

The Queen 146

Chapter 146: I Will Start Fighting

Perhaps Wu He had been affected by her smoke ring, she shed tears unconsciously.

“My mother and my seven-year-old sister went to the train station to pick me up. And they were killed in a car accident....”

Her tone changed completely. She wiped her eyes and found it hard to speak clearly, “After I heard the news...I was devastated. My father had a heart attack. My relatives somehow blamed me for it. And I felt it was my fault. The car crash has always been my nightmare. I can’t stay in my hometown and go out to find a job. My father lives in a nursing home. I will give him money every month. But I don’t have the courage to go home or to meet him.”

“When I saw you—Su Cha, maybe you won’t believe me—I felt that you are my little sister. You are as innocent and good as her. Of course, my sister was as pretty as you. I’ve seen many young girls, but you are the only one who has made me feel the same. I’m always indebted to my little sister. She was too young. Can you believe it? She was just too young!”

After she spoke, Wu He’s face was covered with tears.

Su Cha did not say anything. She did not expect such a story behind it.

Wu He was really heartbroken.

Maybe her old self would cry with her, but the new Su Cha did not know what to do after she found it out.

She just caught Wu He’s hands and her voice trembled, “I’m sorry Sister Wu He. I should not ask.”

“That’s fine....”

Wu He wiped her tears quickly and managed a smile, “It’s just me. I can never control myself mentioning the accident after all these years. Actually I’ve almost thought it through after I met you. I think, maybe God has let me see what my sister would look like if she were still alive from you. I

came back to visit my father these years after I've met you. He is better than me since he has already moved on. He has dementia. I've taken him out of the nursing house and employed a nurse to look after him."

Su Cha paused and suddenly smiled at Wu He, "Sister Wu He, when we got time and you wanted to go back, would you take me to meet Uncle?"

Wu He was dumfounded and wiped her face abruptly, "I'm just saying. I don't want to bring you in. You're fine."

"I know."

The girl grinned. Her clear eyes turned into crescents. "I don't have any family but you. You know?"

Wu He was the first person who helped her and treated her sincerely. She would always keep it in mind.

Wu He looked at her and could not help crying, "Ok...."

One person was laughing, the other was crying.

Such a scene was too strange in a cafe. Su Cha took a tissue and handed it to her. The waiter came to ask if anything was wrong. Su Cha shook her head. Wu He did not want to cause trouble and wiped her tears with the tissue. She said to Su Cha, "Su Cha, I don't want to push you. I'll support you in anything. If you want to compete, prepare yourself for it. Are you confident about the contest on the 15th?"

Su Cha nodded and said seriously, "Don't worry. I will not let it slip. I will start fighting."

Wu He burst in laughter and felt overly gratified.

Chapter 147: Is That 'S' Crazy About Money?

While waiting for the competition to begin, Su Cha spent her time practicing martial arts and embroidering in Bo Muyi's home.

As Su Cha found it inconvenient to practice after Bo Mui came home at night, she would finish her training in the day.

Once in a while, she would also go for a jog.

Even if no guards are supervising her, Bo Mui's maids in the villa knew her whereabouts and would occasionally report them to him.

Besides, Su Cha was occupied with monitoring her online videos.

After Little Tiao promoted her, Su Cha's Meiyin channel grew rapidly. It could be said that she was a small influencer on the platform.

Her internet popularity was tied to her channel ID, and Su Cha was considered a famous video producer on Meiyin.

Currently, Su Cha had only uploaded three videos.

Su Cha's videos were not only well-loved by those who admired her intricate embroidery pieces but also viewers who wished to learn her embroidery techniques.

The viewers could tell that Su Cha's technique was different from their usual embroidery technique. However, the complex movement of the fingers, coupled with the sped-up video, made it impossible for viewers to clearly see how Su Cha embroidered. Many viewers requested that Su Cha produce a teaching video.

Su Cha had planned to release a teaching video. However, the Tang embroidery technique had already been extinct for years. Besides, the Tang embroidery technique was extremely complex and changeable, making it difficult to teach through a video. In addition, Su Cha did not have the time to produce a teaching video at the moment. Hence, the production of the teaching video had been put on hold.

So far, three pieces of embroidered clothes had been sold. The design of Su Cha's third piece of clothing was simple, and it was priced at 1000 yuan. But, it was snatched by Little Tiao's classmate.

Little Tiao complained to Su Cha about it on WeChat. As she was short on living expenses, Little Tiao hesitated about getting the new piece. While she hesitated, her classmate swooped in and bought the piece.

It was a water ripple design. Although the pattern was simple, it was a beautiful, feminine style.

However, during this time, Su Cha became the target of internet trolls!

Initially, Su Cha did not know about the presence of these internet trolls. These netizens had posted news regarding Su Cha's Meiyin channel on a popular gossip forum. Little Tiao discovered these inflammatory forum discussion threads and forwarded the link to Su Cha.

There was a popular online gossip forum APP named Globe.

[Entertainment Gossip] [What the hell. Recently, a rising Meiyin influencer is selling her embroidered clothes at a really, really high price. Is she crazy about money?]

Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti (Forum Owner): Often, I mindlessly scroll through Meiyin posts in my free time. Although there are a lot of impressive videos on the APP, some of these videos are questionable, and they cannot be expressed in a few words. Recently, there is a new Meiyin user called 'S'. That's right, her ID has only one letter, 'S'.

This Meiyin channel is about embroidery, all the videos on the channel are timelapse videos of her working on her embroidered pieces. I'll admit that her embroidered pieces are not bad, but it is barely enough to be considered an outstanding skill or talent. That's normal, but the owner of this Meiyin channel also sells her embroidered clothing at Pet Cat Shopping Site. White cotton isn't even considered a high-end fabric. A regular cotton shirt usually only retails between 400 yuan to 500 yuan. Embroidering these designs would only take a few days, how can she sell an embroidered white cotton t-shirt for as much as 1000 yuan?! Her second embroidered piece was sold at 2000 yuan!

She casually hand-stitched a simple design with a needle and thread and sold it for more than a thousand yuan. Oh my god, I cannot believe that there are actual idiots who paid so much for a simple embroidered shirt!

Isn't this a great example of how someone went crazy over money? Is it true that people are selling their broken items a high price these days?

Chapter 148: 148 – Intrigued

1L: Grab a front-row seat. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show.

2L: Nope, it's too long.

3L: EMMMM, I think I've seen this 'S' recently

4L: Not to mention anything else, the embroidery patterns in the pictures shared by the forum owner are very intricate and beautiful...

...

8L: The designs are beautiful, but I personally think that it is too expensive. Maybe the designs are printed on, and not embroidered?

9L: Even though the video is sped-up, it is clear that the designs are embroidered. How could you say that it is printed on?

10L: With such a sophisticated embroidery technique, I feel like the high price is justified?

...

15L: It's really too much, I think the price is too high.

16L: Aren't most of the sellers like this? When they gain some popularity online, they will start selling their merchandise at a high price. No matter what you say, there will always be pea brains who would willingly pay for it.

...

...

Su Cha glanced through the entire discussion thread.

In the forum, most of the users agreed with the forum owner that Su Cha's items of embroidered clothing were too expensive.

Su Cha sneered. The differences between the layman and the expert were apparent. The laymen were there to enjoy the show while the experts were busy analyzing her embroidery skills.

Even on an international level, Su Cha's embroidery techniques were considered refined and advanced. However, the forum owner criticized Su Cha's embroidery for being simple and poorly made.

Besides, embroidery is not a widespread skill, and most of the forum users do not know anything about embroidery. Hence, it was normal for them to misunderstand the situation. However, the forum owner continuously replied to the comments of others, which added fuel to the fire. The forum owner repeatedly presented Su Cha's embroidery as worthless and framed Su Cha as someone crazy about money.

Little Tiao sent a message to Su Cha to complain.

Little Tiao: I think your embroidery techniques are not bad, and I do not believe that the clothing is expensive.

Little Tiao personally thought that the embroidery clothes she bought from Su Cha were beautiful. If the clothes were sold in a high-end store, people would be willing to pay several thousand yuan for them.

Although many users are discussing the issue on the forum, popular media has not picked up the matter. Hence, Su Cha did not bother explaining herself online.

To Su Cha, she felt that the prices of her items were right.

Cha Yi: Hmm, I know. Thank you.

Little Tiao: It will be okay. When you release a new product, please let me know in advance!

Cha Yi: Alright.

Su Cha calculated her earnings from the sale of the embroidered pieces. After deducting the cost of the materials and the handling fees, she made a profit of not more than 3000 yuan.

After combining her profit with her savings, Su Cha had a small savings of approximately 10,000 yuan.

Su Cha was not worried about her college tuition fees. She was confident that she would be able to receive a scholarship from a university in the Imperial Capital if she performed well during her college entrance examinations.

However, the cost of living in the Imperial Capital is high, and Su Cha had to ensure that she had enough savings to afford the essentials.

After saving the link to the forum discussion thread, Su Cha continued embroidering.

Time flew by. In the blink of an eye, the competition that will be held on June 15 was about to begin.

The competition was held at a large sports stadium in Yonggu Town. The program's team had built a relatively simple stage, and the audio equipment provided on-site was pretty good. When Su Cha arrived, the staff confirmed her identity before assigning her number. The number was based on the promotion sequence during the audition round and Su Cha was number 17.

Some of the 100 contestants have not arrived at the venue. However, most of them have begun chatting among themselves at the foot of the grandstands. Su Cha looked around her and realized that Le Anqi had not arrived.

Su Cha stood out among the crowd. After all, she was the first contestant that received a solo promotional video from the organizers. The other contestants had already done a background check on her.

Su Cha sat in the middle of the room. A fashionably dressed girl walked towards Su Cha while she greeted and chatted with the contestants beside her. As she passed by Su Cha, the girl seemed to be

oblivious to where she was stepping. However, Su cha noticed the tip of the girl's stiletto heels landed very close to her own feet.

Chapter 149: It Has Officially Begun!

Usually, one would not notice where the foot lands. After all, the girl walked over normally.

Under normal circumstances, if they noticed someone else's legs in the way, the person who walked over would subconsciously change the angle of the soles of their feet to avoid stepping on others.

Just as the girl's feet were about to land, Su Cha moved her feet away.

"Click!", the tips of the girl's stiletto heels landed on the ground right between Su Cha's feet.

At that moment, Su Cha noticed the girl's smile stiffened.

The girl slightly lowered her head. When she saw Su Cha, her expression changed instantly. She flashed Su Cha an innocent and lovely smile, to convey her apologies.

Then, the girl walked passed Su Cha before sitting down two seats away.

Su Cha immediately picked up her phone to check the girl's details from the organizer's website.

Number 78, Mona.

Mona's voice was deep and full of energy. When she faced the judges, Mona was confident and casual. She was also fashionable and had a European style make-up look.

At present, Mona had a strong fanbase on the official website.

Su Cha slightly narrowed her eyes, her pupils seemed to reflect the depths of the abyss.

As she lifted the sides of her lips into a small smile, Su Cha would feel Mona's gaze on her.

“Su Cha... Su Cha!”

A familiar voice was heard. Su Cha turned her head and saw Le Anqi, who was late.

“I’m finally here. Oh god, I was caught in the morning traffic and was almost late.”

Le Anqi was wearing a plaid shirt and a pleated skirt that resembled a student’s uniform. She hurriedly plopped herself down beside Su Cha before catching her breath.

It was apparent that she was flustered from running so fast.

“Now that you are here, you will be fine.”

Su Cha said, she noticed that some contestants were staring at Le Anqi.

In fact, Le Anqi posed a competitive threat. Le Anqi had a small following on Meiyin and had acquired many fans.

After her fans found out that Le Anqi had joined the “Dreams in Progress” competition, they had gathered online to vote for her. Hence, it could be said that Le Anqi had put some pressure on the other contestants.

Although Le Anqi’s singing abilities were not excellent, her uniquely obedient and lively style and her small popularity online gave her an edge over others. Hence, it would be difficult to determine if she would make it to the final round of the competition.

In the past, the contestants did not know of Le Anqi’s online popularity. But now that the competition had officially begun, the contestants would have learned about Le Anqi’s online following. After all, Le Anqi’s information was open and transparent.

Some contestants seated near Le Anqi greeted her, and Le Anqi smiled in return.

Su Cha knew that although Le Anqi may look unapproachable at times, she was actually an easy-going and lively girl.

When all the contestants arrived, the host went on stage. The cameras turned to the young and beautiful girls seated in the grandstand. When the three judges stepped on stage the contestants cheered loudly for them.

Su Cha went with the flow and clapped her hands.

After the judges took their seats, the host announced the official start of the competition.

The host worked at a TV station in Yonggu town. He upheld a degree of professionalism and spoke clearly.

“This competition will last a week. All contestants will compete according to their assigned numbers. Contestants who received three passes from the judges will immediately be promoted to the Top 50. Contestants who receive two passes will compete again with the rest who are in the same category. Lastly, contestants with only one pass will be held in a holding area. There will only be three places reserved for those contestants in the holding area. Do you understand?”

Chapter 150: Cruel Reality

“Understood!”

As soon as the host’s voice fell, a loud response echoed immediately from below.

The young girls were full of vigour and vitality, hearing their voices would please anyone.

Su Cha calculated that under these competition rules, everyone could use up to ten songs. No wonder they had to submit ten songs to the production crew in advance.

Furthermore, one could only sing songs from amongst those submitted in advance, regardless of the order.

In the beginning, the judging panel’s scoring was used to determine one’s advancement. The top three of the final ten would be voted by the audience, and the channel for casting votes would be opened on the official website.

This week, the focus was to determine the top ten.

As the host announced the start of the competition, the first candidate for advancement quickly got up on stage.

It was worth mentioning that all contestants in the division had to perform acapella – no one could even play their own accompaniment while singing, even dancers had no music to dance to. This imperceptibly increased the difficulty – a candidate's true standard was exposed thoroughly right from the beginning.

At the very start of the competition, everyone who went on stage was nervous.

It consisted of a song's duration for every contestant, and the judges' comments from the beginning till the end.

The first contestant was a girl with glasses. Probably due to nervousness and singing a full song acapella, she went off tune in quite a few parts.

Her tone was still acceptable, but even Le Anqi heard a bit of regret in her voice. Pulling Su Cha's sleeve, she said, "Too many mistakes, look at Teacher Quan's expression..."

Judge Quan Jia was notoriously strict. Especially when the contestants went out of tune, her face immediately turned serious.

Sure enough, when a song was about to end, upon seeing the judges' expression, the contestant could neither contain her tears nor continue singing anymore.

As a male, Zhao Cunjian first opened his mouth to sigh. "Mengmeng, I remember you were our outstanding pick at the start. When you sang that song, you performed in such a lively state, but now you going out of tune is a serious fault. Also, your mentality – is it nervousness?"

The girl called Mengmeng spoke with tearful eyes, "Teacher, I am too nervous, can you give me another chance?"

Before Zhao Cunjian opened his mouth, Quan Jia shook her head directly: "In the auditions, we can give chances, but this is an official competition. In a competition, you have to adjust your mentality.

All the mistakes were caused by you, no one can help you, do you understand? Continue to work hard, we'll see you next time.”

After she said her piece, she gave the red PASS without hesitation. The blue PASS indicated getting through, while the red meant that she was eliminated right here.

Zhao Cunjian hesitated for a moment, before giving red. Yu Siqing was of the kind that was indecisive. However in this situation at hand, the standards of the contestant was clearly unstable. Seeing Quan Jia and Zhao Cunjian, how could she have a differing opinion; she gave red directly.

The first contestant was directly eliminated.

The whole venue was in an uproar.

The contestant squatted and burst into tears right on the stage.

No one expected that the first one would be eliminated immediately.

Everyone's smiles from before became a little stiff. Only then did everyone truly realise – this competition was real, this opportunity to become famous was real; this wasn't a game, it was not a joke, it must be taken seriously.

Nervousness was something that had to be overcome by oneself, not with the help of others.

Of course, upon seeing this result, some contestants bowed their heads and couldn't help but want to laugh.

With one eliminated, it was an opportunity for contestants after. They may have had a little sympathy, but in this competition, having sympathy for others would be injustice to oneself.

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