

Chapter 21

Lin Shanchu was driven back to the mountain villa in Qing Xi Bay.

After the bodyguards dragged her into the villa, they stood guard at the door.

They didn't give her any chance to resist the whole time.

Her arms were in pain from being dragged.

She rested for a while before getting up to walk out.

Before she could take a step, she was stopped by the bodyguards.

“What do you mean by this?”

“Without President Lu's orders, you can't take a single step out of Lu Manor,” the bodyguard said expressionlessly.

Lin Shanchu's expression changed slightly.

Lu Shiyuan wanted to imprison her.

In the original novel, there was indeed a plot where Lu Shiyuan imprisoned her.

However, that was in the later part of the novel. It was when she finally decided to leave Lu Shiyuan.

Lu Shiyuan sent someone to imprison her.

After her uncle found out about her encounter, he returned to the country to save her.

It was probably because her awakening had affected the plot, causing the plot of her imprisonment to be brought forward.

However, this time, she would not let her uncle return to this nation.

In the original book, her uncle died in Lu Shiyuan's hands because he returned to the country to save her.

Having thought till this point, Lin Shanchu hurriedly ran into her room.

Fu Jue had shattered her phone at the Lu Corporation.

She didn't have time to buy a new one, so she was unable to call her uncle.

She could only send him an email.

Lin Shanchu turned on the computer, but found out that the computer was not connected to the internet.

She tried a few times but couldn't connect to the internet.

What was going on?

Lin Shanchu went out to look for the elderly butler.

“Grandpa Xu, why can't I connect to the internet?”

The butler avoided her gaze. “There might be a problem somewhere. I'll call someone to fix it tomorrow.”

Lin Shanchu looked at him for a moment and reached out to him. “Give me your phone.”

The butler hesitated for a moment, but still handed the phone to her.

Lin Shanchu realized that there was no signal on his phone.

“Did Lu Shiyuan block the internet signal at home?” she asked.

“Yes.” The butler nodded.

Lin Shanchu bit the corner of her lower lip. Then, she revealed a disdainful smile.

Lu Shiyuan was afraid that she would go out and cause trouble, so he imprisoned her and refused to let her out of the house.

He was afraid that she would start a livestream and cause trouble, so he blocked Lu Manor’s internet signal.

In short, Lu Shiyuan was starting to be afraid of her.

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As she thought of this, Lin Shanchu’s smile gradually spread.

In the end, it became a hearty laugh.

To think that there would come a day when Lu Shiyuan was afraid of her!

The butler frowned slightly and looked at her worriedly. “Ms. Lin...”

...

After sending Lin Shanchu back to the Lu family, Lu Shiyuan stayed in the company and waited for the results of the public relations department.

Fu Jue was an artist that the company had been promoting for the past two years.

He had invested a lot of money in the early stages. Now was the time to make profits off him.

He had to find a way to salvage the situation.

“President Lu.”

Zhou Yan pushed the door and entered.

“How is it?” Lu Shiyuan asked him.

Zhou Yan replied, “Fu Jue’s trending topic can’t be suppressed.”

“Increase the price!” Lu Shiyuan’s eyes were sharp.

Zhou Yan was silent for a moment. “It has already been raised to five million dollars.”

“Everyone’s useless!” Lu Shiyuan sneered.

Usually, it would only cost a few hundred thousand to a million dollars to suppress a hot topic.

Now that it had been raised to five million, it still couldn’t be lowered at all.

Despite being scolded, Zhou Yan still looked calm. “President Lu, I suspect that someone is trying to make the topic even more viral.”

Under normal circumstances, after spending so much money, it was impossible for him to not be able to suppress the topic.

Moreover, with Lu Shiyuan’s status, most people didn’t dare to offend him and would give him face.

When Lu Shiyuan heard this, he fell into deep thought.

The Lu Corporation was the biggest company in the entertainment industry.

Where did the rival come from?

Who would dare to go against him?

...

“Xunzhou, Fu Jue’s topic has reached the top of the trending list! My money wasn’t spent in vain!”

Nan Mu pushed the door open excitedly and entered with his phone in hand.

Huo Xunzhou sat in front of his computer. He didn’t respond at all.

Nan Mu walked over and saw Huo Xunzhou looking at the trending list..

“You’ve seen it!”

Nan Mu rubbed his hands together, then jumped onto the desk and sat down. “This matter has blown up so much. Let’s see how Lu Shiyuan’s company will handle the public relations of this matter!”

Huo Xunzhou’s brows were still tightly knitted together. No one knew what he was thinking.

“What’s wrong?” Nan Mu tilted his head and looked at him.

Huo Xunzhou turned around and saw him sitting on his desk. He just stared at him coldly afterward.

Nan Mu chuckled and immediately jumped off the table. He pulled over the chair across from him and sat down.

He said in a gossipy tone, “I even suspect that Lin Shanchu did it on purpose. I heard that when she was streaming, she could hear the sounds before entering the stairwell. She could have just not gone in. Lu Shiyuan has invested tens of millions in Fu Jue. Now is a good time to make money. Lu Shiyuan has suffered a huge loss after this incident.

“Lin Shanchu’s recent actions seem to be targeted at Lu Shiyuan. Do you think she’s really crazy?”

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Huo Xunzhou looked at him expressionlessly. “You’re the one who’s crazy.”

Nan Mu was silent for a moment. Then, he started speaking seriously. “Actually, I think you’re quite problematic yourself lately.”

“Keep talking,” Huo Xunzhou said.

His expression was cold.

It was so cold that even Nan Mu felt a little cold.

Nan Mu silently moved his chair backward.

Thinking that he had retreated to a safe distance, he started talking carefully.

“You treat Lin Shanchu very differently. You’re always speaking up for her and paying special attention to her situation.”

Huo Xunzhou was silent for a moment. His tone was still emotionless when he replied, “She is the daughter of my teacher.”

“Oh.” It was clear that Nan Mu didn’t believe Huo Xunzhou.

There were countless good-looking women in the entertainment industry.

Nan Mu had been his manager for seven years. He had never seen Huo Xunzhou look at a woman outside of filming.

He had no emotions and desires to the point that he didn’t resemble an actual man at all.

Nan Mu once thought that something was wrong with either Huo Xunzhou’s mental or physical condition. That was why he had no interest in women.

Of course, he only dared to have internal suspicions. He did not dare to say it to Huo Xunzhou face to face.

At the age of twenty-six, Huo Xunzhou finally spared a woman a few glances.

The relief Nan Mu felt was akin to a father’s.

This woman may have a fiancé, but that wasn’t important.

Huo Xunzhou made him a top manager even though he was so useless, so a woman with a fiancé was definitely easy to court.

...

Nan Mu kept boosting the popularity of Fu Jue’s topic.

Meanwhile, Lu Shiyuan kept spending money to suppress it.

The platform was making a lot of money.

Lu Shiyuan’s money went down the drain.

The topic went extremely viral, meaning Nan Mu had achieved his goal.

Lu Shiyuan was the loser of this situation.

Zhou Yan came in to report the situation to Lu Shiyuan.

“President Lu.”

Lu Shiyuan sat in front of the computer with a grim expression.

Just by looking at his expression, Zhou Yan guessed that he already knew that Fu Jue’s topic had gone viral.

“The public relations department is preparing to start the second plan. They’ll release an apology statement and try to recover some losses.”

“Have you found out who’s boosting the popularity of Fu Jue’s topic?”

Lu Shiyuan’s voice was filled with suppressed anger.

Zhou Yan answered, “I’ve investigated a few companies that have a competitive relationship with us. This matter has nothing to do with them.”

Lu Shiyuan didn’t say anything. He was deep in thought, his gaze cold.

Zhou Yan stood on the spot while waiting for his instructions.

After a while, Lu Shiyuan ordered, “Investigate Huo Xunzhou.”

Puzzled, Zhou Yan just replied respectfully, “Yes, sir.”

Chapter 22

Lu Shiyuan thought of Lin Shanchu, who was forcefully brought home by the bodyguards.

He picked up his phone and called the butler.

Before he ordered his men to block Lu Manor’s cell phone signal, he had prepared a satellite phone for the elderly butler.

Satellite phones have no regional restrictions, after all.

“Young master.”

“What is she doing?”

The butler knew that he was asking about Lin Shanchu. “Apart from going downstairs to ask about the internet situation at home once, Ms. Lin didn’t make any noise or kick up a fuss. She has been in her room the entire time.”

Was Lin Shanchu actually this well-behaved?

Thinking of what Lin Shanchu had done over the past few days, Lu Shiyuan frowned slightly. “I’ll be back for dinner tonight.”

He had to go back and see what that woman was up to.

...

Lu Manor’s internet signal was blocked.

Lin Shanchu couldn’t surf the internet, so she tore up the room.

The decorations in the room and the clothes in the closet were all the aesthetics of the old Lin Shanchu.

It had nothing to do with her now.

The simple, pure, and weak female lead did not have any jewelry.

In short, other than the case of money that she brought back with her, there was nothing else in the room that was worth taking away.

Ah. She almost forgot.

The old rabbit doll on the bed was a gift from her mother when she was young.

She could take that with her.

So, she stuffed the old doll into the case.

Creak!

The door was suddenly pushed open from the outside.

The door slammed into the wall with a dull sound.

Lu Shiyuan was the only person who could open her room door this arrogantly.

Lu Shiyuan stood by the door. After seeing the state of the room, his brows were deeply furrowed.

The floor was filled with clothes. The drawers of the dressing table were all open, and a few pieces of jewelry were scattered everywhere.

The room was as messy as a garbage dump.

There wasn't even a spot for him to step on.

He forcibly retracted the foot that he had lifted. "What are you up to this time?"

"Just cleaning up." Lin Shanchu finally turned around and looked at him.

Her beautiful cat-like eyes were extremely indifferent.

The way they looked at him was no different from looking at the flowers and grass on the side of the road.

This realization made Lu Shiyuan feel irritated. His tone became cold and hard.

"No matter what you want to do, you'll be staying at home from now on. You're not allowed to go anywhere without my permission!"

In just a few days, Tang Qidai got so much backlash that she lost a job. After that, Fu Jue's romantic relationship got exposed.

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He didn't want to go this far.

She was the one who forced him!

Lin Shanchu didn't seem to have heard him. She just asked, "Have you dealt with Fu Jue's matter?"

Lu Shiyuan's face instantly darkened.

When Lin Shanchu saw this, her lips curved into a smile.

It seemed that there was no way to deal with Fu Jue's matter.

This little loss was nothing to Lu Shiyuan.

It was just the beginning.

Lu Shiyuan had to be in as much pain as she was in order for her hatred to be vented.

Lu Shiyuan, who was standing by the door, had no idea what Lin Shanchu was thinking. He was even dazzled by her sudden smile.

She hadn't smiled at him like this in a long time.

The past came to his mind.

Lu Shiyuan's gaze softened again.

The sudden ringing of his phone pulled him back to reality.

The phone call was from Zhou Yan.

He walked to the side to answer the phone.

"President Lu, I've done my investigation on Huo Xunzhou. There's nothing unusual about him other than his investments on a few variety shows."

"Keep investigating."

Lu Shiyuan only said those words before hanging up the phone.

Lin Shanchu, who was eavesdropping by the door, was a little disappointed.

Those words didn't contain much information.

Soon, the butler sent someone to inform them that dinner was ready.

Lin Shanchu went to the dining room.

Lu Shiyuan sat opposite her and watched as she ate slowly. He realized that she didn't actually eat much.

After carefully studying Lin Shanchu for a moment, he realized that she seemed to have lost a lot of weight.

"Does the food not suit your appetite?"

"The food is very appetizing, but it's hard for me to swallow with you sitting here."

Lin Shanchu's tone was soft, but every word she said was piercing.

Lu Shiwan tightened his grip on his chopsticks. "Lin Shanchu, you're really hopeless!"

"You're right." Lin Shanchu nodded in agreement.

She was indeed terminally ill.

There was no cure.

Lu Shiyuan, on the other hand, was rotten from the inside out.

He was as hopeless as her.

Lin Shanchu looked a little similar to before.

No matter what he said, she would treat it as holy verses from the Bible.

If he was unhappy, she would think that she was the problem.

However, Lu Shiyuan still felt a little irritated.

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He threw down his chopsticks and left the dining room, too lazy to eat.

The elderly butler, who was standing by the side, saw that the two of them had finally sat down for a meal together, but they had parted on bad terms. He could not help but speak up in order to persuade Lin Shanchu.

“Ms. Lin, the young master does care about you. He won’t lash out at you for real, so please pacify him.”

“Why isn’t he the one pacifying and coaxing me instead?” Lin Shanchu asked back. “Who here isn’t raised by their parents? Why do I have to sacrifice myself to please him?”

In the Lu family, everyone was on Lu Shiyuan’s side.

“Someone has to bow their head in a relationship,” the butler reasoned.

Lin Shanchu sneered.

Was Lu Shiyuan worthy of her sacrifice?

She had lowered her head for so long that even her knees were on the ground.

She threw away her self-esteem and ego and knelt on the ground, only to be trampled on by Lu Shiyuan.

She didn’t want to kneel anymore.

However, there were always people who advised her to continue kneeling and lower her head to Lu Shiyuan.

It was as if this was the right thing to do.

Lin Shanchu put down her chopsticks, her soft voice carrying a hint of coldness.

“Now that you’re old, your mind can’t work properly anymore. Just shut up.”

...

Without the internet, Lin Shanchu lived a lazy life every day.

She woke up on time and ate on time every day.

Although Lu Shiyuan was in the office every day, the butler and bodyguards at home would always tell him about Lin Shanchu’s every move.

In the blink of an eye, it was the weekend.

In the morning.

Lu Shiyuan and Lin Shanchu sat opposite each other and ate breakfast.

“I want to go out today.” Huo Xunzhou had made an appointment with her to visit her mother’s grave this weekend.

“For what?”

“I’m going to visit my parents.”

When Lu Shiyuan heard this, he carefully sized up Lin Shanchu, as if he wanted to find evidence of her lying on her face.

“Is today their death anniversary?”

“No.”

Her parents had died to save Lu Shiyuan’s parents, but Lu Shiyuan didn’t even remember their death anniversary.

“I’ll go with you on the death anniversary.”

Lu Shiyuan was worried that Lin Shanchu would cause trouble again, so he didn’t allow her to go out.

Lin Shanchu responded indifferently and continued to eat.

Lu Shiyuan was very satisfied with her obedience.

“Eat more,” he said, his gaze softening.

After the meal, Lin Shanchu sent him to the main entrance as usual.

Her reluctant gaze made Lu Shiyuan feel a little dazed.

The loving and dependent Lin Shanchu of the past had returned.

“I’ll come back earlier tonight to have dinner with you.” He had to attend a business event today.

Chapter 23

Lin Shanchu smiled slightly and did not answer.

Lu Shiyuan’s heart was moved by her gentle and obedient appearance.

He reached out and pulled his tie, then lowered his head to kiss Lin Shanchu.

Lin Shanchu had spent the last 16 years with him, so she knew his personality and habits like the back of her hand.

When Lu Shiyuan finished pulling his tie, she took a step back and perfectly avoided his kiss.

“It’ll be too late if you don’t set off now.”

The girl had a smile on her face. She stood one step away from him, as gentle as a cat.

The displeasure in Lu Shiyuan’s heart dissipated a little. “I’ll be leaving first.”

The smile on Lin Shanchu’s face disappeared as she watched Lu Shiyuan’s car drive away.

Lu Shiyuan was like this.

Occasionally, he would also show that he liked her a little.

She was too lacking in love and regarded him as too important.

As long as he showed a little goodwill, she would be like a moth flying into the fire, fully devoting herself to this relationship.

Lin Shanchu returned to the villa and looked at the time.

It was eight o’clock sharp.

Huo Xunzhou would probably call her soon.

She was curious if Huo Xunzhou would come to Lu Manor to look for her if she could not get through to him.

Probably not.

Compared to the others, Huo Xunzhou was indeed a good person.

He was a good person with a cold heart.

He knew that she was in a difficult situation, but he did not pity her.

He had also said that no one could help her except herself.

She felt that what he said made sense.

Instead of hoping that others might save her, she might as well rely on herself.

In the courtyard, the butler was instructing the servants to trim the flowers and plants.

Lin Shanchu walked over.

Lu Manor was built over 20 years ago.

There were many large trees in the courtyard.

Lin Shanchu looked up and stared at a humongous tree.

“Ms. Lin, what’s wrong with the tree?” Butler Xu asked.

“This tree is an eyesore.” Lin Shanchu’s tone was very light as if she was just casually chatting with him. “Get rid of it.”

Butler Xu was speechless.

Seeing that she was still focused on the tree, the butler walked to the side and called Lu Shiyuan.

“Young master, Ms. Lin said that she wanted to uproot the tree in the eastern corner of the courtyard.”

“Do as she wishes.”

Lu Shiyuan thought that it was probably because there was no internet at home and she was bored, so she wanted to find something for the butler and servants to do.

It was just a small fight, so he let her be.

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“Alright,” he said.

The butler instructed the servants to pull the tree out.

The tree was big and had deep roots, so uprooting the tree was a big project.

“Come over and help.” Lin Shanchu called all the servants over.

This tree could only be uprooted after half a day’s time.

Butler Xu called for the bodyguards at the door to help.

“You guys take your time. I’m going back to take a nap.” Lin Shanchu yawned lazily and turned to walk into the villa.

She didn’t go back to her room straight away.

First, she turned off the fire emergency system in the villa. Then, she went to Lu Shiyuan’s study.

Lu Shiyuan’s precious things were all in the study.

Important contracts as well as his late mother’s memento.

His study faced the backyard. One could see the green forest through the window.

Lin Shanchu took out a lighter.

She lifted the curtain and lit it.

The expensive silk curtains were quickly swallowed by the flames.

The fire quickly spread to the wooden bookshelves.

The old villa of more than 20 years was set on fire.

Soon, the entire room was engulfed in a sea of fire.

Lin Shanchu stood at the door and stared for two seconds. Then, she opened the next door with a blank expression.

Finally, it was her own room.

She picked up the case and started a fire in the room.

When she went downstairs, she noticed that the servants in the courtyard were still uprooting the trees.

No one noticed that the villa had already become an inferno.

Lin Shanchu quietly went to the backyard.

According to the original novel, the villa was built on the mountainside and had an excellent ecological environment. Wild animals often destroyed the courtyard's walls in order to steal food.

In the corner of the backyard, there was a hole that was as tall as half a person covered by vines.

In the novel, Lin Shanchu escaped through that hole after getting imprisoned by Lu Shiyuan.

It was midsummer, so the fire in the old villa spread very quickly.

Lin Shanchu didn't walk too far with her case when she saw Lu Manor being swallowed by the flames.

She stopped to watch the scene.

A smile gradually appeared in her clear and bright eyes.

It was as if she had seen the most beautiful scenery in the world, which fascinated her.

The thing that trapped her.

She had burned it.

...

When Lu Shiyuan received the news and rushed back to Lu Manor, what he saw was the ruins that was burned by a raging fire.

It was completely different from the home he was familiar with.

The police and firefighters had arrived.

The scene was chaotic.

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A police officer walked over to Lu Shiyuan.

"Mr. Lu, we're still investigating the cause of the fire..."

Lu Shiyuan looked around in a daze. He didn't hear what the police officer said at all.

"Mr. Lu?"

"Where's Lin Shanchu?"

Lu Shiyuan's expression started to become anxious and uneasy.

The servants and bodyguards of the Lu family were all there except for Lin Shanchu.

"We've done a preliminary investigation and haven't found any bodies at the site. The detailed results need time to be verified, so please wait patiently."

Lu Shiyuan only caught the main point of the sentence. They didn't find any bodies in the fire field.

There was no corpse, which meant that Lin Shanchu was not dead.

Lin Shanchu did not die, so where did she go?

Lin Shanchu's every move over the past few days flashed through his mind like a film reel.

He suddenly understood that Lin Shanchu's obedience and meekness these few days were just a disguise.

She had carefully planned this escape under his eyes.

She had made use of everyone in the Lu family, including him.

He had never realized that Lin Shanchu had such a trick up her sleeve.

The thought of this made Lu Shiyuan laugh in a self-deprecating way. However, his laughter gradually became gloomy and ruthless.

Tang Qidai said that Lin Shanchu was just confused for a moment and asked him to give Lin Shanchu another chance.

He had already given her the chance.

She was the one who didn't cherish it.

Lin Shanchu!

Don't let me catch you!

Otherwise, I'll definitely make you wish you were dead.

...

After Lin Shanchu left Lu Manor, she avoided the main road.

After walking on the path for a long time, she finally flagged down a taxi on the sidewalk.

The first thing she did when she arrived in the city was to get a new phone number.

A call came in as soon as she turned it on.

The number belonged to an overseas country.

A smile appeared on Lin Shanchu's face.

There was only one person who would call her from overseas.

"Uncle."

"Shanshan, I saw the news about the fire at Lu Manor on the internet. Are you alright?"

The young man's anxious voice came from the phone.

Lin Shanchu explained patiently, "I'm okay. I'm not at Lu Manor. I'm outside."

Lin Suguang heaved a sigh of relief.

"I went up the mountain with my friends recently. The signal was bad, so I didn't get much internet access. I only found out about the incidents you were involved in when I got back today."

Lin Suguang's tone suddenly turned serious. "Shanshan, I've decided to return to Xu City."

"The contract you signed hasn't expired yet, right? What are you returning for? I'll be very busy from now on, so I don't have time to take care of you!" Lin Shanchu pretended to be disgusted.

"What are you busy with?"

"You'll know when the time comes."

Chapter 24

Lin Shanchu finally managed to persuade Lin Suguang after a long time.

She had set Lu Manor on fire, which meant Lu Shiyuan would definitely not let her off easily.

If Lin Suguang were to return at this juncture, he would definitely be suppressed by Lu Shiyuan.

Her uncle was the only person in the world who cared about her.

She would not let anything happen to him.

Lin Shanchu had answered the call on the sidewalk.

After putting her phone in her bag, she realized that a car had stopped in front of her.

However, this was not the place to park the car.

Why did they have to stop here?

"Ms. Lin!"

The door on the driver's side opened as Li Mo got out of the car.

Lin Shanchu saw Li Mo and subconsciously looked into the back window of the car.

Although she could not see anything, she knew that Huo Xunzhou was in the car.

Li Mo walked over and opened the back door.

"Ms. Lin, please get in the car."

The car door opened, revealing the scene inside.

Huo Xunzhou was sitting in the car. He wore a formal shirt and slacks with a tie.

His black shirt was buttoned up to the top, and his tie was tied into a formal Windsor knot. He looked solemn and abstinent.

Lin Shanchu was dazed.

She remembered the years when Huo Xunzhou was at the peak of his career in the entertainment industry. Many entertainment bloggers would say the same thing when they talked about Huo Xunzhou.

Who wouldn't like Huo Xunzhou?

While she studied Huo Xunzhou, the latter was doing the same to her.

Her white dress was unusually neat, and her clean, fair face was free of any dirt and grime. Her expression was calm and composed. She did not look like someone who had just escaped from a fire.

Li Mo reached out and took the case from Lin Shanchu.

"It's so heavy!" He thought that Lin Shanchu was carrying something important, but he did not expect it to be so heavy.

"Thank you for your trouble." Lin Shanchu smiled at him and bent down to get into the car.

Li Mo placed the case in the trunk and started the car without a word.

Lin Shanchu saw flowers and offerings on the front passenger seat.

"Please stop the car when you see a flower shop. I came out in a hurry and didn't buy flowers."

Li Mo glanced at Huo Xunzhou from the rearview mirror and replied, "Alright."

Not long after the car left, a flower shop came into their view.

If You Have Papillomas On Your Chest, Neck Or Armpits, Read This!
METABON

As soon as the car stopped, Lin Shanchu went out to buy flowers.

The big screen across the road was showing the news of Lu Manor on fire.

"Even though such a big thing has happened to the Lu family, why is Ms. Lin acting as if nothing happened?" Li Mo asked as he looked at the big screen.

"Just focus on driving," Huo Xunzhou said indifferently.

Li Mo quickly shut up and opted not to talk.

The woman that Huo Xunzhou had taken a liking to resembled him greatly. No one could understand her at all.

...

For the past 16 years, Lin Shanchu had come to Xi Shan Cemetery every year.

She was very familiar with this place.

To her, this place was more familiar to her than Lu Manor.

Her parents loved each other so much that they got buried together after passing away.

She placed the fresh flowers in front of the grave and reached out to wipe the dust off the tombstone.

"Mom, dad, I'm here to see you."

Huo Xunzhou also put down the flowers in his hand.

“Mdm. Ning, I’m Huo Xunzhou.”

After that simple sentence was uttered, a long silence ensued.

Lin Shanchu could not help but turn to look at him.

Huo Xunzhou was very focused on the picture of Lin Shanchu’s mother on the tombstone. His eyes were a little out of focus as if he was lost in his memories.

After an unknown amount of time, Huo Xunzhou suddenly spoke up.

“Back then, Mdm. Ning often brought you to my classes.”

“Huh?”

Lin Shanchu was stunned for a moment. She then realized that Huo Xunzhou was talking about the time when he was enrolled in her mother’s kindergarten.

“Back then, you were only this big.” Huo Xunzhou gestured with his hand. His expression was as indifferent as ever, but it somehow made people feel a little closer to him.

It was probably because he sounded like an elder who had been through a lot.

“You’re only four years older than me.” Lin Shanchu pursed her lips.

There was a hint of dissatisfaction in her tone.

“Yeah.” Huo Xunzhou looked at her with a half-smile.

His magnetic voice had a teasing tone.

He didn’t have any ill intentions.

However, Lin Shanchu felt uncomfortable under his gaze.

“I still have things to do, so I’ll be leaving first,” she said expressionlessly.

As a fan of Lin Shanchu and Huo Xunzhou’s romantic progression, Li Mo immediately offered, “Ms. Lin, where are you going? We can give you a lift.”

Considering that it was not easy to get a taxi here, Lin Shanchu answered honestly, “Tian Zhou Media.”

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When Li Mo heard that, he looked at Huo Xunzhou and asked, “What are you going there for, Ms. Lin?”

“I need Mr. Nan’s help,” Lin Shanchu said.

Tian Zhou Media was the management company that Huo Xunzhou had founded under Nan Mu’s name.

Li Mo did not ask any further.

The group started to walk out of the cemetery.

Lin Shanchu walked in front while Li Mo pushed Huo Xunzhou from behind.

They soon arrived at the parking lot.

Just as Li Mo was about to help Huo Xunzhou into the car, the latter's expression froze before saying in a deep voice, "Lin Shanchu, get in the car."

Lin Shanchu turned around and looked at him. "What..."

Without giving her a chance to speak, Huo Xunzhou suddenly stood up, pulled her arm, and stuffed her into the car without a word.

He closed the car door loudly afterward.

Li Mo exclaimed, "Big Brother, you... she..."

"She knows that I'm not disabled."

After Huo Xunzhou finished explaining, he sat back in his wheelchair.

Lin Shanchu, who was sitting in the car, saw a familiar car driving over not far away.

She was so familiar with the car plate number that she could recite it backward.

It was Lu Shiyuan's car.

Lu Shiyuan knew her too well. He knew that she had nowhere to go in Xu City, so he came to the cemetery straight away.

Lu Shiyuan's car stopped across from them.

He got out of the car and walked toward Huo Xunzhou.

"Huo Xunzhou, what are you doing here?"

"President Lu, what else do you think we can do in the cemetery other than paying respects to the dead?"

Huo Xunzhou sat in his wheelchair while maintaining the perfect poker face.

Lu Shiyuan turned to look at Huo Xunzhou's car.

The glass windows of the car were made of a special material, so the people outside could not see inside.

"President Lu," Huo Xunzhou started lazily. "You seem interested in my car. Why don't you just open the door and take a look?"

Based on Lu Shiyuan's intuition, he felt that Lin Shanchu was most likely in Huo Xunzhou's car.

Previously, at the hospital, Huo Xunzhou had confronted him because of Lin Shanchu. Later on, Lin Shanchu accompanied Huo Xunzhou to the party.

The relationship between the two of them was very ambiguous.

After Lin Shanchu escaped from Lu Manor, it was very likely that she would come to find Huo Xunzhou.

He walked up to the car and held the door handle.

Seeing this, Li Mo wanted to step forward.

Huo Xunzhou reached out and held his arm, motioning for him to not move.

Lu Shiyuan stood in front of the car for a moment before he suddenly retracted his hand. He turned around and instructed his subordinates. "Let's go to the cemetery."

Before they left, Lu Shiyuan looked at Huo Xunzhou's car and said, "I have an identical car that was stolen a few days ago, but I'll definitely get it back!"

Chapter 25

Lu Shiyuan's silhouette disappeared into the cemetery.

"Big Brother," Li Mo asked Huo Xunzhou. "How did you know that Lu Shiyuan wouldn't open the car door?"

"Only men know each other the best." Huo Xunzhou chuckled.

Li Mo was speechless. "Huh?"

But why was he getting more and more confused?

Was he not a man?

Huo Xunzhou glanced at the surveillance camera in the corner. "Go and deal with it."

Then, he got up and got into the car.

Li Mo put the wheelchair in the trunk and went to deal with the surveillance camera.

Huo Xunzhou and Lin Shanchu were the only two people in the narrow car.

Lin Shanchu was the first to break the silence.

"Thank you," she said.

When Lu Shiyuan was outside the car just now, her heart was hammering in her throat.

She hadn't made any arrangements yet. If she were to be brought back by Lu Shiyuan just like that, she wouldn't be able to implement her future plans.

Fortunately, Lu Shiyuan didn't open the car door in the end.

Lu Shiyuan was a very conceited person. How could he allow his fiancée to hide in another man's car?

Even if he had guessed that she was in the car, he would not have opened the door for the sake of his pride.

Huo Xunzhou recalled that every time they met, Lin Shanchu would always thank him.

"Are you just going to issue another verbal thank you?"

"What?"

When she heard the man's voice, Lin Shanchu turned around to look at him.

Her eyes fell into the alluring eyes that made her heart skip a beat.

The space was already narrow, to begin with. At that moment, the air seemed to grow thinner.

“Then how do you want me to thank you?” Lin Shanchu looked away in embarrassment.

She started regretting her words the moment they fell.

This question was no different from giving the initiative to Huo Xunzhou.

“Do you know how to cook?” Huo Xunzhou asked without hesitation.

“Yeah.” The necessary skill of a female lead in a sadistic novel was to prepare meals for the trashy male lead.

“Invite me to your house for dinner,” Huo Xunzhou said.

When he was young, Lin Shanchu’s mother brought him home for a meal.

After that, he never had such delicious food again.

It was unforgettable.

Lin Shanchu’s eyes widened as she looked at him suspiciously. “My house?”

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Huo Xunzhou did not seem like the kind of person who would make such an abrupt request.

However, he looked very serious and did not seem to be joking at all.

“Do you not want to accept that offer?” Huo Xunzhou raised an eyebrow.

Lin Shanchu slowly moved the corners of her lips in order to make herself look indifferent.

“But I don’t have a home.”

Lu Manor was not her home.

The old house of the Lin family had been demolished and rebuilt a few years ago.

She did not have a home.

Huo Xunzhou’s slightly curved lips were gently pressed down.

A nameless stone was thrown into the lake of his heart, causing ripples of pain and agony.

It was as if he could see his homeless self when he was young.

“You can go to my house.” He heard himself say this uncontrollably.

“Alright.”

The girl smiled with bright eyes.

She was like a lazy and comfortable cat.

Huo Xunzhou was dazed for a moment.

“Big Brother, it’s all settled!”

Li Mo opened the car door and reported the situation to him.

Huo Xunzhou held back the emotions in his eyes. Then, he replied, “Alright.”

Li Mo started the car, already feeling that the atmosphere in the car had changed.

He sneaked a glance at Huo Xunzhou and Lin Shanchu through the rearview mirror and found that the two of them were looking out of the window on both sides, looking distant and cold.

...

When they arrived at Tian Zhou Media, Nan Mu happened to be in a meeting.

As soon as he heard that Huo Xunzhou was here, he quickly ended the meeting.

“Xunzhou, this show is really difficult to handle. There’s another girl who wants to quit, saying that she can’t accept the secluded training. What do you... Ms. Lin?”

Nan Mu began to complain to Huo Xunzhou as soon as he entered the room.

Halfway through his sentence, he realized that Huo Xunzhou and Li Mo weren’t the only ones in the room. Lin Shanchu was also there.

“Mr. Nan.” Lin Shanchu smiled at him.

Nan Mu’s eyes darted back and forth between Lin Shanchu and Huo Xunzhou. “Ms. Lin, did you come here with Xunzhou?”

Lin Shanchu answered, “Mr. Huo dropped me off because he happened to be on the way here.”

“On the way here... That’s good!” Nan Mu dragged out his tone in an exaggerated fashion.

This reaction was similar to Li Mo’s attempt to create a private moment between her and Huo Xunzhou.

She didn’t know why Nan Mu was behaving like Li Mo. Both of them thought that her relationship with Huo Xunzhou was ambiguous.

However, she decided to pretend that she didn’t understand because her purpose today was to come to Nan Mu for help.

“Mr. Nan, you said last time that I could seek you out if I needed help. I’m here today to ask for your help.”

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Nan Mu’s office was very large. The other end of the room was separated by a reception area.

“Sure,” he said while pointing to the reception room on the other side. “Let’s go over there and discuss the details.”

Huo Xunzhou kicked Li Mo without batting an eyelid.

Li Mo understood immediately.

“Ahem! Ahem!” He pretended to clear his throat and coughed hard. He even shot looks in Nan Mu’s direction.

Nan Mu immediately understood. “Ms. Lin, I just remembered that the place hasn’t been cleaned yet. Let’s talk here.”

“Alright.” Lin Shanchu shot a look at Huo Xunzhou thoughtfully.

Huo Xunzhou glanced at Li Mo as if nothing had happened. “If you have a cold, go see a doctor.”

Li Mo was speechless.

Nan Mu turned around and poured a glass of water for Lin Shanchu. “What’s the matter?”

Lin Shanchu said, “I want to participate in ‘My Stage’.”

‘My Stage’ was a talent show that used the seclusion method. 99 girls would be selected for training and stage assessment that would last for three months. The five most outstanding girls would be selected to form a female idol group and make their debut.

Tian Zhou Media was the biggest investor in this show.

Therefore, Nan Mu would definitely be able to arrange for her to join the show.

According to the timeline in the novel, the show had already entered the preparation stage, so she could still make it in time.

Lu Shiyuan’s last words before he left the cemetery were what Lin Shanchu had heard.

She knew that Lu Shiyuan wasn’t just joking. He would definitely find her very soon.

Therefore, before Lu Shiyuan could find her, she had to sign a contract with the production crew of ‘My Stage’.

By then, she would already be a member of the production crew. Even if Lu Shiyuan found her, he wouldn’t be able to take her away easily.

“Seriously?” Nan Mu was excited.

Lin Shanchu was confused.

Nan mu explained, “It just so happens that another girl left the show today. I was just worried that I couldn’t find another replacement. I didn’t expect you to come!”

Although Huo Xunzhou was the real boss behind Tian Zhou Media, Nan Mu was the one who made the call on the investment projects.

This included ‘My Stage’.

People who could spark viral topics like Lin Shanchu were a blessing to the production crew, seeing as they could boost the popularity of the show.

“Ms. Lin, please wait for a moment. I’ll get someone to bring the contract over now.” Nan Mu’s grin was so wide that it could split his face in half.

“Wait a minute,” Lin Shanchu said.

Nan Mu’s expression changed abruptly. “You’re not going back on your word now, are you? You can’t do that!”

Lin Shanchu just smiled. "I'd like to ask Chu Gushen to draft the contract."

Nan Mu started to panic.

Why did she want to find Chu Gushen for such a contract?

He knew something like this was going to happen.

"Sure."

Huo Xunzhou's voice suddenly sounded.

"I'll contact Lawyer Chu right now." Li Mo picked up his phone.

Chapter 26

Chu Gushen arrived soon after.

Just like the last time she saw him, he was wearing a pair of silver-rimmed glasses that made him look refined and serious.

"Mr. Huo."

He first exchanged greetings with Huo Xunzhou before looking at the others.

When his eyes fell on Lin Shanchu, he paused momentarily. "Ms. Lin."

Lin Shanchu briefly explained the purpose of inviting him. "Please help me draft a contract, Lawyer Chu."

Chu Gushen sat down and asked, "Miss Lin, please tell me the requirements of the contract."

"I only have three requirements."

Lin Shanchu looked at Nan Mu. "I won't take up a slot on the debuting team, but I must remain with the production till the day when the idol group is formed. Most importantly, I can't withdraw from the competition halfway. If I do, I'll have to pay a massive amount of penalty fees."

"Huh?" Nan Mu, who thought he was very experienced in handling things, was also stunned.

He thought that she had asked Chu Gushen for an exorbitant appearance fee.

He had lived for a long time and had never seen an artist draft a contract with terms that were all beneficial to the production crew.

It would be great if such a selfless celebrity could sign a contract with Tian Zhou Media.

Chu Gushen was a very professional lawyer.

He noted down Lin Shanchu's requirements and asked with a normal expression, "How much is the penalty?"

Lin Shanchu extended a finger.

“A million?” Nan Mu guessed.

Lin Shanchu shook her head and said very seriously, “10 billion dollars.”

Bam!

Nan Mu was so shocked that the elbow on his knee slipped, causing him to hit the coffee table with a loud bam.

The other people present all revealed shocked expressions.

Chu Gushen couldn't make up his mind. He turned his head and asked Huo Xunzhou for his opinion with a look.

Huo Xunzhou's arm was resting on the armrest of his wheelchair. His slender index finger tapped on the armrest at an irregular rhythm. He said in a lazy tone, “10 billion dollars it is, then.”

He sounded like he was talking about something as trivial as eating and drinking.

“No way! 10 billion is too much!” Nan Mu voiced his disagreement. “This contract can be voided!”

“That's why I'll have to trouble Lawyer Chu,” Lin Shanchu said calmly.

After Chu Gushen nodded, he started to draft the contract.

Nan Mu finally realized that Lin Shanchu had wanted to draft this unreasonable contract from the start, hence the reason to invite Chu Gushen.

The more powerful a lawyer was, the more he would exploit loopholes in the law.

Only Chu Gushen could draft an unreasonable contract and make it legally binding.

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Soon, the contract was drawn up and both parties signed it.

Nan Mu still looked like he didn't know what was going on.

Lin Shanchu held the contract and smiled with satisfaction.

“Lawyer Chu, let me walk you to the door.” She wanted to talk to Chu Gushen about the follow-up matters of the will.

As soon as they left, Nan Mu went to Huo Xunzhou's side.

“Is there something wrong with Lin Shanchu?” he pointed to his head.

Li Mo, who was standing at the side, shot him a look that said ‘good luck’.

Huo Xunzhou had always been fond of this woman called Lin Shanchu.

To think that Nan Mu actually dared to say that Lin Shanchu was going insane.

Huo Xunzhou glanced at him, his face as calm as the surface of a lake.

However, he couldn't hide the deadly look in his eyes.

Nan Mu felt a chill on his neck and quickly jumped away. "I was just asking! Let's talk this out."

Huo Xunzhou suddenly thought of something and asked, "Has the show's host been decided?"

Nan Mu shook his head. "Not yet. We're still in the middle of the discussion."

...

Lin Shanchu walked Chu Gushen to the door.

"When do you have time, Ms. Lin? Let's go to the notary office together."

A will needs to be notarized in order to have legal effect.

Lin Shanchu thought for a while. "I should still have free time before I join the production crew. I'll contact you when it's time."

After watching Chu Gushen's car leave, Lin Shanchu returned to Nan Mu's office.

Nan Mu was so happy that he was running around the room.

"It's all settled! All 99 people have finally been gathered! With Lin Shanchu's participation, the show's popularity will definitely soar! Hahahaha!"

When he saw Lin Shanchu standing by the door, he froze in place.

He no longer had the reputation as the ace manager.

Nan Mu grabbed his hair, tidied his clothes, and said in a serious tone, "Most of the time I'm pretty serious."

Lin Shanchu smiled without saying anything.

After two seconds, she asked Nan Mu, "when can I join the production crew?"

"Within next week." Nan Mu deliberately put on a serious facade to show that he was indeed serious.

"Got it," Lin Shanchu replied.

"Let's go," Huo Xunzhou said at that moment.

Lin Shanchu followed him out.

Since both of them came together, were they leaving together as well?

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Nan Mu's need to gossip flared up. "Where are you guys going?"

"My place," Huo Xunzhou answered.

Both Li Mo and Nan Mu were shocked.

Meanwhile, Lin Shanchu was perplexed.

Under Lin Shanchu's confused gaze, Huo Xunzhou reminded, "Didn't we already agree on this in the car?"

Lin Shanchu replied, “Yes.”

She had promised to go to his house to cook a meal for him as a thank-you gift.

However, the way Huo Xunzhou phrased it... Didn't it occur to him that it might be too ambiguous?

Nan Mu felt as if his soul had been struck. “When did you guys progress this quickly?”

“As expected of Big Brother,” Li Mo praised.

Lin Shanchu felt the need to clear things up. “Mr. Huo has helped me a lot, so I'm going to his house to prepare him a meal as a thank-you gift.”

“I helped you too!” Nan Mu hinted madly.

After he finished speaking, he turned around and picked up his phone. Then, he automatically followed behind them while urging, “Let's go! I haven't had breakfast yet, so I'm hungry!”

Under Huo Xunzhou's murderous gaze, Nan Mu shamelessly followed him to the former's house.

Huo Xunzhou lived in Lin Jiang Villa District that was located in the city.

The people who lived here were either rich or powerful. The security of the community was very strict. The paparazzi couldn't get in at all.

The car was parked in the open-air parking lot of the villa.

When they got out of the car, Li Mo wanted to help Lin Shanchu carry the case.

“I'll do it myself.” Lin Shanchu reached out and took it.

After settling the issue with the production crew, Nan Mu, who was in a good mood, couldn't stop talking on the way.

When he saw Lin Shanchu's case, he ran over curiously and asked, “What's in this case?”

“Money,” Lin Shanchu replied simply.

Nan Mu was stunned.

Lin Shanchu followed behind Huo Xunzhou and continued walking.

Li Mo and Nan Mu walked behind them and chatted. “Why do you think Ms. Lin is running around with a case of money?”

“I also want to know the answer to that,” Nan Mu replied faintly.

“Let's go,” Li Mo said.

Nan Mu whispered to Li Mo, “By the way... do you think something really is wrong with Ms. Lin's brain?”

Li Mo's expression turned serious. “You can't let Big Brother hear this. He'll be unhappy.”

Nan Mu had also experienced the murderous look in Huo Xunzhou's eyes. “I mean, Ms. Lin does things in a strange way. I can't understand what she's thinking at all.”

“It's good that you don't understand,” Li Mo said.

Li Mo sounded like he knew some inside information.

“Tell me more.” Nan Mu’s eyes lit up.

Chapter 27

“Smart people are all like this,” Li Mo said with an unfathomable expression.

Nan Mu was speechless.

“Most of the time, I can’t understand what Big Brother is thinking. He and Ms. Lin are a perfect match!” Li Mo elaborated.

Nan Mu was speechless.

...

On the way here, Lin Shanchu had been guessing that the decoration aesthetics of Huo Xunzhou’s house might be cool colors, which fit him.

When she stepped into Huo Xunzhou’s house, she realized that not only was the house decorated in cool colors, but the atmosphere was also very cold.

There was only a set of couches in the large living room. No other decorations could be seen.

The entire villa was so quiet that there was no sign of life.

It was even worse than a temple room.

Huo Xunzhou sat in his wheelchair and went to the kitchen to pour her a glass of water.

“Don’t you usually live here?” she asked when she took the water.

“I’ve always lived here,” Huo Xunzhou replied.

Li Mo, who had just entered the door, quickly spoke up for Huo Xunzhou. “Big Brother just likes spacious places. He thinks that too much furniture is troublesome. He’s actually very rich.”

He couldn’t let Ms. Lin think that Huo Xunzhou was poor.

In order to elevate Huo Xunzhou’s status, Li Mo added with a serious expression, “Big Brother is just as rich as Lu Shiyuan.”

Therefore, it was definitely the right choice to choose him!

Lin Shanchu was speechless.

Wasn’t his intention to poach her a little too obvious?

“Li Mo!” Huo Xunzhou chided.

Li Mo, who was fearsome by nature, immediately lowered his head and became obedient.

He looked a little pitiful.

“Li Mo?” Lin Shanchu tentatively called his name. When he looked up, she asked, “When will the groceries arrive?”

On the way back, Li Mo ordered some groceries online.

“I’ll go out and take a look.” Li Mo quickly ran out. For some reason, his silhouette made him look honest and naive.

Lin Shanchu could not help but giggle when she saw this.

She turned around and saw Huo Xunzhou looking at her.

“I want to take a look at the kitchen,” she said, her smile immediately fading.

The things in the kitchen were much more abundant than in the living room.

It was evident that it was used frequently.

Huo Xunzhou probably saw through Lin Shanchu’s thoughts since he took the initiative to say, “I tend to prepare simple meals whenever I’m home.”

After a while, Li Mo came in with some groceries.

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“Do you need any help?” he asked, rubbing his hands.

“If there’s anything you need us for, just tell us.” Nan Mu leaned against the door frame.

Huo Xunzhou sat in his wheelchair as he took out condiments from the cabinet.

Seeing that they were so enthusiastic, Lin Shanchu took a handful of vegetables and handed them to Li Mo. “Please help me filter the vegetables.”

She handed Nan Mu a garlic bulb and asked him to peel it.

As for Huo Xunzhou...

“What do you want to eat?” she asked.

“Stir-fried potato slices,” Huo Xunzhou replied.

To think that the top actor actually liked to eat such simple and unadorned dishes.

Without waiting for Lin Shanchu to speak up, Huo Xunzhou had already taken out a potato and started peeling it.

Lin Shanchu recalled that when she was cooking at Lu Manor in the past, she often did it by herself.

She would spend a long time preparing a delicious meal and wait for Lu Shiyuan to come home to eat.

Even though Lu Shiyuan didn’t go home often.

Even if he were to go home, he would only take a bite or two.

But she still felt happy.

Lu Shiyuan would never ask her if it was hard to cook, let alone help out in the kitchen.

It was as if he was born to be high and mighty, and she had to lower her posture and kneel in front of him.

She had never received equality and respect from Lu Shiyuan.

“I’m done.”

Li Mo showed the vegetables he had filtered to Lin Shanchu. He even had a proud expression on his face. “Do you think this is okay enough?”

Lin Shanchu looked at the vegetables that only had a tiny yellow core. She was unable to compliment Li Mo since it was against her wishes.

“I’ll do it myself.”

Nan Mu, who was squatting in front of the rubbish bin while peeling garlic, frowned so hard that she could kill a mosquito. “Why does garlic exist in this world? Damn it! It’s so hard to peel!”

Lin Shanchu turned around and saw that Nan Mu had only peeled half a piece after a long time.

They had been so eager to help just now. She thought that they had rich life experiences and could really help her out.

Lin Shanchu reached out to him. “I’ll peel it.”

Nan Mu returned the garlic to her with a serious expression. “I can do something else.”

“It’s fine. I can do it myself.” She didn’t think that Nan Mu, who couldn’t even peel garlic properly, could do anything else.

Nan Mu and Li Mo, the two useless kitchen hands, left the room together.

In the end, only Huo Xunzhou and Lin Shanchu were left in the kitchen.

Huo Xunzhou peeled the potatoes very well. He did look like someone who could cook.

After peeling the potatoes, he reached out to Lin Shanchu. “Give me the garlic.”

Lin Shanchu silently handed the garlic to him.

While she was washing the potatoes, she turned her head to look at Huo Xunzhou.

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The outer shell of the aromatic garlic was already peeled by his slender fingers easily.

He looked like the one who was the least capable of doing household chores among the three men, but he did it so skillfully and readily.

He was a completely different person from Huo Xunzhou, the top actor who shone brightly on the stage.

Lin Shanchu’s mother had a unique skill that ordinary people didn’t know, which was to cut potato slices in the palm of her hand.

Lin Shanchu knew how to do it too.

She learned it herself.

She learned it for a long time.

In the beginning, her palm would often be cut by the knife.

Her skill got better after that.

She placed a potato in the palm of her hand and held it with her fingers. Then, she used her other hand to cut the potato into thin, equal slices with a knife quickly.

She finished cutting the potatoes very quickly.

Just as she was about to turn on the tap to soak the potato slices, a large hand reached out from behind her and helped her turn the tap on.

No one knew when Huo Xunzhou had stood up from his wheelchair, nor did anyone know how long he had been staring at her from behind.

Lin Shanchu seemed to have understood something. “You went to my mother’s kindergarten when you were young. Did my mother bring you home for dinner?” she asked.

Huo Xunzhou had a calm personality. He was definitely not the kind of person who would act rashly.

He must have his own reasons for everything he did.

“Yes,” Huo Xunzhou replied in a low voice.

The low tone was very alluring.

Lin Shanchu resisted the urge to rub his ears. “I’ll handle the rest myself. You can leave too.”

“Alright,” he said. Huo Xunzhou then sat back in his wheelchair and left.

Even at home, he had to sit in a wheelchair.

However, he was clearly a healthy person.

In this world, everyone had their own difficulties and secrets that could not be told.

...

Lin Shanchu made four dishes and a soup.

Considering that the men had big appetites, she made a large portion of the dishes.

Li Mo and Nan Mu came over to help serve the dishes while muttering, “The food smells so good.”

Their saliva was almost dripping down.

When they were eating, they ate in a polite manner.

After all, Huo Xunzhou was there.

The three of them looked to be about the same age, but Huo Xunzhou had the strongest aura.

All he needed was one look, and the other two men would settle down.

Nan Mu noticed that Lin Shanchu was eating very little and thought that she was trying to lose weight.

“You should eat more. You’re already very thin. You’re already very pretty in front of the camera in your current condition.”

Chapter 28

Lin Shanchu had no appetite because of her terminal illness.

But she still smiled and responded, “Okay.”

“I watched your livestream.” Nan Mu continued to praise her. “You look really good on camera.”

Lin Shanchu asked, “You even watched my livestream?”

“Everyone watched it. Even Xunzhou watched it.” Nan Mu thought about how he had been so eager to win the lucky draw at that time and felt embarrassed, so he dragged Li Mo and Huo Xunzhou into the conversation.

Lin Shanchu just smiled.

Huo Xunzhou did appear in her first livestream.

“He even watched it for a long time... Ow!” As soon as Nan Mu finished speaking, Huo Xunzhou kicked him from under the table.

Lin Shanchu turned to look at Huo Xunzhou.

She saw Huo Xunzhou put the last potato slice on the plate into his own bowl and ate it with the rice emotionlessly.

It was as if he didn’t hear them at all.

...

On the other side, Lu Shiyuan was looking for his mother’s belongings in the ashes of the burned ruins.

“The police were here before. They said that the fire started in your study, so this is where the fire was the most severe.”

The elderly butler stayed by his side and helped him look for something in the ashes.

After Lu Shiyuan heard what he said, he smiled gloomily. “I see.”

“Brother Shiyuan.”

Tang Qidai’s voice came from afar.

“Qidai, why have you come?” Lu Shiyuan quickly got up and walked toward her.

"I heard that there was a fire at your house, so I immediately rushed over." Tang Qidai furrowed her brows and asked worriedly, "Are you alright?"

"I'm fine." Lu Shiyuan's eyes stared at the possible location of the study room in the ruins.

"How did it get burned like this..."

Tang Qidai followed his line of sight, her eyes flickering. "Then, are Aunt's relics also..."

She paused for a moment.

Lu Shiyuan's expression told her that his mother's belongings had all been burned to nothing.

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"Brother Shiyuan, don't be sad. Aunt's spirit won't blame you. After all, this was just an accident."

"It wasn't an accident."

Lu Shiyuan's voice was dark.

"What?" Tang Qidai's eyes widened in disbelief. "Are you saying that someone set Lu Manor on fire?"

She remembered Lin Shanchu's recent crazy antics and probed, "Could it be... Shanshan?"

Tang Qidai was used to observing Lu Shiyuan's emotional changes.

She could feel that Lu Shiyuan's aura became much sharper after she mentioned Lin Shanchu.

"Is it really Shanshan?" Tang Qidai revealed a look of disbelief before asking with concern, "Where did she go? Is she alright?"

"She's doing very well," Lu Shiyuan sneered.

"How could Shanshan do such a foolish thing? Doesn't she know how important Aunt's belongings are to you?" Tang Qidai's tone was as understanding as she could be.

"I seriously don't understand what Shanshan is thinking. How could she do such an outrageous thing?"

Lu Shiyuan sighed slightly. "Qidai, I've told you long ago that it's useless to reason with Lin Shanchu. If she had half of your kindness, she wouldn't have caused so much trouble!"

Tang Qidai lowered her eyes slightly to hide the smugness in her eyes.

When she raised her head again, her eyes were filled with concern. "Brother Shiyuan, Shanshan wasn't like this when she was young. She's done so many things that made us sad recently. Could it be because she's sick?"

"What do you mean?"

"I've watched a foreign movie before. The main character in the movie was diagnosed with a mental illness, and his personality changed drastically. He often did some strange things."

She softened her voice and guided Lu Shiyuan in a bewitching manner. "Do you think it's possible that Shanshan is sick, which prompted her to be like this?"

Lu Shiyuan recalled Lin Shanchu's recent actions.

Compared to before, her temperament had indeed changed greatly, as if she was a completely different person.

Whether it was Lin Shanchu hosting a livestream and fighting with Tang Qidai's fans or placing a 30 million dollar vase as the prize of a lucky draw, it was something she would never do in the past.

Seeing that Lu Shiyuan had already taken her words seriously, Tang Qidai continued, "Why don't we send Shanshan to an asylum for treatment?"

"This time, she set the house on fire. Fortunately, she didn't get injured. But what if there's a next time? She might not be so lucky every time, right?"

"Asylum?" Lu Shiyuan looked a little hesitant.

"We're doing this for her own good. If we don't care about her, who else will?" Tang Qidai continued.

After a long while, Lu Shiyuan nodded. "You're right. We can't just leave her like this."

Tang Qidai gently hugged his arm and consoled him. "One day, Shan Shan will understand our good intentions."

Once Lin Shanchu was admitted to the asylum, it didn't matter if she was sick or not.

Ads by Pubfuture

As long as the doctor said she was sick, she had to be treated in the asylum.

At that time, even if Lin Shanchu was not sick, she would be driven crazy.

When that happened, the position of President Lu's wife from the Lu Corporation would be hers!

Lin Shanchu, that little orphaned b*tch, should have been eliminated long ago!

...

After being kicked by Huo Xunzhou, Nan Mu became quiet.

He wanted to leave after the meal but was called back by Huo Xunzhou.

"Do the dishes."

Nan Mu had already run to the door, but he was forced to come back dejectedly to clear the table and do the dishes.

Li Mo was more self-aware. Without waiting for Huo Xunzhou to say anything, he went into the kitchen to do the dishes.

Lin Shanchu and Huo Xunzhou sat in the living room.

They didn't speak, but they didn't feel awkward.

This was because Lin Shanchu was busy thinking about where she should go next so that she wouldn't be found by Lu Shiyuan before she joined the production crew of 'My Stage'.

Nan Mu said that she would be able to join the production crew by next week.

However, it was only the weekend.

If she could only join the production crew next weekend, she would have to find a place where she could stay for a week.

She had already seen Lu Shiyuan's ability for herself.

Previously, she had refused to apologize to Tang Qidai. She ended up getting chased out of the hotel.

"Lu Shiyuan is still looking for you," Huo Xunzhou said suddenly. "Where do you plan to go next?"

Lin Shanchu felt that he was probably in a good mood after eating, so he took the initiative to ask her about this.

"I haven't thought about it," Lin Shanchu replied.

Huo Xunzhou did not say anything else.

It was as if he had just mentioned it casually and had no intention of helping her.

In the entire novel, Huo Xunzhou was actually the only person who could compete with Lu Shiyuan.

She had really reached a point where she had no other way out.

She did just burn down Lu Shiyuan's house and his mother's belongings. He would definitely make her life a living hell.

"Why don't you take me in as a gesture of goodwill, Brother Xunzhou?"

Before Lin Shanchu opened her mouth, she made mental preparations on the inside.

Even though she spoke in a joking tone, she could not hide the nervousness in her voice.

Chapter 29

It was not easy to ask for help.

Especially for someone like Lin Shanchu who had never received a positive response, begging was more like an act of accumulating disappointment.

Huo Xunzhou's expression was still very indifferent. His alluring eyes were cold and distant.

He would reject her, right?

He definitely would.

"I'm not a kind person."

Huo Xunzhou's voice was melodious and carried the same coldness as his aura.

It was an expected answer.

However, Lin Shanchu still felt a trace of disappointment in her heart.

“It’s...” Fine.

“But I can take you in.”

Lin Shanchu’s words were interrupted by Huo Xunzhou.

She looked at Huo Xunzhou’s cold and handsome face. Her heart started beating quickly. “Are you sure?”

Huo Xunzhou had seen her embarrassed look when she was forced by Lu Shiyuan.

He had reached out to her but never asked about her situation.

He was not a kind person.

From her point of view, it was only natural for him to refuse to take her in.

“But I won’t take you in for nothing,” Huo Xunzhou continued.

Lin Shanchu was stunned for two seconds. After she registered everything, she could not hide the smile on her face. “I like to cook.”

Huo Xunzhou did not lack money.

He wasn’t interested in women.

The only thing she could do for him was to cook for him.

Huo Xunzhou glanced at Lin Shanchu and did not say anything.

Soon, Li Mo and Nan Mu finished washing the dishes and came out.

“Take Ms. Lin to the guest room,” Huo Xunzhou ordered Li Mo.

Nan Mu, who was about to take out his phone and surf the internet, was flabbergasted.

He had only gone to wash the dishes with Li Mo, and Huo Xunzhou and Lin Shanchu had already agreed to live together!

After Li Mo took Lin Shanchu upstairs, Nan Mu went up to Huo Xunzhou and asked, “Aren’t you guys progressing a little too fast?”

“What?” Huo Xunzhou frowned.

Nan Mu continued with a serious expression, “Lin Shanchu has already signed a contract with ‘My Stage’. She’s now a reserve member of the girl group. Girl group members aren’t allowed to date. You guys can continue this when the show is over...”

Huo Xunzhou finally understood what Nan Mu was saying. “Have Li Mo accompany you to the hospital later.”

“What for?” Nan Mu was confused.

Huo Xunzhou replied, “Get your brain checked out.”

Nan Mu was dazed for a few seconds before he protested angrily, “You’re calling me stupid again!”

...

Just like that, Lin Shanchu stayed at Huo Xunzhou’s house.

She had only brought a case of money and an old rabbit doll with her when she left Lu Manor. She needed to buy clothes and daily necessities.

Huo Xunzhou asked Li Mo to take her to the mall.

The car had just left Huo Xunzhou’s house when Li Mo sensed a car following them.

“Ms. Lin, sit tight.”

Having heard this, Lin Shanchu grabbed the handle of the car roof.

After the car made a few turns, Li Mo lost the car behind him.

Lin Shanchu looked at Li Mo from the rearview mirror and saw that his expression was very calm as if he was used to this kind of thing.

Did someone stalk him often?

Or, to be more precise, people might be stalking Huo Xunzhou.

Huo Xunzhou was a mysterious man.

Lin Shanchu entered the mall and quickly picked out three sets of clothes. She also bought some daily necessities and returned to the car.

On the way back, they encountered the car that had been following them.

Li Mo didn’t expect the car to be able to catch up, and his expression became a little impatient.

Lin Shanchu silently held the handle above her head. “I’ve steadied myself.”

Her tone was so calm that Li Mo glanced at her from the rearview mirror.

As expected from the woman who caught Huo Xunzhou’s attention. She was so calm when faced with problems.

Li Mo tried to shake off the car behind him like before.

But this time, he couldn’t shake it off.

Li Mo frowned and slowed down the car. He lowered the window to see who was the amazing driver.

When he saw the driver clearly, he exclaimed in surprise, “Lu Shiyuan?!”

He quickly rolled up the window and sped up.

When they passed an intersection, they finally left Lu Shiyuan behind for a short time.

Lin Shanchu knew how difficult it was to deal with Lu Shiyuan, so she took the initiative to say, “Li Mo, find a place to park. I’ll take a taxi back.”

Lu Shiyuan might have been left behind now, but he would definitely catch up with them soon.

If she got off halfway, even if Lu Shiyuan caught up with her, it would be of no use.

Li Mo stopped his car at the bus stop.

After Lin Shanchu got off the car, she immediately got on a bus.

When the bus started, she squeezed through the crowd and looked out of the window. She happened to see Lu Shiyuan's car passing by.

He quickly disappeared from her sight.

Lin Shanchu got off at the next stop and took a taxi back to Huo Xunzhou's house.

At this moment, Li Mo was leading Lu Shiyuan's car in circles.

He would never be soft-hearted when dealing with his big brother's love rival.

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Soon, Lu Shiyuan realized that Li Mo was deliberately leading him in circles.

He understood that Lin Shanchu was no longer in the car.

He clenched his fist and punched the steering wheel in anger.

"Lin Shanchu, I've really underestimated you!" He gritted his teeth and said to himself.

Lin Shanchu was not in the car, so he had no need to continue chasing.

Li Mo then drove back to Huo Xunzhou's house.

...

Lin Shanchu arrived home before Li Mo.

When she entered the house, Huo Xunzhou was just coming out of the kitchen with a glass of water.

Huo Xunzhou was a smart man. He could roughly guess what had happened when he saw her empty-handed.

Their eyes met. The lingering fear in the girl's eyes was apparent.

"Do you want some water?" He asked.

Lin Shanchu nodded.

Huo Xunzhou pushed the wheel of his wheelchair and brought the water to her.

Lin Shanchu took the water, raised his head, and drank it all in one go.

She finally came back to his senses.

Then, she thanked Huo Xunzhou.

"Thank you," she said.

Huo Xunzhou did not say anything. He turned around and walked back to the kitchen.

"I'll get you some water." Lin Shanchu quickly stepped forward.

Huo Xunzhou had poured the water for himself just now.

Lin Shanchu changed the cup and poured him a new cup of water.

Huo Xunzhou went upstairs with the water.

Lin Shanchu looked at the time, realizing that it was almost dinnertime.

“Mr. Huo.”

Huo Xunzhou stopped and turned to look at her.

“What do you want to eat for dinner?” Lin Shanchu asked.

Huo Xunzhou thought for a moment and frowned slightly. “Anything.”

“Then ... I’ll just make whatever’s in the fridge,” Lin Shanchu probed tentatively.

Huo Xunzhou nodded in silence and entered the elevator.

Not long after, Li Mo returned.

He heard some movement in the kitchen and walked over. “Ms. Lin, I’ve left your things in the living room.”

“I’ve caused you trouble.” Lin Shanchu’s face was apologetic.

Li Mo glanced at the red braised fish in the pot and swallowed his saliva silently. “It’s no trouble at all,”

Lin Shanchu saw this and said, “We’ll be able to eat in ten minutes.”

“Okay. I’ll go upstairs and call Big Brother for dinner.”

After Li Mo finished speaking, he disappeared like a gust of wind.

Chapter 30

“Big Brother!”

Li Mo stood at the door of the study. After knocking twice, he waited quietly.

Then, Huo Xunzhou’s voice rang out from inside. “Come in.”

Li Mo pushed the door open. Huo Xunzhou looked up at him from the computer.

“You’re back.”

What was with this concerned tone?

Li Mo hesitated.

After reviewing everything that had happened today and making sure that he had not done anything wrong, he continued to walk forward with confidence.

“Ms. Lin said that dinner is about to be done.” He stopped in front of Huo Xunzhou’s desk and rubbed his hands in anticipation.

“Yes.” Huo Xunzhou was still looking at him.

Li Mo started to think about what he had done after he entered the room.

“Big Brother, if you have something to say, just say it. I’m flustered when you look at me like this.”

“What happened on your way back?” Huo Xunzhou pursed his lips.

Li Mo heaved a sigh of relief when he heard that.

So this was what Huo Xunzhou wanted to ask.

He told Huo Xunzhou in full detail about Lu Shiyuan following them on their way back.

In the end, he did not forget to praise Lin Shanchu.

“Fortunately, Ms. Lin is smart and got off the car halfway. Lu Shiyuan completely missed her. I even took him on a goose chase for a while.”

Huo Xunzhou was silent for a moment. “Let’s eat.”

...

For the next few days, Lin Shanchu stayed in Huo Xunzhou’s villa and did not go out.

She didn’t know what Huo Xunzhou and Li Mo were busy with. They left early in the morning and returned late every day. She could only see them during breakfast and dinner.

Lin Shanchu felt a long-lost sense of peace.

She finally had time to log into Weibo to see what had happened recently.

The open-screen advertisement on Weibo was a brand endorsed by a male celebrity called Ji Yuan.

She remembered that the last time she saw this brand’s advertisement outside, the spokesperson was Fu Jue.

The name Ji Yuan was not unfamiliar, though.

He made his debut at the same time as Fu Jue, and the two of them had similar personas. Fu Jue was always better than him, so he was often suppressed by him.

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Since the two of them were similar, after Fu Jue’s scandal, a large number of fans went over to Ji Yuan’s side.

Most of Fu Jue’s resources were also snatched by Ji Yuan.

Such an astonishing execution ability was enough to show that Ji Yuan’s management company was very strong.

Lin Shanchu searched for it out of curiosity and found out that Ji Yuan was a signed artist under Tian Zhou Media.

No wonder the team's execution ability was so strong.

In the original novel, she had spent most of her time thinking about love and had never really done anything about her career, so she didn't know much about the entertainment industry.

The lifespans of popular celebrities were short, to begin with.

Therefore, most popular celebrities would change their style after they had a firm foothold.

Fu Jue, who was at the top of the list, had flipped over before he could gain his foothold. Hence, it would be very difficult for him to make a comeback.

Neither Ji Yuan nor Tian Zhou Media would give him the chance.

It would continue until Fu Jue was slowly forgotten.

This was the entertainment industry.

Compared to Fu Jue, Tang Qidai was much luckier.

The fans who had caused trouble in Lin Shanchu's live broadcast room had been wiped out by the team in the past few days.

Tang Qidai's main page was peaceful and quiet. There were even promotions for the new show.

The fire at Lu Manor had also been covered up by more eye-catching news.

To Lin Shanchu's surprise, there were even netizens who sent private messages to ask if she was fine.

There were all sorts of comments under the last post.

Some scolded her for destroying Fu Jue. Some asked her when she would be livestreaming again, There were even some people who bashed her for being so narrow-minded and not letting her fiancé make friends.

It was difficult for a weak person to achieve great things.

If she wanted to destroy Lu Shiyuan, she had no other way but to make herself stronger.

...

A day before the assembly of 'My Stage', the show's official Weibo account released a partial list of the members.

Some members who had their own fans had already started to recommend their idols in the comments.

There was also a portion of netizens who purely came to look at pretty girls.

Lin Shanchu clicked on the official Weibo account and realized that the top comment under the Weibo post was a familiar person.

Sugar Ginger: [This is amazing! Their looks make them look like goddesses at war with each other! I'm already starting to worry about which pretty girl I should vote for! Sob!]

There were thousands of comments below:

[I knew that Sugar would show up wherever the pretty girls are!]

[Hahaha! Sugar, please be more refined!]

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[As you all know, Ginger loves looking at gorgeous people the most!]

[I predict that Sugar will only upload her videos once per year just to look at pretty girls!]

When Lin Shanchu saw this comment, there was a knock on the door.

“Mr. Nan.”

When she opened the door, she saw Nan Mu standing outside.

Nan Mu held the lollipop that was previously in his mouth. “We’re all friends, so don’t be courteous with me. Just call me by my name.”

Under Nan Mu’s expectant eyes, Lin Shanchu slowly said, “Nan Mu.”

“Yeah!” Nan Mu replied in a pleasant voice. Then, he changed the topic and said seriously, “What are we having for lunch?”

He looked like a puppy that had been hungry for three days.

“Stewed beef,” Lin Shanchu answered.

“Stewed beef is great! Xunzhou and I both love it,” Nan Mu said and turned to leave.

“Did you forget something?” Lin Shanchu asked lightly.

Tomorrow was the gathering day for ‘My Stage’. Nan Mu must have come to Huo Xunzhou’s house today to talk to her about the show.

“Sh*t! I’ve forgotten what I’m here for once I heard that there’s good food!” Nan Mu smacked his own head.

Then, he returned.

“The production crew will gather at 10 o’clock in the morning tomorrow. Don’t be late. The camera crew will be following you as soon as you arrive. Prepare three months’ worth of clothes. Then again, with our relationship, you can tell me in secret if you need anything!”

Nan Mu even winked at her.

Lin Shanchu hesitated and asked, “What’s our relationship?”

“The thing you have going on with Xunzhou, of course. We’re all on the same side.” Nan Mu gave her a look that said ‘you know what I mean’.

Lin Shanchu looked behind Nan Mu.

“What? Eek!” Nan Mu turned around and was startled by Huo Xunzhou, who had appeared behind him.

He exclaimed, “Weren’t you downstairs? When did you come here?”

Huo Xunzhou’s face was expressionless. “It was when you said ‘we’re all on the same side’.”

Nan Mu choked and changed the topic. “Did you change your wheelchair again? Why isn’t there any sound?”

“Can you explain what’s going on between me and Lin Shanchu?” Huo Xunzhou asked.

“Well...” Nan Mu slowly put his index fingers together and carefully looked at Huo Xunzhou. “This kind of thing.”

The moment Huo Xunzhou’s face darkened, Nan Mu immediately jumped behind Lin Shanchu and hid.

His movements were very fluent.

“Lin Shanchu, save me!”

Lin Shanchu was speechless.

She pursed her lips nervously when she saw Huo Xunzhou’s cold and gloomy expression.

She was also very afraid, okay?