

Chapter 201: You are Polite

As Yi Ling looked at her empty hands, she was in a daze.

She wanted to say that she was just being polite, really. She had no intentions of inviting an outsider to eat dumplings. Any dumplings that she ate meant one lesser for her. The prawn dumpling that Huanhuan made were the best in this world.

However as she looked at Luo Lin's figure, she knew that whatever she had said couldn't be taken back. Wouldn't that be slapping her own face? In actual fact, she did want to slap herself.

"Sorry for interrupting," As Luo Lin entered, she saw Yan Huan in an apron walking out from the kitchen.

She looked very pretty even without make-up. Her eyebrows had a soft look and her skin was incredibly good, almost like porcelain. She had a natural glow all around her and even without any make-up, her beauty was stunning. Moreover, she had an incredibly approachable vibe to her, a girl-next-door vibe. She was likeable and Luo Lin could tell that this was just her appearance. She was actually someone with character and was strong. Of course, she was ambitious too.

No one could touch her limit or else she would definitely tussle with you to the end.

Luo Lin was incredibly accurate at reading people and as expected. Her evaluation of Yan Huan couldn't be too far off.

"No worries, please take a seat." Yan Huan took over the bag from Luo Lin and entered the kitchen. As for the outside, she didn't have to care. Yi Ling was there. She had no idea what Yi Ling was thinking too, she insisted on prawn dumplings and said that the bento set given to the crew was incredibly disgusting. Despite this, she would always eat one and a half boxes of food. One box was her own while the other half was Yan Huan's food.

As Yan Huan was making the dumplings in the kitchen, she had completely shed her glow as a star. Washing and cutting the vegetables, she looked almost like a normal woman, one who could whip up a whole table of delicious food.

As Yan Huan brought out the plate of dumplings, she saw Yi Ling and Luo Lin chatting outside happily. She had no idea what they were talking about it seemed like they were clicking very well.

"Lets eat," Yi Ling stopped talking as she ran over happily. She brought over the huge plate and wanted to eat it by herself. However, at the end of the day she felt this wasn't right. She shared some of them reluctantly.

This was the way to treat guests. One couldn't let the guest eat the smaller portion. People would say she had no manners. When Yan Huan's mother was alive, she would teach them this. Now then she knew that her way of teaching was the best. She had taught her and Huanhuan very well. Even though they didn't have the best living conditions, when it came to treating people, they would never let anyone hate them.

Even though Huanhuan came from a poor family, she looked like a gentlewoman from a reputed family. It's because she had always been taught well.

“This is for you,” Yan Huan gave half of the dumplings from her bowl to Yi Ling. It made up for the pain Yi Ling felt for giving away her dumplings.

Yi Ling ate her dumplings satisfyingly. She did not think there were too many.

“She eats so little?” Luo Lin looked at her small bowl and compared it to the dumplings in Yi Ling’s bowl and the few dumplings in Yan Huan’s one.

“She always eats very little.”

Yi Ling didn’t think too much of it. Yan Huan has always had this habit. She wants very little. Being an actress is quite pitiful, even when it comes to eating, they cannot eat to their fill.

Chapter 202: Stealing Job

If one couldn’t eat as one pleased and eat to one’s fill, then what is the point of living?

Luo Lin sighed.

If there was no comparison, there was no hurt. The artiste that she was managing was incredibly picky during meals. She would always eat secretly, and she was picky too. She would get fat easily and if she was asked to gym, it would be her fault as the manager for not taking care of her.

But she did manage her, she had said to her, she had tried stopping her. However what use is that? She wouldn’t listen to her and what can she as a manager do? Use a rope to tie her up? She was her manager, not mother.

In comparison, Yi Ling had a much easier life as a manager.

Suddenly, she came up with a decision, a decision that she had thought of on the spot.

“Yan Huan, do you all still need a manager?”

Yan Huan froze, was she planning to jump ship?

Yi Ling lifted her head, was she stealing her job?

Luo Lin quietly ate another dumpling. After 5 dumplings, she put down her chopsticks and said, “My contract at this side is about to expire. I do not care if I am a manager or not, an assistant will do fine too. I am not sure if you all need me?”

Luckily she wasn’t here to steal her job. Yi Ling shrugged; she didn’t think much about it. In any case, her Huanhuan would become famous soon and she couldn’t be the only one by her side, she would need an assistant sooner or later.

This Luo Lin seems decent. She had a certain fame in this industry and she had several artists under her management. One of them is Xiao Ronrong.

Was Xiao Rongrong not easy to work with? Why did she want to jump ship?

Luo Lin is someone who could observe people very well. Hence, she knew Yi Ling’s silence was a form of acceptance. The question was Yan Huan now.

Yan Huan was indeed indifferent about it. Luo Lin had been in this industry for so long and she had many connections and people that she knew. If she came over to be her assistant, that would be the best.

“If there are no problems at your side, I welcome you.”

She extended her hand. Everyone would be fighting over such a good assistant, it would be a waste if she didn't want her.

“Hopefully we will work together happily.” Luo Lin finally smiled. Of course, she shook Yan Huan's hand too. She was very interested in becoming Yan Huan's assistant and she wasn't wrong too. Her contract was about to expire and she was about to renew it. However, she can forget about it now.

She had no intention of managing the princess-like Xiao Rongrong any longer. She had found another job for herself. She was sure that with her skillset, Yuelun would welcome her wholeheartedly. Moreover, she hadn't forgotten that in the past, Yuelun had tried to poach her.

She had her fill after eating the huge bowl of dumplings. She was very satisfied.

That's right, there is something she needed to warn Yan Huan.

“Xiao Rongrong might find someone to handle you. You should think of a way to go about it.” That was all she could say right now; it wasn't convenient for her to say anything else. After all, she was still Xiao Rongrong's manager and she wouldn't do any backstabbing actions. She had a certain level of professionalism at the very least.

“What is she planning to do to Huanhuan?” Yi Ling was furious. “Has my Huanhuan offended her? Does she have nothing better to do?”

It wasn't appropriate for Luo Lin to answer this.

“I can only say just this. As for what she can pull off, I should be able to find out if I want to. Take that as me paying for this meal. I can't disclose anything else.”

“Isn't this too much?”

Yi Ling huffed angrily as she stood up. “How can you do this? We will be future colleagues. I do not mind you coming to steal my job, but can't you say more and make things clearer?”

Chapter 203: What a Strong Support

Luo Lin smiled; she couldn't say anything.

She walked out.

“Huanhuan, look at her!” Yi Ling pointed at Luo Lin's figure as she walked away. She found her quite pleasing to the eye at first. But with things like this, she no longer thought so.

“Do not blame her,” Yan Huan comforted Yi Ling. “It is hard for her to do this already. Do not question her decision. If she says too much, that would be betrayal and it isn't professional of her.”

Yan Huan liked someone like this. Compared to those fence-sitters, someone like her seems more approachable.

After hearing this, Yi Ling wasn't as angry. However, Luo Lin's warning had left her nervous. "Let me go find a friend." She quickly grabbed her phone and ran to the balcony. She started asking about Xiao Rongrong to better prepare herself.

It wasn't long before she returned. She didn't look very well.

"It seems like she has someone at the broadcasting side. She has some relationship with many people from the upper management too. Many female artistes who had offended her have been kept out of sight from the upper management.

Yi Ling grabbed her neck.

"Even though I do not know who the upper management is, it cannot be someone small. If not, he wouldn't be able to keep so many uprising stars from seeing daylight. You should know what the entertainment scene is like. We have walked this path and it is very easy for people to forget us. When you have no good works, when you are not appearing in front of the public, when you start disappearing, people will forget your face, you as a person or even your name. Everything about your past would be wiped away. Maybe some people might still remember you but that remembering is but the biggest mockery to you."

"Either everyone forgets me, or everyone remembers me."

"Huanhuan, what should we do?"

Yi Ling grabbed her hair but she hadn't expected that one day, they would be in such a predicament. If Yan Huan really was hidden from the public, her road to stardom could very well end here. They couldn't afford to take such a risk."

Moreover when it came to such a troublesome issue, they had no one to turn to for support.

What should they do?

If she had known earlier, she wouldn't have chosen to pick up this drama. Not even any role. What happened to her brain then? Why didn't she consider this and find out more about the first female lead?

Even though her Huanhuan was very likeable, not everyone who saw her liked her.

"Do not worry, I will think of a way." Yan Huan tapped Yi Ling's shoulder as a way of comforting her. She looked very relaxed but whether she really was or not, only she knew.

She was in fact as helpless as Yi Ling.

However, she had exhausted all options. Luo Lin had already reminded them and according to Xiao Rongrong's character, she would very likely do something to her.

She opened the door and went into her room.

Yi Ling was thinking of a solution as she went around asking people for help. As for Yan Huan, she had no idea who to find.

Whoever she knew in the past and whoever could help her, she no longer knew them anymore. Yan Huan now was no longer the Yan Huan from before. Back then when she became famous, not many people dare to offend her. Even though she had no support behind, just like Liang Chen, she knew many people. At the very least, there were a few people who could help her. Sometimes, some of them were even her loyal fans. However, she had barely just started now.

Chapter 204: Resolved

She was small and hadn't grown up yet. She was weak and had no means of protecting herself from getting hurt.

Just because she didn't attack anyone didn't mean that no one would attack her. But what should she do?

Her fingers unknowingly gripped tighter around her phone. Suddenly, she thought of something.

She took her phone out

She bit her lips before calling that number.

Not long later, the call connected and that man's voice was one which she would never forget.

"Lu Yi, it is me, Yan Huan."

"Oh, what's up?" Lu Yi's voice had become warmer but this was how he had always been. If he were to turn warm, even the ice in the South pole would start to melt. But because of this, not many people had been able to guess what he is thinking. Was he happy or not?

As for whether he was happy right now, Yan Huan had no idea. Even if she met him, she wouldn't be able to tell.

"Didn't you say if I had any problems, you will help me."

Yan Huan tugged at her pyjamas. She wasn't very sure in her heart actually. To be honest, there was nothing going on between the 2 of them. She had merely given him some blood but he had saved her life twice. She still owed him once and even if she did return it, she couldn't return it now. She had no means of doing so.

So would he still help her? Would he help her for no reason?

Will he still keep his word? Can his words be trusted?

"Yes," Lu Yi placed Little Bean down from his lap but the cat wanted to jump back on. It felt more comfortable on his lap than its own bed. It was warmer and cats were afraid of the cold. Hence it had this habit of not sleeping in his bed but on Lu Yi's blanket. Of course, it still preferred to lie on his legs in the day.

Seeing that he was good at clearing its shit, he had taken him as its male owner.

Yan Huan tugged at her pyjamas again and was close to ripping it into 2 halves. This man did like finishing his sentences. Will finishing his sentence kill him? Even though his words might not mean much to others, it was indeed infuriating at times.

“Say,” Lu Yi added at last.

Yan Huan finally stopped tugging at her clothes as she smoothed the creases on it.

“Someone wants to shut me down.”

Lu Yi frowned before saying, “Who?”

Yan Huan shook her legs as she threw her phone to one side.

Okay, this matter had been resolved.

When she woke up the second day, she saw Yi Ling sitting on the sofa tugging at her hair. Her whole head looked as if it had been bitten by a dog. There were two dark eye circles under her eyes.

“Why? Did you not sleep last night?”

Yan Huan walked over and squatted in front of Yi Ling. She then held up her face. She looked horrible and had most definitely not washed up.

“I did not sleep the entire night. I was so worried for you but how in the world did you sleep? Huanhuan have you not thought that if Xiao Rongrong really wanted to deal with us what would we do? You will be hidden away.”

“It alright,” Yan Huan moved Yi Ling’s hand aside.

“Even if the sky were to fall, there would be someone taller holding it up for us.”

Chapter 205: Who Will Have the Last Laugh

Yi Ling had a confused look on her face. She had no idea if Yan Huan was dumb or unaware of what was happening. Or perhaps she didn’t know the dark reality of the world and didn’t know how serious this was.

“Huanhuan, you could be cut from all networks and not be able to act again!” She thought back to all the actresses that had been shut down. Some of them were more famous than Yan Huan and some of them had almost reached the status of a diva. However, they all became nobodies, and no one had any idea where they were now or what profession they were in.

“My pitiful Huanhuan, do you know that not long from now, we might need to roam the streets without a single penny.”

“Relax, it is alright.” Naturally, Yan Huan wouldn’t tell Yi Ling that this matter had been resolved. She knew Lu Yi’s resourcefulness. On the surface, he was an attorney, but when it came to the entertainment industry, he had powers that no one else knew. Lu Qin had many resources and they had gone over to Lu Yi. Hence, she wouldn’t be shut down or hidden away. It could be someone else.

She and Yi Ling went to the set as Yi Ling still had a listless look on her face. Luo Lin frowned in worry. She felt that her decision was right but chances comes with much difficulties at times.

Luck is a skill and she had no idea whether Yan Huan had such a skill or not.

Xiao Rongrong turned and glanced at Yan Huan. Her bright red lips let out into a small smile. Yan Huan, let's see how long you can be arrogant for.

Yan Huan obviously noticed this, but she didn't care. The person who had the last laugh was the one was the one who is left laughing at the end.

She closed her eyes and let out a sigh.

A new day. All the best Yan Huan.

She had always been in high spirits and even though she had lesser scenes than most people, she had always been the steadiest. She didn't have much NG and hence, many people would say that working with her was a pleasant thing. She would bring them into the scene but she would be able to get out of the scene the quickest too.

Today they were filming a scene of the empress returning from Anguo Temple after praying. The Emperor and his concubines as well as senior officials were welcoming her back.

The Empress held Granny flower's hand as she alighted from the carriage. In an instant, that stature and aura left everyone at the scene in awe.

She walked in front of Concubine Mi who was kneeling in front of her. As she looked down at her, it was almost as if she was staring at an ant. This left a bad taste within Concubine Mi. In this palace, it wasn't hard to win the emperor's heart. He was a flirtatious person but wasn't very committed. Perhaps that can be said for all emperors and he was good to every woman that he liked. He would make all of them feel as if they were the last woman he would be with and the real winner of the palace.

However at the end of the day, they had to face the harsh reality.

The emperor was a flirtatious person and hence in this palace, it was easier to win the heart of the empress than the emperor. With the empress as a shield, the emperor is a filial son and no matter what, he would give his mother some face.

Concubine Mi lost in this aspect.

Aren't you most proud of yourself? Don't you think you have the backing of the emperor; don't you think you are incredibly talented and have won the throne. Do you not think you can become the queen?

Then let's see at the end of the day, who will be the one left laughing in the palace.

Chapter 206: A Pity

Let's see who shall have the last laugh at the end of the day.

Will it be the Empress or Concubine Mi?

Will it be Yan Huan or Xiao Rongrong?

In the show, the empress had managed to control Concubine Mi.

In reality, Yan Huan has also left Xiao Rongrong devastated with her acting.

Overpowering one while acting is a skill by itself too. An experienced actress could easily do so to a newbie. However, Xiao Rongrong wasn't a newbie, but she was still suppressed by Yan Huan at the end of the day. Her condition got worse as the filming progressed.

At the end of the day, she had been cut by the director the most and she had delayed the progress of the filming by quite a bit. Director Zheng had lost a lot of hair out of frustration because of this.

Xiao Rongrong wasn't in the right frame of mind at all. He would have asked her to scram a long time ago but she was the first female lead. If this continued, he was going to pull out all his hair. And now it wasn't just him, even the other actors had been forced to work overtime because of this. All of them were full of grievances and he had a splitting headache because of this.

"Xiao Rongrong, what is wrong with you?"

Director Zheng had specially looked for Xiao Rongrong to talk to her. "You can't remember your lines, you can't get into the right position. You have no expression. If you continue doing this, how are we supposed to film!"

It's because of Yan Huan!

Xiao Rongrong almost screamed and banged the table.

However at the end of the day, she still needed her face. With her status, if others were to find out that her acting had been affected by a third-class actress, she would be mocked at. How was she supposed to show her face in the entertainment industry in the future?

"Sorry, Director. There are some things happening recently and I am not in a good mood. I will adjust myself." She took in a deep breath before she found this excuse. In any case, she cannot say that her acting had been overpowered.

Yan Huan was very good at doing so. Not anyone could see this and only she herself could feel it.

Yan Huan, her face blackened before a cold smile emerged from the corner of her lips. We shall see whether you the empress will be able to have the last laugh. So not forget that at the end, I will become the strongest woman in the palace while you end up dead.

Indeed, this was the ending of the show. The empress was old after all and she did die from illness. Concubine Mi became the concubine of the generation and also the owner of the palace.

It might differ from history but this wasn't any historical drama to begin with. It was an exaggerated romance flick.

To this, Yan Huan was powerless too. However, as an empress she had led a fulfilling life. Not many people will have the chance to have such an exciting life like her.

Yan Huan took the meat from her bento and placed them in Yi Ling's bowl.

"Why aren't you eating such good meat? You are skinny enough." Yi Ling couldn't understand. This meat wasn't fattening, it was beef. But Yan Huan still wouldn't eat it.

Yan Huang smiled without saying anything. She turned around and continued eating her portion. Perhaps Yi Ling couldn't see but Luo Lin had seen it. Yan Huan did like to eat beef and she didn't dislike the beef in the bento. It seemed that she liked it and the only reason she gave it to Yi Ling was because Yi Ling liked it.

It was a pity as she turned to look at Xiao Rongrong. Xiao Rongrong had already found that person to help her. It seemed like this drama could be Yan Huan's last drama. It was a pity seeing she was such a good actress and was good-hearted too.

Chapter 207: That Expression

Her guess was good, that person had already made his move.

At this moment in Manager Li Changqing office at Yuelun , a middle-aged man in his forties was tapping at the table lightly. He sounded increasingly frustrated.

"Manager Li, may I ask, have you decided?"

Li cscrunched his brows. He had no idea how to answer that and dragging it out forever isn't the answer. This man in front of him wouldn't let him drag it out too.

"Mr. Zuo must it be like this? Yan Huan is a new actress that our company had signed. She is young and disobedient. If she offended you in any way, Mr. Zuo, let me apologise for her. When there is time, I will get her to visit you personally. Will that do?"

He had no idea how Yan Huan had offended this Zuo Fanrui. He was in the top-level management at Sea City broadcasting station. He wouldn't show himself usually. Yan Huan was just starting out and might not have even met him before. Why would he do this and make life hard for a young lady?

Such an act could destroy her!

Her acting was superb and she looked good too. She was one of the talents that their company was heavily focusing on. He had quite a few advertisement offers for her right now and he was waiting to arrange them once she had returned from acting.

But now, Zuo Fanrui wants her to be forgotten.

This wasn't just a loss for Yan Huan, it was a loss for the entire company. One must know that he had already fought for a few jobs for Yan Huan and they all cost him quite a lot of money. He had even created a drama just for her. How couldn't possibly let the entire company's and Yan Huan's effort go to waste just because Zuo Fanrui wants her to be hidden away.

Zuo Fanrui turned the diamond ring on his finger. "I will not accept any butts from you. You need to know that you just have to follow my words. Li Changqing do not forget that in the entire Sea City, if you want the company to survive, it all depends on me. Do you understand?"

"I do." Li Changqing let out a tortured laugh. How could he not understand? He had made himself so clear and it was such an obvious threat. Even if he insisted, his boss might give in. Yuelun will not offend Zuo Fanrui for Yan Huan.

'Alright, I will wait for your good news.' Zuo fanrui stood up and prepared to leave.

“Mr. Zuo may I ask why?”

Li Changqing stood up. He needed to know the reason. The company will not shoulder this blame. He wouldn't too.

“Reason?” Zuo Fanrui gave a cold laugh. “She offended someone she shouldn't have offended. That's the reason.”

He would only say this. As for who she offended, he let them guess for themselves. He believed that Yan Huan herself should know.

Li Changqing sighed as he grabbed the phone and cancelled all the work that he had accepted to prevent further losses. However, some losses couldn't be recovered.

After all, he had believed in Yan Huan. However, this lady's road to stardom had to end here.

Xiao Rongrong put down her phone as she smiled happily. She had a wide smile on her face as she sat there relaxing.

That expression.

Luo Lin closed her eyes.

Chapter 208: Someone Looking

It seemed like everything had been settled. She hadn't even had a chance to work for Yan Huan but that opportunity is lost now. She would still look for other jobs. She didn't want to work for such an artist and if she continued to do so, she might lose all her morals.

Even though the afternoon's shoot didn't go too well, there weren't many NGs either. However, Director Zheng had been tugging at his hair and a few of them had fallen off again. His head had a receding top recently due to all his stress.

Xiao Rongrong's acting was getting worse and her entire performance wasn't realistic enough. Even though it can be looked over, as compared to Yan Huan, it was really too lagging.

Having a first female lead like her made him feel like it was the worst investment in this entire drama.

His fame could be ruined by this actress.

He had no idea how she became famous and where her fame came from.

After returning to where he stayed, he got his assistant to show him past movies and dramas that Xiao Rongrong had acted in. He understood the reason once he took a look at them. Most of her acting were expressionless and stiff, just like how she was while acting as Concubine Mi.

Luckily, Concubine Mi's character was colder and more arrogant. Hence, she didn't need much expression on her face and this can be glossed over. However, he didn't feel comfortable with the word “gloss”.

They had already filmed till here and they couldn't change the first female lead like this. They cannot reshoot whatever scene that they had filmed since more than half of the show had been filmed. Even if it was tough, he had to continue with this.

While he was thinking how to gloss over Xiao Rongrong's poor acting skills, Li Changqing had already cancelled all of Yan Huan's work. He was waiting for her to return but he had no idea how to bring this up and talk about them.

The entertainment industry was indeed a cruel circle. You will be forgotten before long.

After Zuo Fanrui finished doing this, he was in a good mood. Even though he had helped the girl settle many things, they had both gotten what they want. No one could say the other is losing out.

Knock knock

Suddenly, someone knocked on his office door

"Yes?" He sat upright but wasn't focused on his work

"Mr Zuo, someone is looking for you."

His secretary wanted to say something but seemingly held back, he didn't look very well too.

Someone was looking for him? Zuo Fanrui looked at the time. It was so late, who would look for him personally?

"Does he have an appointment? If he doesn't, ask him to fix a time."

He was in a good mood today and didn't want to see anyone. If he was in a bad mood some other day, he was less likely to want to meet anyone.

"Mr Zuo, you cannot not meet this person." His secretary was powerless at this moment. He wanted to set up an appointment for Zuo Fanrui to be prepared too. Prepared on what to say, what not to say. This could save some trouble.

However, this person wasn't anyone. He doesn't accept an appointment, and no one would dare to ask him to make one.

"Who is it?" Zuo Fanrui was a little troubled. I have been meeting people the whole day. Why must they all come at a time when I don't want to meet anyone. So frustrating.

His secretary swallowed, almost as if this person's name was hard to spit out.

"It is Lu Yi."

"Lu Yi?" Zuo Fanrui's body stiffened. It cannot be that person. "Do you mean Lu family's Lu Yi, Attorney Lu?"

He asked with much uncertainty.

His secretary nodded, "Yes Mr Zuo, it is Attorney Lu."

Chapter 209: Prosecutor Lu

That was why the secretary had said that appointment rules and attempts at rescheduling did not apply to their visitor. Lu Yi was not a frequent visitor to the place, but everyone feared him because of his special status.

Lu Yi was difficult to deal with as he was impossibly stoic: he was not the type to be moved by either persuasion or coercion. He was also a man of great authority; a personal visit by him usually meant that he had found a problem so serious it would crush most people once exposed.

Zuo Fanrui wiped the cold sweat from his brow as he wondered what he had done recently to warrant a personal visit from Prosecutor Lu. He combed through his memories, but could not think of anything: he was careful with the law and was confident he had not committed any kind of criminal offense.

He quickly calmed the rapid beating of his heart as his fingers tugged at his tie to loosen it. He realized then that the back of his shirt clung to his skin; like his brow, his back had broken out in a cold sweat as soon as he had heard of Lu Yi's visit.

A moment later, Lu Yi, dressed smartly in a suit, walked into the room with large, confident strides. His handsome, sharply defined face was devoid of all expression—everything about him said: "Approach at your own risk."

"Prosecutor Lu, I can't express how honored I am by your visit."

Zuo Fanrui quickly stood up and extended his hand to Lu Yi. The prosecutor merely stared at the outstretched hand impassively; he made no move to shake it.

Zuo Fanrui hastily withdrew his hand before Lu Yi's razor-sharp gaze could lop it off at the wrist. He tried his best to resist buckling under the icy feeling of dread and terror Lu Yi's presence evoked.

"Prosecutor Lu, please, have a seat," Zuo Fanrui said in his most humble, obsequious manner. He wanted to get the visit over with as soon as possible and see the mighty Buddha before him to the door.

Lu Yi seated himself, but continued to stare expressionlessly at Zuo Fanrui, causing the man to squirm in his seat. Zuo Fanrui felt as though his chair had transformed into a bed of needles.

"Prosecutor Lu, may I ask the purpose of this..." Zuo Fanrui opened his mouth to ask why Lu Yi wanted to see him, but forgot the rest of his question when he saw the frosty look in Lu Yi's eyes.

He fell silent. Lu Yi, for his part, continued to stare at him without saying anything. Zuo Fanrui wondered if he was now expected to engage in a silent staring contest with Lu Yi for the rest of the meeting.

He wiped the sweat from his brow. This was why most people shield away from "socializing" with Lu Yi. It was impossible to tell what the man was thinking; the strange, oppressive aura he exuded was, to most people, a form of torture.

Lu Yi, on the other hand, was completely unaffected by the uncomfortable atmosphere he created wherever he went.

The temperature around them continued to drop. It was now so cold Zuo Fanrui began to wonder if he would eventually see his own breath mist in the air.

"Lu..."

Zuo Fanrui had just opened his mouth to say something when Lu Yi interrupted him.

“What are you trying to do to Yan Huan?” Lu Yi asked flatly.

Yan Huan? It took a moment for Zuo Fanrui to recall the name. He was puzzled: was Lu Yi referring to the little known actress Xiao Rongrong had asked him to deal with? What was Lu Yi getting at? Why was he bringing up Yan Huan’s name now?

As far as Zuo Fanrui knew, Yan Huan was an insignificant actress with no connections to speak of. Her family was neither rich nor powerful; she was a painfully ordinary girl. Zuo Fanrui, at Xiao Rongrong’s behest, had coerced Yuelun Entertainment into “icing” the new actress because he knew he would be able to get away with it. Within a few years, the public would forget all about Yan Huan; it would be impossible for someone like her—a nobody without any kind of power or influence—to stage a comeback at that point.

But Zuo Fanrui had not expected to hear Lu Yi mention Yan Huan’s name. What was going on?

The temperature around them was so cold now Zuo Fanrui actually saw his breath mist in the air. But the icy temperature did nothing to stop the sweat from pouring from his brow.

Chapter 210: I Will Indict You

Was it possible that Yan Huan was not just an insignificant orphan girl? Was she actually a powerful, untouchable woman who had Lu Yi—or perhaps the entire Lu family—watching her back?

“Don’t you have anything to say for yourself?” Lu Yi stood up and tossed a stack of documents on the table. “Go ahead, have a look.”

Zuo Fanrui picked up the documents with trembling hands. His instincts told him not to read the documents; he knew that he would not like what was written on them, that he would regret reading them.

But Zuo Fanrui could not pretend not to have seen the documents, not with Lu Yi standing before him. He would have to read them, then and there.

Cold sweat dripped from his brow with increasing frequency as he read the documents, line by line. They dripped onto the paper before him, smudging the words that explained in detail everything he had done.

It was a report of his illicit affair with Xiao Rongrong, and the many times he had used his power and influence to ice no-name actors and actresses for her. The report also had a complete list of the acting roles he had gotten for Xiao Rongrong; it explained why a mediocre actress like her had been able to land the lead female role in so many productions, and why she had seemingly become famous overnight. Everyone in the industry already knew that she had someone powerful backing her; it was obvious from the way she had been given the lead roles that were well beyond her acting capabilities, without even auditioning for them. She had only become famous because of the endless stream of marketing and PR from her TV shows and movies; someone with her mediocre acting skills would never have made it in showbiz, otherwise.

And she owed it all to Zuo Fanrui, who had paved the way for her.

He was married, and had children of his own. But he lived in fear of his fierce, hot-tempered wife, who he secretly referred to as “the Tigress.” To make things worse, he was actually working for his father-in-law. He could already see, with his mind’s eye, the horrors that awaited him if the Tigress knew he had been cheating on her and causing so much trouble.

But the Tigress and his father-in-law could wait. He had to deal with Lu Yi first. The Tigress and his father-in-law were still family; they would eventually forgive him no matter how upset or disappointed they were with him. But this did not apply to Lu Yi; Zuo Fanrui knew that Lu Yi had shown him these documents because he intended to indict him.

Lu Yi casually shoved a hand into his trouser pocket.

“Feel free to engage the services of a lawyer, but know that I will indict you nevertheless.”

With that, he turned and left.

Zuo Fanrui sat heavily on the floor, unable to stay on his feet for another second. One of his shoes slipped from his foot and rolled away. Sweat poured from his brow in endless torrents; his face had turned as white as a sheet.

The secretary was shocked by the sight that greeted him when he entered the room,

“Mr. Zuo, what’s wrong?” He hurried over to his employer and tried to get him to his feet, but quickly found that it was impossible for him to lift a 200-pound man like Zuo Fanrui.

Zuo Fanrui was in such a state of shock his legs had turned entirely into jelly. His mouth hung open; he seemed to have forgotten how to speak. A second later, his eyes rolled into the back of his head and he collapsed to the floor.

The secretary was stunned. He immediately called for an ambulance, and then called Zuo Fanrui’s family to inform them of what had happened. To his great surprise, Zuo Fanrui’s wife arrived before the ambulance; she hugged Zuo Fanrui’s unconscious body and wept dramatically over him.

She yelled at the secretary: “Where’s the ambulance?!”

The secretary received a faceful of flying spit from Zuo Fanrui’s wife as she continued to wail like a banshee. He wiped his face helplessly as he wondered why the unreasonable woman before him expected him to know where the ambulance was. Maybe it was stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic, maybe it was speeding towards them right this very moment, or maybe it was already waiting for them downstairs. He was not the driver behind the ambulance wheel—how was he supposed to know?

“I’ll call them again and tell them to hurry.” He wiped the last remaining speck of spit from his face, and hoped that was it—he would rather not receive a second “facial wash” made of this woman’s saliva.