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Smug

As Zhang Xiaoman was squirming, she yelled, "Let go of me! Help!"

"You're too soft! No one's going to hear you," Qiao Zhan said.

"What do you want from me?"

"Not much, honestly. I just want to talk to you. If you're worried something is going to happen to you, you can call the police. I won't stop you." Qiao Zhan simply gestured to her to make the call.

However, Zhang Xiaoman had no intention to call the police. All she wanted to do was to run away.

"I don't want to talk to you, and I have nothing to say to you. Instead, I have a train to catch!" Zhang Xiaoman roared.

"As I've told you before, I won't force you into anything. Nevertheless, I won't hesitate to call the police if you don't cooperate. My company has suffered tremendous loss because of what you said. We'll demand full compensation from you."

Upon hearing that, Zhang Xiaoman went silent.

"Let's go. We should have a talk. Trust me. You won't get far even if you get on the train now. You can run all you want, but I'm going to find you. Do you want what I'm best at? I'm best at playing cat and mouse, and I'm a hell of a cat. Of course, I'm an even better head of security." Qiao Zhan looked at her with a smug on his face.

Left without a choice, Zhang Xiaoman gave in and got into Qiao Zhan's car.

After that, Qiao Zhan whipped out his phone and rang Jiang Zhe.

The latter picked up the phone. "Captain Qiao—"

Qiao Zhan cut him off instantly and ordered, "I'm the head of security. Address me as Chief Qiao from now on."

Jiang Zhe was overjoyed. "Oh, I heard about it! Please look after me from now on, Chief Qiao. I'd like you to do something about the ladies in the company. They're constantly harassing me with text messages."

"What are you talking about, Jiang Zhe? Do you think I have time for your trivial matters? You better watch what you say!" Qiao Zhan thundered.

"What do you want, then? Why did you call? Did you call me just to tell me you got promoted?" Jiang Zhe was amused.

"I want you to deliver Sir Chen a message. I've found the person in question. I'll interrogate her before bringing her over."

"All right," Jiang Zhe answered.

"Let me make myself clear. I'm instructing you to deliver the message instead of reporting to you. Make sure Sir Chen is informed. Please see to it."

"Yes, I heard you the first time. I have things on my hand. Got to go."

"Wait, are you not going to congratulate me on my promotion?"

"Congratulations."

'That's it? That's all you have to say?" Qiao Zhan queried.

"What else do you want?"

"Well, don't you think you ought to treat me to a meal or something?"

"Isn't it supposed to be the other way around? Since you've been promoted, aren't you going to buy me a meal?"

"No. Since we'll be working closely in the future, I think you have to build a strong relationship with me. Otherwise, how would we be able to work well together?"

"You're such a smug!" Jiang Zhe smiled before hanging up the phone.

Qiao Zhan was over the moon after his phone call with Jiang Zhe.

The latter was the first person that popped up in his mind when he wanted to boast about his promotion. He was eager to show off his official title.

"All right, then. Where would you like to go for a chat?" Qiao Zhan was in an excellent mood as he looked at Zhang Xiaoman and asked.

"How would I know?"

"Okay, I'll decide. I'm bringing you somewhere nice."

Qiao Zhan was being rather gentle with Zhang Xiaoman. After bringing her to a cafe, he ordered her a cup of coffee and a slice of cheesecake.

"The company was forced to stop production and sales in the aftermath of your words. As a result, we've suffered losses of up to a million. Now that the testing results are out, it was proven that there was nothing wrong with our products. Hence, the company intends to sue you for defamation and get compensated. As for Ms. Ding, she has had issues with product endorsements because of what you did. You're required to compensate up to ten million on that. Since I have no idea how much you were paid by the person who asked you to do all these, I do wonder if you have enough money to pay for all the compensations. If you do, then there's nothing else for us to discuss. All you need to do is pay up. If you don't, may I know how you intend to fix this? Before you say anything, please know that there's no way you can escape my grasp."

With that, he took a sip of his coffee gleefully. Since I've been promoted, I should act more sophisticatedly.

Zhang Xiaoman was fidgeting anxiously because she didn't expect things to turn out so badly.

Of course, Nan Chen was able to prevent such heavy losses. Qiao Zhan was just intimidating her.

"I was wrong," Zhang Xiaoman apologized.

"Your apology doesn't fix a thing. In fact, only kids have the luxury of offering nothing but their apologies upon doing something wrong. As for an adult like you, you have to be responsible for your actions, and you ought to pay for your mistakes. Seeing how serious the damage is, how do you intend to resolve this issue?" Qiao Zhan stared at Zhang Xiaoman while he spoke.

"I haven't thought about it yet." Zhang Xiaoman was devastated.

"Why did you do it in the first place?"

"My boyfriend gave me ten thousand and told me to do it."

"Ten thousand? That little?" Qiao Zhan was baffled.

Then, a realization dawned upon him. She was tricked by her boyfriend!

"It seems like he has tricked you. I'm sure he's getting paid a lot more than that for what you pulled on us. He must be spending his rewards on other women as we speak. Now that you're caught, he doesn't even bother to help you," Qiao Zhan said. Zhang Xiaoman got worked up all of a sudden and exclaimed, "I think so, too! Damn it! I've been fooled by him!"

"Now is not the time for that. You've got to think about how to get yourself out of trouble. If you don't mind, I can show you a way out of this." Qiao Zhan stared at her.

"Please, help me! I'd do anything as long as I don't have to pay for the compensation!" Zhang Xiaoman anxiously answered.

"Very well, then. Do you really have a skin allergy?"

"No." Zhang Xiaoman lowered her head in shame.

"What brand of makeup do you normally use? Do you use any of Beauty Cosmetics' products?"

"No. Beauty Cosmetics' products are too expensive for me. I only use the other brands."

Qiao Zhan nodded. She must be telling the truth.

"Okay, here's what we're going to do. I'll set up an interview for you. Then, you must tell the truth to clarify the situation. Once you've done that, we won't come after you anymore. Remember, only the truth. I won't help you if you lie."

Zhang Xiaoman seemed hesitated.

Qiao Zhan immediately stood up and said, "Since you don't want to cooperate, I'll leave now. See you in court."

"Wait! I'll do whatever you say!" Zhang Xiaoman panicked.

Qiao Zhan smiled upon hearing that. I knew you were going to yield. It seems like I'm just as smart as Jiang Zhe, if not smarter!

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In order to avoid any element of bias, Qiao Zhan arranged for a professional journalist to conduct the interview.

The journalist in question was the same lady who questioned Ning Ran's integrity openly. She was known for her directness and harsh methods of journalism. Besides, she was well-received in the eyes of the public.

That was why Qiao Zhan contacted her for Zhang Xiaoman's interview. Unsurprisingly, she accepted the gig unhesitatingly.

There was no way she would let such an opportunity slide.

However, Qiao Zhan had a special request. He was adamant about being present at the interview. Furthermore, he'd vet the script prior to being published. The journalist accepted all his terms and conditions.

As soon as they were done setting up the camera equipment, Zhang Xiaoman showed up nervously.

The journalist adjusted her glasses and started the interview. "Ms. Zhang, thank you for meeting us for this exclusive interview. Are you feeling better now?"

"Yes. I didn't have a skin allergy in the first place," Zhang Xiaoman replied.

"Okay. We shall cut to the chase. Are you retracting your comments regarding the problems you had with Beauty Cosmetics' products?"

"Yes. I've lied about it. I'd like to apologize for my actions." Zhang Xiaoman lowered her head in guilt.

"Why are you doing so? Are you under any pressure from Beauty Cosmetics? Are they forcing you to do so?"

"No."

"Did you finally come to your senses? Have you only found your conscience?" Indeed, the journalist didn't hold back on her methods of questioning.

Zhang Xiaoman fell silent, and she hung her head lower.

The journalist adjusted her glasses and paused for a few seconds. She then changed her tone.

"Since you've admitted to lying, what do you have to say to Beauty Cosmetics?" the journalist queried.

"I'd like to apologize to them."

'Is that all?"

Zhang Xiaoman fell silent once again upon hearing that.

"How about Ding Mi? Do you have anything to say to her?" the journalist asked.

"I'd like to tell her I'm sorry. I shouldn't defame her. To be honest, I'm a huge fan of her shows. I hope she'd be big-hearted enough to forgive me. I'll never repeat my mistakes."

"Do you think she'll forgive you?"

"I have no idea. Although I don't think she's obliged to do so, I sincerely hope that she could forgive me."

The interview went on.

Ning Ran was in Nan Chen's office when she watched the interview.

Since she didn't know Zhang Xiaoman personally, she didn't hold grudges against her. It's all in the past. My forgiveness is irrelevant because life has to go on.

Ning Ran still had other matters to attend to in her life.

That afternoon, she had to fetch her kids from school earlier than usual before attending a parent-teacher conference. That was the last parent-teacher conference of the semester before winter break.

Although she felt uneasy showing up in public amid the controversies, Nan Chen felt otherwise. He insisted on her attending the conference and listening to what the school had to say.

What annoyed Ning Ran the most was the fact that Nan Chen himself wasn't going to be there to accompany her. Coincidentally, he had important matters to attend to that day.

Jiang Zhe entered at that moment and said, "Mr. Chen, the videoconference is starting soon."

Nan Chen stood up and gazed at Ning Ran. "Remember to attend the parent-teacher conference, okay? Please take it seriously. Note down everything the teacher has to say and tell me all about it tonight."

Ning Ran rolled her eyes at him and grumbled, "Why aren't you going instead? I hate parent-teacher conferences the most!"

"As the mother to the kids, you've never attended once. You're shirking your responsibilities! Hence, I'm giving you the opportunity to redeem yourself. Please do it right," Nan Chen advised.

Ning Ran ignored him in response.

After Nan Chen stepped out of the office, Jiang Zhe said, "Ms. Ding, your car is ready. You can go anytime now."

"So he asked me here for nothing? All he wanted from me was to sit here for an hour?" Ning Ran complained.

"I'm not too sure about that. Perhaps that's all he wanted." Jiang Zhe couldn't help but smile.

"He's out of his mind!" Ning Ran fumed.

"Ms. Ding, it's better not to talk bad about Mr. Chen at the office. It wouldn't be nice if the other employees hear it," Jiang Zhe reminded with a smile on his face.

"Fine, then. I'll go now."

Twenty minutes later, Ning Ran arrived at the school's entrance.

There were still around ten minutes till the parent-teacher conference.

The driver parked the car at the school's parking lot to wait for Ning Ran while she walked into the school on her own.

"Isn't that her? Isn't that her?"

As she was walking toward the school, the parents were murmuring amongst themselves.

"That's her! She was nothing until she got into bed with the young master of the Nan family and gave birth to his kids."

"Is she attending the parent-teacher conference? Does she think she's one of us? What gives her that right?"

"She earned it when she gave birth, of course!" someone mocked.

"She's not even married to him yet. Perhaps one day, the young master of the Nan family would get tired of her and dump her! She'd be left with nothing!" a woman in the crowd commented.

"That's bound to happen, no? I bet she knows it as well."

Ning Ran heard all the remarks because they didn't bother to dish the dirt on her softly.

However, she pretended as though she couldn't hear them and kept walking.

Since the school was only attended by all the influential people, Ning Ran knew she couldn't afford to mess with any of them.

Some of the women there were dressed in expensive clothes and wore a lot of jewelry.

Although Ning Ran didn't look too shabby herself, she was not as flamboyant as them.

"Make way for the junkie! Watch out, she bites!" someone sneered loudly.

Suddenly, everyone took a step back and distanced themselves from Ning Ran.

Needless to say, they were all making fun of her.

Despite the provocations, Ning Ran kept her composure and ignored them.

"How rude! Is she just going to walk straight in without greeting anyone? No wonder her kids are rude as well! I heard her kid got into a fight a couple of days ago!"

"Well, you can't blame her. She only knows how to have kids. She's clueless when it comes to disciplining them."

Initially, Ning Ran didn't give a hoot about the mockeries aimed at her. However, she lost her cool when they started talking badly about her kids. Why did you all have to drag my kids into this?

Hence, she turned around and asked, "What did you guys say? Are you calling my kids rude?"

"Aren't the parents supposed to teach them manners? After seeing how rude you are, it's no surprise how your kids behave themselves!" someone taunted.

Ning Ran whipped out her phone and took a photo of the person who taunted her.

"What are you doing?" the person asked in shock.

"Since I don't know who you are, I have to take a photo of you and show Nan Chen. I'll tell him how badly this person talked about his kids. I'll make sure Nan Chen finds you personally. By then, perhaps you could teach him how to discipline his kids!" Ning Ran exclaimed.

Upon hearing those words, the crowd fell silent instantly.

As they were having the time of their lives taking a swipe at Ning Ran, they had forgotten about Nan Chen and the Nan family.

That prestigious family wasn't one to be messed with.

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Fooled

Immediately, the person panicked and said, "Stop it. Why are you so tensed? I was just joking."

"Exactly! Since our kids are studying at the same school, we as parents are just looking out for each other. Take it easy, okay?"

Ning Ran didn't expect them to be so scared of Nan Chen. Wow! This will come in handy!

Since the crowd had gotten off her back, she turned around and left. She wasn't interested in talking to any of them.

"Mommy!" Erbao spotted Ning Ran and ran toward her.

Ning Ran carried her up into her arms. She's getting heavier! I wonder if that's because she has grown or she has gotten chubbier. Perhaps it's both!

"I'm so glad you're here, Mommy!" Erbao wrapped her arms around Ning Ran's neck tightly.

"I'm very happy to see you, too!" Ning Ran had tears welled up in her eyes.

"Look, everyone! That's Ning Sihan's mommy! She has been in jail before!" a chubby boy exclaimed.

"Is she a bad person?" another kid asked.

"That's for sure! Otherwise, why was she in jail? We should stay away from her."

The chubby kid talking bad about Ning Ran was Wang Xiaopang, Wang Shengli's son.

"Mommy, I don't like him. He's talking bad about you again! That's why Dabao and I got into a fight with him last time!" Erbao was enraged.

"Are your parents here, kid?" Ning Ran asked Wang Xiaopang.

"My parents are coming soon! I'm not afraid of you. I'll get my daddy's bodyguards to beat you up if you bully me!" Wang Xiaopang placed both of his arms on his waist and stood arrogantly. "Okay, then. I'll look for your parents later." Ning Ran held in her anger, although she was infuriated. She knew not to take it out on the kid because it was his parents' fault that he turned that way. Even if the kid wasn't taught to speak so rudely, he might've picked it up by watching how his parents act around him.

"My parents are here! Daddy!" Wang Xiaopang was waving at the couple walking up behind Ning Ran. Wang Shengli arrived at the school alongside his wife.

Wang Shengli had never met Ning Ran in person. This lady is so young! She doesn't look like she's a parent. Instead, she looks more like a fresh graduate. Wow! She's pretty!

"Is she your new teacher?" Wang Shengli asked his son.

"No! She's Ning Sihan's mommy! She was bullying me!" Wang Xiaopang grumbled while pointing his finger at Ning Ran.

Before Wang Shengli had time to react, Mrs. Wang rushed toward Ning Ran.

She was furious upon hearing that her son was bullied.

"How dare you bully my son?" Mrs. Wang raised her hand and aimed at Ning Ran's cheek.

Ning Ran was still holding Erbao in her arms at that point. She was worried that her daughter might get scared. Hence, she turned her body around slightly, hoping that Mrs. Wang would miss.

To her dismay, she ended up receiving a tight slap across her face.

Mrs. Wang was behaving way out of line by hitting someone.

"Nice one! Beat her to death!" Wang Xiaopang was cheering when he saw that.

Ning Ran put Erbao down and stood in front of her to shield her. "Why did you hit me?"

"Why not? You bullied my son!" Mrs. Wang was acting all high and mighty.

A teacher was setting up the place for the parent-teacher conference when she heard the commotion, and she rushed out immediately.

"Wang Xiaopang's mom hit someone!" some of the kids ran up to the teacher and reported.

"Are you all right, Ms. Ding?" The teacher recognized her right away because her shows were quite popular at that time.

"This parent is out of line! She slapped me for no reason." Ning Ran was enraged.

"You're Ding Mi? The actress?" Wang Shengli finally came to his senses.

"Actress? She's nothing!" Mrs. Wang fumed.

Slap!

Wang Shengli gave his wife a tight slap across her face. He put so much energy into the slap that it almost sent Mrs. Wang falling to the ground.

"Are you out of your mind? How dare you side with her?" Mrs. Wang shouted.

"Please behave yourselves. The kids are watching." The teacher was having none of it.

Without giving his wife a second glance, Wang Shengli rushed toward Ning Ran and asked, "Ms. Ding, is that you?"

"Yes, I am. Regardless of my mistakes, you have no right to drag my kids into it. They have nothing to do with it. Besides, the police and the media have already cleared my name. Why are you guys putting so much pressure on my kids?" Ning Ran complained.

"I'm so sorry, Ms. Ding. I'm so sorry. She has no idea what she's doing. I'm so sorry for offending you." To everyone's surprise, Wang Shengli was covered in cold sweats when he bowed and begged for forgiveness.

Wang Shengli had only gone to the parent-teacher conference because he was hoping that he could bump into Nan Chen and apologize to him.

Within two days, all of Wang Shengli's company projects were halted.

The reasons for that varied from reluctance from the other party in the contracts to being closed down by the authorities. Hence, none of his projects was able to run smoothly.

Most of his development projects were not being carried out through the proper procedures.

Although he had never faced a problem with his method, he realized his projects were being held up one by one ever since he offended the Nan family.

Recently, the bank had even revoked his loan of five hundred million, although an agreement had been struck earlier on.

The lack of funding had become a huge problem for Wang Shengli. Even if his projects were to resume all at once, he wouldn't be able to afford the operating costs incurred within a month.

Based on the current situation, I could be forced to abandon all of my development projects. If I fail to resolve the funding issue quick enough, I'd have no choice but to declare bankruptcy. Wang Shengli's situation was getting dire. Hence, he was determined to seek forgiveness from Nan Chen.

Although he had no proof, he believed that the Nan family had a role in orchestrating his run of unfortunate events.

At that moment, he felt like someone was trying to end his career for good. Although he couldn't tell who was behind it, he knew only someone from the Nan family was capable of taking down one of the ten biggest development firms in Flower City.

To his dismay, his wife had stirred the pot even before he could see Nan Chen. He could feel the pain when his wife delivered a slap across Ning Ran's face.

As a matter of fact, the pain he felt was more than just a slap because his wife could've single-handedly ended his career.

Ning Ran was stunned upon seeing that. Why is this guy so polite? Why would he bow and beg so profusely?

However, she wasn't going to forgive him straightaway. Since his wife and his kid are so barbaric, I bet he's not as innocent as he seemed to be. I shouldn't be fooled by his antics.

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Dramatic

Determined not to sway, Ning Ran stood silently. However, she soon realized she had to do something because Wang Shengli wouldn't stop bowing. Do I have to forgive them now? What if he doesn't stop?

"Are you crazy, Wang Shengli? Why are you such a weak man? Why are you shamelessly apologizing to that b*tch!" Mrs. Wang roared.

Slap!

Wang Shengli landed another vicious slap on his wife's cheek. "Kneel before Ms. Ding and ask for her forgiveness!"

Wang Shengli pulled her hair violently, forcing her to kneel before Ning Ran.

Ning Ran was frightened by what she saw. This is way too much! Besides, there are so many children and parents watching! What is he doing?

"Okay, that's enough. Stop it." It was getting embarrassing for Ning Ran. What if the people watching think I'm forcing them to kneel before me?

"My mommy doesn't need any of you to kneel before her. She's a woman of substance!" Dabao showed up with a stern face.

He had always had an extraordinary aura, although he was just a kid. Hence, no one dared to stop him from speaking his mind. "Wang Xiaopang is a bully! I only hit him when he pulled my sister's hair. Seeing what you're doing to your wife, now I know where Wang Xiaopang learned it from! All of you can call my sister and me rude all you want, but it has nothing to do with my mommy. She had never taught us to act violently, nor did she teach us to pull others' hair. Let bygones be bygones and move on, will you? Stop harassing my mommy. I'll protect her no matter how much you guys want to bully her. If I can't protect her on my own, my daddy, uncles, and great-grandparents will step in! They will all protect my mommy. If any of you bully her again, you guys are going to regret it!"

His words were so acerbic they caught everyone by surprise.

The adults looked at each other in disbelief. None of them expected such words from a five-year-old boy.

"We weren't bullying your mommy. This is all just a misunderstanding," Wang Shengli explained hastily.

Everyone was shocked when they saw an influential real estate company owner explaining himself to a five-year-old boy.

"Did she not slap my mommy? I'll definitely tell my daddy about this! If she doesn't get the punishment she deserves, she'll just keep going around slapping people! Wang Xiaopang must've gotten it from her!" Dabao said with a straight face.

Upon hearing that, Wang Shengli was crushed. I initially came here to apologize to Nan Chen. Who would've known I ended up offending him once again! I shouldn't have brought that troublemaker along!

"Little Master, could you please tell Sir Chen I'm sorry? This is all my fault. I'll head back and divorce her right after this. Please forgive me!" Wang Shengli was in so much distress he even said he'd divorce his wife. "Hey! That's your personal matter. You don't have to tell my son about it. Stop this at once!" Ning Ran's patience was wearing thin.

"Could you please tell Sir Chen I'd like to apologize to him personally? I'd do anything to redeem myself!" Wang Shengli was getting desperate by the second.

The teachers and parents were utterly confused when they saw that. They couldn't understand why Wang Shengli was so afraid of the Nan family.

Although the Nan family was prominent in Flower City, they had never abused their powers and bullied others. Hence, no one could understand why Wang Shengli was apologizing so dramatically.

Ning Ran was getting suspicious of Wang Shengli's actions as well. There must be more to this. Since that's the case, I shouldn't drag this on any longer. I don't want to end up being the talk of the town again!

"Let's start the parent-teacher conference. We'll talk about this some other day." Ning Ran was eager to get out of the sticky situation.

"Yes, that's right. We've already done all the preparations. Parents, please bring your kids toward the conference hall. We'll give some concise reports on the kids' performance in school. Also, we'll introduce the activities we have for them during the winter break," the principal announced.

At last, the crowd dispersed.

The parent-teacher conference lasted only for a while. After it was done, the principal invited Wang Shengli and his wife to his office.

Although the principal had a friendly expression on his face, Wang Shengli could tell something was wrong.

"What's the matter? Hasn't the conference finished? Why are you dragging us to your office?" Mrs. Wang was agitated.

Since she was slapped by her husband in public, she was so embarrassed that she couldn't wait to leave the school. I'm going to settle the score with him when we get home! I want to know why he was siding with that vixen!

"Mr. Wang and Mrs. Wang, I've invited the both of you here because I need to tell you guys something." The principal was still friendly toward them.

"Say what you need to say! Stop wasting our time!" Mrs. Wang roared.

"I know the both of you are busy. I'll cut to the chase, then. Simply put, your son isn't allowed to study here anymore. Please find him a school more worthy of having him," the principal said.

Mrs. Wang jumped up in shock immediately. "What? You're kicking my son out of your school? How could you do that? We've paid tens of thousands for school fees annually! We've never paid you less! How dare you expel him?"

"Yes, you guys have never paid us less. That's the only reason I've let your son finish the semester. Besides, I've even allowed you guys to attend the parent-teacher conference. Now, we've already done our duty for the fees received. As for the next semester, I urge you guys to find him a better school. We won't accept him here anymore," the principal stated.

"What are you talking about? How could you do that? Are you out of your mind? Are you doing this for that vixen?" Mrs. Wang scolded the principal while pointing at him.

"Please calm down, Mrs. Wang. We've had trouble with your son ever since the beginning. He's been bullying all the other students. In fact, we've already received multiple complaints from the other parents. Needless to say, the students here are all from influential families. Hence, things are bound to get out of hand when your son wouldn't stop physically abusing the other kids. The school had even notified you guys before. However, nothing has changed. Not only did you not discipline him, but you've also sided with him when he bullied the others. Even worse, you've even demanded apologies from the other parents. Just now, you've laid hands on one of the parents. I'm afraid I cannot agree with your teaching methods. Hence, I hope you guys can find him a better school next semester."

"Now I get it. You're unhappy because I've slapped that woman, aren't you? Are you helping her? Are you interested in her because of how pretty she is? Or are you having an affair with her? That's why you're abusing your authority to kick us out, right?" Mrs. Wang fumed.

Upon hearing that, the principal started to panic. What is this woman blabbering about? What if Sir Chen overhears this? I might lose my job!

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Gentleman

"Please watch what you say, Mrs. Wang!" the principal warned.

"What? Am I wrong? It's either that or the Nan family had paid you off!"

"Mrs. Wang, say whatever you want about me, but please be careful of your choice of words." The principal was getting more and more anxious.

"Will you just shut up? Shut your mouth!" Wang Shengli finally had enough of his wife.

"Why are you still siding with that b*tch?"

Slap!

Mrs. Wang received another slap across her face.

"Again? How dare you slap me again?" That was the last straw. Mrs. Wang raised her hand and slapped her husband.

"What the f*ck? How dare you hit me back? Do you have any idea how much pressure I'm under?" Wang Shengli cursed.

Then, the couple started arguing in the principal's office.

The principal never anticipated the couple to act so brazenly when he decided to invite them into his office. "Hey! Stop it, you two! You're both influential individuals. Can't you guys be more civilized?"

After a while, the principal finally managed to break them apart. "I've asked the both of you here to have a proper conversation. This is not the time or place for you to bicker!"

"You old fool! I won't allow you to expel my son! If you insist on not letting him attend school here, I'll finish you! I'll get my workers here to bring the whole place down within an hour!" Mrs. Wang pointed her finger at the principal and screamed at the top of her lungs. She was behaving like a hooligan.

"How dare you?" The principal didn't take the threat well.

At first, he was treating the two of them with the utmost respect due to their social status. However, he didn't see the point anymore after the scuffle they had in his office.

Indeed, it was about time he stood up to them.

"Why not? It's just a kindergarten. Do you think my workers can't manage that?" Mrs. Wang asked arrogantly.

"No, I don't think so. We're part of the Education Group under the Nanshi Corporation. Are you sure you're ready to go up against the Nanshi Corporation? Since I've already revealed so much, I guess I should just tell you the truth. All this while, the school had been turning a blind eye to your son's bullying issues. However, he laid hands on Sir Chen's daughter this time around! As if that's not bad enough, Mr. Wang came and asked for an apology from the other party without even finding out what had happened! How innocent of me to think that was it! Mrs. Wang, on the other hand, came and gave Sir Chen's woman a slap across her face today! Since both of you are so capable of offending them over and over again, please bring your son away. The school can't afford to deal with you and your family anymore! Please forgive me for being straightforward, but since Sir Chen's kids are attending school here, I'm sure whoever dares to bulldoze the place down will be forced out of Flower City." Although the principal was a perfect gentleman, he could really deliver some harsh words when needed.

"Principal, fine. You can expel my son. However, I have a favor to ask," Wang Shengli pleaded.

"What is it? If you're asking me to write your son a recommendation letter, I'd be more than happy to do so."

"That's a trivial matter at this point. I have something more important I need your help with."

"What is it? I'm just an educator. I don't think I can be of much help."

"I'd like to ask if you could help me arrange a meeting with Sir Chen."

"Are you crazy, Wang Shengli? Why would you still want to see him?" Mrs. Wang asked impatiently.

"Get lost! This is none of your business! If I don't make this right, trust me when I say your luxury way of living is coming to an end!" Wang Shengli roared.

"I can't help you with that. But since Ms. Ding is here to attend the parent-teacher conference, why don't you ask for her help instead?" The principal shook his head and continued, "I've already said what I needed to say. Your son is no longer welcome here. As for your favor, I'm afraid there's nothing I can do to help. You guys can sort it out yourselves."

With that, the principal gestured for them to leave.

"Okay. I better hurry and look for Ms. Ding, then!" As Wang Shengli was saying that, he hurried out of the principal's office.

To his surprise, he bumped into Ning Ran and her kids at the office entrance.

Although the conference had ended quite some time ago, Ning Ran didn't want to squeeze with the crowd. Hence, she waited for everyone to leave before making her way out.

Since both she and Nan Chen were busy working most of the time, she wanted to show her appreciation to the educators while bringing her kids along.

Unfortunately, she bumped into Wang Shengli and his wife at the entrance of the office. What's with my luck today? Why do I have to see them again?

"Hi, Ms. Ding! You came just in time! I have a favor to ask." Wang Shengli wore a smile on his face.

"Daddy will not see you," Dabao suddenly blurted.

Ning Ran was taken aback as she stared at her son in bafflement. How does he know that?

Wang Shengli was stunned momentarily as well before he smiled and said, "Little Master of the Nan family, how did you know I want to see your daddy?"

"Although you're an evil person, you've been treating my mommy with a broad smile on your face. Obviously, you're scared of my daddy. I bet you're in hot waters now that you've offended my daddy. Hence, you're here to resolve the issue. However, you can't see my daddy. That's why you're here to ask my mommy for help." Dabao kept a straight face as he spoke.

"Wow! You're incredible! That's what I was thinking too!" Erbao chimed in, not wanting to be left out.

"You're right, Little Master. I do wish to see Sir Chen, and I'd like to ask Ms. Ding to help me. Besides, I'd like to apologize again for my silly wife's actions earlier on. I'd do anything in exchange for forgiveness. Ms. Ding, I'm sorry I've failed as a husband and a father. I'm sorry I've offended you and Sir Chen. I sincerely hope I can be forgiven." Wang Shengli was so humble that it made Ning Ran feel bad for him.

"What do you want from Nan Chen, exactly?" Ning Ran asked.

"I just want to ask for forgiveness and nothing else."

"I doubt it. My daddy is so busy he won't have time for you. I bet you have ulterior motives," Dabao said.

Ning Ran instantly gave Dabao a hard stare and scolded, "Kids are not supposed to chime in when grown-ups are having a conversation."

"Yes, Mommy." Dabao answered obediently.

"Little Master is right. Sir Chen is indeed too busy. That's why I'm having trouble meeting him. Hence, I'd like to ask Ms. Ding to help me arrange a meeting with Sir Chen. I'd be deeply grateful," Wang Shengli pleaded.

Ning Ran was unsure of what to do. I don't wish to nose around Nan Chen's business. However, Wang Shengli doesn't seem like he'd leave me alone if I refused to help him.

"Could you wait for a moment? I want to bring my kids inside to thank the principal. After that, I'll ring Nan Chen, is that okay? I don't think it's appropriate for you to keep holding me up." In the end, Ning Ran gave in.

"Of course! Take your time, Ms. Ding. I'll be waiting right here." Wang Shengli stood aside immediately.

After watching Ning Ran walk into the office, Mrs. Wang couldn't help but scold, "What's with you today, Wang Shengli? Since when were you afraid of anyone? Why are you acting like a slave today?"

"You're a fool! Did you know all the company's projects were halted because we've offended the Nan family? If we don't seek their forgiveness right away, the company is going bankrupt soon!" Wang Shengli thundered.

"What? Is it that serious?"

"You're such an ignorant fool! All you do is run your mouth!"

"If that's the case, you better beg her for forgiveness when she comes out. We can't go bankrupt! Kneel before her if necessary!" Mrs. Wang was getting scared.

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I Will Do As You Say

When Ning Ran came to the principal's office, he stood up immediately. "Ms. Ding, we have reached a decision. Wang Xiaopang will not be here anymore starting next semester."

Ning Ran was wondering what the principal was talking about. The principal thought she was there to demand an explanation, so he quickly explained himself, but actually, she was there with her kid to say thanks to him.

"I'm not here to talk about that. I just want to thank you and your teachers for taking care of my kids. Thank you." She then looked at Dabao and Erbao.

The kids bowed politely. "Thank you, principal. Thank you for your hard work."

"Oh, you're too kind. It's my job. It's our job, actually. They're the nicest kids around. Very likable. Especially the boy. He's a walking encyclopedia. He can come up with the answer to the questions that even the teacher knows nothing about. You have an intelligent kid. He'll grow up to be a great man," the principal praised.

"You flatter him. He's not that much of a genius." Ning Ran smiled.

Erbao was feeling grumpy for being left out. "Hey, I'm not bad too, you know."

"Of course. She's a great girl too—really smart and likable. And she's always the life of the party." The principal beamed.

Ning Ran rolled her eyes, gesturing for Erbao to be quiet. "Thank you again, principal. It's already the end of the semester now. See you next year." Ning Ran smiled.

"See you next year too. I love your movies, Ms. Ding. And please tell Sir Chen that I've settled matters with Wang Shengli. They've been expelled, and they won't show up anymore."

Ning Ran hesitated after hearing that. "I didn't really mean for him to get expelled, though. He might be naughty, but he's still a kid. Don't you think it's a bit too harsh?"

"This is the decision we made. That kid isn't just naughty; he crossed a line. He's a bully, and he insults the teachers. His parents never took care of him, even supporting his lousy behavior. Just because they're rich doesn't mean they're guaranteed a spot in our school. They have to pass a test too. Alas, Wang Xiaopang didn't pass his test. He only came in because his parents asked someone in the Ministry of Education to talk to us, so to speak. I thought he would appreciate the chance, but apparently, he and his parents think lowly of the school's staff.

The principal continued, "If that's the case, then I'll be more than happy to get him transferred to another school. I will not allow a bad apple to fester within this institution. This matter isn't the only reason for his expulsion. The school's reputation must not be put at risk, and more importantly, the other children deserve a safer environment to study."

Hm, if that's the case, then I'm in no position to talk about it anymore. "I see. If that's the school's decision, then we'll support it. Have a good day. We'll be going now. Kids, say goodbye to the principal," Ning Ran stated.

The two adorable little ones waved at the principal. "Bye-bye, sir."

"Bye, kids." The principal waved at them happily as well.

When Ning Ran and the kids came out of the office, she looked around to see if Wang Shengli and his wife were around. They aren't here. Good. She heaved a sigh of relief.

However, that relief was short-lived. When she came to the entrance, she saw Wang Shengli and his family waiting right there for her. Wang Xiaopang's head was hanging low, and he was squatting on the ground as he bawled. Obviously, he must have been scolded by his parents.

Wang Shengli quickly came up to Ning Ran the moment she appeared, but Dabao quickly stood before her to stop the man from coming closer. "What do you want?"

Wang Shengli smiled at him. "Calm down, little master of the Nan family. I just want to talk to your mother. That's all."

"You're a bad person. Mommy has nothing to say to you." Dabao was deadpan.

The situation was awkward for Wang Shengli, but he kept quiet in case he offended Dabao. "I'll just stay right here then. So, how did it go, Ms. Ding?"

"I can't do anything about the school's decision. Your son has crossed a line. He bullied the other kids, and he even insulted the teachers. This is the best elite kindergarten in Flower City. It's a very exclusive place, and your boy should have appreciated the chance he got, but he didn't. And neither of you stepped in when he acted up, so he got bold and crossed a line. The school has decided to expel him. You'll have to find another kindergarten for your boy. I can't do anything about it," Ning Ran said.

Wang Shengli started to panic. "That's not the thing I was talking about. It's something else. I want to see Sir Chen."

Ning Ran paused for a moment. Oh, right, I actually forgot about that. "Fine. I'll call him right now. You can see him if he wants to see you. But if he doesn't, then not even I can do anything about it."

"Thank you very much, Ms. Ding. Thank you so, so much." Wang Shengli looked excited.

Ning Ran stepped aside and called Nan Chen. To her surprise, he picked it up immediately. "I assume that Wang Shengli has seen you?" His voice was magnetic.

Ning Ran was shocked. "Wait, how'd you know about that?"

"His kid got into a fight with Erbao. That brat pulled her hair, so Dabao beat him up. Wang Shengli then made a fuss in school and demanded an apology from me, so I taught him a lesson. He thought I was just a small fry, so he got his backer to confront me. And, well, all of his company's projects are halted now. If this keeps up, he'll go bankrupt. Naturally, he's panicking, and he'll want to see me. Since he can't see me directly, he'll try to get that chance through you, and the perfect opportunity to see you would be during the parent-teacher meeting," Nan Chen explained slowly.

Well, someone's in a good mood today. He's talking a whole lot more. "You knew he'd do this?"

"It's not hard to guess, really."

"All right, all right. He's begging to see you now. Are you going to grant the man his wish or not?"

"You call the shots. I don't really want to care about this. Just do as you please," he said languidly.

"What are you talking about? I don't even know anything about business. How am I supposed to call the shots?" Ning Ran was getting nervous.

"If you want to forgive him, then just tell him it's all water under the bridge. If you don't want to forgive him, then tell him it's all bridge under the water."

"Wrong expression, but that's not the point. Is it really that simple? I can forgive him just like that?"

"It's not exactly rocket science, right?" Nan Chen asked.

"But will you let him off the hook? Did you plunge his company into this crisis?"

"His company only managed to get this far because he has connections. Every project he develops is of subpar quality. Many homeowners have lodged complaints, but he still got away with it. He delayed the payment of his employees' salaries, and he tried to bulldoze his way through old neighborhoods just so he could develop that place. He isn't exactly what you'd call a model citizen. His brat inherited his arrogance through and through. That man is an unscrupulous developer. Do you think I shouldn't bankrupt him?" Nan Chen asked again.

"Um, well, no. You'll have to teach him a lesson."

"Okay then. Say the word, and I'll do as you say." Nan Chen hung up.

Ning Ran paused for a moment. He'll do as I say? I don't remember him being so nice before. But he has hung up on me. What should I do now?

The moment Ning Ran hung up, Wang Shengli quickly asked, "So, how did it go? Did Sir Chen agree to see me?"

Ning Ran thought it was a pain, but she had no choice but to respond. "He's still overseas. You'll have to wait until he's back."

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Why Not

Wang Shengli didn't trust her completely, but he had no other choice. "I see. I shall be waiting for your news then. May I have your number?" Wang Shengli asked.

"No," Ning Ran rejected him flatly.

Wang Shengli didn't want to give up just yet. "How should I contact you then, Ms. Ding?"

"Call Nan Chen's office and make an appointment." She took her kids and tried to leave, but Wang Shengli got in her way again.

"Please, Ms. Ding. Tell me how I can contact you. That way, I can—"

"Out of the way. Harass my Mommy again, and I'll tell Daddy about this," Dabao warned him sternly.

Wang Shengli quickly made way for them, worried that the boy might actually do that.

Ning Ran and the kids left, and she heaved a sigh of relief after she got in the car.

After arriving at the Orchid Club, Tang Jing got out of the taxi and proceeded to the room Ouyang Qing told her to meet in.

Ouyang Qing was looking red, obviously because she was drunk. When Tang Jing entered the room, she received a cold reception. "What took you so long, Tang Jing? Are you betraying me too? Do you think I can't do anything to you?"

Okay, this woman is in a bad mood. Well, no need to get angry over her attitude then. Tang Jing apologized, "I came here as soon as I got the call. The traffic was awful, so that's why I was late."

Ouyang Qing was still upset, and she pointed at Tang Jing. "You're sorry? You're sorry? Sorry doesn't cut it!"

Tang Jing didn't talk back, but she was angry about the attitude she was receiving. She poured herself a glass of wine and gulped it down, and she calmed down ever so slightly. "I know it doesn't cut it. I'll be faster next time." She smiled.

"Did you see the news?" Ouyang Qing asked.

"Not yet. What happened?" Tang Jing lied. She had seen the news, but she pretended that she knew nothing about it.

The first thing everyone would do after they woke up was to go through the trending topics. They must know what happened as soon as possible, and that was especially true for Tang Jing, who was working in the entertainment industry.

Ouyang Qing growled, "You don't know? That b*tch came out again, and that woman turned on us. She admitted to making a false accusation against that b*tch, and she even apologized."

Tang Jing still pretended that she knew nothing about it. "What woman? What b*tch are you talking about this time?"

"Ding Mi, of course. Are you stupid? You should have gotten that," Ouyang Qing roared.

"I see. I thought she was involved with drugs. Isn't she supposed to be in jail?" Tang Jing asked on purpose.

"Those idiots didn't clean up after themselves, and she managed to get away this time." Ouyang Qing hurled her glass away hatefully, breaking it into smithereens. Tang Jing ignored that and took another sip of the wine.

For some reason, she was deriving a sense of pleasure from Ouyang Qing's failure. "So, is the movie going to begin production again?" Tang Jing asked softly.

"I knew it. You only care about the movie. You don't care about me. Tang Jing, you only got to be the supporting cast because I'm the investor. I recommended you to the producers, and you only barely scraped by. Just because you got this role doesn't mean you're a big star now. I can swap you out for someone else whenever I d*mn please. I am your boss and backer. You're nothing without me!" Ouyang Qing roared at Tang Jing. She was obviously still upset.

Tang Jing wanted to splash Ouyang Qing's face with her wine, but she held back. Do you think you're some kind of bigshot? I still became a star without your help. You got your money from your father. Without him, you're nothing.

I am still a celebrity even without a rich dad, but if you lose your father, you'll be reduced to nothing.

Ouyang Qing might have drunk a lot, but she wasn't drunk, so she could feel the anger in Tang Jing's eyes. "What? Are you angry? Did you think I said something wrong? Do you want to betray me as well? Do you think I can't swap you out? I can give them a call, and you'll lose your role tomorrow, get it?" Ouyang Qing pointed at Tang Jing furiously.

The latter plastered a fake smile. "Yes, I know. You gave me everything I have, and I am grateful for that."

"Then why aren't you repaying me? Why aren't you bringing that b*tch down?" Ouyang Qing roared.

Tang Jing sighed. "You know why. She has Sir Chen backing her up. I'm just a nobody. It's hard for me to go against her."

"So you're just going to let her do as she pleases?" Ouyang Qing bellowed.

"There's always a way to bring her down. Ask, and I shall do as you say," Tang Jing said softly. She seemed calm, but she actually wanted to give Ouyang Qing one big slap.

"I tried everything, but it's useless. I don't care. You must make sure she gets the boot. You'll become the lead if you can get her fired. Don't you want that?" Ouyang Qing asked.

Of course, I want it. That's my dream. "I've never even thought of that. I'm no match for her, and I know that, but she should never have crossed you no matter how talented she is," Tang Jing replied gently.

"That is not what I want to hear. I want you to tell me how you're planning on kicking her out of the team! She must not be left alone. I must make sure she disappears from this industry!"

Tang Jing sighed. "That's a tall order for me. I'm just a nobody, so it's a difficult one to pull off. The only way to do that is for you to use the resources you have. I can't do it alone, but I can assist you."

"I don't want to hear that! Just tell me when you can kick her out! You have one week to make sure her reputation falls through rock bottom, or you'll lose your role. If you can't do this, I'll get someone who can! Whoever brings her down will get the supporting role."

Ouyang Qing was starting to panic. She had a feeling that her chances of winning would get slimmer if she dragged it on.

Ning Ran was just a no-name actress before this, but her fame rose after her drama got popular. Even though she was embroiled in many scandals, she could still get a lot of exposure, and thanks to that, Ning Ran was actually famous.

If I don't take her out while I can, she'll really rise through the ranks. It'll be near impossible to wipe her out when that happens. The thing that worried her most was the Nan family. If they accepted Ning Ran as a part of the family, then she would never be able to take Ning Ran down.

The realization that she had little time left was making her nervous. I have to force Tang Jing's hand. She must attack Ning Ran. I don't care even if Tang Jing is sacrificed if it means that Ning Ran will go down. Tang Jing is just a nobody anyway.

Tang Jing could guess what Ouyang Qing was thinking. After all, she knew the kind of person Ouyang Qing was. That was why she had to pretend that she didn't know the latter was trying to use her. She'd play along and use Ouyang Qing to get what she wanted.

If she could get what she wanted and make it into the upper society, Tang Jing could break the partnership anytime she wanted.

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Hope

But she's really forcing my hand now. I have to calm her down. If she stops working with me, it's going to be a big hassle. She has the resources, and she can swap me out anytime she wants. I can't lose her support. At least for now, I can't.

Tang Jing said, "You're panicking, and that's why you fail to see the most important part of this matter."

Ouyang Qing hissed, "What are you talking about? Are you saying I'm stupid?"

"Calm down," Tang Jing answered as soothingly as possible so Ouyang Qing could chill out. "Let me finish, all right?"

"Fine. What's the plan?"

"I don't have one, but you do," Tang Jing replied.

"What are you talking about? If I had a plan, I wouldn't have asked you out today. Are you mocking me?" Ouyang Qing snapped.

"I am not. I have no need to mock you."

"Then what are you trying to say? What do you mean I have a plan?"

"Ah, and that is the key. The whole reason Ding Mi has Mr. Chen's support is that she gave birth to his kids. If you have Mr. Chen's kids as well, who do you think will have an edge in this competition? You, of course. You're the daughter of an influential family, but she's just a no-name actress. She can't hold a candle to you."

Ouyang Qing got even madder at Tang Jing. "You could have said nothing, and it wouldn't have changed anything. I don't have his kid."

"But you can." Tang Jing shot her a meaningful glance.

"What do you mean?"

"You can have his kid. Even if you don't, he won't leave you for dead if you just sleep with him."

Ouyang Qing kept quiet. She was trying to figure out what Tang Jing was saying. "All right. I'm interested. Go on."

"You are young and beautiful. I'm sure Sir Chen won't refuse you." Tang Jing smiled.

"No. You don't know him. He's not that kind of man." Ouyang Qing thought that was a good idea, but when she thought about how Nan Chen responded to her every time, she lost her confidence.

She did drop a lot of hints, but Nan Chen pretended that he didn't get it, so she couldn't take the next step.

"Sir Chen is a human, and he's a man." Tang Jing was practically spelling out her plan at that point.

"No. He's not just any human. You don't get it."

"Of course, he's not just any human, but as long as you create an opportunity, I think you can make it work in your favor. As long as you get to sleep with him, Ding Mi is nothing. But if you're still worried, you can go a mile further to make sure the plan works," Tang Jing replied.

"What do you mean 'a mile further'?" Ouyang Qing was surprised, but she was also interested.

"Well, since Sir Chen won't fall for you that easily, then you'll have to be a bit calculative. As long as you get him on your bed, he won't leave you for dead even if you guys don't get intimate. Just remember to take photos," Tang Jing said.

Ouyang Qing said nothing, as she needed time to think about that suggestion. "You're saying I should get him into my room and take photos of that?"

"Exactly." Tang Jing nodded.

"No. That's a stupid idea. He won't fall for it. If I trick him and someone catches him on camera, he's going to dislike me even more. That plan won't fly."

"Ah, but what if he's drunk?" Tang Jing asked again.

"He's smart with his alcohol consumption. It's nearly impossible for him to get drunk. Even if he does get drunk, he probably won't do anything to me. I know him. This plan won't work. I would have done that if it could. Why would I need you to suggest that to me now?"

"I still think that's a feasible plan. If his drink is spiked, he can and will get drunk. The black market is filled with drugs like that. If you're willing to spend, you'll get whatever you want," Tang Jing said.

That last part got Ouyang Qing all excited. She wants me to spike his drink? Now that's an idea I've never even bothered to explore before. I mean, I know date rape drugs exist, but Nan Chen is no ordinary man. It's hard to trick him. Even if he did, he would never forgive me if he knew that I was behind it.

She didn't even dare to think about that idea, for getting on Nan Chen's bad side would mean disaster for her. However, she started getting some ideas after Tang Jing brought it up again.

Hmm, but what if it does work? Ding Mi will become a nobody again. And I don't have to spike his drink myself. I can hire someone to do it for me.

If I'm not the one who spikes his drink, then that means I'm also the victim. Nan Chen won't blame me. In fact, he'd feel guilty and love me more. That'd be perfect!

Ouyang Qing had a eureka moment, and she saw the door of possibilities opening to her again. Her anger and resentment were washed away, replaced by determination, and she stood up. "You have a point."

Tang Jing said, "It might be hard for anyone else to pull this off, but I don't think it'll be too difficult for you. I think you can do it since Ding Mi is vastly inferior to you. She has no right to even be in the same ring as you are. But Sir Chen is no ordinary man either, so be careful when you're doing this."

"Don't worry about it. I can get someone to help me out. If this works out, I'll make sure to kick Ding Mi out of the team and let you take her role. You'll be a big star."

Tang Jing didn't bother with that 'promise.' She didn't care about what Ouyang Qing would give her. She was her own woman, and she could get what she wanted with her own hands. "I'll be going now. Good luck." Tang Jing smiled.

"Fine, fine. If this works, you're in for a treat." Ouyang Qing waved her away.

When Tang Jing turned around, cruelty flashed within her eyes.

Later in the day, Ouyang Qing came to Bai Hua's residence in Red Maple City. The latter was allowed to enter the Nan residence, but she wasn't allowed to stay there permanently, so she spent most of her time living in the villa Ouyang Qing gave her.

Since she didn't want to live under the prying eyes of Old Master Nan, living outside gave her all the freedom she wanted. However, after she came back, she couldn't get back into Flower City's socialite circle no matter how hard she tried, which made her feel down.

After all, she had left for a long time, so some of her old friends' families had declined. They were no longer on the same level as she was, so there was no need to stay in touch. On the other hand, some climbed the ladder, and they scoffed at Bai Hua, who was exiled by the Nan family.

She might be a part of the Nan family, and her son might be the head of the family, but that didn't mean she would be respected. Everyone respected Nan Chen and his wife, but they wouldn't necessarily show the same respect for a woman exiled by her family.

After all, they knew that her status in the family was unbelievably low after being chased out.

She was touched that Ouyang Qing would come to see her. She had spent the last two days doing nothing in the villa, and she was on the verge of going mad.

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Stroking Ego

Ouyang Qing made some small talk and pretended that she cared about Bai Hua. A moment later, she started talking about Ning Ran again. The gist of it was that Ning Ran made her comeback and would resume her role in the movie. She told Bai Hua that Ning Ran would be a famous celebrity.

Bai Hua's reaction after hearing that was a bit more aggressive than Ouyang Qing expected. She shot up to her feet. "Nan Chen must have helped her again, or she couldn't have been released so easily."

"Chen is a kind man. He pities her, but that woman is a schemer. She is using his kindness to her advantage and tries to marry him. That woman's really arrogant now. She doesn't care about anyone, and she says she's the only woman who can call the shots in the family. Laughable, really. She's not even married to Chen yet, but she's already styling herself as his wife. You're still around, but she doesn't even care about your opinion. That is just preposterous."

Ouyang Qing was being really specific here. She knew what Bai Hua's triggers were, and she pushed all the buttons deliberately.

As expected, Bai Hua was furious. "Did that b*tch really say all that?"

"Of course. But don't worry, Aunt. Nobody actually takes her seriously. She's just being full of herself," Ouyang Qing responded.

"She's doing this on purpose. I have to teach her a lesson, or she'll get a big head. But Chen keeps siding with her. I just can't take her down. What should I do?" Bai Hua asked.

Ouyang Qing had an idea to go, but she couldn't say it out right away. Instead, she sighed. "Forget it. If Chen wants to marry her, then who am I to object? She has his kids, and that's her advantage. If I have Chen's children... Oh, what am I saying? That's impossible."

Ouyang Qing was feeling embarrassed herself.

Bai Hua thought about it for a while. "Hmm, it's not impossible, though. Ding Mi only got pregnant by accident. If she can create an accident, then you can too."

Ah, you're smart, you old hag. You get what I'm trying to say. Good. I don't have to bring that stupid idea up myself. "Impossible. Chen doesn't like me." Ouyang Qing blushed.

"You're a beautiful girl. Of course, he likes you. He's just beguiled by that wench. That's why he doesn't realize that he actually likes you. Men love women. Well, most of them do. Nan Chen's also a man. If you have an opportunity, you can get pregnant with his kid too. If that woman can do it, so can you."

Bai Hua wasn't stupid either. She could see that Ouyang Qing had that kind of idea, but the latter was too embarrassed to say it out loud, so Bai Hua had to voice it out.

"Oh, stop it, Aunt. you're embarrassing me." Ouyang Qing kept up with her act.

"You don't have to. You're a proper lady. You can't lose to an actress like her. I'll make the arrangements, but you'll have to come up with an idea too. You're younger and smarter than I am. We need a perfect plan," Bai Hua said.

All right. It's time now. I can't keep this act up, or it'll look too fake. "I really like Chen, and I can do anything for him," Ouyang Qing said.

"Then that's settled. I'm sure he'll come to understand you. Tell me. What's the plan?"

"My friend told me about this drug..." Ouyang Qing blushed again.

Bai Hua understood right away. "Can you get that drug then?"

"I can ask my friend to do it for me, but..."

"Don't worry about it. I'll handle the rest. If he wants to blame anyone, I'll take one for the team. And I'm sure he'll be happy that a gorgeous lady like you are sacrificing for him."

Ouyang Qing felt relieved after Bai Hua gave her a guarantee, but she had to pretend to be worried. "Aunt, is this really a good idea? I don't think we should go on with this."

"It's fine. Leave it to me. As long as you sleep with Nan Chen, he'll be forced to marry you. That woman will be nothing then. Trash like her is never worthy of my son," Bai Hua cursed.

"But if Chen gets mad because of this, I—"

"Don't worry about it. I'll tell him I came up with the idea. He has no right to be angry at that point. After all, he would have slept with you already. And he's not an irresponsible man. Once you sleep with him, Nan Zhiyuan and I will pressure him into marrying you. We have to do this right away."

"Don't worry, Aunt. If this works, my father and I will persuade him to let Mr. Nan back into the company. He's a part of the Nan family, and he's experienced. It's natural that he should contribute to the company," Ouyang Qing said.

That was the thing Bai Hua wanted the most at the moment. When she came back, she thought she could resume her life as a wealthy lady, but when she came back, the city had changed vastly.

She was ostracized, and the socialites didn't care about her because of one reason. Everyone knew that Nan Zhiyuan and her were disliked by the Nan family. They were only a part of the Nan family in name only.

Because of that, Nan Zhiyuan and her were not respected, for they were not significant. Naturally, Bai Hua didn't want to live the rest of her life that way. She wanted to have more power, for an ordinary life was what she hated.

She wanted to make a comeback and become deeply respected like she used to. She wanted to prove that she was still holding all the power in the Nan family, and now Ouyang Qing was giving her that chance. Naturally, she was grateful for that.

"Zhiyuan had told me that he's still young and wants to contribute to the family. But the Old Master refuses to give him any chance, so we can only waste our time here. It's frustrating. If he gets to work in the company again, Zhiyuan will be over the moon, and I'm more than happy to see that."

"Don't worry. Once I sleep with Chen, my father and I will persuade him."

Ouyang Qing was making it clear. Once they became family, there would be more partnerships between them, and the Ouyang family could influence the Nan family a lot. The Ouyang family was Ouyang Qing's backer, and they would become Bai Hua and Nan Zhiyuan's support as well. If the marriage went well, of course.

They would install Bai Hua and Nan Zhiyuan in the center of the Nan family so they could regain their former glory. And that's something that woman can't do. Only Ouyang Qing can do it, and that's why she must marry Nan Chen.

I must help her get her hands on Nan Chen. Only someone whom I can control will listen to me. If I do this, I'll have her dirt too. She won't dare to disobey me.

And so, the wretched women came to an agreement.

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 510

My Wife Is a Superstar Chapter 510

Overkill

Dabao and Erbao spent their first weekend of the semester break at the villa in Red Maple City. It was also the first weekend where Ning Ran could be at peace.

Nan Chen canceled all his plans and decided to spend the whole weekend with his family. First, they would watch a movie, then they would go shopping, and they'd end it with a homemade dinner.

Ning Ran and the kids were craving some hotpot, and they wanted to make it themselves this time at home.

Nan Chen had a rocky relationship with hotpots, but he could accept it as long as Ning Ran and the kids liked it. He was bored by all the upscale restaurants. They were no match for a meal at home since that was where his family was.

After they came back home, Nan Chen looked at the goods they had bought, and he announced solemnly, "I will be making dinner tonight."

Everyone was quiet. Dabao and Erbao looked at each other while Ning Ran sorted the groceries out in silence.

It wasn't the first time Nan Chen had tried to cook, but he had never succeeded even once. The food he cooked was nearly inedible, let alone delicious. Because of that, everyone was worried that the food might turn out bad.

They bought a lot of fresh ingredients that were perfect for hotpots. Everyone thought they'd have a nice dinner, but now that Nan Chen wanted to prepare it, they were worried that they might end up having food delivery again.

Nan Chen could feel their rejection, and he was crestfallen. I just want to cook. Is it that hard? "Are you worried I might mess it up? Hey, I watched a lot of cooking videos, you know. I'm decent now."

Nan Chen wanted to convince them that he could cook.

Ning Ran smiled. "You've been hard at work. Let me do the cooking. You don't have to do it."

Dabao and Erbao nodded quickly. "Yeah, yeah!"

Nan Chen looked at Ning Ran, then at his kids. "Do you guys think I'm a lousy cook? You guys don't believe me?"

Ning Ran forced a smile. "No. We just don't want you to overwork yourself."

The kids nodded quickly again and gave their father a worried look. "Yeah!"

It had been a long time since they had their mother's hotpot. They loved that flavor, and they didn't want their father to destroy it.

Nan Chen sat on the sofa, feeling defeated.

Ning Ran wanted to cheer him up, but she didn't know how to. If it were up to her, she could eat anything Nan Chen made, but the problem was that her kids wanted to have something delicious.

"We need to talk, Daddy," Dabao said maturely.

"About what?" Nan Chen was not interested in talking.

"You are destined for great things. You can't waste your time cooking. That's a waste of your talent. It's overkill," Dabao said solemnly.

"Yes! Dabao's right! I think so too!" Erbao agreed.

Nan Chen knew what the kids were up to. In the end, you kids just don't want me to cook. "Fine. I get it." Nan Chen sighed.

"Why don't we do this, Daddy? Mommy will do the cooking while you give her the instructions. You're great at looking at the big picture and giving out commands, while she's great at practical. If you and her work together, you guys can make the perfect hotpot. I call this 'The Couple's Teamwork,' "Dabao suggested.

"Yes! I think so too!" Erbao clapped her hands.

Nan Chen knew his son was just trying to be nice, and he felt happy that the boy was concerned about him. "Fine. I accept the suggestion. I'll be the instructor." He stood up.

Wait. If you're the instructor, then whose idea should we follow? Yours or mine? I mean, it's fine if our thoughts align, but what if they clash? Should we do it my way or your way? Ning Ran thought. If we do it your way and it turns out bad, then it's just the same as you making dinner yourself.

Nan Chen knew what Ning Ran was worried about, so he said, "You'll call the shots. You know what the kids like."

Ning Ran felt more at ease then.

After Nan Chen and Ning Ran went into the kitchen, Erbao gave Dabao a thumbs up. "Wow, you're awesome, Dabao. You actually fooled Daddy."

Dabao corrected her, "I wasn't fooling him. I call that convincing."

"Fine. Honestly, it'd be great if Daddy and Mommy could cook for us every day," Erbao said.

"They seem sweeter than ever. Maybe they'll get married." Dabao looked at the kitchen.

"Really? That's great! When?" Erbao got excited.

"Not our call to make. It's their wedding, but they can't make the decision themselves. They need a lot of people agreeing to it."

"A lot of people? Who?" Erbao gasped.

"At the very least, Great-Grandpa and Great-Grandma," Dabao responded.

Erbao was genuinely confused. She looked at her brother, feeling perplexed.

"And Grandpa and Grandma, of course. It'll be a hassle if they object. But most importantly, it depends on Daddy and Mommy. They can only get married if they want to, and if they work for it," Dabao concluded.

"Will Great-Grandpa and Great-Grandma agree to the marriage?" Erbao asked.

"I have no idea." Dabao shook his head.

"Why not? Do they not like Mommy?" Erbao asked.

"Well, they might disagree. It's not set in stone yet. They think Daddy can marry a woman who can help him. For example, Ouyang Qing," Dabao said.

"Why can't Mommy help Daddy anyway?" Erbao was more confused now.

Dabao wasn't sure about that either, since he was still five years old. "I can't say for sure, but I know I'm right. We have to help them if we want them to get married."

"How?" Erbao asked.

"I have no idea for now." Dabao shook his head.

Erbao imitated him, and she sighed as well.

"But they're looking happy. At least they're moving in the right direction, and that—"

Before he could finish, he heard someone's phone vibrating.

"It sounds like Daddy's phone," Erbao said.

Dabao whipped the phone out. "Hey, it's Grandma. You take the call."

Erbao shook her head. "I don't like her. She doesn't like Mommy, so I don't like her. I'm not taking it."

"Ugh, I hate talking to her too. We'll let Daddy take the call."

"But what if she wants Daddy to go over to her place? I don't want him to. It's been a while since we had a meal together," Erbao said.

Oh yeah. She's right. I'll take the call then.