her swollen ankle and hissed in pain.

'What happened to you ?' Su Xiaofei had a bad feeling about this. Although she wasn't consistently joining the classes for the new recruits, she was aware that someone had started bullying Xiao Rufeng during her absence.

'Oh, Xiao Fei. You've missed the class again.' Xiao Rufeng replied, but seeing Su Xiaofei's hardened expression, she suddenly felt uncomfortable.

'It's nothing, Xiao Fei. I just twisted my ankle too hard when I was practicing.' She lied, but Su Xiaofei already knew the truth. She just needed to confirm it by checking the recordings on the cameras later.

'That doesn't look good, Miss. Do you mind if I check on it ?' Xi Qian frowned upon seeing Xi Qian's injury. No wonder Su Xiaofei wanted to come here to see her friend. She must have known something like this could happen.

Xiao Rufeng stared at Xi Qian, then turned to Su Xiaofei as if she was asking for her permission.

'Please, Qian. Can you give her first aid before we bring her to the clinic ?' Su Xiaofei answered for Xiao Rufeng, given that the latter was hesitating to accept help from Xi Qian.

'Okay.'

Xi Qian immediately knelt beside Xiao Rufeng and pulled out a cold spray from her backpack.

'Don't worry. This is just a cold spray I always bring with me when I'm out. Just like you, I sometimes sprain my ankle. This should help lessen the swelling, but I suggest you use an ice pack every two to three hours until the swelling subsides. It won't hurt to also get a check at the clinic, just in case the doctor wants to prescribe you some pain relievers.'

'Thank you, Miss...' Xiao Rufeng's words trailed off when she realized she didn't know who Su Xiaofei's companion was.

'I'm Xi Qian. I'm also Feifei's friend.. It's good to know that she is able to make friends here.'

Chapter 239 - Intention To Marry (1)

Xi Qian was aware that Su Xiaofei had a hard time making friends with other people because of her straightforward and arrogant personality. While many praised her appearance, some despised her and would rather not get involved with her. So it was surprising for Xi Qian to learn that her best friend managed to meet and get close with someone aside from her and Lu Qingfeng. 'I'm Xiao Rufeng.' The young woman introduced herself to Xi Qian. 'I'm also a new recruit here with Xiao Fei.' She added.

Xi Qian blinked twice then gave her best friend a questioning look, but Su Xiaofei only shrugged it off. Xi Qian surmised that there could be a misunderstanding between the two, but it wasn't her place to clear it up. Perhaps Su Xiaofei hadn't intended it at all.

Xi Qian smiled at Xiao Rufeng and continued to give her ankle first aid before she and Su Xiaofei helped her to get back on her feet.

'Thanks! I'm sorry I had to trouble you.' Xiao Rufeng said as the two decided to bring her to the clinic to get her ankles checked themselves and didn't wait for her to deny their help.

'Xiao Rufeng, you have to tell me what really happened.' She heard Su Xiaofei say with an annoyed look on her face.

She bit her lower lip and looked away, knowing that Su Xiaofei didn't believe her earlier claim – that she accidentally injured herself. Xiao Rufeng didn't want Su Xiaofei to know that she got injured because she stood up for her when the other trainees started spouting nonsense against Su Xiaofei when she wasn't around.

Su Xiaofei waited outside the clinic with Xi Qian, leaving Xiao Rufeng in the care of the doctor and nurse that were attending her injury.

'Feifei, what do you think happened to her? Do you think someone purposely hurt her because of competition?' Xi Qian broke the silence between them, as she noticed the slight frown on Su Xiaofei earlier.

'Must be something like that.'

Since Su Xiaofei knew Xiao Rufeng's personality

in her previous life, she knew that the latter could be impulsive at times and was a little temperamental. Xiao Rufeng would surely snap at others if she was repeatedly offended by someone, but Su Xiaofei knew that it was Xiao Rufeng's sense of justice for others that caused it, which could easily be used against her.

Su Xiaofei had been helping Xiao Rufeng, and she wouldn't be surprised if others had issues with it. Either way, this was a perfect chance for Su Xiaofei to teach Xiao Rufeng to control her temper, in order to avoid conflict and misfortune in the future.

'Qian, don't worry too much. Something like this is commonly found among new recruits. Bullying isn't just rampant in schools. You have to understand that because of the fierce competition, it's easy for others to perceive Xiao Rufeng as a threat. However, if Xiao Rufeng wants to last long in this industry, she needs to be resilient and persevere.'

'Still, I don't think Xiao Rufeng should keep mum about it and report the person responsible.' Xi Qian frowned and glanced at the closed door of the treatment room in the clinic. She hated schemes and scandals like this, and couldn't understand the need to hurt another person for someone else's vested interest. 'It couldn't be helped, Qian. Competition in the entertainment industry is good, because it somehow pushes the actors to do better than the others. However, some would use underhanded methods to get what they wanted, and they are willing to even sell their souls to the devil if their deep-seated wish could be granted.'

'I know, Feifei. I'm just disappointed. Look, Xiao Rufeng is still a trainee. She hasn't even debuted yet, but she's already facing schemes like this. Imagine how bad it could get once she has debuted and made a name for herself.' Xi Qian argued.

Su Xiaofei inwardly sighed as she was aware of what Xi Qian was thinking at the moment. This was one of the reasons why she couldn't be fully honest with her best friend. If Xi Qian knew how vicious and wicked Su Xiaofei's heart was, Su Xiaofei wasn't certain how her best friend would perceive her from then on.

Once Su Xiaofei was assured that Xiao Rufeng was properly taken care of, she and Xi Qian helped the young woman hail a cab and told Xiao Rufeng to rest her foot and get better.

Meanwhile, Lu Qingfeng had just left Yun Qingrong's office, leaving the woman speechless and confused.

Fang Yi had just met Lu Qingfeng in the hallway and greeted him, before entering Yun Qingrong's office, only to find her in a daze.

'Did something happen ?' He called her attention, effectively snapping Yun Qingrong out of her daze.

'Nothing. I'm just...' Yun Qingrong's voice trailed off as she couldn't even explain herself properly at that moment.

'What could possibly happen while you and Lu Qingfeng were talking that left you like this?' Fang Yi chuckled, before handing Yun Qingrong the list of people who auditioned for the title role of 'The Poisonous Concubine'.

Yun Qingrong furrowed her brows and fell silent, which told Fang Yi that the two had a serious talk earlier.

'Xiao Feng is leaving for Shenjing after his graduation from middle school.' Yun Qingrong started.

Fang Yi hummed and took a seat across from her.

'That's what I heard too. I'm sure that Feifei would be sad knowing that one of her best friends is going to leave her side very soon. Are you worried about her? Is that it?' He questioned Yun Qingrong.

Fang Yi was aware that Su Xiaofei's recent change in demeanor and personality had greatly improved the relationship between her and her mother, so he wouldn't be surprised if Yun Qingrong was worrying about her daughter once Lu Qingfeng left.

'No, that's not it, Fang Yi.. Xiao Feng expressed his intention to marry my Feifei.'

Chapter 240 - Intention To Marry (2)

The moment Yun Qingrong blurted out those words, Fang Yi looked at her blankly, wondering if he heard her right. Did that young man truly make his intention to marry Su Xiaofei known to Yun Qingrong ? Wasn't this too early for Lu Qingfeng ?

'You mean Lu Qingfeng requested a private meeting with you to ask for Feifei's hand in marriage?' He asked once he recovered from his shock. Fang Yi had to admit that the young man was truly head over heels for Su Xiaofei if he had boldly sought Yun Qingrong like this.

'En. Xiao Feng asked for my permission to court Feifei and marry her in the future.' Yun Qingrong sighed and leaned on her seat.

'He even asked if he could buy some shares of Bluemedia and invest in some of our future projects. Don't you think Xiao Feng is too young to consider such serious things as marriage at his age? He still needs to finish his studies and even after that, I'm sure Xiao Feng's hands will be full with things he needs to do at Lu Corporation.'

Fang Yi shrugged, but he wasn't truly surprised that Lu Qingfeng would do something like this. The young man must have truly made up his mind, and his impending departure had made him decide to seek Yun Qingrong this early.

'Qing, you should know that some people are lucky to find their fated loved ones at an early age. If Lu Qingfeng sought you for Feifei's hand, he must have truly been holding her in his heart and wasn't willing to part with her without making his intention known.' He replied. 'Who knows what could happen while he isn't around ? Lu Qingfeng probably didn't want to lose Feifei to anyone else and is willing to fight for her regardless of their age difference and distance.' He added. 'Although marriage is a huge decision to make, it doesn't require the perfect time. Couples could get into the sanctity of marriage the moment they feel they are ready to do it.'

'You don't seem to be

surprised when I tell you this...' Yun Qingrong eyed him suspiciously.

Fang Yi laughed at that.

'It's not really hard to notice, Qing. You should have seen how Lu Qingfeng looked at your daughter. It's as if she was his whole world and everything revolves around her. It's not really surprising that he still wanted to be part of her life, even if he isn't around.'

Yun Qingrong considered his words and couldn't agree more with Fang Yi's opinion. She should have noticed it earlier. Initially, she thought that her daughter and Lu Qingfeng were just really close and dependent on each other at times.

'Qing, you know that Feifei and Lu Qingfeng won't stay young forever. It's normal for them to grow fond of each other. As for Lu Qingfeng, don't you trust him ?' Fang Yi questioned her. 'Of course, I do. I didn't need to worry too much about Feifei when she was with him, but this... I don't know what to think of it. Feifei is eighteen at the moment, while he's about to turn sixteen soon. Who knows, maybe his feelings for her would wane in his absence. I don't want to see Feifei and Xiao Feng grow distant from each other.'

'That's true.' Fang Yi cupped his chin as he gave it a good thought. 'However, whether they would develop a romantic relationship or not is not our decision to make. Plus, I don't think Lu Qingfeng would intentionally hurt Feifei at all.'

Yun Qingrong knew this. From the moment her daughter introduced the young Lu Qingfeng to her, she knew that the young boy was raised properly – with manners and conduct – by his grandfather. Lu Qingfeng was also more mature in thought than his actual age and didn't have any of the bad habits other young men had.

'So what did you tell him then ?' Fang Yi's question brought her back to reality. He was curious about how Yun Qingrong responded on Lu Qingfeng's intention towards her daughter.

'What else could I say ? I said that if he and Feifei liked each other, I wouldn't be against their relationship, but I would rather have them focus on their studies first and prioritize their future before thinking about settling down. Xiao Feng would also face a lot of pressure from his family in the future. There's no need to rush making a decision for now.' Yun Qingrong rubbed her temple, feeling that another headache was about to hit her some time soon. 'I want to respect Feifei's decision. When she's ready to fall in love again, I won't oppose it if it's Xiao Feng, but he's too young to consider marriage at this point. I'm sure Chairman Lu would agree with me on this.' She added.

Lu Qingfeng was no doubt better than Mo Yuchen. Unlike the latter, Yun Qingrong knew that Lu Qingfeng would never disrespect her daughter. She had seen how patient he was from their childhood years up to this day and had never seen him snap at Feifei even when they had an argument.

Yun Qingrong had been upset with how Mo Yuchen treated her daughter in the past, but she couldn't vocally express her opinion about him because she didn't like to get into a heated argument time and again with Su Xiaofei.

'Feifei is probably aware of it now. I'm not sure if they are dating or not, but I think they are closer than usual. Lu Qingfeng must have confessed to her already. Have you considered asking Feifei about this ?'

'Do you think Feifei is okay with this?' She asked Fang Yi in return. It hadn't been too long since her daughter had permanently cut ties with Mo Yuchen. Yun Qingrong wasn't sure how her daughter would react to this sudden change in Lu Qingfeng.

'You'll have to ask her for that, Qing. She's your daughter. Maybe she would open up to you now that you are closer to each other..' Fang Yi replied.