

Chapter 571: What Do You Have To Compare Yourself To Others?

“Is it good?” Yan Huan asked Lu Yi eagerly although she knew that Zhu Xiaoye would definitely be a big hit like in her previous life, mainly because of the high viewer ratings from the website. However, no matter what, she was still anxious since it would be the first series she directed. Even though she stole someone else’s work but the effort she had put in this series was not something anyone could imagine.

She did not want to fail, she just wanted it to be successful.

Lu Yi took over the remote control to press on it, stopping the television screen and met Yan Huan’s crystal-like sparkling eyes earnestly. Then, his good looking lips curved upward.

“Mhmm, it’s really good.”

“Really?” Yan Huan asked once again in disbelief.

“Yes.” Lu Yi placed his hands on Yan Huan’s shoulders, then gently pressed on them and said, “The special effects were great and the outfit designs were beautiful too, but most importantly, your acting was amazing.”

Lu Yi was not accustomed to saying sweet things but this was because of his personality. The way he usually talked and did things were always objective and impartial so his judgements and comments would always be very honest. He would not exaggerate intentionally merely to make Yan Huan happy just because she was his wife.

He was really pragmatic and would only give something a score that it deserved.

After Yan Huan heard Lu Yi’s comments, she felt at ease since it was not bad.

Currently, Luo Lin was calculating the statistics of the views. Within just a day, Zhu Xiaoye’s views had already reached up to five percent even though only two episodes had been released and the overall reviews were good.

This was because there was really nothing to criticize about the series.

Whether it’s the styling, the outfits, the post-production, or the actors and the actresses’ acting, it could all be considered perfect. This production had gathered some award-winning actors and actresses and with such a huge IP rate, it brought with it terrifyingly huge fan response.

Moreover, the original work’s fans were partially included too.

Although there were some changes from the original work but from observation of these two episodes, the story was quite similar to the original’s. Hence, for the rest of the days that came thereafter at the exact same time every day, there were a lot of people who sat in front of the television and some of them who had no television would sacrifice their sleep just to wait for the website to update the new episodes. Besides, according to statistics, there was a huge amount of VIP reloading on major popular websites recently and the majority of it was to watch Zhu Xiaoye.

Furthermore, a lot of merchandise that had been produced as custom-made Zhu Xiaoye accessories began to trend. More importantly, online games with similar names had found Linlang and requested to develop a game with the same title.

The filming of Zhu Xiaoye was very successful, but of course, this outcome was similar to Yan Huan's prediction. Not only had Zhu Xiaoye brought her monetary income, but had also aided in making some rookie beauties famous. These were the beauties that would be the new blood of the entertainment industry, forging the future of the entertainment industry as their era. This was how the world worked, you could never be young forever and neither could you be famous forever.

Yan Huan was not afraid of being replaced but rather, her current pursuits were different from the ones in the past.

She believed that she had found a higher peak in her career.

As the popularity of Linlang began making waves, it was without a doubt that Yan Huan as a producer had also been hyped up as well. There was no one in this world that could be like her where she got famous in whichever role she played and made profits in whichever film she filmed, even the first production from her established company had gained a huge achievement too. If there was to be a real winner at life, Yan Huan would undoubtedly be the true winner.

The entire series of Zhu Xiaoye had a total of more than 60 episodes and after two months of airing, it came to an end. During these two months, it had almost occupied the position of the most viewed series in every website and as expected, all the actors and actresses, including the rookies had received various offers of advertisements and endorsements.

Unexpectedly, Yan Huan had also received an offer to become the spokesperson of a well-known international brand. Normally, this brand only hired those highly recognizable, sweet looking Western beauties with blonde hair and blue eyes.

This was the first time that the brand had made an exception. Even Yan Huan was surprised and wondered why the brand wanted to make her the spokesperson.

It was only after Luo Lin had met with the person in charge that they found out that the brand was planning to focus more on the Asian market. They had been preparing for this for the past few years and needed to pick a suitable spokesperson for their brand. In the end, all of them had collectively chosen Yan Huan due to her unwavering high popularity in the past years as well as for her public image that made her a perfect fit as their brand's spokesperson.

She was basically the first Asian woman to represent this brand and the first Asian face to grace this well-known international brand.

Su Muran was so mad that she felt as if her lungs were about to explode.

"Didn't you say that they were finding an Asian spokesperson and that you were certain that they would pick me?" Even fools knew that for a female celebrity, multiple offers from minor brands were nothing compared to being able to receive an offer to be the spokesperson of such an international brand.

The opportunity to appear at an international platform and the chance to increase popularity was not something attainable from filming in average local advertisements or normal brand endorsements. In

fact, needless to say, filming in 50 local brand endorsements could never compare to a single international brand, that much was obvious.

Su Muran's manager struggled to find the words, "They originally agreed to choose you but there was someone with a higher position that preferred Yan Huan. So, after some discussion and comparison, they ended up choosing Yan Huan."

What her manager did not mention was the voting they had undertaken. Where there was a total of 12 votes, Yan Huan had gotten ten votes while Su Muran had gotten only one with another vote forfeited. She was afraid to tell Su Muran this.

Or else, with Su Muran's personality, she would really combust.

She had always liked to compare herself to Yan Huan and Yan Huan had been her rival since the beginning. Her manager really wanted to tell her that the enemy's forces were too strong while theirs were too weak.

Miss, you are totally not on the same level as Yan Huan. Other than having a strong family background, what else do you have that is better than her? You are not as beautiful as her, your acting skills are not as good as hers and you are not as popular as her either. Even the first film from the company she invested in has gotten such high views. So, tell me, what else do you have to compare yourself to her?

If she was the person in charge of the international brand, she would choose Yan Huan over Su Muran as well.

It was fated that the one called Yan Huan was meant to step on Su Muran in this lifetime. Although no one dared to admit it and no one wanted to agree with it, but this was the reality of the situation.

Chapter 572: Lack Of Budget

Su Muran kicked her shoes off forcefully in a fit of anger, her pretty face distorted by an angry grimace. She was seething. She wanted to kill someone. But there was nothing she could do.

Nothing could take away Yan Huan's ambassadorial opportunity now, not even Su Muran. Despite her status and wealth, it just wasn't possible for the Su Family to lay a finger on Yan Huan.

And Yan Huan had taken the offer too. It was a generous offer, no doubt, but fame was the more appealing factor here, rather than sky-high pecuniary gains.

She was going to be the first Eastern face of the brand.

Her face had finally gone international, and in a way, she did her country proud, for this was a position the entire Asian continent vied for. Yan Huan, getting it out of the blues, felt like a stroke of good luck.

The advertisement took Yan Huan an entire month to shoot. By the time it would be released, her fame would once again be at its zenith, and she planned to leverage that fame by shooting a new movie.

She still lacked the funds to give shape to her skyscraper. She wasn't thinking of getting back the money she invested in the Ye Family either, not when they needed money the most. She wouldn't backstab anyone. Others might do it, but she wouldn't.

As she busied herself with the endorsement, the new Demi-Gods and Semi-Devils begun its shooting. At the start of the shoot, Su Muran and Lu Qin wasn't stingy with the distribution of their "dog fodder", flirting and flaunting their relationship at every possible opportunity, regardless of whether the romance between them was real or not.

The new Demi-Gods and Semi-Devils wasn't exactly trending, despite the additional traffic generated from Su Muran and Lu Qin's stunts. There were upcoming films from other directors, after all, which likely contributed to the waning exposure of the film. But Yan Huan believed it was merely the calm before the storm.

And right she was. Soon, a story of Lu Qin getting injured surfaced, along with how Su Muran had taken care of him meticulously, surfaced on the Internet, along with many photos of her nursing him. Whether it was done out of true love, ulterior motives, or merely a publicity stunt, the new Demi-Gods and Semi-Devils managed to return to public view and enjoyed a spurt in fame.

And who could truly say what was real or fake in the entertainment world?

Yan Huan caressed Little Lei's buttocks, which were round and tender like a freshly-plucked peach. She almost wanted to take a bite of it.

Little Lei kicked his short, stout legs back and forth in dismay, then rolled over and wriggled forward energetically like a caterpillar.

"Yee-ya..." The little fella bit his finger and beamed at Yan Huan. Maybe he knew her, since Yan Huan brought interesting playthings and tasty food, which unfortunately only consisted of powdered milk, on every visit.

And powdered milk would continue to be his only source of sustenance for the next few years, so he would be better off being content and not covet more refined tastes.

"Are you going to act again?" asked Yi Ling, prodding at her son's ripe, tender cheeks. She had heard about Yan Huan's latest designs.

"Yup. It's a movie that's going to be aired during the New Year season."

"This has been in motion for a while already, eh?" asked Yi Ling, extending her legs to block off Little Lei so he couldn't escape her entrapment

Little Lei didn't give much of a struggle either. Sucking on one thumb, he fell asleep readily on the bed. His tiny limbs were firm and powerful, as expected from Lei Qingyi's son. In the future, he will also grow up to resemble a utility pole.

And now back to what Yi Ling said earlier.

She got it right. Yan Huan had been eyeing for the New Year slots for a while already. She needed money. A lot of them. She still had a skyscraper to build.

She made a move.

"If I can make 2 billion with this, there would be no problems raising the Lin Lang skyscraper office."

“Mhm, it’s a good idea,” said Yi Ling, giving her a pat on the shoulder. “You have my mental support.”

“I don’t need that,” said Yan Huan. To Yan Huan, those things were superficial. Like Lu Yi, she was practical these days.

“What do you need then? Something...physical?” asked Yi Ling playfully.

Yan Huan rolled her eyes. “What good would that serve me?”

“Hmm-hmm...” Yi Ling pinched Yan Huan’s cheeks, forcefully.

“Fine, how about I manage your logistics and bring you packed meals every day after the shooting begins?”

“That’s more like it,” said Yan Huan. She actually needed someone to fill that position. She wasn’t poor and wouldn’t fuss over a few dollars, but during that special phase, she wanted all of their limited budget to go into the expenses of filming and not anywhere else.

There was always the option of looking for sponsors, but she wasn’t planning on doing that at the moment. She knew she had to be patient to lure the big fish. The road she paved before this was for this very purpose.

Another reason behind giving Yi Ling the logistics position was to busy herself with something. They always said that a woman who gives birth once will become dull-witted for the next three years. Yan Huan feared that it might be true and cause Yi Ling to lose touch with society. If that happened, she would forever be only a mother, her own careers and passions forsaken.

She knew Yi Ling’s disposition too well. Besides, self-confidence helps a woman stay young.

When she got home, Lu Yi was still busy with his work. He liked his new laptop a lot. It was a handy laptop, built with the best hardware and boasting ultra-light weight, one of the best in the world.

“Welcome back,” said Lu Yi, standing up as he set the laptop on the table.

Yan Huan tossed her handbag on the sofa and walked up habitually to give him a hug.

“Tired?” asked Lu Yi, realizing that her muscles were tense when he caressed her shoulders.

“I’m fine,” Yan Huan let out a pleased sigh as Lu Yi’s large hands massaged the acupuncture points on her shoulders. Lu Yi knew a little about massaging, and the amount of force he used was just right. Yan Huan liked the feeling of his hands on her shoulders.

It was comfortable, and it put her at ease.

“I’ll be shooting a movie soon. A New Year title.”

“Anything I can do to help?” Lu Yi lifted her up and ensconced her on his lap. A tired woman deserved a good rest.

Yan Huan locked her arms around his waist and pressed her face against his chest.

"I don't have enough budget," she complained, pouting. The investment amount needed this time had exceeded her expectations by far. She had been taking on an insane amount of endorsement offers, yet it wasn't enough.

"I'll come up with something," said Lu Yi, massaging her shoulders steadily and rhythmically. She felt as though she was asleep, in the white clouds, where it was soft and light and white and clean.

Chapter 573: The White Fox

When Yan Huan opened her eyes the next day, the sky was already bright. She sat up feeling somewhat groggy but still thinking about ways she was able to accept more brand endorsements and advertisements. If she could film more advertisements, then she could collect enough money for the film expenses as soon as possible.

Logically speaking, she was considered a rich woman, but for now, she was still short of money. However, things would be better after Chinese New Year as she would earn back the money spent on the company and once she endured two more years until the Ye family airport was up and running, everything would become more desirable. In fact, she did not need to wait until the Ye family built an airport because, by that time, Linlang would already have its own structure.

"Mhmm, all the best," She clenched her fist as she encouraged herself.

Regarding the issue of lacking funds, she would never beg others for help unless she really had no other alternatives. There was no other way to go about it since superstar Yan wanted to keep all the profits for herself. Therefore, the consequence of not sharing profits caused her to be stuffed, and now that she wanted to digest her profits, it would not be easily done.

"You're awake." Lu Yi walked in and bent down in front of her to gently tidy up her messy hair.

"It's time to eat. The housemaid made your favorite steamed dumplings and ravioli."

Yan Huan lifted her face and smiled at Lu Yi. Lu Yi gently brushed his lips against her forehead and grabbed Yan Huan's clothes, helping her to get changed. He would be going to work in a while, but he had woken up early to arrange everything beforehand.

Yan Huan was still feeling tired, yet when she thought about her company, all the hardship she went through was worth it.

She stood up and ran to the bathroom to brush her teeth and wash her face just to refresh herself to prevent wallowing in sloppiness.

When she walked out of the bathroom, Lu Yi had already arranged all the food on the table. There were some delicious-looking steamed dumplings, ravioli, a plate of chilled cucumber salad and a serving of Eight Treasure Spinach.

Although the steamed dumplings were made of meat, they were not greasy. Hence, the meat that Yan Huan liked the most was probably the meat that had been wrapped in the steamed dumplings. She could finish up approximately six to seven whole dumplings.

"I'm going to work now." Lu Yi grabbed his coat, wore it, then took his notebook, and ready for work.

Yan Huan ran to him and tiptoed to help him straighten the clothes he was wearing. "I might be very busy today. So, I'm unable to eat with you but no matter how busy you are, you must fill your stomach."

"I know." Lu Yi smiled gently as the corner of his eyes was painted with warmth.

He kissed Yan Huan's forehead before leaving.

After Lu Yi had left, Yan Huan's shoulders slumped down as she carried all the plates to the kitchen. After she was done with cleaning, she changed her clothes and prepared to go out.

They still needed to read through the scripts and select the cast.

Other than that, they would still need to confirm the placement of the production team and she was required to discuss the various aspects of styling with Yue Ran as well.

She wanted to film a 3D movie this time. The investment for the 3D film alone had already cost more than 2D film and the production aspects of it were going to be more complicated as well but Yuan Huan already had a script for it.

It was called White Fox.

Actually, someone had already filmed this movie before but it was only in 2D. At that time, she had watched it once before and felt that it was a pity that its graphics were not detailed enough and that there were some minor problems with the selected actors and actresses. They were not beautiful enough and did not look like the fairies or demons they were supposed to play in the movie. Furthermore, it was a low-cost online movie. However, as a whole, the visual effects were delicate and of course, the storyline was very touching too.

She had filmed numerous series and movies before and for a movie to be successful, there were some important elements needed to be included.

She had thought about it previously, thinking if the movie of the White Fox could be filmed in 3D and the image quality could be more detailed, then it would be an amazing film.

Of course, as mentioned by her, a media company that remade the film and the profit they made at the box office was quite impressive. However, in her opinion, the film was still not good enough. The White Fox she perceived in her mind was also not of the same kind.

Even though the film was shot in 2D at that time with slightly more atmospheric and glorious images and an improvement in terms of the cast's acting skills, but most importantly it was not in 3D. Hence, there were still many details that could not be portrayed.

Even so, they had managed to sell up to a million tickets at the box office.

As for Yan Huan, her target was not merely a million, but she wanted a few millions or even billions.

However, she was still short of funds even after she had tossed all the money she could get together and was still a large amount away from obtaining enough funds. Let's just film it first. In any event, it won't kill anyone to tough it out. When the going gets tough, the tough gets going, there'll always be a way.

It was not that she had thought through it, but it was just that she knew that regardless of what happened, these issues could be solved and there would always be a way to solve them.

If worst comes to worst, she would just have to cooperate with other media companies. However, the profits she could get from the box office would then lessen. Therefore, she was unwilling to do so unless she really had no other alternatives.

Yet again, it was still the same issue, her company was still lacking funds.

Yan Huan flipped through the script for White Fox of which she had bought it from someone else. There was no issue about the formalities of the process as she did not wish to see someone raising potential trouble for her after the movie became famous.

Trouble always lingered around well-known people.

A famous film would attract even more trouble.

Thus, she had to make sure that the pre-production work was done well without a hitch.

The movie of the White Fox told the story of a Little White Fox which was cultivating in the mountain. The Little Fox was naive, cute and obviously very kind as well, but the Little Fox also had some secrets that could not be told. For instance, the Little Fox loved life amongst humans and admired humans. Therefore, the Little Fox went to beg the tribe's female elder, saying that she would like to transform into a human and go to the human realm for once.

The elder claimed that all humans were cunning and evil, yet the Little Fox still longed to go to the human realm from the bottom of her heart. She wanted to go and take a look at the human realm the elder had talked about.

She did not want to be a fox and instead, she wanted to be a human even though a fox would have a lifespan of up to hundreds or even thousands of years and humans would only live up to a hundred years. To her, the days living within the mountain were too boring. When she opened her eyes, all she could see was the snowy mountain and when she closed her eyes, countless years had long gone.

She had begged the female elder for a few days but the elder only sighed softly.

Then, the elder muttered something with implied meaning, this is life.

She was right, this was life, how could it not be? When the Little White Fox was born, she was already unusual as she carried a love mishap in her.

The Whitey was born on the snowy mountain as a fox, pure without a trace of sin with the predestined fate of cultivation into an immortal. At worst, she would only become a local deity but the thing was, she happened to be born with a love mishap.

The one that was born with a love mishap, once fallen in love, would mean death.

Unfortunately, the Little White Fox was born with a love mishap where no one could stop it; only she could endure the mishap herself.

Chapter 574: So She Had Been Used

The old granny turned the little white fox into a little girl, so that she may embark on a journey of her own in the world of mankind. Perhaps she would grow up to be more humanly, with the judgment to distinguish vice from virtue, and evil from good. There were good foxes and bad foxes, as there were good people and bad people.

And sometimes, humans were a lot scarier and more complex than a simpleminded fox.

The little white fox arrived at the world of mankind a guileless and naïve child. It was a dismal world plagued by droughts, floods, and epidemics.

The little white fox took pity on the unfortunate, and so she dropped her blood into the well. A gout of blood meant one year of cultivation. Ten gouts meant ten years.

She used all but one drop of blood to save others, relying on the last drop to stay alive.

As a result of using up almost all of her cultivation, her appearance became more humanly, as that of an ordinary little girl.

Later on, a county lord took her in and raised her as a stepdaughter along with his own.

She grew up as a human, and as the days went by she learned that the world of mankind was not the utopia she imagined it to be. There was war, illness, birth, and death.

These were things that might never have been seen by a little fox living on a snowy mountain, but this was the mysterious world of human that had drawn and fascinated her.

Even so, she loved everything here: her stepfather, as well as her blind stepsister.

Since young, she became her sister's eyes.

And they were the best of sisters, despite not being related by blood. One day, two guests arrived at her stepfather's court; one being the incumbent prince, and the other being an undefeatable general who bore many scars.

Perhaps all humans, including her, who had forgotten her identity of a little fox, loved pretty things.

And so the little fox fell in love with a mortal, the young and capable prince, who regrettably took an interest in the little fox's step sister instead. The general, on the other hand, was an icy man that reminded her of a block of ice on the snowy mountains that she had come from. She didn't like the cold, and in turn, didn't like the general either.

Still, the general's sword dance was splendid, as was his skills on the flute.

Under the moonlight, the little fox often listened to the melody of the general's flute while fantasizing about the other Adonis.

But the Adonis only had an eye for her eyeless sister.

The little fox was brokenhearted, but she couldn't bring herself to hurt either of them. They were both close to her, and she loved them much. Little foxes shared the same abilities as fox spirits, so she could very well murder her sister, or use her seductive arts to charm the general into submission.

Seductive art was an inherent ability among the fox race, which meant that she could use it even after losing the ability to cast spells.

Yet she never thought about using them on anyone.

Before the general left, he stroked her head and told her, "Beware of the prince."

Not knowing what he meant, the little fox gave him a broad, clueless grin and followed him for a long time. When he was far off, she stood at the same spot for a long time, feeling as though she had lost her best friend.

From then on, no one played the flute for her, or told her any stories.

She began to feel lonely.

However, soon after the general left, the prince began treating her better. Innocent as she was, she figured that the prince might've fallen in love with her.

"Would it make sister mad if I go out with the prince?" she asked her blind sister.

Her sister brushed her hair gently.

"Of course not. I never liked him in that way."

The little fox took her words at face value, thinking that she had found happiness and love, like in the love stories. She plunged right into the love trap weaved by the prince, forgetting that she merely had the appearance and heart of a human. Beneath this, she was just a fox, and the love trap of humans could make them lose their wits and wisdom. To a fox, losing its wits was a disaster that potentially brought death.

"Why?" asked the little fox, wide-eyed and bounded by tight ropes. The prince stood at the side, staring at her coldly. There was nothing but coldness and contempt in those eyes she used to love.

"Why are you doing this, sister?" The little fox asked her blind sister, who was supported by the prince.

Her sister's eyes were hollow as usual. On her face, there was always an expression of tenderness, and eyes that could not contact the light.

"Why, you ask?" replied her sister, her voice still as gentle as a drizzle, as tender as spring flowers, as refreshing as summer rain, as ripe as autumn fruits, and as pure as winter snow.

She extended a hand, and the prince supported her by the arm.

Walking forward, she placed a hand on the little fox's face.

"I couldn't say why either. All I want is to look at this world with my own eyes. Sister, we have grown up together. You've always been the best to me, haven't you?"

The little fox whimpered wordlessly.

"Dad said you were my eyes," she said as she traced her fingers across the little fox's face. "So will you be good and give me your eyes? You have seen all there is that the world has to offer, but I haven't. My world has always been dark and colorless. Is that fair to you, sister?"

The little fox had beautiful eyes, initially brimming with happiness and anticipation she held for this world. She never expected to be met with such cruelty and deceit. She never thought she would see so much malice playing before her eyes.

She looked up and stared at the prince, scouring for something in his eyes, but she found nothing but calmness. Calmness that made her see him for who he was.

“Have you been using me all along? Were you always after my eyes?” she asked.

She didn’t even know why she asked that. What was the point in asking? She had seen with her eyes and felt with her heart that the man had always been using her.

And what did she even need these eyes for anymore? Granny had told her that humans were the cruelest and fakest; cold-blooded creatures that could lay hands on their own kind without the blink of an eye. She didn’t believe it in the past, but now she did.

Not just their own kind, but also the ones closest to them.

Chapter 575: Who Suits The Role Of A Dainty White Flower

The prince stretched his thin lips lightly, his smile should have given off the impression of a breathtaking view, but right now, it merely came off as mocking to Little Fox.

“I’ve never told you that I’ll fall for you. My heart has no place for anyone but Ru Yin.”

“The thing that I want...” He paused his sentence midway, while his finger scraped lightly over Little Fox’s cheek before stopping at the corner of her eye. He parted his thin lips again, but the words which came out from them were cold and unpleasant.

“What I want from you, is only your eyes.”

“Who asked you to have such gorgeous eyes which do not belong to Ru Yin?”

“Your eyes are very attractive but they are not Ru Yin’s.”

He pulled back his arm and guided his elder sister to the side.

“Someone, gouge out her eyes.”

“Don’t look.” He covered his elder sister’s eyes with his hands, not wanting her to witness such a gory scene but instead she smiled. “Have you forgotten? I’ve lost my sight.”

“You’ll be able to see again very soon. I’ve promised you that I’ll give you a pair of eyes. A pair of eyes that would only belong to you.”

Little Fox’s eyes were taken away from her just like that. There were only two bloody holes left in the place where her eyes should have been, and she would no longer be able to see the colors of the world. Her eyes were gone and so was her heart.

“Xiao Bai...Xiao Bai...”

It seemed as if someone was calling her name.

She extended her arms forward to grope and she felt a face with profound features. There was an old scar at the corner of the person's eye and she knew it was a painful scar that would never heal.

"Big Brother Zi Yue..."

She was mumbling, while her fingers were still searching in front of her.

"It's me, Xiao Bai."

The general winced. He had not expected to see Xiao Bai had her eyes forcefully taken away by someone else.

Yan Huan read until this point and put down her script. Her heart tightened, perhaps it might be normal for anyone's heart to feel such pain and discomfort after experiencing this depressing scene.

It felt like she had been nipped by a needle, you could never forget it every time you come to think about it. Little Fox who was beautiful and snow white in color; and the people whom she had seen with her pair of eyes and the kind of delights she felt in the process.

While her eyes had fulfilled her lovely dream but alas, it was no match for the evil betrayals and greed of this world.

Yan Huan wiped her tears from the edge of her eye.

Those who committed sins in the name of love.

Those men in neat and decent attires but would commit vulgar acts behind the scenes.

No matter what happened she was going to make this film. She would employ a top-notch post-production team and invite the best actors to the cast, but the only problem now was...

She raised her chin up slightly.

Her funds were insufficient.

"It's rare to see you sigh so heavily?"

Luo Lin came in and saw Yan Huan almost sprawling over the top of the table. What's wrong with her? Why does she look so bothered?

"Yeah." Yan Huan was lightly scratching the tabletop with her finger. If she were a cat, she would have left a few claw marks on the table but unfortunately, she wasn't one. However, she was still exasperated.

"We are running out of money now." Yan Huan's face fell a little. "I've been working so hard to earn more money but I'm still poor."

Luo Lin joined Yan Huan at the table. She put aside what she was holding and said, "It's not that you are poor, just that why must you always invest in these films with a huge budget? Why not something else? Yan Huan, oh Yan Huan, you're doing the impossible by biting off more than you can chew! Let me see, are you all puffed up?"

This was the first time Luo Lin had a serious talk with Yan Huan. "You have to be mindful if this doesn't turn out well, not only would you be unable to get your money back, it may ruin your reputation too."

"Then you'll no longer be the golden remedy of the box office. You have to understand, once golden remedy turns into poison, there is no going back. No one will cast you anymore."

"You'll still be successful even if you give up on this film."

"I have faith in my sight." Yan Huan pointed toward her eyes. "You should trust me too, I'll make a jaw-dropping film."

Luo Lin placed a bunch of things she brought before Yan Huan. "These were what you have requested for. Yue Ran had sketched the actors' stills from their finalized costume design based on your request. Have a look if there is anything that needs to be changed."

Though Luo Lin disagreed with Yan Huan's actions, given that she had invested so much in one shot, her working attitude was still extremely serious. Luo Lin had made strong remarks about her decision but it was because that prevention was better than cure. Although she knew Yan Huan's character, that even if she knew she would fail in the end, she would still do it. She would come back stronger to prove herself. This woman would never falter even if she ran into walls after walls.

Yan Huan flipped through page by page.

Yue Ran was truly brilliant, the standard of his taste in aesthetics truly exceeded the norm. However, they were neither repulsive nor would it result in any classic form of hate and flaming by others.

His designs were aesthetic, refreshing and natural; they were able to catch the eyes of those who had come across them. In the media industry, his makeup style was able to bring the best out of the characters while for the novel, it could leave a refreshing and lasting impression even after the show had ended.

He had sketched the characters in the form of cartoon and even though no actors had been cast yet, his masterpieces were as usual, impressively beautiful.

There was no need for any changes at the moment because when the character's still-cuts were out, Yue Ran would figure out the necessary adjustments to be made. Therefore, Yan Huan would not raise any opinion yet. In any case, she might be an expert in film shooting but for makeup, she could only do light ones, not to mention she could only apply makeup on herself. On the contrary, Yue Ran was professional in the field, of which he had her full trust.

The next thing on the list was to finalize the cast. It was March now and they would have about ten months to shoot. Truthfully, the schedule was tight and rushing.

"Let me check with Liang Chen if she's free, perhaps she would take on the role of young mistress." Liang Chen was most suitable in acting the roles of characters who appear to be pure and innocent on the outside, like dainty white flowers, but completely wicked on the inside. In fact, when she was acting in character, it made viewers grind their teeth with hatred despite carrying a pretty and innocent face.

"Actually, I had someone else in mind which may suit the role better."

Luo Lin was tracing the table lightly with her finger, waiting for an appropriate time to voice her opinion.

“Hmm, who is it?” Yan Huan was curious about whom Luo Lin was thinking of.

“It’s Su Muran.” Luo Lin rolled her eyes at Yan Huan. “You’ve been in the industry for almost ten years, how did she not come to your mind?”

“Not ten years. Twenty years,” Yan Huan reminded Luo Lin.

“You started acting when you were five?”

Luo Lin had a wry smile, she did not believe Yan Huan.

“Not exactly,” Yan Huan chuckled a little. In her small laughter, she hid her secret. She did not start acting since she was five, but rather she had been acting for her second lifetime.

Chapter 576

: We Have The Budget Now

“What do you think? I’m right, aren’t I?” asked Luo Lin. “I know you’ll never invite her, but you have to agree that she’s the perfect candidate to play the black-hearted ingénue. No one can possibly fit the role better.”

“I guess you are right,” admitted Yan Huan. “She can play this character just by being herself. Not that I would ever agree to inviting her.”

Luo Lin gave her a look that said ‘I knew it’.

“Seems like you hate her with a passion.”

“Of course,” said Yan Huan, who never made an effort to hide her hostility towards Su Muran. “I won’t give her the chance to get famous by riding on the success of my film.”

“Your film hasn’t succeeded yet,” reminded Luo Lin as she leafed through the schedules of a list of actors. “I better check who’s available for the shoot. Most importantly, Liang Chen, Zhou Zizhe, and Qi Haolin.

Qi Haolin, handsome and scholarly and regal, suited the role of the duke the most. Zhou Zizhe’s military background gave him a natural air of authority. It was almost as if these roles were made to fit them. All that was left was to ascertain their availability.

Yan Huan wasn’t too worried about it, however, since she had already told them about the film in advance. Liang Chen and Qi Haolin, absorbed by their love affair, was not like to take on any other offers for now. Zhou Zizhe was also waiting for Yan Huan to finalize her plans.

As expected, when Luo Lin contacted them, they all agreed to star in her film. With the troublesome main cast settled, Luo Lin heaved a sigh of relief. Drafting the secondary cast was relatively simple, since there were always substitutes available if the ones invited turned them down.

Plus, there were so many rookie actors under the company’s name, waiting for their chance to shine.

Luo Lin was more inclined to give the contracted artistes a chance, so that they could progress rapidly and stand on their own.

After a busy day of work, Yan Huan finally got home. At the doorstep, she picked up two bottles of milk and pushed through the door. She then made a call to Lu Yi, asking for the time of his return so she knew when to prepare dinner.

Lu Yi said he would be back around 8 PM. Yan Huan laid down on the sofa, lifting her feet up and huddling her legs together.

“Yes, Auntie, he said he would be back at 8. I would leave dinner to you. For tonight’s dishes, please keep the flavor mild.”

She put her phone aside and began toying with it intermittently. The only thought on her mind was where to source the budget. A bank loan, perhaps?

That wasn’t a bad idea, but she would need a collateral to make it work, and with the huge amount of loan needed... Maybe her husband would make a fine collateral, and she could just redeem him back afterwards.

Her unbridled thoughts wandered freely, and she wasn’t even aware of the nanny’s arrival.

She was still daydreaming by the time Lu Yi reached home, her pretty toes tapping against each other, her thoughts unknown to everyone.

Lu Yi picked up a blanket and wrapped it around her laps.

“It’s dinnertime,” said Lu Yi. He spruced up the loose strands before her face and gave her a light tap on the face to bring her back to earth. “What are you thinking about?”

“I’m thinking; how much would the bank loan me if I use my husband as collateral?”

Lu Yi: “...”

The nanny walked out of the kitchen with the cooked dishes, all prepared according to Yan Huan’s instructions; stir-fried Chinese cabbage, cucumber salad marinated with vinegar, soy sauce, and grounded garlic, seaweed salad, as well as Lu Yi’s favorite braised pork in soy sauce.

“Have a piece,” said Lu Yi, putting a piece of meat into Yan Huan’s bowl, which Yan Huan ate ungraciously. She was too skinny, and the director wanted her to eat more so that she would look like a little fox and not a little monkey. How could she portray a fox spirit with her scrawny figure?

She took a bite out of the meat. It tasted pretty good. Lu Yi had put another piece into her bowl before she could even finish her first.

Yan Huan ate obediently, without a word, so that Lu Yi would stop piling meat into her bowl. If she allowed him to feed her like a farmer feeding a pig, she might have to take the role of a pig spirit instead.

After dinner, Lu Yi took Yan Huan outside for a stroll in the garden. When they were back, he stuffed a card in Yan Huan’s hand.

“Here, for you.”

“What’s this?” asked Yan Huan, examining the card in her hand.

It was a bank card. Was it the budget for her movie?

"The budget for your movie," said Lu Yi, affirming her suspicions. "There's a billion inside." He prodded her forehead. "If it's not enough, let me know. I'll figure out something."

"How did you get a billion RMB?" asked Yan Huan. Her hands tightened around the card, which dug into her palms and sent a twinge of pain up her wrist.

She knew about the situation of the Lu and Lei Family. They had invested everything into the Ye Family's airport, and currently there hadn't been any returns yet.

That means they couldn't have pooled a billion.

If they could, they would have already sent it to the Ye Family to help them.

"I mortgaged Dad and Mom's house, as well as Dad's antiques."

If truth be told, Lu Jin's antiques were worth a good deal of money, and some could even fetch up to a billion in the future, but now wasn't the time yet. Even if they sold it, it wouldn't be worth much.

And Lu Jin treasured those antiques so much so that he would rather sell himself instead. Yet he had submitted them as collateral for a bank loan.

"I cannot accept this," said Yan Huan, returning the card to Lu Yi. "The house belongs to Dad and Mom. How can I use their home as mortgage?" Even though she was certain she could return the debt by next year, she found it hard to accept the money.

"Take it," Lu Yi stuffed the card back into her hand. "Mom and Dad both agreed to this."

"Plus, they are planning on staying somewhere else for a while."

Lu Yi didn't spell it out, but Yan Huan understood the meaning behind his words.

"Does this mean Lu Qin and his mother would have to move away?"

"Of course," said Lu Yi, holding out a finger to push a loose strand of hair behind Yan Huan's ear. "The house would be temporarily locked up, along with Dad's antiques. No one would be allowed to live there until the loan is paid off."

"But where is Mom and Dad going to stay?" Yan Huan knew Ye Shuyun had been looking for a chance to chase Lu Qin and his mother out. They have really crossed the line this time.

"Don't worry about them, they have other places to stay."

The Lu Family had a few other vacant houses in Sea City, and they could use any of them. Even if that doesn't work out, there's always the option of moving to Lu Yi's place, or the Lei estate.

Chapter 577: She Finally Moved Out

As for Lu Qin's side, it was clear that they would not be homeless. However, Qin Xiaoyue refused to move.

No matter what Qin Xiaoyue did in the past, even when she carried out all those crooked and dishonest deeds, Ye Shuyun had always let it go because that woman was a single mother. She thought that they deserved pity.

However, were they pitiful now? No, not at all. Which part of them deserved pity?

Qin Xiaoyue was going to be an in-law of the Su family soon. In the future, when the Su family became even more powerful, her social standing would be at the same level as Ye Shuyun's. The Su family's wealth was enough to rival a country, so naturally, they would gift her a place to stay.

Not only that, currently Lu Qin had more properties under his name compared to Lu Yi. This was mostly because Lu Yi was not into investments, so the only house he owned was the one he was staying in.

Now, Lu Qin was buying house after house, so was there really a need for him to continue staying with them?

It will only bring inconvenience to Su Muran's future mother-in-law, isn't?

Thus, when Lu Yi suggested that they mortgaged the house for a loan, Ye Shuyun agreed without hesitation because this might be the only way to make Qin Xiaoyue move out of the house.

She knew that she could not just bluntly demand Qin Xiaoyue to move out. That felt too shameless for her, and the same feeling applied for Lu Jin.

However, if the house was to be seized, even though she would not be able to continue staying in it, Qin Xiaoyue would also be forced to move out. When the house was returned once again, Ye Shuyun decided that they would renovate the entire place. The west side of the house would be left for her grandchildren. As for Qin Xiaoyue, they would have to see if she would be shameless enough to come up with an excuse to move in again.

As for the film that Yan Huan was producing, Ye Shuyun had never thought of the possibility that it would lose money. After all, Yan Huan had given them millions of dollars in aid when they faced financial difficulties. In addition to that, the precious artifacts that Yan Huan had gifted to Lu Jin could also be sold to pay off the mortgage. Of course, Lu Jin was unaware of this, but Ye Shuyun had decided to secretly sell off some of the artifacts since he would not have noticed it if only a couple of them went missing.

When Ye Shuyun and Lu Jin moved to their new place, it did not take much time. Their clothes were everything they needed, and once the door was locked, no one else could enter the house, which was far safer than when they were still in their previous house.

On the other hand, Qin Xiaoyue was reluctant to move. She had been living in that spacious house ever since she gave birth to Lu Qin. She did not need to spend a single penny because her spending was part of the overall expenditure of the family. Now, it was impossible for her to move out willingly, but Ye Shuyun had placed the house under a mortgage. Everything in the house had to be valued and no one could stay in it any longer.

"This is also my house, why should I move out?" Qin Xiaoyue refused to move. She had been living there comfortably, why must she move out?

“This house is under Mr. Lu’s name,” The police officer explained as he raised his eyelids lazily. “Although the house was separated into two from the middle, your part of the house doesn’t actually belong to you, Madam Qin. The house is still valued as a whole. We’re only following the procedure, so please don’t make things difficult for us.”

The police officer’s reply made Qin Xiaoyue feel like she had swallowed a fly, invoking a strong feeling of disgust and nausea. However, she could not retort, as the officer was right. The house was under Lu Jin’s name, not hers, even though the east and the west wings of the house were separated.

Qin Xiaoyue was so furious that she went to Old Master Lu.

“Dad, haven’t you seen what big brother is doing? Why is he mortgaging the house? Isn’t our family’s wealth enough for him to spend?”

Old Master Lu was holding his blue-and-white porcelain vase, his fingers tracing slowly along the body of the vase. His eyes had not even glanced at her once, and it seemed like there was a spark of annoyance in his eyes.

“Who would be displeased to have more money?”

“But he can’t just put the house under a mortgage. Now, the house is seized, and I have no place to stay anymore.” Qin Xiaoyue’s fury was evident even in her voice.

Old Master furrowed his brows. He was extremely displeased with Qin Xiaoyue’s screeching.

“I gave them the house, so it is their choice to do whatever they want with it, be it selling it or putting under a mortgage.”

He had particularly emphasized the term ‘to sell’. His second son had sold his own house, so why can’t his elder son put his own house under a mortgage? He knew what was happening with the Ye family. Now was a time where they were suffering a heavy financial strain. The more his descendants invested in them, the more they could earn, moreover, the house was only mortgaged, not sold, so they could take it back eventually.

As for where Qin Xiaoyue could stay, it was none of his business. Lu Qin had so many of his own properties, he could just set aside one for his own mother to stay. Anyway, none of them would be allowed to stay with Old Master Lu. It was too annoying for him to see them every day.

Qin Xiaoyue was eager to voice more of her opinions, but Old Master Lu cut her off.

“Alright, if you have time for these complaints, why don’t you use them instead to pack your things? That house is now under a mortgage, you can no longer stay there even though you wanted to. Can’t you see that Lu Jin and his family had all moved out?”

Qin Xiaoyue was already furious when she came here to see Old Master Lu, but now her fury was off the charts.

Even though she was angry, she had no choice but to pack her things. Someone had the gall to cut the water and electricity supply to the house, so if she continued to stay here, she could not even use the toilet. When one could not relieve even the most basic of needs, there was no way for her to stay alive.

“How’s the situation? Has she moved?” Ye Shuyun pressed the phone to her ear.

“Yes, she is gone now,” the police officer said to Ye Shuyun.

The house was already out of electricity and water for three days. Even if that parasite had access to food and drinks, she had no place to relieve her bowels.

She could order food delivery and purchase bottled water to drink, but she had no solution if the toilet bowl could not be used. It was impossible to not flush the toilet, and if she insisted on flushing it, how much water would she have to buy to remove all traces and smell after relieving herself?

Exactly, go the farther away the better. Ye Shuyun was smoothing out the creases of her shirt when she had that thought. If she goes far enough this time, it would be hard or even impossible for her to come back again.

She had just hung up her phone when her phone rang again.

She raised the phone to her eyes, noticing that it was Yan Huan who was calling.

Ye Shuyun scooped up Little Bean, which was lying on the sofa into her arms and placed it on her lap. Little Bean was still heavy, and its fur felt perfect and silky to the touch. It was also exuding a natural warmth.

“Mum, it’s me,” Yan Huan greeted as she leaned backward. Now that the financing had been settled, filming would begin soon.

“Oh, Huanhuan! Is everything alright?”

Ye Shuyun knew that Yan Huan was busy, so if she sought her out at this time, it might be to ask for assistance.

“It’s just a tiny matter.” Yan Huan reassured as she placed her right arm lightly on the table to support her chin.

“Mum, are you interested to work with the production crew? You’d be paid fair wages for your contribution.”

“Work? What kind of role can I take on?”

Ye Shuyun was interested, but she knew nothing about making a film.

Chapter 578: Are You Feeling Cold?

“Mom, you can help us with the logistics, order our meals and run some other miscellaneous errands?” Yan Huan said with a smile. “Yi Ling was supposed to go with us, but Little Lei is too young and she can’t possibly leave him behind. Besides, the place that we’re going to is quite far. That’s why I’m asking for mom’s help. I wonder if you’re willing to shoulder the burden to make sure we’re all fed.”

Ye Shuyun stood up abruptly, dislodging Little Bean in the process which caused it to fall onto the ground. Thankfully, it was a cat and its balancing skills were excellent. Although it was rather fat and less agile than its brethren, it was, nonetheless, a cat. Its body was nimble enough to prevent it from getting hurt.

“Of course I’ll go with you.”

Ye Shuyun had never been to a production set before, nor had she seen a filming set in action. Besides, many of her favorite actors were acting in the movie and she would have the opportunity to hang around them in the future. She would then be living the days she had always dreamed of.

Ye Shuyun promptly packed her luggage and followed Yan Huan to the film set. Although she was only a minor crew member, she was very satisfied with her position.

“You are bringing mom with you?” Lu Yi sat down and gently tucked Yan Huan’s hair behind her ears.

“Yes, mom will help me with the logistics.” Yan Huan shook her head, trying to free her hair. However, her hands were full of food and she had no choice but to let Lu Yi do what he wanted.

Lu Yi combed her hair with his fingers, not wanting her to look like a cat with ruffled fur.

“Mom definitely needs to get out of the house. Even dad said that she’s going through menopause and he’s thinking about ways to soothe her volatile mood. Well, it’s all settled now. Since she’s going to follow you around, she will probably feel better.”

“This is actually dad’s request.”

Yan Huan leaned backward and fell into Lu Yi’s embrace. “In the future, mom will handle our logistics. I heard that she was really capable back then. However, with dad and you around, her ambitions and passion were all contained.”

All women needed their own ambitions and careers. The same applied to Ye Shuyun. As all her time was occupied, she would no longer be bothered by the fact that Qin Xiaoyue actually made Su Muran her daughter-in-law and get herself worked up for no reason.

Yan Huan was all prepared.

Liang Chen, Qi Haoran, Zhou Zizhe and almost all the rest of the main cast were ready as well. In fact, Liang Chen had been waiting for them at the Movie City.

It was lucky that the courtyard they rented before this remained vacant and Yan Huan was able to rent it for the months ahead. This time, they would be filming at other places too and that was the toughest part, as the best effects could hardly be achieved from acting in front of a green screen.

Yan Huan preferred to film in the actual setting as the beauty and majesty of nature was not something that could be mimicked by mere computer graphics effects.

White Fox was actually a very hard movie to shoot, especially for the scenes that were set at the Snow Mountain. The shooting was carried out at a real snowy mountain, the tallest mountain that was located in Peace City. The temperature on the peak of the mountain was extremely low and it was covered in snow all year long.

The location was decided upon after a thorough discussion between Yan Huan and Director Jin.

Also, Director Jin was again the director for this film. In fact, he had volunteered to take up the role. When he knew that Yan Huan had the intention to produce the movie ‘White Fox’, he approached her

immediately to ask if she needed a director. Naturally, Yan Huan was keen to work with Director Jin. They had worked together multiple times before and she owed her success to Director Jin for seeing the potential in her and nurturing her talents. Besides, Director Jin had a unique way of filming. He was a very bold man and therefore was the best candidate to direct a movie of this genre.

Yan Huan reckoned that Director Jin's work should be of a similar quality to Yan Hua's.

In fact, the first candidate for director whom she had in mind was Yan Hua. After all, he was very experienced in directing films of this genre. Unfortunately, Yan Hua was Su Muran's default director and Yan Huan was not capable of recruiting him.

Director Jin was her second choice, but the fact was kept absolutely hidden from Director Jin. With Director Jin's temper, it was unpredictable on how he would look at this matter. All artistic people had complex thoughts and emotions that common people would never be able to understand.

Nonetheless, she was not such an air-headed person to upset Director Jin.

Hence, white lies were sometimes necessary.

With white lies, both parties could feel at ease.

That was definitely the best choice.

First, they arrived at the snowy mountain in Peace City and hiked to the peak by foot. Meanwhile, those who were not involved in these scenes were gathered at the Movie City.

It was not too chilly at the foot of the mountain, but as they were approaching the peak, they were chilled to their bones. In fact, the current timing was the most suitable to shoot winter scenes, as the volume of the snow would reduce when the weather turned warmer. When it was cold, they would have an abundance of snow but the chill that came along was unbearable. As of now, it was snowing heavily on top of the mountain.

The crew set up the tents and cameras. Then, they waited for the actors to get ready.

"Are you feeling cold?" Yue Ran asked Yan Huan.

"You can try taking off your winter jacket. Then, you can tell me how you feel."

Yan Huan knew that her voice was trembling. It was at least negative seven to eight degrees Celsius and she was only wearing a thin layer of clothes. She was nearly freezing to death.

"When you were designing the outfit, why couldn't you let the little fox wear another layer of clothes? Even an extra cape would have spared me from this extreme weather," Yan Huan complained as she snuffled continuously.

Foxes were covered in fur and were not afraid of the cold.

Yue Ran picked up the makeup brush as he dusted Yan Huan's face with makeup. "I've always said that you have pretty features. Your small face makes you perfect to act as many different characters. For instance, your current role starts out as a 13-year-old and ends as an 18-year-old. Fortunately, the difference is not very significant. Otherwise, I'll have to figure out how to make you appear younger."

“However, I’m bound by the limit of my skills and I can’t possibly make you look 10 years younger.”

“Besides that, your...” He pointed at Yan Huan’s breast, “Isn’t flat. It’s difficult to conceal it.”

Yan Huan quickly covered her chest. This was the part of her body that she was most confident with. She had always been skinny. If her breasts were small, then she would be no different from an average girl.

Yue Ran was a very innocent man. He did not have any immodest thoughts, only thinking about how he could manipulate Yan Huan’s appearance. He could make Yan Huan’s face appear rounder so that she could look chubbier and younger. He made Yan Huan’s eyes bigger too. As a whole, Yan Huan now looked like an adolescent girl.

In fact, Yan Huan was already a fully blossomed and married woman.

However, she never wanted to acknowledge her alluring charm because she wanted to remain pure and innocent.

She exited the tent and the cold wind blew right at her. She froze all the way to her throat and was unable to speak.

“Are you ready?” Director Jin asked Yan Huan.

Yan Huan made a gesture, signalling that she was ready. However, as it was too cold, she could not help but quiver uncontrollably. Even her breath seemed to have turned into ice cubes.

Chapter 579: The Root Of All Evil

She closed her eyes, inhaling deeply. When she opened her eyes again, she had fallen completely in character.

Her eyes were wide, filled with ambition and curiosity, yet besides that innocence, they also held traces of ancient centuries-old wisdom.

Just like that, she stood motionlessly in the snow, oblivious to the blizzard billowing on her clothes, ignorant to the noise created, even as they swept up layers of snow.

Her face was so pale that it was almost transparent. In the midst of the transparency, glowed a tinge of rosiness on her cheeks; adding on to the aestheticism of her features.

Her entire person was blanketed in white. Only her red lips and the rosiness of her cheeks indicated that she was a living thing, otherwise, she could have been a statue carved out of ice.

“Xiao Bai! Xiao Bai...”

Someone was calling her name from behind. “What are you doing standing over there? Come and play with us in the snow.”

When she turned around, it was finally revealed that the petite figure was a child, about 12 or 13 years of age, with hints of baby fat rounding out her face. However, at the same time, she possessed a chilling beauty, a pure and untouched beauty like the snow.

“Come and play with us, Xiao Bai.” The little foxes continued to wave their bushy tails at her.

The little girl suddenly cracked a grin, with hints of joy rising up and sparkling in her eyes. She ran toward them.

Crash! She fell onto the ground. When she raised her head, her entire face was covered with snow.

“Haha...”

“Look at Whitey, she can’t even run!”

“She has used to being on four legs, so of course, she cannot walk properly with two.”

“Whitey, Whitey... why do you want to become a human? Isn’t it amazing to be a fox?”

The little girl picked herself up from the ground as she wiped the snow off her face. She continued to run forward, her body gradually morphing into a beautiful white fox cub. Her thick fur was the exact same shade as the snow, its ethereal beauty putting the other foxes to shame. As for her eyes, they resembled the clearest of crystal, pure and untouched – shimmering with the reflection of the world she saw.

“Achoo!”

Yan Huan shuddered as she burrowed into her large coat.

“You were the one who chose this place, so you gotta suck it up and deal with it.” Yue Ran chided as he fixed her makeup. “Despite having the choice to brush it up with post-filming editing, you still insisted on coming and freezing yourself.”

“If we had settled with those, it wouldn’t be realistic enough,” Yan Huan explained before she sneezed again. She had seen the result of post-filming editing on other films, but regardless of how professional they were and how realistic they tried to make it seem, the effects would never be as natural as actually filming it at a natural location. More importantly, relying on special effects would make the cinematography less visually impressive, especially since they were planning to make their movie 3D. Hence, she was more than willing to brave the harsh weather to get the most realistic scenes.

“Achoooo...” She sneezed again, feeling like she was about to die of hypothermia.

Yue Ran raised his eyebrow. “You’re a woman but you’re willing to sacrifice so much. Stop making life difficult for men, they can’t measure up to you.”

“Aren’t you still comfortably alive?” Yan Huan sniped as she wrapped her coat tighter around herself. At the thought of having to take it off later, she could already sense a headache coming.

It was really cold outside, a lot colder than she had imagined it to be. It was almost too much for her body to bear.

“Yan Huan, are you ready?” Director Jin called from outside. The cameras were ready for them to start filming again. Everyone was actually in the same situation as Yan Huan; they were all cold, but none of them were freezing as much as she did.

Everyone else was wearing outerwear made of warm cotton, but what about her? Stripping down to her costume, she stepped out of the tent again to shoot the next scene.

In the next scene, it was still the same white fox. The Little Fox cleaned its face with its tail, and in the blink of an eye, a little girl appeared in its place. She was the human form of the Little White Fox.

She was still standing at the peak of the snowy mountain, peering down at the base of the mountain. According to the female elder, that was the human realm. The elder also said that humans would never be able to discover where they were because this region was buried in snow all year long. The foxes were born and raised here, and they would hone themselves at this very same place. Eventually, they could learn to take on a human form and continue to evolve into a local deity.

The elder had remarked that the Little Fox had the most talent and potential out of everyone else in the fox tribe, hence, she had the highest chance to attain the status of a local deity. However, she moved on to say that humans were the scariest, and most complex animals that they would ever encounter in the human realm.

They were born with kindness and purity in their hearts, but they grew up in the company of cruelty and evil.

The entire lifetime of a human teetered between good and evil. They could be kind at the start, but end up even more ferocious than any wolves, more poisonous than any snakes and more ruthless than any tigers.

Humans are certainly such a complex species.

The elder added that as long as the tribe did not go near the humans, then they could live on without worries. For centuries, numerous descendants of the tribe had made irreversible mistakes because of the humans, but at the end of the day, the humans blamed the fox tribe for everything.

Even so, the Little Fox still longed to experience life in the human realm.

The wind continued to blow on her face, but her eyes remained as clear as crystal.

“Elder, I wish to live in the human realm.”

Xiao Bai reverted to her fox form and sat on her haunches next to an old lady with a head of silvery hair.

“Sigh...” The old lady embraced the Little White Fox on the ground, gently caressing its marble-like white fur. “Xiao Bai, I’ve told you before, you have the most potential out of all the fox cubs in this tribe for the past century. If you are willing to put in the effort, you can definitely become a deity. Even if you might not advance to the level of a heavenly deity, at worst you could still become a local deity.”

“The mortal realm is the root of all evil, whereas humans are the source of all evil.”

“But Xiao Bai wants to go,” pleaded the Little Fox. It was determined.

The elder placed her wrinkled fingers on the Little Fox’s furry head. The Little Fox had a tiny mouth, and eyes as big as crystals. When the sunlight shone on her marble-like fur, it glinted like the snow.

The Little Fox sensed something dripping on her fur. When she raised her head, she saw that the elder was crying. But why? She did not know why the elder became so teary.

Vaguely, she heard the elder sigh.

“Life.”

“Life, what is life?”

The Little Fox was baffled. She curled herself into a ball, using her long bushy tail to cover her face. Outside, the snow was still falling, blanketing the ground in a layer of pure white frost.

The snow on the mountains was an everlasting white, and it had always been clean and untouched. Everything was peaceful there. It was home to a tribe of foxes that belonged to the arctic fox species, who stand aloof of all worldly affairs. This was a sacred land in a heaven unknown to humans.

Chapter 580: Frostbite On Her Face

The little white fox ran speedily across the snowy grounds, resembling a bolt of lightning. Snowflakes constantly fell on her body, but they were soon shaken off as she charged forward. Gradually, the little white fox transformed into a human. Underneath the white layer of snow lay the frozen ground, while the beautiful eyes of the little girl resembled the snow on the mountain.

Her eyes were pure as snow, but without the chill.

The snow continued to slide off her back. As one particular snowflake was falling, she extended her hand and caught it. The crystal-like hexagonal flake danced past her fingers and melted away.

“Cut, stop.”

Director Jin quickly shouted.

“Achoo!” Director Jin sneezed. The weather was freezing. Thankfully, they were finally done with the shoot and could return to a place with warm sunlight. Spring awaited them in the Movie City. More importantly, they could enjoy a decent meal and escape their current diet of instant noodles and biscuits.

Luo Lin hurriedly handed a coat to Yan Huan.

“Are you alright?” She dusted the snow off Yan Huan’s hair. “Luckily you’re not frozen to death by the cold, or I can only send a dead fox back to your husband.”

“Yeah, I’m still far from death.” Yan Huan tried to warm her fingers. Her entire body felt numb due to the cold.

She quickly ducked into the tent. Although it was cold within the tent too, it was relatively warmer compared to the environment outside.

She wrapped herself in the coat and took out her hands from the pockets. She could barely clench her fist with how frozen her fingers were.

“Tsk, let me see your chubby fingers.” Yue Ran approached her and sat down next to her. Then, he pulled Yan Huan’s hands over and said, “Your skin is frozen.”

Yan Huan pursed her lips, “But I don’t feel anything.”

“You’re almost turning into an ice cube. Of course you can’t feel it,” Yue Ran said as he removed the accessories in her hair. “Don’t worry. It’ll heal very soon once we leave this place.”

“Finally, we can leave this horrible place. It’s too cold here.”

Yue Ran heaved a sigh as well. The temperature within the tent was slightly more humane but it was still rather cold, to the extent that Yan Huan refused to think about the coldness anymore.

“I thought you’re not cold?” Yan Huan said while she held a mug with both her hands. She took a sip of the warm water and exhaled gently. She could feel the chill of the snow swamping her entire body. The filming had only lasted for five days, but she felt as though she had stayed on the snowy grounds for more than half a year. That torture was unbearable.

She was happy that it was finally over and she could soon savor a bowl of hot soup at the foot of the mountain.

Satisfied, she held the mug close to her lips. She took another sip and enjoyed the warmth that seemed to have saved her entire life and defrosted her almost coagulated blood.

“What do you want to eat now?” Yue Ran asked Yan Huan. If she was so content with just a cup of water, she would be rolling around in happiness if it was hot food.

“I want to eat...” Yan Huan held the mug even tighter, eyes squinting as her face brightened up with anticipation.

“I want to eat hot instant noodles, and drink some hot soup.”

Yue Ran ruffled Yan Huan’s hair. “Don’t worry, your wish will be fulfilled really soon.”

“I know, and that’s what I’m excited about.” Yan Huan smiled as she finished up the hot water. It was hard to boil water up here and it was only enough for them to drink. It was impossible to cook any cup noodles with boiling water as it was a luxury for them.

After they packed everything up, they decided to leave the peak before the sky turned dark. She had probably adapted to the extreme temperature by now. Moreover, her body was numb. So, Yan Huan seemed to not be able to feel the temperature anymore, but only the wind that was blowing on her face. Even though she covered her face with her hands, she could still feel the stinging pain as the wind buffeted her.

She was afraid to move as well, not wanting her skin to be injured, which would scar her precious face.

As they approached the foot of the mountain, the temperature gradually went up. Finally, the snow had stopped and they felt comfortable once again when the slightly warmer wind blew on their faces.

It was as though they had experienced a seasonal change within just a day, from winter to spring.

Yan Huan shed her thick coat and felt lighter than ever. She took a deep breath before exhaling. Her breath was no longer foggy.

Luo Lin stared at Yan Huan for a while before she reached out to poke her cheek. Yan Huan instinctively protected her face with her hands.

“Don’t touch. You’ve got frostbite on your face.” Luo Lin removed her hand while she reminded Yan Huan, “Take care of your face. What will you do if it’s ruined?”

“You know that it’s hurt, yet you wanted to poke my cheek?” Yan Huan covered her face as she glared at Luo Lin. Luo Lin was the one who dared to poke her face just now. Yan Huan did not even touch her own face.

“Sorry. I forgot about it.” Luo Lin shrugged. She certainly forgot about it, because she had a habit of poking Yan Huan’s face for fun.

Yan Huan rolled her eyes, thinking that she would ask for a small mirror from Yue Ran later to check the condition of her face. She wanted to know if it was really noticeable.

After taking a look at the mirror, she thought that it was not that bad. Only a small part was swollen and its severity was almost similar to her frostbitten fingers. She would recover within a few days.

When they reached the foot of the mountain, everyone was extremely relieved. They reserved the entire hotel to rest for the night before they proceeded with their journey to the Movie City on the next day.

At night, while Luo Lin applied some ointment on Yan Huan’s face, Yan Huan could not take her eyes off the bowl of still-steaming instant noodles on the table. She was very close to drooling.

Before this, she said that her wish was to eat a bowl of warm noodles. That was exactly what she did, and she had devoured the soup completely. She was not interested in anything else.

Everyone else were having hot pot, but Yan Huan did not join them. She chose to stay behind for the instant noodles.

As Yan Huan’s manager, Luo Lin was not allowed to leave her alone. She could only eat whatever Yan Huan was eating.

“This is yours,” Yan Huan pushed one of the bowls toward Luo Lin before she began to slurp the other bowl of noodles.

Luo Lin remained silent as she pulled the bowl of noodles toward herself. The moment she removed the cover, she purged all desires for hot pot and other delicious foods from her mind. She no longer wanted to exchange the noodles for anything.

At this moment, Yan Huan was already eating. It was the first time she understood how delicious instant noodles were. She had even dreamt of a bowl of hot noodles at the top of the mountain and her wish was finally fulfilled.

Yan Huan finished the bowl of noodles and left not even a single drop of soup behind. Both of them did not want anything else and were satisfied with just a bowl of instant noodles. After they filled their stomachs, they ended their day and prepared to leave early the next morning.

Yan Huan fell asleep right after her head touched her pillow. Even when Luo Lin wanted to talk to her, she was too asleep to respond.