

Work Hard 161

Chapter 161: Mo Ting the Wife Slave

“Our Ling Feng works diligently and is never late to shoots. How dare they say Ling Feng is using business to seek his own personal revenge, I wonder who’s the one that’s lying,” Ling Feng’s fans retaliated as expected.

“For the sake of shaking off responsibility, LM are despicable. We want the truth, or us fans will fight LM to the end.”

“Tangning is such a b*tch...she never says anything and makes others stick up for her.”

“S!t...”

As expected, after LM’s clarification, Ling Feng’s fans went even more crazy. They even threatened to boycott Tangning and LM until Tangning personally gave Ling Feng an apology.

“Our Ling Feng has suffered so much. This time we can’t let this model off the hook so easily!”

“How could this small time model challenge our prince?”

Seeing the comments from Ling Feng’s fans, Lan Xi directly contacted Tangning and told her to report to her office, “This time, how do you plan to handle the situation? Tangning, you never do brainless things like this. Tell me, what’s wrong with you?”

“There are a whole bunch of Ling Feng’s fans currently outside Cheng Tian entertainment. They are all waiting for your appearance and expecting your apology. The building is completely surrounded, how do you plan to fix things?”

An Zihao leaned against the table as he observed Lan Xi’s attack on Tangning. He immediately asked, “Don’t you trust us?”

“I’m not talking to you, I’m talking to Tangning,” Lan Xi released her anger on An Zihao, gesturing that her authority should not be challenged, “If you had simply had dinner with Ling Feng, then things would not have panned out this way.”

“Tangning, at the appropriate time, don’t you think you should put down your pride?”

“Are you sure it was just a simple dinner?” Tangning suddenly asked after remaining quiet for a while. Her gaze was clear, “President Lan, you and I aren’t stupid, you don’t need to deceive me the way you deceive Li Danni.”

Lan Xi looked at Tangning with a stunned gaze. She never expected she would speak so straightforwardly...

“Tangning...” An Zihao warned her with a deep voice.

“The way you think of me, we both know. Lan Xi, I once respected you and never expected a confrontation like this,” Tangning’s tone was cold and calm sending shivers down Lan Xi’s spine.

Lan Xi did not dare to look directly in Tangning's eyes for too long, so she looked away and said, "If you don't solve the problem with Ling Feng, then don't even think about attending any more events. From now on, you can fend for yourself."

Tangning knew Lan Xi wanted to take advantage of the situation to decrease her popularity, thus keeping her in the palm of her hands.

Upon hearing these words, any normal artist would understand what Lan Xi meant and be trembling in fear. After all, they were at risk of getting internally banned. But, Tangning simply stood up and looked at Lan Xi meaningfully...

"Why must you destroy your relationship with Lan Xi like that?" An Zihao asked after leaving the office.

"If I continue to endure, she will assume I have no bottom line and will continue to pick at me," Tangning replied gently.

An Zihao sneered gesturing he understood what Tangning meant.

Lan Xi liked using both soft and hard methods to tie Li Danni and the others to the palm of her hands. After all, Li Danni and the others had their desires and would easily make mistakes. But Tangning was different. She simply enjoyed being a model and wanted to reach the height she aimed for.

"Let's exit through the back door..."

"If I get destroyed in the hands of Ling Feng will you be extremely disappointed?" Tangning suddenly asked.

"Will you allow yourself to lose to him?" An Zihao didn't believe Tangning would be destroyed.

Tangning gave a simple smile without saying anything. Towards her enemies, she had never been merciful. She would allow Ling Feng to continue making a fuss. After all, the bigger he made the issue, the harder it would be for him to step down in the end.

As Lan Xi stopped accepting jobs for her, Tangning suddenly found herself with a lot of free time. Upon arriving home, Mo Ting found her sitting peacefully on the sofa picking photos.

Lu Che looked at Tangning and was a little surprised, "President, it's a total mess outside, but it seems madam really isn't affected...she is exceptionally calm."

Mo Ting removed his jacket and sat beside Tangning. He glanced at the camera in her hands, "I heard Lan Xi has stopped accepting jobs for you..."

"Huh?" Tangning lifted her head and looked at Mo Ting as she nodded her head, "Uh huh, they've been stopped..."

"You're not worried?"

"Worrying will only make me lose my judgment, why bother?" Tangning showed the photos she selected to Mo Ting, "I liked the scene we shot last and the feeling of me leaning on your shoulder. Should we enlarge this photo?"

Mo Ting grabbed the camera and handed it to Lu Che, "Go do as she says..."

Lu Che took hold of the camera and looked at the unaffected couple in front of him. He nodded with a smile and left.

After all...the president had already done enough behind-the-scenes.

“You really don’t need me to step in?”

Hearing Mo Ting’s question, Tangning did not respond at first. After Lu Che left, she finally pulled out some information Long Jie dug up via her contacts about Ling Feng. Mo Ting took a quick glance and wrapped his arm around Tangning’s waist, “My smart wife...”

Tangning had instructed Long Jie to directly contact Ling Feng’s competitors; people that had been suppressed under the power of Ling Feng’s father and despised Ling Feng. They had long waited for an outlet to vent to.

However, they were too afraid to go against Ling Feng directly. All they had was a whole heap of evidence.

They had evidence that included proof of Ling Feng flirting with girls, acting arrogant, humiliating acting partners and showing off his ‘supposed’ diligence on the rare occasion that he arrived on time...

After seeing all this evidence, Mo Ting threw the papers to one side. He enjoyed seeing the ‘belly black*’ side of Tangning.

If she had no sense of self-preservation, then she would be kicked out of this industry sooner or later...

“President Mo, do you want to watch a finger-pointing show?”

Mo Ting smiled without a word. His face was handsome and soft.

Although it didn’t take much effort for Tangning to obtain this information, it wasn’t an easy task.

So, how come Long Jie managed to get it without any hindrance?

‘Mo Ting the Wife Slave’, definitely lived up to expectations...

Mo Ting simply smiled, rolled up his sleeves and walked into the kitchen to prepare dinner...

...

On the other hand, in order to convince people of Ling Feng’s dedication, his fans posted evidence online about how he had endured harsh conditions during his shoots. This included only sleeping 3 hours a day, filming in icy cold water on a -3 degrees celsius day and falling from heights without using a stunt double...

Most hilarious of all, Ling Feng actually posted up a doctor’s certificate, claiming he had insisted on going to the resort for the commercial shoot even though he was sick, only to find he was replaced. He claimed he had suffered a huge blow from this.

Unfortunately, his photos from the gym had already been collated by Long Jie...

“Seems, Ling Feng won’t be satisfied until he forces you off the cliff...” An Zihao smirked as he looked at the comments online.

It seemed it was time to start the first round of face-slapping...

Translator's Notes:

Belly Black (腹黑) – used to describe someone that is secretly evil/sly/manipulative.

Chapter 162: Hai Rui or Star King, Your Choice

[Exposed! Deep insight into Ling Feng's 'Dedication']

While Ling Feng was causing a commotion, this was one of the headlines released by a famous news studio.

As sudden as lightning, Ling Feng's pathway to face-slapping was opened.

"The actor Ling Feng is young and fit; proud and arrogant. As usual, he has gained the hearts of many fans with his good looks resulting in an inflation in popularity. With the image of a 'perfect lover' created by his agency, he has attracted the affection of many female fans."

"But, is he really as dedicated to his work as the public thinks?"

"Let us do a thorough analysis: firstly, during LM's commercial shoot, Ling Feng claimed to be sick and even presented a doctor's certificate. Yet, we found photos posted online by his fans of him at the gym. Luckily, our editor managed to quickly grab a screenshot as soon as he saw it. Wasn't he meant to be sick?"

"Secondly, diligence? Everyone in the industry knows Ling Feng takes advantage of the fact that he is an heir to be often absent from work. He leaves when he wants and never takes other people into consideration; he never hesitates to scold the staff and has even hit a staff member so bad they've been sent to the hospital. Is this the strong self-discipline fans speak of? The evidence is attached below. I hope you moronic fans don't choose to remain blind to the truth. If I have shattered your dreams, then all I can say is..."

"...sorry...there is no cure for stupidity."

"The most disappointing thing I noticed was..."

"...all the moronic female fans did not go look for the director that replaced Ling Feng, nor did they harass LM, instead they latched onto Tangning. What was the reason for this?"

"From our analysis, it seems it is because, amongst the 3, Tangning is the only one without a strong backing and doesn't have her agency's support – hence, posing the smallest threat. So, Ling Feng set his target and decided to vent about this embarrassing scandal that was caused by his absence."

"Fans, you were merely weapons for Ling Feng's attacks without realizing you were being used. You had practically become an accessory to murder."

As soon as this story was reported, the majority of fans were shaken up. After their face-slap, many of them decided to remain silent. As for Ling Feng, upon seeing the report, he trembled in anger, "Who did this? Who owns this studio? Find out for me immediately!"

Seeing Ling Feng throw a tantrum, his manager quickly tried to comfort him, "I told you before not to flaunt around in the open."

"I still have my father!" Ling Feng stuck up his middle finger at his manager arrogantly, "I refuse to believe there is any problem my father can't smooth out..."

His manager held back his anger as he shook his head helplessly.

Ling Feng had always been impulsive, making decisions without careful thought. With his spoilt temper, everyone around him found it hard to disagree with him. After all, his father was one of the richest men in the industry.

The tables turned extremely quickly, but Ling Feng's fans were still putting up a front; they were impenetrable. To them, even if their idol fed them sh*t, they would still think it's fragrant. So they continued to brush things off onto Tangning, but...

...onlookers weren't happy.

"You bunch of toxic 'Ling Fans'! Was Tangning the one that made your idol go to the gym when he was supposed to be filming a commercial? Was she the one that forced him to bully others by arriving late and leaving early? It's not like Tangning is Ling Feng's predecessor..."

"Fans of male celebrities have always been in the younger age brackets, it's not worth arguing with them."

"They have no values. They even said their idol can do whatever he wants, what makes him think he can do that?"

"Not too long ago, they were chasing LM for responsibility and attacking Tangning. They acted like they were supreme in the universe. The face-slap came way too quickly."

"Hahaha, so satisfying. Diligent? Ling Feng has no brains!"

The discussions online began to heat up. Netizens that were more mature easily distinguished between right and wrong. Only younger fans that had not yet got a grasp on their values acted in extreme ways...

In the end, everything was beyond LM and Lan Xi's expectations; the situation had changed too quickly. Reality proved, Tangning's counterattack, was quick and direct.

Her calm and composed manner revealed a woman's wisdom and power; she was not one others could afford to offend.

Midday the next day, Lu Che delivered a huge poster to Hyatt Regency. Tangning placed the picture of her and Mo Ting holding hands onto their bedroom wall. She made a wish that their love would never fade.

"Madam, there's only 3 months left until your marriage is announced."

Tangning snapped out of her daze and turned to look at Lu Che. She replied deep in thought, "In that case, I better hurry up."

“Madam, you must not know, in order to let you handle your matters without pressure, the president has had to deal with his families constant interrogation.”

“That...must be difficult,” Tangning lowered her head; she felt a little guilty. All along, Mo Ting had doted on her, allowed her to do what she wanted and never once pressured her in any way. But she hadn’t considered Mo Ting’s difficulties.

“Actually, it’s not that difficult,” Lu Che felt he had said something he shouldn’t have, so he quickly tried to brush her off as he left.

However, Tangning already took the words to heart. She quickly made a phone call to An Zihao; she needed jobs and she needed to regain her glory. Not only because she wanted to be on the same level as Mo Ting, but also because of the oath she made when she left the Tang family.

Late at night, snow suddenly started falling outside the window. Upon arriving home, Mo Ting’s jacket was covered with droplets of melted snow. Tangning immediately helped him remove his jacket and pulled him over to sit next to her, “Ting...be honest with me. Have the Mo family elders been pressuring you?”

Mo Ting stretched his arm around her and shook his head, “Why Mrs. Mo? Do you want to bring forward our announcement date?”

“I’m just afraid you are put in a difficult position.”

“You were born for the runway. I don’t want to lock an international supermodel at home. So, I am willing to help send you to the pinnacle of the fashion industry. Since I promised you 6 months...I’m not going to force you...”

“Mo Ting, remember, if you come across a situation where you have no choice but to reveal our relationship, I will be able to accept it, no matter when it is,” Tangning wanted to place the option in Mo Ting’s hands.

“It would be the day you dazzle the world,” Mo Ting lowered his head and placed his nose against Tangning’s; when they blinked they could feel the flutter of each other’s eyelashes.

In reality, Tangning preferred that their relationship remained a secret. That way they would just be an average husband and wife where a simple hug after returning home every day would be enough to relieve all tiredness. If their relationship got revealed...their every word and move would be under public scrutiny; that was not the result she wanted.

She suddenly felt a little regretful for promising to announce their marriage after 6 months...

How great would it be for things to remain this simple?

The couple were hugging affectionately on the sofa when An Zihao’s phone call came through. Mo Ting picked it up.

“What is it?”

“President Mo?” An Zihao was stunned for a moment, before continuing, “Lan Xi has given all of Tangning’s jobs to Li Danni and Hua Yuan.”

It seemed she was trying to give Tangning an internal ban!

An Zihao was too afraid to continue speaking as he swallowed back his words.

Mo Ting hung up and turned to Tangning, "You can't stay in Cheng Tian for much longer. Hai Rui or Star King, your choice."

Chapter 163: She Liked Him to Death!

Although Hai Rui was at the pinnacle of the entertainment industry, their main focus was on actors and singers. As for Star King, although they were a modeling empire, they had previously blacklisted her.

So, all of a sudden, she felt like she couldn't choose either.

Hearing these two names, she looked at Mo Ting and smiled.

She did not give a definite answer. It seemed, in her mind, she had set her own standards.

"Seems like you don't want to choose either."

"No, it's just that I haven't reached a stage where I have no choice but to leave." Tangning tried to comfort Mo Ting, "Mo Ting, do you think I'm a weak little rabbit that sits around as people steals her resources?"

"What if you really get to that stage?" Mo Ting asked.

"If we really get to that stage, I'll definitely give you an answer," Tangning's expression was clear as she replied to Mo Ting seriously.

"Fine, you said it."

In reality, according to Tangning's current status, what right did she have to select either Hai Rui or Star King? Just one male actor was enough to threaten her and place her career into a crisis. What could she present to Star King and Hai Rui to convince them of her ability?

Mo Ting understood she wanted to stay strong, so he didn't continue with the same topic. However, his heart was in extreme pain and he didn't know how to relieve it.

So, Mo Ting hooked his arm around Tangning's waist and suddenly pressed his lips against hers, demanding for a kiss. While the two kissed passionately, they gradually made their way into the bedroom. Upon seeing the huge photo on their wall, Mo Ting pressed Tangning against the wall and looked down at her...

"What is it?"

"I...just want you to know how passionate I am"

My heart that wants to protect you is extremely passionate!

Tangning seemed to have understood. She originally struggled a little, but Mo Ting held her hands firmly. Their ring-bearing fingers intertwined against the icy cold wall.

Tangning's heart raced. It was rare for Mo Ting to look at her with such a possessive gaze. Tangning felt helpless with a strong sense of longing. At this time, she did not retreat. In fact, she took the initiative to tilt her head and give Mo Ting a kiss.

However, it was just a slight peck, before she moved away...

"Are we married or still in the honeymoon period?"

Mo Ting smiled. The mole on his ear seemed to sparkle under the crystal lighting.

"Do you like it? If so, I'll let our honeymoon period last a lifetime." After speaking, Mo Ting's kiss landed on Tangning's lips. He was gentle like he was kissing something extremely precious to him.

Tangning tried to hold back her wildly thumping heart as she leaned against Mo Ting's chest; absorbing his warmth and passion. She really really liked this man.

She liked him to death!

...

11pm. Cheng Tian Entertainment CEO's office. The lights were still on. In fact, it was so bright, they were blinding.

Lan Xi was still tirelessly working. However, at this time, An Zihao rushed over from home and stood in her doorway. Of course, he was here because of Tangning.

"Lan Xi, the way you've treated Tangning, the entire agency knows about it."

Lan Xi put down her pen and lifted her head. Seeing An Zihao, she scoffed, "You have no right to question my decision-making."

An Zihao leaned over, pressed his palms against the table and looked intimidatingly at Lan Xi, "So, are you planning to disregard her until she is destroyed?"

"Tangning has caused enough problems."

"But, Tangning has already found a solution..."

Lan Xi stood up from her chair and walked around to the floor-to-ceiling window and crossed her arms. Her expression was a bit dark, "Tangning is too ambitious...Zihao."

"Isn't it good to be ambitious? That means she is willing to pursue what she wants. Wasn't that the reason you signed her? How could you now say you are wary of her ambition?" An Zihao looked ironically at the back of Lan Xi's head.

"In what way has Tangning hindered you?"

"Do you think she is interested in your CEO position?"

"Or do you think she is interested in stepping on you?"

Lan Xi sighed. She eventually turned around and replied cautiously in a cold tone, "I've already made arrangements and split the jobs. Do you expect me to return them to Tangning? Do you think this is possible?"

After being silent for 1 minute, An Zihao finally stood up straight and sneered at Lan Xi, "You won't be able to snatch a single thing from Tangning."

Lan Xi pointed her chin up. It seemed An Zihao's words were like a joke to her.

An Zihao knew there was nothing else to talk to Lan Xi about, so he smiled, "Let's just wait and see..." After speaking, An Zihao left Lan Xi's office as Lan Xi stared at him with deep hostility.

Right now, she only had one thought in her mind. She was going to separate An Zihao from Tangning. Since she had already decided to freeze Tangning, Tangning would have no use for a manager.

After leaving Lan Xi's office, An Zihao felt a little uneasy, so he decided to give Tangning a call, "It seems I can't do much for you. I'm predicting that Lan Xi will be doing something even more extreme, you need to be careful."

"Our previous contracts, some of them were already signed..."

"I'll try my best. As long as the client is determined, Lan Xi won't be able to change models just like that."

"You've suffered," Tangning comforted, "However, we have no choice but to go head-on with Lan Xi."

"I've worked so hard to crawl out of the deepest abyss and had nothing to begin with, so I don't care about losing anything. But...you need to continue relying on Cheng Tian."

"We might not lose." With Tangning's encouragement, An Zihao suddenly felt a sense of courage and confidence, "I'll contact the clients for now."

Tangning hung up the phone and looked out the window into the distance.

Lan Xi...

You've almost stepped over my bottom line!

...

The incident with Ling Feng lasted for 2-3 days, but because of the face-slap from the news, his agency begged him not to get involved with Tangning again. So Ling Feng hid at home and refused to step out of the house.

He had to do this even though, deep down, he was extremely unwilling to accept defeat.

Since he was a famous male celebrity that couldn't afford to have people dig deeper into him, and his father was too preoccupied with a business failure to care, Ling Feng's mood became more depressed.

Not long after, LM announced the release of highlights from their shoot.

This was the shoot that Tangning and the 'mystery man' took part in.

Ling Feng sat in front of the TV drinking a bottle of red wine and shook his legs. He refused to believe there would be a man with a better body than his.

Of course, Ling Feng's fans couldn't help but cause a commotion. They wanted to know who this man that stole Ling Feng's job was...

"Can't you drink less? Don't you think you've had enough scandalous photos taken of you?" Ling Feng's manager warned.

"Hey, LM has already publicly provoked me, can't I drink a bit of wine?" Ling Feng grabbed the bottle of wine and pointed at the TV yelling, "Tangning that sl*t! She should f*cken die. Commercial highlight my ass. They stole my job and now they're showing off."

Chapter 164: Is Tangning Crazy?

"Don't get angry too soon. From what I've heard from people within the industry, because of this incident, Cheng Tian has seized the opportunity to place an internal ban Tangning. I also heard that the jobs Tangning previously signed have all been given to others. She no longer has the ability to challenge you," Ling Feng's manager sat down beside him and shared all the details he had learned.

"Is this true?" Ling Feng lifted his head and took another sip of wine as he leaned back on the sofa, "Have you confirmed this information?"

"It's pretty much confirmed."

Ling Feng put down his wine and burst out laughing, "Let's see how that b*tch challenges me now...But, I have a question: Cheng Tian only just signed on Tangning, how did their disagreement already get to this point?"

"It's Cheng Tian's internal battle, as outsiders, how can we understand?" A moment later, Ling Feng's manager patted him on the shoulder, "Don't waste your time on fighting with Tangning, right now, she is as unpopular as a sewer rat."

Ling Feng was ecstatic. Disregarding his manager's words, he immediately pulled out his phone and posted a message online, "Hahaha, I heard Tangning's been banned by Cheng Tian!"

Tangning banned!?

Does Ling Feng hate Tangning so much that he's gone crazy?

The media expressed their confusion. They didn't understand why Cheng Tian had originally signed Tangning so proudly, yet now they were slapping themselves in the face so quickly.

However, as the information came from Ling Feng's mouth, the media felt they had to follow up the issue and find out the truth. So, they directly made a phone call to Cheng Tian's CEO's office.

Originally, Lan Xi wanted to quietly deal with Tangning and not blow up the situation, but she never expected Ling Feng would expose everything just like that.

She wanted to ban Tangning!

But, she didn't want the public to know she was suppressing Tangning just because she was no longer of value. Above all, she especially didn't want them to know, after using Tangning, she was now trying to discard of her. It seemed, in her heart, she too was aware that what she was doing was shameless and embarrassing. After all, simply using the incident with Ling Feng as a reason, was too weak and far-fetched.

However, what she expected even less, was that Tangning would actually fight back...

Even if Lan Xi was the opponent...Tangning did not give in.

...

"Right now, everyone is spreading the word that Cheng Tian Entertainment has banned you. They've also found proof that Li Danni has taken over a few of your jobs. The public are assuming you are out of luck and as a 26-year-old model, being able to get to Cheng Tian Entertainment has already been a good enough achievement for you," An Zihao sneered as he looked at the comments online.

"However, I must say, the idiot Ling Feng, has really done us a huge favor this time."

An Zihao had originally intended to expose this news himself, hoping public opinion would be able to keep Lan Xi in check. But, if he did that, they would both suffer a loss. Now that Ling Feng had presented them with this huge gift, how could they reject his token of goodwill?

Tangning sat in the van flipping through a magazine as she maintained a smile on her face, "He probably thinks of it as a joke, but he has no idea Lan Xi will be too afraid to admit to it. At the end, Lan Xi will choose to keep her pride."

"Why must you go see Lan Xi?" An Zihao felt Tangning did not have the need to see Lan Xi anymore.

"It's not that I want to see her, she is the one that wants to see me," Tangning corrected.

"What I mean is, you could have rejected her."

"It doesn't hurt to see her. Who knows, maybe she is feeling regret. Even if she doesn't regret today, she will eventually feel it," Tangning said with a deeper meaning.

An Zihao closed his laptop and fell into silence. After quite some time, he finally asked, "Honestly, has President Mo not invited you to join Hai Rui? Tell me the truth Tangning..."

"Of course he has. But, I am not worthy yet!" Tangning replied straightforwardly.

An Zihao shook his finger at Tangning; he felt regret on her behalf. How could she let go of such a great opportunity?

Half an hour later, the trio finally arrived at Cheng Tian Entertainment's headquarters. Reporter's quickly swamped around them, but An Zihao and Long Jie quickly shielded Tangning and cleared a path for her to get into the building.

Lan Xi's secretary was already waiting at the entrance. Upon seeing Tangning, she immediately directed her into the meeting room.

Tangning scrunched up her eyebrows as she headed for the meeting room with An Zihao and Long Jie. However, upon entering the room, she not only saw Lan Xi, she also saw Li Danni and Cheng Tian's other international model, Hua Yuan. The woman seemed to have noticed her as she gazed at her deeply; it seemed she wanted to say something, but with Lan Xi around she couldn't.

Tangning could sense she had good intentions.

So she looked at her and nodded her head.

She was a woman of foreign descent with a pure short hairstyle that framed her face. Although her features weren't amazing, it was well defined and extremely unique. It was no surprise that she frequented the international runways.

"Tangning, sit," Lan Xi gestured coldly. "I invited you here today so that you, Danni and Hua Yuan can get to know each other."

"I can resume your jobs, but you must control your attitude."

"What part of my attitude is President Lan unhappy with?" Tangning questioned.

"If you were at least half as obedient as these two, you would not attract the mess that you have now," Lan Xi replied coldly. "In other words, as a model of Cheng Tian's, your future is in my hands. I just hope for you to be a little more obedient and cooperative. Am I wrong to ask for that?"

"So this includes having dinner with male actors?"

"That was for the purpose of creating hype," Lan Xi couldn't take it anymore; she felt Tangning was way too arrogant. "Fine, I'm not going to argue with you. I just have one question: do you still want to become an international supermodel?"

"President Lan, you must have known I will not compromise. The only reason you invited these two here today, was so you could force me to quit, with them serving as witnesses," Tangning unmasked Lan Xi's true intention.

After hearing these words, Lan Xi felt she no longer had to care too much as she directly said, "Hua Yuan and Danni have already taken your jobs, what are you going to do about it?"

"In fact, you guessed right, I indeed want to force you to quit!"

Lan Xi wanted to keep her pride...so she had no choice but to force Tangning to be a deserter!

"You will definitely come beg me not to leave," Tangning responded after a moment of silence. "Lan Xi, you will pay the price for what you have done today."

Hearing this, Li Danni was dumbfounded. Of course, so was Hua Yuan...

No one had ever spoken to Lan Xi this way – Tangning was the first!

She was the first model to tell Lan Xi she'd regret in such a confident and crazy way.

Li Danni even mouthed the words: *Is Tangning Crazy?*

Chapter 165: Highlights

Lan Xi looked at Tangning with an extreme sense of ridicule as she crossed her legs to the other side casually. In the silence, she seemed to be hinting: *Did you think a mere model like yourself could make me feel regret?*

I really don't know where your confidence comes from...

Li Danni had a similar look of mockery on her face while Hua Yuan gave Tangning a slightly anxious look. Seeing Tangning facing off with Lan Xi, Hua Yuan felt herself sweating on behalf of her. It seemed she was worried that Tangning wouldn't be able to survive in Cheng Tian, or worse, the entertainment industry.

"I guess I'll have to wait and see how you will make me regret. Originally, I was planning to give a few of the jobs from Danni and Hua Yuan back to you, but it seems I don't have to anymore."

Tangning smiled slightly; she didn't seem to be affected the way Lan Xi expected. In fact, she was exceptionally calm, "If there's nothing else President Lan, then I'll be heading home."

"If you want, you can stay and listen as I brief these girls on the jobs they will be taking from you. I don't mind," Lan Xi looked away and spoke coldly.

Tangning did not allow these harsh words to make her uncomfortable. She simply gave Lan Xi a meaningful glance as she turned to leave.

At least when she first signed her contract, she had entered Cheng Tian with high hopes.

At least...she once had faith in Lan Xi.

Throughout this entire time, An Zihao had been waiting at the entrance. Upon seeing Tangning, he immediately ran up and asked, "What did you guys talk about?"

"Haven't you already inquired about this mess?" Tangning questioned him back. She was sure he'd already asked the staff at Cheng Tian.

"Did Lan Xi really treat you in such an extreme way?"

"I'm afraid something even more extreme is on its way," Tangning replied. Her voice was calm, but it seemed to contain a sense of bitterness.

"All I want is what I deserve."

"I don't steal nor snatch."

"I depend on my own abilities."

"Yet, why must things be so hard?"

"I guess...if even my fiancée could become someone else's, what's so strange about a friend becoming an enemy?"

After hearing Tangning's words, An Zihao didn't know how to refute. After all, he was too familiar with the pain associated with a friend's betrayal.

“Zihao, I think you might be out of luck, I’ve just threatened Lan Xi.”

“What you’ve done is not a threat. You never say anything you aren’t sure of and never do anything you aren’t certain about,” An Zihao looked at Tangning calmly; he had faith in her.

Frozen by the agency?

Can’t she get herself out of it?

An Zihao looked at Tangning’s comfortable expression, he didn’t believe it would be a problem for her at all.

However, in order to improve Tangning’s mood, he decided to contact Lu Che so he could notify Mo Ting of what had happened.

After finding out the whole story, Mo Ting’s eyes were terrifyingly cold and piercing. Even Lu Che had never seen the president reveal such a frightening expression...

Before meeting Tangning, Cheng Tian meant nothing in Mo Ting’s eyes and he especially didn’t care about provocation from others. However, Lan Xi was currently picking on the person he loved the most...

She was stepping on his precious wife...

He started thinking about the reason he had originally sent Tangning to Cheng Tian; he wanted to help her find the perfect stairs to success. Who would have thought, he instead sent her into a living hell.

Lan Xi...

However, according to Tangning’s personality, until she got completely hurt, she would not give up on the slightest glimpse of hope. If Lan Xi really managed to send Tangning to his side – to Hai Rui – he...

...would tolerate her for a few more days.

...

7pm. Mo Ting returned home on time to find Tangning asleep on the living room sofa. He couldn’t help but remove his jacket and place it on her. Only at times like this did he get the chance to see the delicate side of Tangning; the side that needed protecting.

Tangning wasn’t being forceful towards herself; as a person, especially a woman, all she wanted was a satisfying job and a happy family. She didn’t want to reap without sowing, she just wanted to work diligently. But her experiences so far had been heavy like lead.

Mo Ting’s heart ached...

Maybe because she could feel the burn from Mo Ting’s fiery gaze, Tangning slowly opened her eyes. As her eyes met with Mo Ting’s, she smiled sweetly, “You’re back.”

“Someone’s almost blocked your modeling pathway, how could you still smile?”

“No, they haven’t,” Tangning stood up and wrapped one arm around Mo Ting’s neck. With her other arm, she stuck out her finger and pointed to herself, “Who knows, maybe tomorrow I will make a revival...Ting...you need to have faith in me.”

Mo Ting pulled her into his embrace and placed his chin against her forehead, “But I am worried; I get more worried by the day. I can no longer watch you being bullied. With your permission, I can be your sword; your weapon.”

There are people in one’s life that want to use them even though they would never allow it.

Yet there are people that refuse to use one no matter how much they want them to.

“Did you think without you backing me I would be brave enough to put all my eggs in one basket?” Tangning said in a serious manner. “No matter how independent I am...you are still my source of support; you determine my happiness.”

Mo Ting’s pride was satisfied as he hugged Tangning without a word; peacefully enjoying the silence.

Even if Lan Xi still wanted to create problems for Tangning behind her back.

So what?

How could someone with a strong willpower get frozen?

...

The next morning.

Ling Feng’s fans were in an uproar as LM was scheduled to release the highlights from their shoot. They wanted to know what type of man the director had found to replace Ling Feng. How dare they accept a job that was originally Ling Feng’s?

“Oh, the fans are really putting in a lot of effort,” Ling Feng’s manager said to Ling Feng as he sipped his coffee.

“They are all waiting to see what god-like person it is and are waiting to stick up for you.”

Ling Feng looked neat and tidy; he was about to go discuss his new movie with a film company. Just thinking about the highlights to be released by LM, Ling Feng’s face was full of disdain.

“How is this kind of matter worth paying attention to? Let them complain. I used to hate these brainless fans, but now I feel they’ve come in use.”

“Be careful what you say,” his manager warned.

“Have I said something wrong? Those idiots believe everything I say. They even went to look for Tangning to tear her apart. Pfft...”

His manager couldn’t control his outspoken personality. But, it didn’t matter, because the climax they were waiting for was to see the man that filmed a commercial with Tangning.

Let’s see you completely ridiculed...

At this time, Tangning was sitting on the sofa in Mo Ting's office watching LM's every move. In reality, she was quite nervous. Firstly, this was the first time her and Mo Ting would appear together in front of the public and they would be broadcasted to the entire nation. Secondly, she wondered if anyone would recognize Mo Ting.

A few meters away, Mo Ting was sitting at his desk flipping through some documents; it didn't seem to worry him at all...

10:30am. The scheduled time had arrived. As promised, LM released their highlights right on time...

Chapter 166: Losing 400,000 Fans

Tangning opened the video, it was a short 30 seconds...

She finally got to see how her expression appeared when she was filming the commercial with Mo Ting...

She looked like she had complete trust and was full of love; like she had forgotten the world around her. In her eyes, there was total devotion for Mo Ting.

Seeing this, even Tangning couldn't help but blush!

Of course, in the video, all that could be seen of Mo Ting was his back. LM selected to end the highlights video with the last scene of them holding each other's hand and Tangning leaning on Mo Ting's shoulder. The scene was shockingly beautiful, so beautiful it made other's breathless, because...

...the emotions...

...were too touching.

LM even turned this scene into their promotional image, blowing it up into huge posters and light boxes and gradually popping them up in major shopping centers.

In an instant, An Zihao's phone almost exploded with calls from various people. Some wanted to know Tangning's schedule, other's wanted to know who the male model was; they all wanted them to either appear together on their magazine front covers or walk down the runway together...

An Zihao was at home at this time. He had no idea LM's commercial highlights would create such a stir. So, he pulled out his laptop to have a look.

Although he had already witnessed the scene at the resort, seeing the interaction between Tangning and Mo Ting on screen, made him finally understand why a short 30-second highlight video...could attract the attention of so many people.

This commercial had the ability to stir up deep emotions within the viewer. After seeing it, it gave one a sense of satisfaction and happiness...

This was the message LM wanted to convey: marriage...was not the end...

Online, everyone was full of praise, "OMG, even though I know this is a commercial, I am willing to be sucked in by them..."

“The highlights are already so beautiful. LM, hurry and place the entire commercial up! This is the first time I’ve fallen in love with a commercial, I’ve already repeated it 20-30 times.”

“Tangning is a real beauty! I am set on my appraisal! Especially since her eyes are so clear that it feels like you can look through to her soul!”

“Oh! Most importantly is this back. Who is this man?”

“I’m about to explode! This man has such a charisma; he looks noble, mature and is bursting with manliness. Why are we only allowed to see his back? I want to become a fan of his back!”

“I hope Ling Feng’s fans don’t get angry at me, but in all honesty, I’m afraid, even just this man’s back is enough to sense his presence; from top to bottom, Ling Feng can’t compare at all.”

“He is so handsome!”

“Lucky it wasn’t Ling Feng. I’m about to get married and after seeing this commercial I was determined to buy their rings – hoping for a lifetime of happiness.”

“Please reveal the ‘back-view dream man’!”

...

No one expected, with a simple highlights video, Tangning and the ‘back-view dream man’ would become the hottest topic.

As for Ling Feng, his name was only mentioned when being ridiculed or compared...

His fans were originally furious, but after seeing the highlights video, they were speechless. They couldn’t find any flaws or anything to complain about...

In terms of height, Ling Feng at most reached this man’s forehead.

In terms of figure, Ling Feng appeared to be a weakling in comparison.

And in terms of presence...this man’s king-like dominance, far exceeded Ling Feng.

Of course, the only regret was not seeing his face!

The arrogance of the fans disappeared. While, a portion of the fans that liked Ling Feng for his body, quickly diverted their obsession towards the ‘back-view dream man’...abandoning Ling Feng on the side of the road...

As for the topic: ‘Lucky Ling Feng was replaced’, this quickly flew to the top of search rankings. And, of course, the comments were unanimous.

“Ling Feng is rubbish...if I was the director and had such a great resource in front of me, I too would have replaced him. Well done!”

“Exactly, I completely agree!”

At first, because Ling Feng was in a meeting with his agency, he did not receive the first-hand news. But, as soon as he came out of the meeting room, he lazily stretched his hand out to his manager, gesturing for his phone. His manager hesitated.

“What happened? Why aren’t you giving it to me?”

His manager wanted to say something but stopped as he obediently handed the phone over...

Ling Feng’s expression was originally one of mockery, he even placed his feet on the coffee table in a contempt manner; swaying it shamelessly. However, after seeing the video and the comments online, his expression completely changed. He was so angry he smashed the phone in his hand.

“Who is this person?” Ling Feng asked as he pointed to the shattered phone, “Who is this man?”

His manager shook his head...

“More handsome than me? Are these people blind?”

His manager thought to himself: *You are obviously the one that is blind.*

Ling Feng’s manager couldn’t be blamed for siding with an outsider. By simply looking at the back of the man in the commercial, it was enough to see how perfect he was. In comparison, Ling Feng was far from being on the same level; this was obvious to everyone, except him. He still thought of himself as invincible.

“All in all, the winds have currently changed. Everyone is praising the director’s choice...” *They think replacing you was the best decision.*

Of course, his manager was too afraid to say the last sentence.

Ling Feng kicked the coffee table and flung the vase atop the table with one swipe of his arms onto the floor. He couldn’t even compete against the back of this man...he was incomparable to a back...

Overnight, Ling Feng lost 400,000 fans.

400,000!

Competing agencies immediately grasped onto the laughing stock and took advantage to humiliate Ling Feng. He had caused such a huge commotion with the replacement incident and almost tore apart Tangning. Yet, what was the result?

Even Ling Feng’s fans were screaming, “Replacement well done!”

Clingy fans quickly clung onto the mysterious man. In just one day’s time, they had forgotten who Ling Feng was. Their curiosity was focused on the ‘back-view dream man’.

Everyone was fixated on this back and started a mass investigation into how this man would look if he turned around.

However, even when scouring the entire entertainment industry and placing all male celebrities with similar backs together, they found they were either too feminine or too robust; noble without any power or powerful yet too old. They weren’t ‘just right’ like the man in the commercial...

Since the fans couldn't identify the man, they directly contacted Tangning and the director. But...

How could Tangning reveal anything?

In the end, after 2 days of hard work, fans finally put together an irresponsibly vague list of names. Miraculously, amongst the list...there was actually Mo Ting's name. This was because the list included people from all walks of life – even international celebrities.

Tangning's popularity did not decrease. And because she knew the identity of the man, the media fought over who was to interview her; they wanted to get even the slightest clue from her mouth.

Seeing Tangning's popularity, Lan Xi's expression was deep and dark.

She had never imagined Tangning would pull through like this. However, did Tangning expect her to bow down to her relying solely on this point?

Impossible...this...was only the start.

Chapter 167: Retaliate Against Lan Xi

LM's commercial went viral.

Not only because of the highlights, but also because of the posters that were popping up in shopping centers everywhere. Apart from attracting a huge number of engaged couples to purchase wedding rings, fans flocked to LM's counters in groups to inquire about the 'back-view dream man'.

Who was this man and what was his identity? Even one word would be enough to satiate their curiosity.

The counter staff didn't know whether to laugh or cry as they explained it was also their first time seeing the back of this man; even internal corporate staff had no idea who he was.

According to rumors, during the commercial shoot, the set had been completely cleared. Apart from the director and a few important people, no one knew of the man's identity...

Meanwhile, Tangning's unobtrusive aura emanated in all directions. Her unique aura could be especially seen during the commercial; her every expression, every positioning, and every pose was lively and vivid. She completely encompassed the happiness of a woman, winning the support of everyone...

Like this, it seemed from the moment she announced her comeback, every path she chose and every step she took showed her undeniable professionalism as well as how amazing she was.

This showed she did not get overshadowed by the 'back-view dream man'. In fact, her and the man beside her complemented each other well, like a painting...so beautiful, one couldn't take their eyes off of it.

Because of this, An Zihao received a lot of invites. Tangning was a force not to be reckoned with, moving forward with a ferocious momentum.

Online, the profile of the mysterious man began to shrink in range. However, one thing was certain, no matter who this man was, his identity could not be simple...

Seeing there was no way to stop Tangning's momentum, Lan Xi sat in her office and contemplated for an entire hour before giving An Zihao a phone call.

An Zihao was in the middle of confirming some interviews for Tangning. After receiving a phone call from Lan Xi, he immediately drove over to Cheng Tian. The two's eyes met; they were no longer the old friends they once were as they looked at each other like strangers.

"What do you want?"

"What else could it be? You are currently Tangning's manager. It must be easy for you to destroy her," Lan Xi straightforwardly revealed her motive. "You don't need to consider other things. This is an order from your superior."

An Zihao placed one hand in his pocket and leaned over to look at Lan Xi, "You're almost so disgusting I can't recognize you...if you are capable, you should announce your intention to ban Tangning. But, at a time like this, can you do it? What can you do to Tangning?"

Lan Xi endured her fluctuating heartbeat and looked away angrily, "Fine, even if you don't stand on my side, tell me who the man in Tangning's commercial was."

An Zihao stood up straight like he had completely seen through Lan Xi. He revealed a mocking smile, "I have nothing to say."

"An Zihao, do you want to end up like Yun Xin? Or do you want to follow in the footsteps of Yang Jing?" Lan Xi asked angrily through gritted teeth.

"What has this got to do with Yun Xin?"

Lan Xi froze. She seemed to have realized she said something wrong as she pretended to be calm and said to An Zihao, "Leave."

"Lan Xi..."

"Get out!"

An Zihao did not stick around as he turned to leave the office. However, Lan Xi fell into a daze as she continued to look at the highlights on her monitor. She had already tried every method possible, yet no one dared to tell her who the man was...

Her intuition told her, the mysterious man possessed a power that could not be underestimated.

An Zihao was her employee and Tangning was her model. After doing things without her permission and not telling her anything, resulting in so much trouble, how could they still dream of basking in glory on their own?

As if things are that easy, Lan Xi sneered to herself.

In the end, the identity of the mysterious man was reduced to 7 people with no chance of progression. The remaining 7 men were not people the fans could investigate; it was impossible for them to even get close to them, and those that knew the truth were scarce. But...because of these 7 men, one message was clear to the public...

...Tangning did not have no backing. At least, amongst these 7 people, no matter which one, they were all men that could not be offended...

So, Lan Xi's intention to ban Tangning ended in failure!

But, this wasn't enough. Tangning wanted Lan Xi to give back what she took away...

As for Lan Xi...

She wanted to turn Tangning into a second Yun Xin. The best result would be for her to disappear off the face of the earth.

...

In reality, those at Hai Rui that saw Mo Ting often, vaguely felt the man was him. But, according to his personality, how could he possibly lower his status to help out a female model?

So, both the public and Hai Rui were full of discussions, but no one dared to put Mo Ting in the picture.

"Tangning, there are three talk shows that I feel are worth making an appearance on. Choose one amongst them," An Zihao suggested as he helped Tangning take screenshots.

"I'll go on Feng Cai," Tangning said after taking one glance at the computer monitor.

An Zihao looked at the invite from the show he did not even consider and was a bit surprised, "This talk show is the most transparent and they request their guests to be completely honest. Their questions are extremely difficult; they will definitely ask you about the man in the commercial."

"I'm certain. I will go on Feng Cai."

An Zihao thought for a bit before understanding Tangning's motive; she wanted to retaliate against Lan Xi.

Feng Cai was extremely famous in Asia and did not engage in under-the-table operations because they were supported by the nation. So, they did what they wanted without any restraints; this meant, Lan Xi had no way of influencing things in secret.

Above all, this program was a good test of an artist's EQ. It had a high viewership, so they requested, upon entering the studio, artists should not dream of getting out of things easily; no matter how difficult the questions, they would have to answer them honestly.

"OK," An Zihao nodded as he thought about how brave Tangning was.

"While you're at it, release some news about Lan Xi trying to internally ban me."

By doing this, Feng Cai's questions would not only be focused on the 'back-view dream man', but also Cheng Tian.

Even if Cheng Tian wasn't implicated, just the simple fact that Tangning was going on the program would be enough to make Lan Xi nervous...

After a few moments of silence, Tangning seemed to have grasped An Zihao's mood, so she said, "I've said before...I will make Lan Xi turn around and beg me. If you feel things are too difficult for you, I can tell Long Jie to handle this matter instead."

"No need..." An Zihao shook his head as he quickly responded, "Let me do it."

After hanging up the phone, Tangning leaned back on the warm chest behind her.

Mo Ting took the opportunity to embrace her and place his lips against her ear. He spoke in a deep voice, "You're quite brave to go on Feng Cai. What if they ask you if you're married, whether you have a husband and who your husband is? Have you considered how you will answer them?"

Tangning turned her head and pressed herself closer to Mo Ting, "How do you think I'll answer? Can you guess?"

Chapter 168: I've Thought Long and Hard About How to Deal With Tangning

"I have a feeling, Lan Xi won't let you go on this talk show," Mo Ting said in a deep voice, "After how you've challenged her, there is no way she will let you off easily."

"If she can tolerate you stepping over her head, then other models would use you as an example and do the same. If that happens...she would lose the dignity of being a CEO."

"She was the one that challenged me first..." Tangning replied calmly. "Just because I am a model, does that mean I have no self-respect? Should I allow her to fool me and control me just so she can have some dignity?"

"You know that's not what I meant. I'm just worried she will do something to you," Mo Ting quickly explained.

"I know that's not what you meant. I just think it's a pity that most people in this world aren't treated fairly. Especially when it comes to people like Lan Xi, is it really that important to control others?"

Tangning turned around and faced Mo Ting as she spoke in a relaxed tone, "Ting...you should not feel guilty for sending me to Cheng Tian. In this world, the good comes with the bad. In my case, without a senior to learn from and share their experiences, I can only fight my own way out."

"I'm not afraid to be covered in wounds, because I know, once I pull through all these scars, all that awaits me – is success."

"So, Lan Xi's obstacles are nothing."

Mo Ting did not speak, he simply reached out his hand to tuck some hair behind Tangning's ear. In his heart, the prediction he was most afraid of, was not as simple as a few obstacles.

Of course, as long as Lan Xi dared to make a move, he would definitely make her regretful for the rest of her life.

Midnight. An Zihao instructed some people to release news about Lan Xi placing an internal ban on Tangning!

Maybe because of Tangning's popularity over the past few days, Tangning and Cheng Tian Entertainment's incident quickly spread everywhere by the next day.

In an instant, Lan Xi's office received phone calls asking for clarification. Lan Xi instructed her secretary to tell them she was out of office and refused to answer any questions. Her intention to internally ban Tangning had long been a company secret; everyone in Cheng Tian was aware, but wasn't allowed to talk about it.

Not long after, the reporter's contacted An Zihao to ask Tangning for clarification. Tangning responded simply, "I will answer this question personally when I appear on Feng Cai."

Cheng Tian has placed an internal ban on Tangning; was what Ling Feng said true?

Cheng Tian Entertainment has just signed a contract with Tangning and Tangning currently has a strong momentum. What reason does Cheng Tian have to ban Tangning?

As for Tangning, the fact that she announced she would give a response on Feng Cai, what big news is she going to reveal?

Seeing Tangning's response, Lan Xi was so angry she smashed everything on her desk to vent her anger. But no matter how her emotions changed and how hard she tried to calm her anger, she couldn't tolerate one thing: Tangning...was indeed threatening her. How dare Tangning threaten her!

Afterwards, she called for Luo Hao. Although they had been hostile since Yang Jing's incident, right now, out of the entire Cheng Tian, she didn't know who she could trust, "Have you heard that Tangning will be going on Feng Cai?"

"Now you know why I tried to stop you from signing Tangning? I can't deny I had my own agenda. But compared to this, the fact that your personalities clash is a bigger reason."

"Right now, all you need to tell me, is what to do," Lan Xi didn't want to dwell on the past; she just wanted to find a quick solution.

"If you don't want her to go on Feng Cai, then...you can make a move on Long Jie. Tangning can clearly distinguish between kindness and hatred. Although she is vengeful, she honestly treats Long Jie as a friend. If you don't want her to do anything, then...Long Jie is undoubtedly the best target."

"If you can't prevent Tangning from going on the show..." Luo Hao lit a cigarette as he thought about what Yang Jing had previously told him, "I remember Tangning once said in an interview that she does not have a boyfriend. You can always expose that she is living with a man and accuse her of lying to the public..."

Of course, they did not realize the true meaning behind Tangning's words – she had a husband, not a boyfriend.

"Also...An Zihao definitely can't stay by Tangning's side..."

"When the time comes, Tangning will be a complete failure with no manager; you can do whatever you want to her without anyone questioning you. Everyone will just clap their hands and praise you."

Lan Xi looked at Luo Hao with a dark expression. She was even more on guard than when she was thinking about Tangning.

“So, it turns out you have so much hidden inside...”

“I’ve thought long and hard about how to deal with Tangning, I’ve just never had the chance...Every day I’ve been thinking about the day’s events and what I could do to attack Tangning,” Luo Hao thought about Yang Jing’s request for him to avenge her.

Lan Xi nodded her head with an expression of ridicule. Although she did not acknowledge Luo Hao, she couldn’t deny that Luo Hao’s idea was indeed a good solution to her worries.

Did Tangning still want to make this CEO kneel before her?

Let’s see who kneels first!

...

Feng Cai’s interview was organized for the following week, in 3 days time. Because of LM’s commercial, Tangning’s job invites were once again increased. Not only that, all the clients that had their jobs switched to Li Danni and Hua Yuan were requesting for Lan Xi to swap them back; they were stunned by Tangning’s charisma as a model.

As a result, Li Danni decided to complain in Lan Xi’s office, “President Lan, all the jobs I have taken from Tangning have now become useless. The clients have even decided to send you legal notices for breaching their contracts by replacing Tangning...”

“The compensation won’t be small.”

Lan Xi furrowed her brows. At first, she didn’t really care about the issue at hand, but once Hua Yuan also added her jobs on top, Lan Xi realized, she could no longer disregard the matter.

These shameless companies. If we compare Li Danni and Hua Yuan’s status to Tangning, they are both higher than her. How can they be so blind as to not use either of them?

“I never expected Tangning to go all out. This is one month of work for her and it is already equivalent to the sum of both our jobs put together. An old model is indeed an old model. She’s so old she can only throw herself out there in desperation.”

Hua Yuan didn’t speak in the same negative tone, she merely reminded Lan Xi, “President Lan, why don’t you ask Tangning to come back and take these jobs?”

Lan Xi glanced briefly at Hua Yuan with a deep expression. In the end, she picked up her phone and called her secretary into the office; she wanted to renegotiate with the clients.

However, the results were the same. They insisted on Tangning...

Lan Xi had no choice but to call Tangning, “Come to the office right now.”

On the other end of the phone, Tangning was currently jogging with Mo Ting as she responded, “If you have something to say, speak to my manager.” It seemed she had no intention to care about Lan Xi at all. She simply glanced at Mo Ting’s attractive physique and continued to jog on the treadmill...

Lan Xi, you gave my resources away without saying anything, now you want to give them back? Let's wait and see if I'll accept them!

Chapter 169: Forced

This was the first time one of the company's artists dared to hang up on Lan Xi!

An A-Grade model called Tangning.

Lan Xi endured her anger and held back her temper as she phoned An Zihao. After looking through Tangning's schedule, An Zihao replied, "Since you gave all of Tangning's previous jobs to Li Danni and Hua Yuan, Tangning ended up accepting other ones. Her schedule is already full. I'm sorry, but it is not our problem."

Of course, it wasn't Tangning and An Zihao's problem.

Lan Xi only had herself to blame.

She had never imagined Tangning would become so popular because of LM's highlights. And she definitely did not expect, her clients would insist on using Tangning.

Losing a bit of compensation wasn't a huge deal. But...

...as the CEO of Cheng Tian with ultimate authority and power, how could she let a model mess around with her?

Lan Xi hung up the phone. If Tangning was in front of her right now, she would pounce on her and tear her to shreds.

After a moment of quiet thought, Lan Xi called Luo Hao into her office. She placed one hand to her forehead as she spoke in a tired manner, "That Long Jie, who else does she have at home?"

"Her parents passed away early. She only has a grandfather."

"Then what are you waiting for? There are only 2 days left until Tangning goes on Feng Cai. Immediately send someone to pick up Long Jie's grandfather. Make sure to be discreet..." Lan Xi dropped her arms to her sides and walked over to the window. She looked out into the distance.

"Lan Xi..." Luo Hao looked at Lan Xi with a deep expression. He had never seen Lan Xi do something so disgusting out in the open.

"I want Tangning to fall into my trap. I want her to know that I am the one in charge!"

Now that things had gotten to this stage, it was no longer a simple internal fight. As Lan Xi and Tangning's relationship deteriorated, there was bound to be a bloody battle; neither party wanted to bow down to the other.

Luo Hao looked at Lan Xi's confident expression before nodding his head, "I understand...I'll handle this matter well."

"We need to use extreme methods to deal with extreme people."

In reality, Tangning had always been passively revolting against Lan Xi; she didn't want to end up being stepped over by Lan Xi. After all, in Lan Xi's eyes, her models either had to be like Li Danni with a bit of overconfidence and easy to control or like Hua Yuan who could differentiate from right and wrong but had to follow the crowd.

Tangning wasn't willing to do any of that, she just wanted to be herself...

...

After confirming Feng Cai's appearance time, Tangning went to a few magazines that were arranged by An Zihao for some interviews. In the evening, Tangning suddenly received a message from Mo Ting, "Come to Crown Hotel tonight, I have booked a candlelit dinner."

Tangning glanced at the date on her phone before smiling, "What is it? It's not like today is our wedding anniversary..."

"I want to show you the best view in Beijing."

Tangning put away her phone and turned to look at Long Jie and An Zihao. She originally wanted An Zihao to drive her to Hai Rui, but Long Jie suddenly said, "My grandfather has come to Beijing to visit me...I need to hurry home."

"How about we go see your grandfather together."

"No need. Tangning, according to your popularity, you have fans everywhere you go, you should let my grandfather off," Long Jie pressed her palms together and did an exaggerated praying gesture.

Tangning let out a gentle laugh as she said to Long Jie, "In that case, have fun with your grandfather. I'll give you 2 days off."

"OK," Long Jie nodded as she smiled sweetly.

Afterwards, Tangning instructed An Zihao to drop off Long Jie before driving her to Hai Rui. After Mo Ting appeared, An Zihao quickly retreated and handed Tangning over to Mo Ting.

He had recently been preoccupied with investigating the truth behind Yun Xin's death.

Mo Ting and Tangning boarded the car. The couple smiled at each other. Upon arriving at Crown Hotel, they drove the car through the VIP entrance. Mo Ting originally intended on handing the car keys to the valet, but...Tangning noticed the valet had his head down the entire time.

At this moment, Tangning couldn't explain the emotion that hit her. All the hate she once had, had completely dissipated because the man with his arm hooked around her was full of warmth.

"What are you looking at?" Mo Ting asked.

"The person just now was Han Yufan," Tangning replied calmly. Seeing Mo Ting's eyebrows scrunch up, she quickly explained, "Hey, don't misunderstand. I was just a little surprised; doesn't he have a mother that married a director? Logically speaking, even if he was to be kicked out of Tianyi, he shouldn't end up here."

Mo Ting was a little unhappy as he placed his jacket on Tangning's shoulder and dragged her by the hand into the lift.

Tanging chuckled; it was rare to see Mo Ting being jealous. So she stretched out her hand, linked Mo Ting's fingers and swayed his hand, "He is in the past..."

Mo Ting took the opportunity to grab her chin and force her to look him in the eyes, "Then you should take more initiative. I want to be your future!"

Tanging seized the chance to plant a kiss on Mo Ting's lips before hiding her blushing cheeks against his neck, "Is this enough?"

Mo Ting was satisfied as he pulled her into his embrace. He then took Tanging to the top of the building – the 120th level.

"This is the highest point in Beijing. From here you can see the entire city."

Tanging stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling window and looked down. She couldn't help but feel moved by the sparkling lights of the city below. Not long after, she felt a pair of arms wrap around her and a set of soft lips press firmly against her neck, "Afraid of heights?"

"With you here, I'm not afraid," Tanging shook her head.

With the satisfaction of being needed and being depended on, Mo Ting turned Tanging's head and gently lowered his kiss, "Actually, a place like this...is even more suitable for kissing..."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because it's high up and it's easy to be short of breath!"

...

Meanwhile, Long Jie hurried home. However, as she approached, she did not see her grandfather. Instead, she found Luo Hao waiting for her.

Long Jie looked at him suspiciously as she picked up her phone to call her grandfather. But, Luo Hao grabbed her phone out of her hand and hung up for her. He then tilted his head and said, "Get in the car. Don't you want to see your grandfather?"

"What did you do with my grandfather?" Long Jie was stunned for a moment before suddenly realizing something wasn't right. Her eyes were red and her voice was raspy.

"What can we do with him? We merely invited him over as a guest..." After speaking, Luo Hao opened the car door and hinted for Long Jie not to waste any more time.

Long Jie didn't understand Luo Hao's motive and didn't know where her grandfather was. So, she could only bite her lip as she boarded Luo Hao's black luxury car.

Not long after, the two of them pulled up outside Lan Xi's home. Long Jie had a bad feeling as she grabbed on to Luo Hao and asked, "Did President Lan bring my grandfather here? What is she trying to force me to do?"

She had, after all, been in this industry for a long time, so she had a natural sensitivity to stuff like this.

“If you want to know, then go in...” Luo Hao pulled away from her grip and responded to her casually before pushing open the door.

Chapter 170: Who Does the Back Belong to?

Long Jie felt like she was being strangled as a million possibilities flashed through her head.

Upon entering Lan Xi’s home, Long Jie found her grandfather chatting to Lan Xi with a kind smile under the bright hanging lights. She felt a fire boiling up inside her, like a volcano ready to erupt.

“President Lan...what is the meaning of this?” Long Jie’s voice was a little shaky.

Hearing Long Jie’s voice, Lan Xi and Grandfather Long both turned their heads. Lan Xi stood up welcomingly and greeted Long Jie, “You have been so dutiful towards Tangning that I wanted to reward you. So, you don’t mind that I invited your grandfather over, right?”

” Xiao Man ¹, President Lan has been extremely kind to me. She’s been treating me like a part of the family, you definitely need to thank her,” Grandfather Long smiled happily. He was wearing a new set of clothes and waving at Long Jie.

Long Jie looked at Lan Xi angrily as she clenched her fists. She wanted to ask Lan Xi if she still had any humanity left in her.

She didn’t even let a 78-year-old elder off...She even wanted to use a 78-year-old!

“Luo Hao, take Grandfather Long to get some rest. I have something I want to discuss with Long Jie,” Lan Xi looked at Long Jie threateningly; her eyes were piercing like an icy cold dagger.

Long Jie wanted to drag her grandfather away, but she knew...if she didn’t grant Lan Xi her wish, she would not be able to leave.

“In that case, you guys have a good chat, I will go rest. When a person gets old, they become useless...just sitting in the car a little bit makes me tired.”

After seeing her grandfather disappear into the distance, Long Jie finally asked, “What do you want?”

“Can’t you tell what I want?” Lan Xi moved away from Long Jie and returned to sit on the sofa. “I want to use you – it’s that simple. But what could I do to make a loyal dog like you abandon Tangning? The only thing I could think of was family!”

” Long Man ², you’ve been in this industry for more than a couple days. Haven’t you seen methods like this before? Isn’t it normal to you?”

Long Jie held back her tears. Even though she had a good nature, she couldn’t stand up against Lan Xi’s humiliation and intimidation, “Just tell me what you want, don’t go around in circles.”

Lan Xi let out a laugh as she lifted the bottle of wine off the table in front of her. As she walked over to the window she said, “I want to know all of Tangning’s secrets.”

“For example?”

“In the LM commercial. Who does the back belong to?”

Long Jie lowered her head and smiled before replying, “Someone from the Tang family.”

Long Jie made up something random, “After all, you know that Tangning is an heiress of the Tang family. Who else could she get? She can only get someone from the Tang family. But, she couldn’t let the other people from the family know, so she had to keep it a secret. If you think about it, if it was any other artist, they would be dying to be exposed. How could they disappear without a word?”

Lan Xi turned and glanced at Long Jie; her eyes were cold, but she seemed to have accepted this explanation.

“What type of background does Tangning have? With what man does she have such a close relationship?”

“Apart from being an abandoned Tang family heiress, what other background could she possibly have? If she really had a strong backing, would she allow you guys to oppress her?” Long Jie replied in a ridiculing tone. “As for men, she’s quite close to the editor of TQ, they’ve had dinner a few times – but they aren’t in ‘that’ kind of relationship. Maybe Tangning likes Lin Weisen, but...Editor Lin is not interested.”

After hearing her last sentence, Lan Xi approached Long Jie and grabbed her chin, “Tangning obviously said she has a man and they are living together.”

“She’s never admitted to living together...she just admitted to being in a relationship.”

Lan Xi glared at Long Jie before warning her, “You better guarantee that all you’ve said today is the truth. Otherwise, your grandfather...he’s getting old and weak...”

“I’ve said all I can, what else do you want? If you don’t believe me, you can go investigate...” Long Jie responded helplessly. “Tangning has always depended on herself. She has never thought about using anyone to advance nor has she thought about being a threat to you.”

“Too bad her existence alone is a threat.” Lan Xi sculled all her wine in one go before saying to Long Jie, “I don’t expect you to do too much. Just this once, I want you to prevent Tangning from going on Feng Cai. As long as you succeed, I’ll let your grandfather go.”

Long Jie was silent for a little while before sneering, “Are you that confident I will betray Tangning?”

“Long Man, although I’m not familiar with you, I’m sure you won’t disregard the grandfather that brought you up over an outsider.”

“What do you want me to do?”

“I don’t need you to do much. Just...when the time comes, I want you to hold back Tangning. It’s that simple.”

Lan Xi threw out her mission and claimed it was simple.

However, to Long Jie, if she really agreed to Lan Xi's suggestion, she would be destroying her humanity. In reality, no matter what predicament one was put in, they always had the choice to make the right decision.

If with a little pressure, one changes who they are, then aren't they worse than an elastic band?

"I know you and Tangning are like sisters. But, Long Man...I can do anything."

Long Jie gave a bitter smile. If she still wasn't aware of how far Lan Xi could go, she would be too slow!

Lan Xi could! do! anything!

"I will not betray Tangning directly."

"I knew this would be your response...how about this, Danni has a show that day and her assistant is on break. Why don't you go be Danni's assistant?"

She was Tangning's assistant, yet Lan Xi wanted to lend her out to Li Danni...

Her motive was clear. Li Danni wasn't going to go easy on Long Jie.

If Tangning found out Long Jie was being bullied, how could she still care about going on the talk show?

"Fine, but I have one request. That night, I need to send my grandfather off."

"Fine."

After speaking, Lan Xi turned around and said in a ridiculing tone, "I must say, there's no such thing as absolute loyalty. Everyone has their motives..."

That night, as Long Jie left Lan Xi's home, her mind was empty.

But as she thought about Tangning, she still had a glimmer of hope. Before dawn, it had always been hard to see things clearly. But if one closes their eyes a little, they will be able to get through it.

That night, Tangning headed home from the hotel. Thinking about Grandfather Long's visit, she decided to give Long Jie a call, "Have you picked up your grandfather? Are you happy?"

"Yes, I'm extremely happy," Long Jie replied as she wiped her tears. "Tangning, you have Zihao by your side. For the next couple days, just pretend I'm on holidays..."

"So naggy. Have you got enough money?"

"I have enough," Long Jie almost choked. "You will be going on the program in 2 days, remember to be careful. Lan Xi is not easy to deal with."

With the mention of Lan Xi, Tangning's smile disappeared. All along she had thought Long Jie was overjoyed by seeing her grandfather, but the strong nasal sound coming from her voice, was definitely the result of oppression and not happiness...