

Work Hard 381

Chapter 381: There is no Storm That I Can't Block

On the night of the incident, Hai Rui finally released a statement that Tangning had only suffered a minor injury and Bei Chendong had a slight fracture.

The cause of the accident was still under investigation, so they could not comment on it yet. But, they hoped everyone could remain patient.

However, the rumor about Tangning being a jinx did not subside because of this. In fact, the rumor started to become even more superstitious. People were beginning to believe that she was involved in witchcraft.

There had always been rumors like this in the entertainment industry. It was believed that many celebrities employed a shaman to invite a few small ghosts into their home. They would then feed and burn offerings to these ghosts in exchange for fame and fortune.

So the fact that Tangning always seemed to pull out of misfortunate incidences with the upper hand, was bound to attract rumors like this.

As it involved the unknown, it created an air of mystery and made people fearful. Regardless, once the people in the entertainment industry heard of this rumor, who still dared to work with Tangning?

Even when it came to Hai Rui or Mo Ting, under these circumstances, was their best option to let Tangning cease all activity? Should they choose to settle while it was still early?

Hai Rui's PR tried their best to stop the rumors from circulating. However, even if the public had a bad memory, what about the people in the entertainment industry?

The next day, the hospital did another round of checks on Tangning. After confirming her head was OK, Tangning requested to leave the hospital. However, Mo Ting replied, "Let's return to Beijing first, someone wants to see you."

"Who?" Tangning asked.

Mo Ting gently patted her on the head as his heart ached. It was like he was promising to himself that one day he'd lift her to a position where no one dared to defame her.

"You'll know after you see them."

Tangning was curious, but she obediently followed Mo Ting's arrangements. However, it wasn't long before she learnt that she had been replaced. After all, this wasn't an easy secret to keep.

"Have I been replaced?" Tangning asked Mo Ting. "I...had no idea..."

Mo Ting stopped the car and pinched her cheeks, "Just think of it as a test. It's not a pity to lose the role; you deserve better anyway."

Tangning lowered her head. Since Mo Ting had made a decision, then there was nothing worth getting upset over. Because Tangning knew, if something had a solution, Mo Ting would not give up easily on it; his track record of obtaining resources and endorsements was the best example.

Plus, she knew deep in her heart, if the problem wasn't solved at the root, even if she was to return on set, problems would still arise.

Rather than letting that happen, she might as well leave now before the production suffered a loss.

However, little did she know that Mo Ting had absolutely no intention for 'Hidden Expert' to continue to exist...

"There are even rumors that I'm keeping ghosts..." Tangning couldn't help but laugh. "I've already expressed my motives clearly, yet, why won't she let go. Will she only be satisfied when she's completely destroyed me?"

"There are some people that aren't born innocent. Some people were born to be evil until the day they die."

"That's an interesting observation," Tangning gently nodded her head.

"Do you trust me?" Mo Ting asked with a hopeful look.

Tangning nodded again and held onto his hand, "Of course I trust you."

"If you trust me, then follow quietly behind. Within this industry, there is no storm I can't help you block..."

This was something Tangning never doubted.

...

After Tangning left the hospital, Han Xiner was left behind to take care of Bei Chendong. Seeing he was asleep in bed, Han Xiner leisurely browsed through her phone. But, as soon as she discovered rumors of Tangning keeping ghosts and being involved in witchcraft, she couldn't help but yell at her phone in agitation. Luckily, she quickly remembered to cover her mouth.

"I already heard you..." Bei Chendong said with his eyes closed.

"Just pretend you were hearing things, it's all in your imagination..." Han Xiner waved her hand.

"Should I prepare some equipment for you to go home and place a voodoo curse on someone?"

"If you could, that would be great!"

"If someone finds out, people would think Tangning really is keeping ghosts," Bei Chendong finally opened his intelligent-looking eyes. His eyes had a charming drawing power to them that tempted Han Xiner to have a second look."

"I'm just joking..." Han Xiner sighed, "Ning Jie sure has a difficult life. She is actually a great person, but I don't know why people always scheme against her."

"Good protects those with talent Have you heard of this before?"

These words were comforting for Han Xiner, so she nodded her head, "It's because Ning Jie is too capable that she's unintentionally stood in others' paths..."

"Since you know this, why are you still angry?"

Han Xiner thought about it and realized he was right. Even if things couldn't get any worse, Tangning still had Mo Ting by her side. So, the problem was bound to make a turn for the better.

After comforting Han Xiner, Bei Chendong closed his eyes to rest again. However, the nurses outside were secretly gossiping.

"Haiz...Let me tell you, that Bei Chendong is a snob to everyone. Previously, when the doctor spoke to him, he only responded with one word. This little assistant, however, has sure gained his trust."

"He has a weird temper too. Just looking at him is so intimidating. I was so nervous when I had to help him attach his drip because he doesn't seem to like physical contact."

"How weird, the little assistant helps him wipe his hands and face, but he doesn't avoid it at all."

That was because, his reactions were dependent on the person.

...

Midday. Tangning returned to Hyatt Regency and finally ran into Long Jie, who she hadn't seen for a while. Long Jie ran over urgently and grabbed onto Tangning's body.

"Why are you so skinny?"

"I only received a small injury, it wouldn't have effected my weight," Tangning comforted.

"Really? Do you know how I felt when I heard you had fallen from so high up?" Long Jie suddenly started crying. "If something really happened to you, I wouldn't know where to go to cry my heart out."

Tangning understood Long Jie was worried about her, so she did not refute and, instead, let her vent her anger.

"Tell me, you're already married and an adult, how could you be so careless?" Long Jie sobbed. "No, that's not right, this is all because of the person that instigated everything. Once we find out who it is, they are going to experience a living hell."

A coldness suddenly appeared in Tangning's eyes.

Some people were as Mo Ting said: no matter how you warn them or emphasize things to them, they would still live in their own world.

Tangning really didn't want to go to extremes...

But, if the culprit really was Tang Xuan...

"By the way, what should we do about you being replaced? The almighty President of Hai Rui's artist was replaced. If word gets out, how much pride would Boss have left?" Long Jie said in a frustrated tone. "The producer of 'Hidden Expert' sure is brave."

“Ting will handle this matter...”

“Of course I know he will. I can’t wait to see their fates.”

Since Tangning wasn’t in the film anymore and it was to be released after ‘Stupid’, Mo Ting was going to make it so they never get released...

“That’s right, Ting said someone wants to see me. Who is it?” Tangning asked with a smile as she sat on the sofa.

“Well, it couldn’t be me. It’s someone else. Do you want to take a guess?” Long Jie looked her mysteriously.

Chapter 382: I Need to Look at the Script First

Tangning shook her head. Although she knew quite a lot of people, there were only a handful of people who she truly bonded with. And these people, were currently beside her. So, who else wanted to see her?

Long Jie gestured for her to close her eyes.

Tangning originally didn’t want to play such a childish game, but, since it was someone she couldn’t predict, she decided there was no harm in playing along.

A moment later, the sound of leather shoes on the hard floor resounded through her ears.

Tangning kept her eyes closed and smiled, “Zihao.”

Long Jie’s expression was one of shock. Who would have thought she’d be able to guess like this.

That’s right, the person that had appeared in front of Tangning was a dark blue suited An Zihao; there was no doubt about it. After, building up his experience overseas for the last few months, he had become more mature and reliable.

“I never thought you’d actually become an actress,” An Zihao sat down opposite Tangning. “I saw the video of your audition and honestly think that you are better than a large number of actors. Although you still have a few aspects which you could improve on, with your intelligence, I’m sure you’ll be able to overcome it easily.”

“Thank you for having so much confidence in me,” Tangning overflowed with happiness.

The image of An Zihao leaving Cheng Tian was still imprinted in her memory, but they were both no longer the same people as back then.

“You’ve returned from your training?”

“Yes. But, as soon as I got back, I heard you’ve been involved in another big news,” An Zihao laughed.

Tangning still remembered when they first met. At that time, he was still grieving over Yun Xin’s death. But now, it was like he was reborn and refreshed.

“Enough about me, let’s talk about you,” Tangning wanted to change the subject. However, at this time, Mo Ting walked out of the study room and suggested, “Let’s have a look at the news first.”

After speaking, Mo Ting picked up the remote control and turned on the television in the living room. The midday news was currently showing.

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[Tangning Replaced?]

This was the headline at the bottom of the screen and broadcasting live was a reporter on the set of ‘Hidden Expert’. As Tangning had already been replaced, she was nowhere to be seen.

“I am here at the first media visit for the set of ‘Hidden Expert’. The visit today seems to also be an indirect announcement that Tangning has been replaced. Although the production team haven’t officially announced this change, we can clearly see that Tangning is not on set and the public’s rumors are true.”

“According to the hospital, Tangning has already recovered and left the hospital. But, no one knows where she has gone.”

“As for the reason why Tangning has been replaced, the public are assuming it has something to do with the rumor that Tangning is involved in witchcraft. It’s not easy to be a celebrity...but, most surprising of all, the fact that the ‘Hidden Expert’ crew insisted on replacing Tangning against the pressures of Mo Ting, shows how serious they are towards the ‘conduct’ of their actors. This is something that should be applauded...”

“This reporter is a mistress of ‘Hidden Expert’s producer,” Mo Ting explained as he saw the confused looks on their faces.

“No wonder,” Long Jie sneered. “They are obviously placing the blame on Tangning’s conduct and hinting that she would do anything to get famous.”

“This President Shao is well-known in China and has contacts in many places. That’s why he has no regard for Hai Rui,” Mo Ting paused and continued, “Originally, I was going to leave them with a way out.”

The trio looked at Mo Ting and suddenly felt a dangerous vibe. This wasn’t out of the ordinary though because Mo Ting had always been like this when it came to business.

He could destroy someone without warning!

“OK, now that we’ve watched the news, let’s talk business.”

“No Boss, you should tell us the solution you’ve come up with. Tell us, I’m so curious! Let me experience a moment of satisfaction, even if it’s just in secret,” Long Jie bravely requested. “You always keep it to yourself and make others suffer in anticipation.”

Tangning giggled and explained, “It’s not a hard problem to solve.”

“Has Boss told you already?” Long Jie turned and looked at Tangning.

“Nope,” Tangning shook her head.

“Forget it, you’re going to say you guys are connected by heart, aren’t you?” Long Jie waved her hand and grabbed onto Tangning’s arm, “Come on, can you tell me?”

“Well, ‘Hidden Expert’ was created with Bei Chendong in mind and the producer has invested a lot of money into the project.”

“Everyone knows this!”

“But...no one knows that Bei Chendong and Mo Ting...are cousins.”

“Pfff...” Long Jie had just lifted a teacup to her mouth, when she suddenly sprayed the contents across the room without any consideration of her own image...

Tangning glared at her, “You are disgusting!”

“Sorry, I was too shocked,” Long Jie explained.

“Remember to give my carpet a wash before you leave,” Mo Ting said casually.

“Even if Mo Ting and Bei Chendong are cousins, Bei Chendong isn’t the type to just breach a contract!”

“He’s not breaching his contract. In fact, ‘Hidden Expert’ are the ones that breached their contract. According to the clause about safety and security, if the safety of the actor has been compromised and the crew can’t guarantee his safety in the future, he has the right to withdraw from the film,” Mo Ting explained. “This is a requested addition to the contract that only national treasure actors have the privilege of experiencing.”

“Haha, then we have a good show ahead of us...”

“Now that we’ve finished with the television, let’s change the topic,” Mo Ting turned off the television and looked at An Zihao. He then asked in a serious tone, “If I hand Tangning over to you, can you guarantee her safety?”

“What do you mean by that?” Tangning asked.

An Zihao turned to look at Tangning and nodded his head, “Of course...”

“The reason that An Zihao returned this time was to find investors. He has already become a director and he has a film ready to go. I’ve had a look at the script and it’s not bad,” Mo Ting explained to Tangning. “Since you are a newcomer and so is An Zihao, let’s take a risk. If the film fails, no one will be blamed nor ridiculed, because you are both new. I am happy to invest in it!”

“I need to look at the script first,” Tangning was afraid of the quality of the film. She didn’t want Mo Ting’s name to appear on the end credits of a rubbish film.

“Of course,” An Zihao smiled. “Don’t worry, we have a rough budget. We won’t endlessly ask President Mo for money. He is a businessman, he won’t do something that does not benefit him. You need to at least believe this point.”

“Plus, it is not necessary for him to invest in a film just so you can participate in it. Hai Rui has plenty of resources and contacts; he could easily find someone much more capable to work with.”

“So, are you willing to take a risk with me?”

“Right now, I am already being rumored as someone that keeps ghosts. What else would I be afraid of?” Tangning suddenly laughed. “However, I still need to look at the script first.”

An Zihao nodded, “If that’s what you want, it’s decided then. Let’s sit back and watch a good show while you look through the script. The script is in your husband’s hands...”

“OK, let’s watch a good show...”

Chapter 383: You Can Insult Me

At a wealthy business cocktail party.

Because of an invite from an elder, Mo Ting was inclined to attend. As he knew Tangning didn’t like places like this, he ended up attending alone.

As for the rumor about Tangning keeping ghosts, no one could present any evidence, so Hai Rui did all they could to contain it.

Inside the luxurious palace-like country club, red wine glasses were stacked up high. At events like this, practically all the best business talent in Beijing were gathered. So amongst the crowd, Mo Ting was only considered average.

When it came to status and seniority, only his father and grandfather would have the presence to stir up the venue. Of course, Mo Ting never liked to be compared to others, even if the people present dealt with billions of dollars.

“President Mo, lately you’ve been the talk of the town,” someone brought over a glass of wine to start a conversation. His words seemed to contain a deeper meaning as he looked at Mo Ting with ridicule.

Mo Ting smiled and responded, “I heard your daughter is a huge fan of one of my boy bands. If you need my help, feel free to ask, no need to be polite.”

In other words, he was saying that the man’s daughter was so star crazy that everyone had heard about it. So, he shouldn’t act so high class!

The man smiled awkwardly, “It seems, no one can get even half their way with President Mo.”

“I haven’t fully won either,” Mo Ting also smiled.

“How come your wife isn’t here?”

“She likes the peace and quiet,” Mo Ting replied directly.

“Over on the other side, President Shao has said a few interesting things about the entertainment industry. Perhaps President Mo would like to go over and have a look,” the man pointed to the lawn suggestively.

"I shall make my leave," Mo Ting turned around and walked towards the lawn. As he approached, he noticed a few women surrounding President Shao as well as a few cajoling men.

"Hey, President Shao, I heard keeping ghosts comes with a price. Some people are obviously not destined to be a star, yet they insist on changing their fate, so of course that comes with a price upon themselves and/or even their family. How frightening," a woman dressed in a short black dress said as she stood next to President Shao holding a glass of wine.

"I know right? That's why I got out of there as soon as possible...To be honest..." President Shao scoffed and continued, "...if it wasn't for Hai Rui, I wouldn't have accepted her in the first place."

"President Shao, it's best you keep your voice down. President Mo is also here today," a slightly rich woman laughed.

"Even if President Mo is here, I wouldn't be scared. This is the business world; connections should only be used appropriately..." President Shao laughed. "Time will tell that my decision was right..."

"No matter how much time it takes, a stupid decision will never be the right decision. Time has no ability to make someone smarter," Mo Ting's voice resounded from behind the group.

Everyone jumped in fear as an air of awkwardness swept through.

When talking about someone behind their back, the thing one feared the most, was to be caught red-handed.

"President Mo..."

President Shao pulled back his arrogance from a moment ago and suddenly became a little restrained.

"I have a feeling your entire production will come to an end tonight, do you believe me?" Mo Ting's lips curved upwards as he lifted his glass at President Shao.

"President Mo, you..."

"Didn't you say my wife keeps ghosts? If she keeps ghosts, then I must also have a few tricks up my sleeves, right? I predict that 'Hidden Expert' will come to an end tonight, do you believe me?"

President Shao's expression tensed up as it alternated between red and white, "President Mo, your words are a bit harsh."

"Was your rumor about my wife not harsh?"

"That was the work of the media..."

"Really?" Mo Ting's lips curved further upwards, "Did you not work with someone to deliberately defame my wife? Is the security of your cast guaranteed?"

"Mo Ting...if you speak like this, things aren't going to look nice between us." After speaking, President Shao stood up from his seat and the atmosphere intensified.

At this time, an elegant woman dressed in a white qipao approached the two men and asked Mo Ting, "What's happening here?"

“Auntie, we have some private matters to deal with.”

“As long as nothing’s wrong,” the elegant woman nodded her head and walked away. Afterwards, Mo Ting said calmly, “I’m sure President Shao is familiar with the lady that just left? That was Bei Chendong’s mother, but...” Mo Ting’s eyes carried a few layers of danger as he glared at President Shao for a while, “...did I ever tell you that Bei Chendong is my cousin?”

President Shao’s eyes grew wide in shock as his heart almost jumped out of his chest...

“President Shao was right. In the business world, connections should be used appropriately...so, I wish you all the best.” After speaking, Mo Ting turned and left. Leaving President Shao frozen in place, unsure of what to do.

‘Hidden Expert’ was designed with Bei Chendong in mind. If circumstances changed with Bei Chendong, then everything he had invested would completely go to waste...

He was originally supposed to make a huge profit...

But now...

President Shao wiped his face regretfully as he blamed himself for being stupid. He should have known something wasn’t right when Mo Ting agreed to replace Tangning so easily. Yet, he didn’t take the warning and went to provoke the tiger; digging his own grave.

Was he really to sit idly by as all his resources sunk to the bottom of the sea?

After careful thought, President Shao suddenly chased after Mo Ting, “President Mo, can we have a chat? I know I was wrong. Otherwise, you wouldn’t hold me accountable.”

Mo Ting brushed off President Shao’s clingy hands and said coldly, “You can insult me, but, you can’t insult my wife.”

After speaking, Mo Ting lifted his arm and looked at the watch on his wrist, “At this time, the press conference should be starting.”

President Shao’s face turned pale. After Mo Ting left, he pulled out his phone and quickly contacted his assistant.

On the other end of the phone, his assistant said in a panic, “President Shao, Bei Chendong has used the recent accident as a reason for withdrawing from the film. Quick, look at the news...”

...

Bei Chendong rarely accepted interviews because of his weird personality. But, as a national treasure actor, whenever he opened his mouth, everyone would be convinced by him – because he could never be bothered to tell lies.

“The incident this time was created by someone in the production crew. In fact, that staff member is still on the run and being pursued by the police.”

“As for I...I wasn’t implicated by Tangning. I saved her because it was a normal male response.”

“Who would have thought, someone would deliberately use this accident to create such ridiculous rumors. It is absolutely intolerable.”

“The whole thing about Tangning keeping ghosts and being involved in witchcraft is complete rubbish.”

“So, I, Bei Chendong – under the circumstances of the crew not being able to provide a satisfactory explanation and not being able to guarantee my safety – have decided to officially announce my withdrawal from ‘Hidden Expert’.”

“Film fans, whether you want to believe the production crew or I, please consider it carefully...”

Bei Chendong’s words were direct...

They had always been this direct...

So, how could the fans possibly believe the production crew?

Chapter 384: God Sure Loves You

“My Chen Chen sure is cool...”

“Chen Ge, I believe in you!”

“Are you kidding me? My Chen has never spoken so much in the entire span of his career! So, of course I believe him!”

“I’m glad he’s withdrawing. The set is so dangerous. What would happen if he got hurt again?”

“Bei Chendong would never slander someone for no reason; he couldn’t be bothered to do such a thing...haha. So, I believe Chen; I believe the crew tried to avoid responsibility by throwing the blame on an innocent woman. How disgusting!”

After his press conference, Bei Chendong immediately left the scene, dragging Han Xiner behind.

Han Xiner followed behind him and dutifully blocked the media.

Seeing Han Xiner’s seriousness as an assistant, Bei Chendong realized he had been missing a helper like this all along. Perhaps he could directly ask Tangning for Han Xiner and not just use her temporarily?

“Dong Ge... Hurry and get in the car.”

Bei Chendong glanced at Han Xiner and noticed she was trapped within the crowd. Suddenly, he reached out his hand and pulled her into the car with him and disappeared from the sight of the media. After leaving the scene, he scolded her, “You’re supposed to help me stop the media, not become a human barrier.”

“I don’t have much experience...” Han Xiner ran her fingers through her hair awkwardly. After seeing Bei Chendong’s expression change, she changed the subject, “Is your hand OK?”

“It’s fine,” Bei Chendong replied before looking out the window.

Han Xiner thought he didn't want to talk to her. So, after a few moments of silence, she finally said, "Where are we going now?"

"Since I don't need to film, I'm obviously going home."

Bei Chendong was actually wondering how he was to trick Han Xiner into his home without her knowing.

On top of that, what excuse could he use to negotiate with Mo Ting for Han Xiner to stay?

Because Bei Chendong's whereabouts had always been a mystery, not many people knew where he lived. Even though Han Xiner was quite switched on, even she did not take notice of how many turns and how many estates they passed through. As they reached the seaside, Han Xiner finally had a thought: could it be possible that Bei Chendong lived on a private island?

"Dong Ge...I guess I won't be going with you. After all, I'm sure you have plenty of staff at home to take care of you..."

"There's no one, I live there alone," Bei Chendong replied before he quickly added, "Plus, with one arm, I can't possibly take care of myself."

Han Xiner was a little surprised before she responded with a simple, "Oh." But, she didn't know why she suddenly felt like she was being kidnapped. Was she about to go to a deserted island?

Bei Chendong did indeed live on a private island. But, he wasn't completely secluded from the world, because right across the water was the most beautiful night view of Beijing.

After stepping foot on the island, Han Xiner was completely stunned. Bei Chendong did not like the typical enclosed manor, so his home was made mostly from glass...

"Help yourself. I need to go make a phone call."

After opening the door with his fingerprint, Bei Chendong headed straight for his bedroom and left Han Xiner in the living room.

He couldn't wait to negotiate with Mo Ting on a way to keep Han Xiner by his side and not let her go.

Mo Ting picked up his phone on the way home from the cocktail party. After hearing Bei Chendong's intention, he replied, "There is definitely a way..."

"Just tell me what I need to do."

"You said it..." Mo Ting's lips curved upwards. "I want you to participate in a new film I just invested in. As like before, you will be working alongside Tangning. But...you will do it for free."

"Deal!" Bei Chendong agreed happily.

"Aren't you afraid I'll make you participate in a rubbish film?"

"If you were willing to let Tangning act in rubbish, you wouldn't have pushed her towards 'Hidden Expert'," Bei Chendong was confident about this. Regardless, even if Tangning wasn't in the film, he knew Mo Ting would never invest recklessly into something of low quality.

“Although it’s not a bad film, the director is a newcomer...So, we will definitely use your name as the main marketing tactic.”

All this, wasn’t a big deal. Bei Chendong wasn’t signed to any agency, so, as long as Bei Chendong agreed, Mo Ting could market him whatever way he wanted.

“Email me the script later tonight.”

In reality, this wasn’t the first time Mo Ting had invited Bei Chendong to take part in a film. When it came to something like this, Bei Chendong definitely didn’t agree as quickly as when he agreed to withdraw from ‘Hidden Expert’ (after all, his cousin-in-law was being bullied). But, who would have thought, one Han Xiner was enough to make him surrender. Han Xiner’s importance to Bei Chendong definitely couldn’t be underestimated.

A while later, Mo Ting returned home to find Tangning had just finished looking through the script.

She never imagined An Zihao’s film was about a disaster.

After reading through the script, Tangning sat in silence for quite some time, until Mo Ting finally sat down beside her.

“What do you think?”

“It’s very heavy,” Tangning replied seriously, “But, I think it’s worth a try.”

The film was called ‘WH’ A.K.A ‘Weird Husband’. Based in a world 20 years from now, the film was about the spread of a terrifying virus. Once infected, the person’s entire body would deteriorate. The main characters were a husband and wife duo. During their daily lives, the wife slowly discovers some weird changes in her husband.

The story starts in the village of the main characters, where the first outbreak of the virus began...

As a doctor, the husband spent his lifetime helping others. But, in the end, he became patient 0 for a new virus...

“This genre is lacking in the domestic market. Although others have tried, nothing notable has been created...”

“Who will be the male lead? A movie like this requires a high degree of acting skill, do you really think that I can do it?”

Mo Ting glanced at the script in Tangning’s hand and smiled confidently, “I have a feeling this film will be the cornerstone of your acting career.”

Tangning looked at Mo Ting seriously before grabbing onto his hand, “I’ll do it!”

“As for the male lead, you don’t need to worry about it. He is good in this genre...” Mo Ting said with a deeper meaning. “This time, we will not reveal the cast to the public and the entire filming will be kept a secret. Only when we reach halfway will we start promoting.”

“I’ll focus on filming. As for promoting, you are the expert.” After speaking, Tangning suddenly realized there was still a slight problem. The wounds on her body hadn’t completely healed and she couldn’t ignore the pain. “When will we start filming?”

“I must say, I’ve underestimated An Zihao. He has been making preparations a long time ago. As soon as he has enough funds, filming can start. It could commence as early as the end of the month.”

“OK...” Tangning nodded her head. In that case...apart from preparing herself, she was also going to resolve a few issues over at the Tang household.

“By the way, the wife in this film is part of the military. So, the martial arts you learned in ‘Hidden Expert’ will be a good foundation. I must say, God sure loves you.”

Tangning smiled; she couldn’t deny it, “I don’t believe in God. But, I do believe in you...”

“You felt bad that I had suffered so much so you deliberately changed the wife’s career, didn’t you?”

Mo Ting was a little surprised. He had been discovered...

“So, what was the wife’s original career?” Tangning asked.

Chapter 385: Don’t Wear it Then

“She was an obsessed science fiction writer,” Mo Ting replied guiltily.

“Then let’s stick with that...” Tangning responded. “Since the writer chose that career for her, there must be a reason. Plus, didn’t you tell me to treat the past as a form of experience?”

“Fine...I can’t argue with you.” In reality, whether her character was a military personnel or writer, it would have been equally interesting. But, the weakness of a writer added to the suspense. It was, after all, a disaster movie, if people didn’t feel on edge, then the movie would fail miserably.

Actually, the thing Tangning was most comfortable with, was the fact that the entire production involved people she knew and trusted. Whether it was the producer or director, she was confident they were going to work well together.

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Meanwhile...

That evening, Tang Xuan returned home to find Elder Tang’s lawyer was just leaving. In a panic, she approached him and asked, “Lawyer Liu, are you leaving? Let me walk you out.”

“Big Miss, please stay...” as soon as the lawyer saw her, he waved his hand anxiously and hurried out.

This increased Tang Xuan’s suspicions. It seemed, she would have to clarify Elder Tang’s intentions. She was sure he must have said something to the lawyer for him to avoid her like a mouse would avoid a cat.

Tang Xuan’s expression was a little dull as she made a phone call to her assistant, “Help me investigate why grandfather was talking to Lawyer Liu. I want to know the results by tomorrow at the latest.”

“Yes, President Tang.”

As long as Tangning was around, she'd always feel like there was a splinter on her back.

As for the witchcraft incident, although she didn't win, she did not completely lose either. At least Tangning no longer had a film to partake in and everyone in the industry was avoiding her.

If the face she despised continued to appear on television, she would not be able to eat nor sleep.

...

Late into the night, inside the glass manor, the lights were shining brightly.

From the moment Han Xiner stepped foot onto the island, she had been trying to familiarize herself with her surroundings.

However, Bei Chendong had designed the place like a maze. So, no matter which turn she took, she'd always find herself back at the same spot. Meanwhile, the jerk that claimed he could not take care of himself, was nowhere to be seen...

“How do I get out of here? Why would one person live in such a huge place? Does he like the sound of his own echo?”

At this moment, Bei Chendong was having a bath. As he heard Han Xiner's footsteps approaching, he did not have any intention of warning her. He simply lay in the huge pool-style bath with his eyes closed and his slung arm in the warm water.

“Where could he be...” As Han Xiner spoke, she pushed open the door to the bathroom. The first thing she lay eyes on was Bei Chendong's firm and muscly back. Of course, it was only a second before she turned around.

Did a tasteless accident scene – typical of a novel – have to happen in her reality?

However, she had absolutely no idea this was not an accident. Bei Chendong had actually done it deliberately...

In fact, it was extremely deliberate...

“Sorry, continue what you were doing. I'll leave right away!”

“Since you're here, why don't you give me a hand...” Bei Chendong said as he turned around and leaned on the edge of the bath. “I can only take off my clothes, but putting them back on is a little difficult.”

“Don't wear it then...” Han Xiner turned around, ready to run away, but Bei Chendong's words held her back.

“You said it...” Bei Chendong stood up out of the water without any intention to cover up...

In actual fact, he was still wearing a pair of boxers...

Although Han Xiner's scream was a little...frightening, Bei Chendong didn't know why he found tricking her quite entertaining as he watched her frantically run away.

The night was long, but it seemed, he wasn't going to be lonely.

...

Han Xiner was stunned speechless...She had actually spotted the boxers on Bei Chendong's body, but she still ran away in fear. As she stopped she placed her hands on her cheeks...

They were frighteningly hot.

Actually, she wasn't just embarrassed, she was also afraid.

Would a weirdo like Bei Chendong have a whole heap of perverted fetishes? There was no one else around. So, if he was to do something to her, she'd have nowhere to hide...

Thinking of this, Han Xiner immediately decided to give Tangning a phone call. But amidst the panic, she ended up calling the wrong number. She then blurted urgently into the phone, "Ning Jie, can you come pick me up right now? I'm a little scared. What if Bei Chendong kills me?"

On the other end of the phone, there was silence...

After a short moment, a male voice faintly replied, "I'm Bei Chendong."

Han Xiner: "..."

"At the moment, killing is not one of my hobbies, but, I can try to make it into one."

Han Xiner: "..."

"Hurry back here and help me change my bandages..."

"I can't, I'm scared!" Han Xiner still felt it was best for her to keep a distance from Bei Chendong. "I want to go back to Beijing."

Bei Chendong laughed...He laughed uncontrollably, "I'll get the housekeeper to accompany you. Is that better?"

"Didn't you say you have no staff here?" Han Xiner immediately latched onto this point and refuted.

"The housekeeper is only in charge of cleaning the house, she does not take care of my diet and daily lifestyle needs."

After seeing the friendly housekeeper, Han Xiner let down her guard. At least it meant she wasn't alone.

But, faced with this building and the weirdo, Bei Chendong, she still needed courage. Perhaps tonight she wouldn't be able to sleep, just in case something was to happen...

Even thinking about the possibilities frightened her.

After putting down his phone, Bei Chendong realized it was best to return Han Xiner to a place where she could be amongst other people. Otherwise, she would actually think of him as a psycho killer.

He then stood up from the bath, put on his robe with one arm and went to look for Han Xiner, "Help me put my clothes back on. Let's return to Beijing..."

“Huh...Didn’t you say you have nothing to film?”

“Well, now I do,” Bei Chendong had already looked through the script of ‘WH’; it was right down his alley. So, he decided to bite the bullet and return to his home in Beijing for a while; at least until the little creature no longer feared him.

Han Xiner had no idea that Bei Chendong was returning to Beijing because of her.

She naively thought he was simply returning because he accepted a job.

But, as long as she got to go back to Beijing, she was cheering on the inside. If she was to continue staying in this place, she was going to go crazy.

Bei Chendong looked at the joy on Han Xiner’s face and couldn’t help but sigh. So they say, good things come to those that wait...

Dealing with Han Xiner was like slow-cooking a frog!

He had to be patient. There was plenty of time ahead.

But, did she really not want the honor and pride of being the assistant of a national treasure actor?

Did she know how many people were lining up for this opportunity?

Bei Chendong sighed...

He had no choice but to patiently tame her. Why couldn’t she take his hints the way that Tangning easily took Mo Ting’s hints?

Chapter 386: Old Family Matter

After Bei Chendong withdrew from ‘Hidden Expert’, the production crew had no choice but to stop filming.

In reality, they could have just replaced him. But...this was a film made specifically for Bei Chendong. So, other actors on the same level refused to pick up after him.

Their other option was to replace him with a newcomer. But if they were to do that, the film would lose all value and meaning. As a result, any further investment would just sink to the bottom of the ocean ¹.

After all...not everyone had the ability to sell tickets like Bei Chendong!

Over the course of two days, the rumor about Tangning keeping ghosts, slowly disappeared. The hype had been overshadowed by news of other celebrities.

Meanwhile, under the pressures of Hai Rui, the police eventually found Xiao Xia, the person in charge of inspecting Tangning’s harness.

Xiao Xia admitted that she had indeed received money from someone, but she had never seen the person in real life. When the police traced the calls she received, the calls ended up leading to public phones.

As for the money she received, it was all in cash and was picked up at a designated location.

It was clear to see that the instigator was rigorous and cautious. Above all, their methods were skillful like an experienced offender.

A little while later, Hai Rui and the police released a statement explaining the entire incident. Although their leads ended at Xiao Xia, the police used their most severe tone of voice to warn the public that they would continue in the search for the true culprit.

As soon as the statement was released, the media and netizens were in shock. As for the rumor that Tangning had to pay for using witchcraft was completely debunked.

This was practically the first time since Tangning's comeback that she had directly revealed the unseen darkness of the industry to the public.

Mo Ting's motive was simple, he wanted to tell those that were wary of Tangning that she was framed and did not partake in any wrongful acts.

Of course, he no longer cared if other's wanted Tangning in their films or not, because 'WH' was already quite a masterpiece...Plus, disaster movies like this were always the best genre for improving an actor's skills.

He also believed Tangning would spread her wings after the release of the film.

"Tang Xuan should be thankful that she has a smart assistant!" Tangning said as she put down her scribble-filled script. She then turned and looked at Mo Ting, "Actually, we could follow her assistant."

"Right now, your main priority is to prepare for your film. Don't let small things like this bother you...our days are aplenty," Mo Ting temporarily put down his documents and looked at Tangning meaningfully.

"Her actions completely show how envious and afraid she is of me. I should be happy that my every living day is torture for her," Tangning stared straight ahead for a moment before she turned back to the script in her hand, "I will be extra careful from now on."

Mo Ting wanted to teach Tang Xuan a lesson on the business stage, but, her business was the Tang Family's business. If he was to make a move, Tangning would feel guilty and become more forgiving towards Tang Xuan.

However, he didn't need to worry, because 'someone' was bound to make a move first.

With this thought, Mo Ting returned his attention to the documents in front of him.

...

That evening, sitting atop Tang Xuan's office desk was information that her assistant had gathered.

It was none other than clues found from investigating Elder Tang's lawyer.

"President Tang, when you put all this information together, it appears Elder Tang has written his will," Tang Xuan's assistant said as he stood at the foot of her desk, "Plus..."

"Plus, what?"

“According to my friend at the law firm, Elder Tang has decided to hand the entire business to Tangning,” the assistant revealed after a moment of hesitation. The reason for his hesitation was because his friend had warned him not to take the wrong side; he should consider that Tangning was going to take over the business sooner or later. Although his friend was only hinting it, it was clear to see how sneaky Elder Tang was.

After hearing from her assistant, Tang Xuan scrunched the paper in her hands into a ball.

“Here I was doing my best after becoming the Acting President, meanwhile, grandfather had actually decided to hand everything over to Tangning. In what way do I not compare to her?”

“President Tang, what are you going to do now?”

“What am I going to do? Of course I can’t let someone else take over,” Tang Xuan said as she clenched her fists. “Since I’m here, why do we need her? Tangning has already married into her dream family, why must she fight over the Tang Family business with me?”

“Do you have a plan?” the assistant asked.

“Let me think about it.”

The incident with the harness had already been discovered. If she wanted to harm Tangning again, it was practically impossible.

So, the person she truly needed to deal with was actually Elder Tang; the Chairman of the Tang Family business; her grandfather!

“Let me go home and chat to grandfather.”

“You are the Eldest grandchild, it is only natural for you to be the successor of the Family business. No matter what, I will remain by your side and assist you,” her assistant took the opportunity to reveal his loyalty.

Tang Xuan nodded her head. It seemed, in this entire world, this man was the last remaining person she could trust...

...even though he was merely an assistant...

Late into the night, Tang Xuan returned to the Tang Family home. As she entered the front door, she spotted Mother Tang. After giving her a sharp glare she headed straight for Elder Tang’s study room, “Grandfather, it’s Xiao Xuan. I want to have a chat with you.”

“Your grandfather’s not in the study room,” Mother Tang said in a cold tone.

Tang Xuan turned towards Elder Tang’s bedroom, but after a few seconds of careful thought, she suddenly turned to Mother Tang and said, “Over the years, you have indeed been good to us. But, this does not change the fact that you stole someone’s husband and secretly gave birth to Tangning. You are shameless and your daughter isn’t any better.”

“Xia Yuling, did you think your daughter is aloof from the world? In actual fact, she is the sneakiest person I know. She tricked grandfather into writing in his will that he would hand the entire Tang Family business to her.”

“Let me tell you. As long as I am here, I will not let the two of you live in peace – even if Tangning is married!”

At first, Mother Tang was a little angry. But after hearing Tang Xuan’s words, she smiled in relief and sneered. Because deep down, she knew that Tangning would never do something tricky in secret.

So, that meant, in Elder Tang’s heart, Tangning was still the only hope for the family.

“I once thought you had a slight temper, but now I’ve finally realized you are simply evil.”

After speaking, Mother Tang returned to her bedroom like she had made a decision about something.

Previously, she was still hesitant to do what she wanted to do because she still had an ounce of sentiment for the family. But now, she finally knew what was most important to her.

After returning to her bedroom, Mother Tang held in her tears as she gathered the courage to pick up her phone. She then called her best friend, “Xiao Jie, can you help me with a favor? I need to book a hall and I want to invite the media. I want to put an end to some old family matter!”

“We’ll talk about it in person.”

Chapter 387: I’m Not Actually Weird

But first, she needed to see Tangning one last time.

...

Over the next several days, Tangning decided to concentrate all her time on fitness and understanding her character. In order to better understand the minds of writers, Mo Ting organized for her to join a writer’s chat group. It was at this time that she discovered, from conception to completion, how much time and energy was invested into writing a story.

From as broad as the world that the story was set in, down to the tiniest facial detail of a supporting character, everything required careful planning.

Of course, nothing could simply be achieved overnight. In order to truly immerse herself in the script, Tangning found a whole heap of foreign disaster films and seriously imagined herself as the main characters.

She also took into consideration whether people would feel shocked by her character once it appeared on screen.

Like this, Tangning ended up studying the script and films for an entire day. As Mo Ting arrived home, he discovered Tangning was still in the same spot he had left her earlier in the day. So he immediately walked over, stole the script from her hands and turned off the television.

“It’s time for a rest.”

“Just a little while longer...”

“No,” Mo Ting directly confiscated her script and convinced her to return to the bedroom for some rest.

Tangning pretended to try and take the script from Mo Ting’s hands, but he simply held it up high, out of her reach. Taking advantage of the situation, she pounced at him and wrapped her arms around his waist as she laughed, “It feels good to have someone that cares.”

Mo Ting lowered his arms and hugged her, “You should do some exercise to stretch out your muscles.”

“If you let me cook dinner for you, that would stretch out my muscles... Now that I no longer need to appear on the runway, am I finally allowed in the kitchen?”

“Just because you won’t be on the runway, doesn’t mean you can get hurt. If you receive any scars, it won’t look good on camera either.”

“What man would try so hard to prevent his wife from entering the kitchen?” Tangning giggled as her eyes curved into arches. “Anyhow, the writer in the film is also a housewife. So, she will eventually need to go into the kitchen anyway.”

“Filming is different.” After speaking, Mo Ting released Tangning from his embrace. “This time, the filming schedule will be quite tedious. When that time comes, you will realize how precious your free time right now is.”

“Well, if I can’t cook, then you can’t either. Let’s just get the maid to do it. Come have a nap with me instead.”

Mo Ting looked at Tangning’s tired eyes and nodded his head, “Let’s go get changed then.”

The couple headed into the walk-in wardrobe and then returned to the bedroom. But not long after they got into bed, Mo Ting said softly beside Tangning’s ear, “Your mum wants to see you. Do you want to see her?”

Tangning’s originally closed eyes flew open. After a few seconds, she replied, “No, I don’t want to see her.”

“I’ll reject her for you then.”

Tangning calmed back down and once again closed her eyes. However, a few minutes later, she changed her mind, “What time and where does she want to meet?”

“You will meet at Hai Rui. I will give you some time alone.”

“OK.”

After giving her answer, Tangning buried herself in Mo Ting’s arms and quickly fell asleep.

Inside the dark room, Mo Ting wasn’t actually tired. He was deep in thought because he had been made aware that Mother Tang had contacted the media. If she didn’t have something huge planned, why would she make such a fuss?

But, what could be so important that she'd contact the media?

While all this was going on, Bei Chendong had moved back into his Beijing home for a good few days. However, Han Xiner always found an excuse to return home; she would arrive early in the morning and leave again every night.

Who would have thought, trying to get close to someone was such a difficult task. Did she only fear him and not find him attractive at all?

On that particular night, after Han Xiner helped Bei Chendong replace his bandages, she packed up her stuff to leave. But...

Bei Chendong suddenly grabbed onto the corner of her shirt and asked, "Can you stay back tonight to help me practice some scenes?"

"No I can't and I won't!" Han Xiner immediately rejected. Was he kidding? She had already tried her best to avoid being alone with him, yet here he was asking her to act with him... If she agreed, wouldn't she be digging her own grave?

"You don't need to know how to act. You can play Tangning's role, I'll lead," Bei Chendong placed the script on the table without looking at Han Xiner. His voice was indifferent, "I will be heading on set at the end of the month and I haven't made any preparations. Don't tell me you want Tangning's first real film to be a flop?"

Han Xiner's heart raced but eventually calmed down as she replied, "Fine, I'll do it."

Although Bei Chendong managed to make her stay, he realized his importance in Han Xiner's heart wasn't even 10% in comparison to Tangning. This made him quite unhappy.

He really wanted to teach her a lesson.

After all, he was the socially lazy Bei Chendong! Not only was this his first time pursuing a girl, it was also his first time using such a roundabout way to get close to someone; only God knew how much self control he had to endure.

He didn't like places with a lot of people; he didn't like to live in Beijing where he could hear the traffic coming and going; he didn't like to have back and forth conversations; but...

...for Han Xiner, he tolerated it all. So, what else did she want from him?

"Let's do it then..." Han Xiner put down her leather handbag and sat down opposite Bei Chendong, "What do you need me to do?"

Bei Chendong looked at her depressed and anxious expression. In the end, he couldn't endure any longer as he grabbed the script and asked, "If I was to pursue you, how would you feel?"

Han Xiner's eyes grew wide in surprise, "You...you must be joking, right?"

"Uh...yeh, I was just joking," Bei Chendong frustratedly played along, "That was a line from the script..."

"Oh, lucky," Han Xiner's heart almost jumped out of her chest.

She then responded by punching him in the chest, "You tricky b*stard!"

Bei Chendong looked at Han Xiner like she had something wrong with her head. He then raised the script in his hand and said, "Come, let's practice."

"OK."

"By the way, when can I remove the sling on my arm?"

"Don't worry, it will definitely be before you commence filming."

In reality, Han Xiner had already flipped through the script and knew the rough basis of the story; she quite liked it... So, she could already imagine, if Tangning and Bei Chendong worked together, the film would definitely be impressively spectacular.

If she was to help Bei Chendong practice, it would be considered a form of contribution, right?

The only issue was, the doctor in the film was quite frightening, just like Bei Chendong...

"You know, the only reason I live in seclusion is because I can't be bothered to socialize. I'm not actually weird," after quite some time, Bei Chendong suddenly explained. He then smiled as he ridiculed himself, "Who would have thought, the public would end up making me sound so mysterious to the point where you are so frightened of me."

Han Xiner ran her fingers through her hair awkwardly.

...

Meanwhile, while no one was paying attention to entertainment news, without warning, the century-old Tang Family empire suddenly released some shocking news.

Chapter 388: I Will Become the Successor !

Late at night in the Tang Family home, Mother Tang was tidying her belongings.

Seeing this, Father Tang asked curiously as he removed his white coat, "Why are you suddenly packing away all your jewelry?"

"Qinwen, I've arranged to go away with some friends for a few days, if you need anything, give the housekeeper a call," Mother Tang replied as she put down the items in her hands.

"OK. I just finished doing a few big surgeries today. I'm feeling a little tired, so I'm going to go have a bath," Father Tang gently hugged her by the shoulders and added, "Have fun."

"I will," Mother Tang nodded as she held back her tears.

"I heard about what happened earlier today with Tang Xuan. She's still young, don't mind her."

She had heard these same words for the last 20 odd years and endured it until now. But, when her tolerance could not be exchanged for understanding and gratefulness, she realized, all along, she had merely been a joke in their eyes.

“Hurry and have a bath. You’ve worked hard all day,” Mother Tang said as she pushed her husband into the bathroom.

After returning to her dressing table and sitting in front of the mirror, she discovered she had grown a few strands of white hair. It seemed, a person’s appearance was indeed easy to age...

No one noticed any abnormality with Mother Tang except Tang Jingxuan. Early the next morning, he noticed her eyes were red and caringly asked, “Auntie ¹, are you sick?”

“No, I’m fine. I got something in my eye yesterday and after I woke up this morning it had turned red. I’ll go see a doctor later,” Mother Tang explained.

“As long as you’re OK.”

“By the way, I’ll be going away for a few days. Take care of your father while I’m gone.”

Tang Jingxuan nodded his head casually. Afterwards, he watched as Mother Tang walked directly out the front door without turning back.

After leaving the Tang Family home, Mother Tang headed straight for Hai Rui.

Although Tangning said she didn’t want to see her mother, she still turned up at the office, nice and early, with Mo Ting. Mo Ting dealt with business while she looked through her script. But Mo Ting could tell that Tangning both hated and pitied her mother.

“President, Mother Tang has arrived,” Lu Che knocked on the door and notified Mo Ting with respect.

So Mo Ting stood up and walked over to Tangning, “Let’s go.”

Tangning put down the script in her hands and entered the VIP room. Mother Tang was already sitting on the sofa inside and looked a little worn out.

“Ting...Continue with your work, I’ll be fine.”

Since Tangning did not want to acknowledge her mother, Mo Ting wasn’t going to treat her as his mother-in-law either. Knowing that Tangning didn’t want him to stay around and feel awkward, he simply nodded his head, turned around and left the room.

“Xiao Ning...”

“Why did you come looking for me?” Tangning’s voice sounded distant and cold. But, Mother Tang had long grown accustomed to this treatment, so she didn’t mind. Instead, she grabbed onto Tangning’s hands and replied, “I was thinking about how you got married without any dowry, so I brought some for you. Now that you are married to Mo Ting, I know you can get whatever you want. But, take this as a small token of my blessings for you. You can do whatever you want with it,” Mother Tang forced her jewelry box into Tangning’s hands. “By the way, how are your injuries?”

“They were just small scratches,” Tangning replied bluntly.

“That’s good to hear. Tang Xuan was too cruel.” As she spoke, Mother Tang stretched out her hand to touch Tangning’s face. But just as her hand got near, she pulled it back again, “OK, that’s enough. I got

to see you like I wanted to. From now on, I hope the two of you will enjoy a happy life together. I'm going to leave now."

Tangning did not give a reaction because she could sense something was not right.

As a sensitive and detailed person, she could feel that Mother Tang had an unexplainable carefree vibe throughout their meeting. It was like she had let go of everything...

"Xiao Ning, can I give you a hug?"

Tangning did not respond, so Mother Tang directly pounced onto her. After a quick hug, she turned and left.

Tangning looked at the jewelry box on the table and felt a little uncomfortable. She had already spent so many years living like she had no mother, but she suddenly started wondering...if she was to ask her mother to leave the Tang Family and live with her instead, would she be willing?

However, on second thought, judging by the amount of time and effort her mother had put into the Tang Family, the answer was quite obvious.

Tangning did not say a word as she watched Mother Tang leave.

Afterwards, Mo Ting re-entered the VIP room and wrapped her in his embrace as he asked, "Why do you look upset?"

"I feel like something happened," Tangning replied as she looked into Mo Ting's eyes.

Mo Ting nodded his head as he looked at her pale expression, "Your mother has contacted the media and booked a hall in a hotel for 3pm today."

"What does she plan to do?" Tangning suddenly felt overcome with fear.

Mo Ting hugged her and gave her strength. As her husband, he could help her control the entertainment industry. But when it came to family, there was nothing he could do – yet, family was her biggest weakness.

"I think you should be asking what she plans to say..."

"Just a moment ago, when she handed me her jewelry box, I already felt something was off. Ting..."

"I'll get someone to stop her," Mo Ting understood what she wanted to say. So he quickly gave Lu Che a call.

After calming down a little, Tangning made a phone call to the Tang Family home. The person to pick up the phone was the housekeeper, "Third Miss, you're asking for the madam? But, the madam already left for her holiday..."

"In that case, did anything happen within the Tang Family over the last few days?"

The housekeeper froze. After a moment of hesitation, he decided to tell her what Tang Xuan had said to Mother Tang the previous day, "Third Miss, the Big Miss may have had a bad day so she was a little disrespectful to the madam. She's not usually this harsh."

After hearing from the housekeeper, Tangning hung up the phone and called Tang Xuan. For the first time ever, she gave Tang Xuan a phone call on behalf of her mother. Her voice was icy cold, "Tang Xuan, if anything happens to my mother, I will take you down with her."

"You've crossed my bottom line..."

"I am taking everything the Tang Family owns and I will become the successor of the family business."

Tang Xuan's expression darkened as she became interested in Tangning's provocation, "Your mother has always been like a pet dog to the family. What? You've never cared before. Do you finally feel a bit of heart ache?"

"At home, she's someone that can be hit and yelled at whenever we want. Is this the first time you've realized this?"

Even though she talked big, Tang Xuan's voice was a little shaky. This was because she still lacked confidence.

After all, she was bullying someone. If Elder Tang found out and Tangning fueled the fire, Elder Tang might actually strip her of her status.

But, she couldn't possibly admit defeat in front of Tangning, even if it was just a few provoking words.

"Tang Xuan..." Tangning growled, "You just wait..."

At this time, Mo Ting grabbed her waist and turned her around, "Ning, we failed to stop her. I think she was afraid you'd sensed something was wrong, so she rushed off as soon as she left. Let's head directly to the hotel!"

Seeing Tangning's expression, Mo Ting's heart broke. But...there wasn't much he could do...

Chapter 389: Listen to me, I'm Here

After taking Tangning's call, Tang Xuan directly threw her phone on the desk. Seeing her fired up expression, her assistant asked, "President Tang, what happened?"

Tang Xuan stood up from her seat and looked at the words 'Acting President' on the glass door of her office. With a smirk, she replied, "Tangning said she's going to fight for the role of successor."

"Did it come straight from Tangning's mouth? It doesn't sound like something she would say."

"It's because she found out I've been insulting her mother," Tang Xuan scoffed. "But wait...she mentioned something about something happening to her mother. Could it be that her shameless mother finally realized the disgusting things she's done and decided to end her life? If that's the case, I'll be jumping in joy..."

"President Tang, I have a feeling something's not right. Why don't you call home and ask?" Tang Xuan's assistant was a meticulous person. Knowing that Tangning was normally the type to remain aloof from the world, it didn't seem right for her to be easily angered. Unless, of course, things were really serious.

“Why would I call? That Xia Yuling is merely trying to threaten grandfather into suppressing me. But, there’s no way she would really kill herself.” After speaking, Tang Xuan returned her focus to the pile of work in front of her.

As for the will, after her argument with Mother Tang the other day, Tang Xuan decided not to confront Elder Tang about it. For her to truly win, it was better for her to seize as much company shares as possible instead.

...

Tangning couldn’t understand what was happening, so the fear in her heart increased. Could it be because of Tang Xuan’s provocation that her mother decided to do something impulsive? However, in reality, this was something her mother had wanted to do for over 20 years. Every day and every night, whenever she felt restless or couldn’t sleep, the secret she kept would cross her mind.

Mo Ting could tell that Tangning was anxious. The more she didn’t speak, the more she was struggling inside.

“I’ve thought it over and over again, but I still can’t figure out what she wants to expose to the media.”

“I have a feeling she’s already prepared herself for the worst...”

Mo Ting held onto Tangning’s icy cold hands and gently comforted her, “Let her say what she wants to say. As long as we hold onto her afterwards, that’s all that matters. Lu Che has already contacted the hotel. We won’t let her leave on her own again.”

“Ting...”

“It’s OK. Listen to me, I’m here.”

Hearing this, Tangning slowly calmed down. With this reliable shoulder to lean on, nothing bad could possibly happen.

“OK, I’ll listen to you. She can say what she wants to say.”

The story behind her birth was no longer a secret, so the worst that could happen was for her to appear on the headlines again. She’d pulled through much worse. As if revealing the truth would scare her.

Not long after, the couple’s car arrived near the hotel.

In order not to create a stir, they decided to remain in the car and wait patiently.

“Lu Che is already in the lobby. Mom is in room 3023 and the press conference will be held in hall 2.”

“Mom?” Hearing this word flow so naturally from Mo Ting’s mouth, Tangning sighed, “It’s been many years since I last called her that. Do you really not mind her?”

“Regardless of everything, I am thankful that she has brought you into this world. Listen to me. Bring mom home and stop torturing yourself. One day, you will also become a mother.”

Mo Ting could completely see through Tangning's thoughts. Especially the complex feelings she felt for Xia Yuling. What she needed all along, was for someone to help her make a decision and to settle her indecisive heart.

Tangning held onto Mo Ting's hand and nodded, "You are the head of the household. I'll do as you say."

...

Father Tang felt a little strange...

From the moment he woke up and saw his wife's empty jewelry cabinet in the morning, his heart had been feeling uneasy.

Worst of all, he couldn't seem to get through to her phone no matter how many times he called. With no other choice, he decided to give a few of her closest friends a call instead. It was at this time that he realized, no one had organized to go on a holiday with her, nor did she ever speak of planning a trip away.

Could it be that the incident with Tang Xuan had made her upset?

He thought about it for a while before he decided to pack his things and leave work early. After making a phone call home, he headed to Tang Xuan's office.

"Father, what's happening today? Tangning called me earlier, talking nonsense, and now you..." Tang Xuan stood up from her office chair and went to sit next to Father Tang, "What's wrong?"

Just as Father Tang was about to reply, Tang Xuan's assistant rushed urgently into the room, "President Tang, I received news that the madam has contacted the media. I'm not sure what she has planned."

"What?" Father Tang jumped up from the sofa.

"Father...what's going on?" Tang Xuan asked as she held him back.

Father Tang took a deep breath and glared at his daughter, "Why did you say such harsh words to your auntie the other day? Did you know you may have destroyed the both of us?"

"Father...what do you mean by that?"

"What I mean is, if you don't hurry and find a way to stop her, forget about being an heiress of the Tang Family." After speaking, Father Tang hurried out of the room.

But, he had no idea where to find Xia Yuling. At this moment, there were less than 40 minutes until the press conference!

Amongst the confusion, Tang Xuan watched as Father Tang left. She suddenly felt the scene in front of her was quite funny, "What exactly is up with Father?"

"Something big is about to happen."

"Press conference, huh? I can't wait to see what trick this woman wants to play. Just because she's meeting with the media, does that change the fact that she's a mistress? Hmmph...stop her? Why

should I stop her? She can do whatever she wants,” Tang Xuan said with confidence. It seemed, she had absolutely no sense of danger!

Her assistant took a deep breath but didn't say a word.

Mo Ting expected the Tang Family would attempt to stop the press conference, but, even as the press conference started, they were nowhere to be seen. Regardless, even if they were to show up, there was no use. Because Mo Ting was going to make sure Xia Yuling got to say what she came here to say.

He had a feeling, today's events would be significant in mending the relationship between Tangning and her mother.

Meanwhile, Father Tang was on his way, but there was no way he'd make it in time to the hotel.

It didn't take long before reporters and members of the media gathered at the press conference. At this time, accompanied by her friend, Xiao Jie, Xia Yuling appeared inside hall 2 of the hotel.

Under Mo Ting's cover, Tangning entered the hotel through a side door. But because they wanted to avoid causing a stir, they had no choice but to wait inside a room until the event was over.

Time flew. It was already 3pm.

Xia Yuling's friend was a famous radio host, so this was the main reason they managed to contact so many members of the media.

As for the reason the reporters even bothered to turn up today, was all because they had heard today's press conference was about drama within the Tang Family.

Of course, even if they didn't hear this, the identity of Tangning's mother was already enough to get conversations going...

After all, the news about Tangning keeping ghosts had only just come down from the hottest search rankings.

Xia Yuling glanced at her friend. After receiving her support, she took a deep breath and faced the media. She started off with a bow, “Hello, friends of the media.”

Chapter 390: Who Said There's No Way to Verify it ?

“I am Xia Yuling, the daughter-in-law of the chairman of Tang Corp. If you are still unfamiliar with who I am, let me introduce to you my other identity: I am the mother of Tangning. Today, I stand before you because I have something I want to say.”

“It seems the rumors are true. The Tang Family really does have big news to reveal...”

“If she is the daughter-in-law, then that must mean she is the rumored mistress.”

“Wasn't it revealed previously that Tangning's mother is a mistress?”

The reporters below the stage were deep in discussion because the secret that was about to be revealed had sparked their interests. After all, Tangning was involved.

Tangning had gone from being a model to an actress and every step took place in front of the media. Even today, she was still the center of attention even though her mother was the one that was standing in front of everyone.

“I’ve been called a mistress for many years now, so over time I’ve already gotten used to this nickname. I’ve always felt that keeping a secret for the sake of a loved one is worth it because everyone has their own story. But, I’ve recently realized, by accepting this fate, I’ve brought a whole world of pain to my daughter.”

“She debuted at 17-years-old and has never asked the Tang Family for a cent. As a result, she went through many struggles to get to where she is today. But recently, because of me, she has had to feel shame; I feel extremely sorry towards her,” Xia Yuling said in seriousness as she tried her best to magnify her voice so everyone could hear it.

“In that case Ms. Xia, are you here to make an apology?” one of the female reporters immediately asked.

“No, I’m not here to apologize...”

“I’m here to clarify something.”

“Because if I don’t speak up now, there is no guarantee that my daughter won’t continue to be schemed against.”

As soon as these words left her mouth, the media were in shock.

It was too obvious what she was referring to; it seemed, she knew who the culprit behind Tangning’s recent accident was.

“It sounds like you know who planned the accident on the set of ‘Hidden Expert’.”

“Oh my God...”

“I know who it is, but I have no evidence. So, the only other thing I can do is stand before you all today and tell you I am no mistress...” As Xia Yuling spoke, her voice trembled. “Today, I will be revealing the entire truth.”

“My husband’s first wife was not the heiress of Zhongheng Enterprise, Liang Fengqing. His first wife was...” At this moment, Xia Yuling was interrupted by her friend. She had received a phone call from Elder Tang.

“Do you want to pick it up?”

Xia Yuling looked at the media and back at her friend. In order to prevent herself from backing out, she stood firmly on the stage. Just before she picked up the phone, she said to the media, “Please wait two minutes while I take an important phone call.”

She then picked up the phone and greeted Elder Tang.

“Yuling, I heard about the press conference you are holding.”

“Father, sorry...but Tang Xuan has hurt Tangning too badly this time. I can no longer tolerate it. I must let Tangning know that the three siblings are the actual children of a mistress. Tangning and I have endured too much, I don’t want to endure anymore...”

“I won’t blame you. If you want to reveal it, then go ahead, I also want to hear about it,” Elder Tang replied in a low voice. “I simply hope that you won’t say it in a way where it would hurt the other two innocent children.”

“If not for them two, I would have announced it long ago.” After speaking, Xia Yuling hung up the phone and handed it back to her friend. She then continued what she was doing, “Sorry everyone, let’s continue.”

To help the reporters better understand the situation, Xia Yuling gave a brief update on the status of the Tang Family. The Tang Family had always kept their secrets tightly under wraps, so the media had no interest in them until recently when Tangning was revealed as the child of a mistress.

“How do you plan to prove your innocence, today?”

“I can’t believe a mistress won’t admit to being a mistress!”

“Liang Fengqing isn’t even around anymore. No matter what you say, you can’t verify it!”

The reporters bombarded her with doubt.

These words were perhaps the same thoughts that were running through Tang Xuan’s mind. She definitely thought Xia Yuling was shameless. How dare she talk so loudly in front of the media without feeling embarrassed.

“Who said there’s no way to verify it?” Xia Yuling pulled out an old marriage certificate, a family photo and a few small items from her bag. She then showed each one to the media, “This here, clearly shows the time and date that I got married to Tang Qinwen. And here, this shows when he married Liang Fengqing. As you can see, I married Tang Qinwen 6 years prior to her.”

“I also want to reveal that Tang Xuan is not the eldest grandchild of the Tang Family. In fact, I also had a son: Tangning’s older brother, who unfortunately passed away from Pneumonia at the age of two.”

“All of you must be curious how and why Tang Qinwen married two women, right?”

“It was because, at the time that we first met, my grandfather started him off as an entry-level staff for training. When we first met, I had no idea of his true identity. We ended up getting married on impulse without notifying our parents.”

“However, my life turned into a nightmare after my son died. I was suffering from so much grief that I was often ill. During this time, Tang Qinwen secretly met with Liang Fengqing and had two children with her. He then intended on getting a divorce with me, but then, I suddenly fell pregnant with Tangning.”

“After giving birth to Tangning, I discovered he had been having an affair. So, that was when we officially filed for a divorce.” After speaking, Xia Yuling pulled out some divorce papers. Again, the date and time were clearly marked.

“A while after our divorce, Liang Fengqing ended up passing away while giving birth to her third child. At this time, Tang Qinwen suggested for Tangning to reunite with her family. So, for the sake of my daughter, we ended up moving into the Tang Family home.”

“However, it was only afterwards that I discovered...I had suddenly become known as a mistress...”

“It turned out, while Tang Qinwen was maintaining a marriage with me and pretending to be a poor entry-level worker, he had held a fancy wedding with Liang Fengqing using his wealthy identity. And it was only after we got divorced that they officially got registered.”

“This is the reason why Tang Xuan is 29-years-old, but her parents haven’t even been married for 25 years.”

“Tang Qinwen begged me not to reveal the truth because he didn’t want his other three children to realize their father was a jerk. So, to prevent them from getting hurt, I ended up enduring all the misunderstanding.”

“I thought, as husband and wife, it was best to cherish what we had. Everyone makes mistakes at some point in their lives, but no matter how big a mistake he made, it was already in the past. But, only now do I realize I can’t ignore the pain my daughter has suffered...”

“She is a legitimate child!”

“Tangning did not marry Mo Ting as a mistress’ daughter!”