

Work Hard 521

Chapter 521: Why Did You Replace Song Yanshu ?

“Fourth Master, where are we going now?” the housekeeper asked after they returned to the car. “Look at all the reporters that are on your pursuit. Should we return to the Tang Household?”

“OK,” Tang Jingxuan nodded as he leaned back in his seat. “I don’t want to deal with anything right now. I just want to sleep.”

“What’s wrong?”

“Nothing, I just want to laze around a little,” Tang Jingxuan replied. However, he did not immediately close his eyes. Instead, he picked up his phone and made a call to Fang Yu, “I want to replace my manager.”

“What happened between you and Song Yanshu?” Fang Yu immediately sensed that something wasn’t right.

“Nothing. I simply can’t continue working with her,” Tang Jingxuan replied firmly. “Help me find a replacement as soon as possible; preferably male.”

“I will make arrangements,” Fang Yu did not try to persuade him; he could hear the tiredness in his voice. Although he didn’t know what had happened between them, he agreed that separating them was the best option for now.

After receiving his response from Fang Yu, Tang Jingxuan relaxed and closed his eyes. By the time he opened his eyes again, he was already at the Tang Household.

...

[Singer Luo Xing encounters car accident: Victim dragged 100m!]

[Luo Xing appears at police station for drink driving]

[Luo Xing drives illegally: Fourth Master of Tang Corps background used to cover up scandal?]

It was currently the most important part of the year; plenty of awards were selecting their recipients. If Luo Xing was to be surrounded by scandals at a time like this, all that belonged to him, may end up in someone else’s hands! So, how could his competitors overlook big news like this?

As a result, even though Hai Rui activated their PR, the scandal with Tang Jingxuan could not be suppressed. After all, his identity was complex and could not be compared to the average person.

From this day onwards, Tang Jingxuan did not return to his own apartment. No matter how big the scandal got and how much the public judged him, he never made an appearance even once.

Meanwhile, Song Yanshu received a phone call from Fang Yu, “I’ve already allocated a new manager for Luo Xing. I’ll let you handle a few other artists in the meantime.”

Although Song Yanshu had expected this to happen, she still couldn't hold back a bitter smile, "Does Luo Xing not want to see me this badly?"

"Since things have gotten to this point, it's best if you avoid him. It's good for both of you. He is currently surrounded by scandals; he can't afford to have another one."

Song Yanshu did not refute. She knew that for Fang Yu to say these words, this was definitely the best solution for both of them.

"I will get PR to handle this issue, you don't need to worry about it anymore. No matter how bad things get for Luo Xing, he still has Tangning backing him. Nothing will happen to him. Just focus on your own work," Fang Yu instructed.

"I understand," Song Yanshu replied in seriousness.

However, even though she was no longer his manager, she still wanted to do something for him. Luo Xing had a promising future, he couldn't be easily destroyed.

...

As soon as Tangning found out about what had happened, she found it strange that Tang Jingxuan would make such a request; he actually replaced Song Yanshu.

In fact, replacing Song Yanshu was a bigger issue to her than the scandal that was going around.

So, she personally made a phone call to Tang Jingxuan, "Are you home?"

"It's not like I can go anywhere," Tang Jingxuan replied casually.

"Why did you replace Song Yanshu?" Tangning jumped straight to the point, "Are you bullying her?"

"Sis, I was the one that was forced to suffer," Tang Jingxuan immediately sat up in bed and explained the entire story to Tangning. "...so, you see, I was abandoned by her first..."

After hearing Tang Jingxuan's words, Tangning couldn't help but laugh, "I still remember when we were young, the fortune teller once told us that you would have many difficulties when it comes to love and you may possibly end up alone. At that time, you directly threw a stone at the old man's head and said, 'You're the one that will end up alone, I am going to have two wives!'"

"You still remember such an embarrassing incident?" Tang Jingxuan laughed.

"Since this is how things ended up, I'm not going to try and persuade you otherwise. You've already made your decision, so keep moving forward. I'm sure Song Yanshu has her reasons," Tangning had never thought of Song Yanshu as someone to play around with other's feelings.

"I understand, sis. That's enough talking for now, I still have a meeting to attend tomorrow."

Tangning understood that Tang Jingxuan didn't like to be nagged, so she did not dwell on the issue and let him get some rest.

But, after she hung up, she still felt that there was something strange about everything that had happened. According to normal logic, it seemed that Song Yanshu also liked Tang Jingxuan. So, why did she back away after their relationship had gotten physical?

Tomorrow, Tang Jingxuan would see Song Yanshu again...

With this thought, Tang Jingxuan closed his eyes and fell asleep.

...

The next day, the hype around Tang Jingxuan's scandal did not decrease. Although the people at Hai Rui did not gossip about him, they did not give him the usual friendly smiles.

The entertainment industry had always been this realistic; it had never been a noble place.

Tang Jingxuan eventually pushed open the door to Fang Yu's office and stepped inside. At this time, Song Yanshu was standing beside Fang Yu's desk with a newcomer. Their conversation was currently about a client wanting to replace Luo Xing as their spokesperson and how they had their eye on another young member from a boy band.

"I think I should step out for now..." Tang Jingxuan turned around with an unimpressed expression. However, Fang Yu stopped him.

"Wait a moment, Luo Xing. I don't have anything to hide from you. For the sake of the agency, I will first give your job to another artist. After all, opportunities don't sit around waiting for people."

"I understand, that's why I'm leaving," Tang Jingxuan nodded his head in understanding.

"Why do I feel that you aren't bothered by the blow that your singing career has suffered? Luo Xing, tell me, what are you currently thinking?"

Fang Yu's eyes were sharp. With one look, he was able to spot that Tang Jingxuan and Song Yanshu were trying to avoid each other...

Tang Jingxuan shook his head and replied, "I just want to have some rest. I'll leave everything for PR to handle."

"Yanshu, can you take your artist outside to wait for a bit? I have something personal I want to discuss with Luo Xing."

Song Yanshu nodded her head and left Fang Yu's office. Although this was business, for her to become someone else's manager and immediately snatch a job from Tang Jingxuan's hands, she wondered whether he was hurt.

"Your heart's aching, isn't it?" Fang Yu could tell just by looking at Tang Jingxuan's expression. "You were the one that requested for her to be replaced. So, you brought this upon yourself."

"I didn't say anything to suggest otherwise," Tang Jingxuan scoffed. "I've never regretted my decisions."

"Then, do you know what Song Yanshu said to me just a moment ago?" Fang Yu crossed his arms as he looked into Tang Jingxuan's eyes with a deeper meaning.

Chapter 522: A Boundary He Could No Longer Cross

Tang Jingxuan did not respond. He understood Song Yanshu. Under these circumstances, she wasn't the type to take advantage of someone while they were down.

"It seems you still trust Song Yanshu," Fang Yu smiled. He then stood up from his office chair and went to sit opposite Tang Jingxuan on the sofa. Crossing his arms, he said, "Can you tell me what happened between you and Song Yanshu?"

"It's something I don't want to discuss," Tang Jingxuan couldn't possibly go around telling everyone about his intimate relationship with Song Yanshu; that would be hurtful towards her.

"OK, fine," Fang Yu shrugged. He then stood up from the sofa and said, "Luo Xing, there is no doubt that you are a great singer, but you are still an amateur. Do you know where you differ from your Sister Three?"

Tang Jingxuan looked blankly at Fang Yu.

"Her sense of responsibility. Your sister always uses flawless methods to protect the people around her. If anyone has ever helped her in any way, she would be extremely grateful towards them. She would never let them get hurt. But, you are different. You obviously know how much Song Yanshu has done for you, but you directly hurt her by sending her away."

Tang Jingxuan's lips twitched a little, but he had no words to refute.

"Your ability to handle matters is incomparable to Tangning. At least, when it comes to professionalism, she would complete whatever work is at hand, even if it means she has to work with her enemy. What about you? Without Yanshu, all your upcoming plans will have to be canceled. Do you want others to lose out because of your childish behaviour?"

Tang Jingxuan lowered his head for a little while and thought about what Fang Yu said, but he had no words to retaliate with.

"Go home and think things over. What is truly the best thing you can do for Yanshu?"

He was well aware of what had happened between Fang Yu and Huo Jingjing in the past. When it came to protecting his other half, Fang Yu definitely had the right to voice his opinion. After all, he had used the right approach at Beijing Airport to protect his most loved person from getting hurt.

This time, Tang Jingxuan had no intention to refute. Because Fang Yu had already used the two most important people in his life to help him clear his mind.

"I finally understand why Hai Rui's PR never loses."

"Huh?" it was Fang Yu's turn to be confused.

"Because you are here."

This was due to the experience and networking that Fang Yu had built up over the years, it was what he deserved to be proud of. So, Tang Jingxuan did not feel embarrassed by Fang Yu's words. He thought

carefully about what Fang Yu had said: indeed, dismissing Song Yanshu would mean that a lot of his jobs would need to be re-established.

On the way home, Fang Yu's words continuously repeated in Tang Jingxuan's mind. In the end, he turned around halfway and drove directly to Song Yanshu's apartment. But, just as he reached the front of her apartment block, a young man stood in his way.

Tang Jingxuan was quite surprised, but the man spoke to him in seriousness, "Let's have a chat in your car."

"Who are you?" Tang Jingxuan questioned.

"I am the person that Yanshu has been working so hard for over the years," the man pushed Tang Jingxuan back into his car.

Tang Jingxuan slightly recognized this man. He was dressed in a long black trenchcoat and on the bridge of his nose sat a pair of black glasses. Weirdly enough, even though he was wearing clothes from the previous decade, it looked normal on his body.

"What exactly is the matter?"

"Yanshu," the man turned his head and looked at Tang Jingxuan with a calm voice, "Yanshu has stuck to me like glue ever since we were kids. Unfortunately, I've treated her like a younger sister over the years. But, your appearance has made me realize a huge problem: I've rejected her for 11 years, but have I really never felt anything for her?"

"She is a hard worker and has put in all her efforts over the years. She has done this because she has always wanted to be good enough to stand by my side someday."

"So, I hope you understand where you stand in Yanshu's heart. Don't have any ulterior motives."

The man's words were very straightforward and pricked one's ears. Tang Jingxuan thought to himself for a moment, before lifting his head and saying, "You can get out of my car now."

"You..."

"You have no right to tell me what I can and can't do," Tang Jingxuan growled. "Plus, to finally realize your feelings after rejecting someone for 11 years is not a result of true love, but because your heart doesn't like the feeling of having something taken away from you."

The man's expression obviously did not look pleased.

"Anyhow, don't worry, Song Yanshu and I will definitely keep our distance. But, it has nothing to do with you."

After speaking, Tang Jingxuan gestured for the man to get out of his car.

The man never expected Tang Jingxuan to have such a powerful presence. He felt like he had brought humiliation upon himself by speaking to him.

Tang Jingxuan took one glance at the man. Seeing he was still seated in the passenger's seat, he got out of the car, walked around to the other side and pulled the man out. It didn't take long before he drove off, far away from the man's sight...

To be honest, after hearing the man's words, it would be a lie if Tang Jingxuan did not feel a little hurt. However, he knew Song Yanshu was a boundary that he could no longer cross.

...

After Tang Jingxuan left, the man returned to Song Yanshu's apartment, "What did you forget?"

"Yanshu, I think we should have a chat," the man said as he stood in her doorway.

"I let you in earlier out of politeness. But, that doesn't mean you can overstay your welcome," Song Yanshu maintained her smile, but her words were filled with mockery and disdain, "You know it's already been 11 years. But, I can't dismiss the fact that you've always been after my eyes. You simply want to take my eyes and use it to save the woman you love, don't you?"

The man remained silent, unable to say anything.

"Sorry, I'm not that generous. Please leave."

"No, that's not it. I've come to see you this time because I truly like you and want to be with you."

Faced with the man's supposed adoration, Song Yanshu could only laugh, "Everyone knows that you are a top manager. I bet you exhausted a lot of energy on the incident with Luo Xing."

Although Song Yanshu managed to swiftly sent the man away in the end, she had no idea that Tang Jingxuan had also been turned away. Perhaps, she'd never know that he had even come by. If she had known, she'd probably be chasing after him barefooted at this moment.

Some things in life just simply drifted further and further away.

...

As soon as Tangning heard that Tang Jingxuan's job had been given to someone else, she immediately gave her careless brother a phone call, "Did Fang Yu bully you?"

"No, I willingly gave the job away."

"Tang Jingxuan, have you noticed that you've been a little strange lately? Is it all because of Yanshu?"

"Can't you display some perseverance and show me that you can resolve an issue on your own?"

Tangning's voice toughened.

Chapter 523: This Was All Because of That One Night

Translator: Yunyi Editor: Yunyi

"To be honest sis, I've been thinking about something over the past few days." After a short pause, Tang Jingxuan continued, "Perhaps, I am better suited to doing something that makes more money. That's why I've decided, after your film is released and I hold my last fan concert on December the 8th, I will announce my retreat from the entertainment industry."

Tangning had actually known from the start that Tang Jingxuan was not suited for the entertainment industry. This was because he was unwilling to let go of his kind nature, even though he kept encountering darkness.

“Are you certain? I’m sure you know how badly Yanshu wants to see you become an evergreen of the music world.”

“I’m 100% certain.”

One Xia Jingyi and one Song Yanshu was enough for him. He didn’t want his love life to be filled with lies and deceit within this materialistic industry.

“If you’ve chosen a path – whether it’s right or wrong – you should continue it until the end.”

This was Tangning’s best advice. In this world, making a decision wasn’t the difficult part, making a decision and accepting the consequences was where the true difficulty stood.

“I will arrive on time for the premiere of ‘W.H.’. Let me wish you all the best in advance.” After speaking, Tang Jingxuan hung up the phone. He felt a lot more relaxed now that he had made a decision. It was like he had been drowning under water for quite some time and could finally come to the surface to take a deep breath...

...

Song Yanshu was also expected to show her support at the premiere of ‘W.H.’ as well as the man from earlier.

That night, Tangning leaned into Mo Ting’s embrace as they read through a book about parenting. At this time, Tangning suddenly said, “Jingxuan has decided to retreat from the entertainment industry.”

“He’s persisted for long enough,” Mo Ting wasn’t surprised at all. “He doesn’t know how to socialize with others, nor can he let go of his kind nature. There’s no suitable path for him in the industry.”

“More importantly, if he returns to Tang Corps, he can help mom reduce her burden.”

“It appears you’re hoping for that last part the most so I don’t have to work so hard...”

“You could say that,” Mo Ting nodded straightforwardly. “He picked his own path, so let him walk it himself. Wait until he is covered in injuries and has worn himself out. He will know what to do to protect himself.”

“OK,” Tangning was convinced by Mo Ting because this had always been the path destined for Tang Jingxuan.

“So, when do you plan to announce that I am pregnant?”

Mo Ting put down the parenting book and hugged Tangning, “If I had a choice, I wouldn’t want anyone to know. That way, neither you nor the baby would be harassed by others.”

“That’s not very realistic though...” Tangning couldn’t help but laugh. “After all, there are so many eyes on my stomach since it’s rumored that I can’t fall pregnant.”

“Don’t talk nonsense. Get some sleep,” Mo Ting hugged Tangning tightly. Although they had been married for quite some time, his hug was no different from when they first got married.

He would never change, nor did he dare to change.

Because in this lifetime, his life would only be complete if Tangning stayed by his side.

...

Meanwhile, after Tang Jingxuan decided he’d retreat from the industry, even his footsteps became a lot lighter. After all, the weight on his shoulders had now been removed.

He had once strived for the singing career that he dreamed of. But, from now on, he had to take on his true responsibilities and make sacrifices like a man.

Apart from Tangning, he hadn’t told anyone about his decision to retreat. But, he was certain that Mo Ting would support his decision and not use his contract against him.

The entertainment industry had once been paradise to him, but it was now a place that he desperately wanted to free himself from.

A few days later, the premiere for ‘W.H.’ was to take place and plenty of friends within the industry were invited.

As a highly anticipated film, plenty of theatres scheduled it for a midnight release. After all, a big film like this had the ability to perform well even at midnight.

The weird thing was, out of the entire cast and crew, only a few supporting actors appeared at the premiere. Neither the male lead nor the female lead had the intention to make an appearance.

“Entering now is our prince of popularity, Luo Xing. It seems he has come to show his support and is getting more handsome by the day...”

The host outside the venue was using all his enthusiasm to welcome the guests. However, Tang Jingxuan had arrived on his own and was rumored to have his job snatched from him after his manager was replaced. On top of that, the car accident had greatly damaged his reputation. Luckily, he was Tangning’s brother.

Even if the sky was falling, no one dared to be disrespectful towards Tang Jingxuan because of Tangning.

Tang Jingxuan entered the VIP theatre on his own and sat down on the seat labeled with his name. But, what made him uncomfortable was the fact that Song Yanshu was also seated on the same row and there were only two people seated between them.

Song Yanshu appeared to have been expecting him, so she wasn’t surprised. But, there was a darkness in her gaze like she had a lot to say to Tang Jingxuan, yet it was too difficult for her to do so.

Tang Jingxuan acted like he hadn’t seen Song Yanshu. Before the film started, he either played with his phone or chatted to other singers.

But, because of their awkward relationship, those sitting in the back row couldn't help but gossip, "Hey, do you guys know the man and woman seated over there? It seems the rumors are correct and they have gone their separate ways."

"Men can change at the blink of an eye. Look at everything that Song Yanshu had done for Luo Xing, yet what did she receive in the end?"

"Forget it. If I was Song Yanshu, I would be so frustrated right now. Why doesn't she take this opportunity to release her anger?"

"Regardless, for them to get to this point is such a joke..."

The observers seated in the back row began to point and whisper at them. As they weren't all from Hai Rui, there was no way that Tang Jingxuan could deal with all of them, so he had no choice but to sit still and listen to their gossip.

A moment later, Tang Jingxuan received a text message from Song Yanshu. It simply read: "Let's chat."

"What do you want to chat about? Your compensation or your contract cancellation?"

"Luo Xing, can you not give up on yourself? I don't like seeing you like this."

"How do you like seeing me then?" Tang Jingxuan asked shamelessly. But, before Song Yanshu gave a response, he answered his own question, "I think we already discussed things clearly before. I suppose your 11 years of persistence has nothing to do with me. So, it was just my own unrequited love."

Song Yanshu froze. All of a sudden, she didn't know how to respond.

This was all because of that one night...

If what had happened had not been exposed, her and Tang Jingxuan may have not had the same ending...

But, from now on, was this the only fate that she could share with Luo Xing?

Chapter 524: Trying to Survive in This Difficult Industry

The film lasted 127 minutes and the suspense carried through that entire 127 minutes!

Plenty of industry professionals were 'supposedly' at the premiere to show support, but deep down, they were here to see what kind of film was produced by the Tangning that had only acted in one film and the director that had never released a film. Was it going to be as spectacular as it appeared in the trailer?

The result after watching the film? Everyone was speechless. It seemed to take them a while before they drew themselves out of the terrifying scenes they had witnessed. Above all, the end of the film suggested that 'W.H.' would have a sequel...

Tang Jingxuan noticed that plenty of people had broken into a sweat from watching the film.

After looking around, he smiled. He was certain that Tangning's character in the film was a huge success.

On screen, she had practically become the character...

"I was frightened by Tangning's reaction a few times. It was almost like she had actually experienced something like this before."

"There were scenes where she was being pursued and scenes where she was running for her life; she spent the entire film covered in blood. She sure worked hard."

"I didn't see the usual Tangning at all... This film is definitely worth seeing."

"Bei Chendong was also amazing as a psycho. No wonder he is a National Treasure Actor."

Hearing the discussions around him, Tang Jingxuan suddenly felt that everything Tangning had sacrificed was worth it. She was definitely the female lead this time and she played her character perfectly, bringing it to life.

Those that were here out of curiosity, were left speechless at the end of the film. They felt inferior in comparison. It was clear that Bei Chendong and Tangning lived to act and were willing to sacrifice anything in order to focus 100% on their roles.

As for An Zihao, because of his Western influence, he completely ignored profits and simply focused on creating a good film.

With the combination of these three people, 'W.H.' definitely met expectations...

After the premiere ended, many of the industry professionals began to accept interviews from reporters.

They all expressed their admiration for the film's cast and crew and gave their blessings. But, when it came to Tang Jingxuan, the reporters brought up other sensitive matters, "Luo Xing, we heard that you replaced your manager. Is it because of some kind of emotional betrayal?"

"Luo Xing, you and your ex-manager were seated on the same row tonight, but you had no interaction whatsoever. Are you guys on bad terms?"

"Luo Xing, I heard that your ex-manager is already managing someone new and has stolen one of your jobs. Are you aware of this?"

Faced with the nosy questions from the reporters, Tang Jingxuan simply responded, "Did you guys enjoy the film? I think everyone's purpose today was to attend the premiere, so please let me off this time. We can talk about other matters at a more suitable time and place."

"In that case Luo Xing, can you reveal a little to us about how Tangning has been lately? Have you guys been in contact?"

This question seemed harmless enough, so after careful thought, Tang Jingxuan smiled and replied, "There's no need to worry, she is doing well."

Afterwards, Tang Jingxuan turned to leave. However, a loud scream could suddenly be heard coming from the other side of the theatre. Everyone's attention was immediately drawn over, including Tang Jingxuan...

“You caused our Yi Jie to fall. Is this how Hai Rui teaches their managers?”

A crowd had formed around three women. One woman was weakly leaning against a fatter woman, whilst standing on the left of them, was Song Yanshu.

“I didn’t do it on purpose. I’m sorry, Yi Jie,” Song Yanshu politely apologized.

“Yi Jie has already fallen. If photos of her fall gets released to the public and she is effected by it, will you be held accountable?” the fat woman said as she poked Song Yanshu’s head. Of course, neither of these women were from Hai Rui, so they weren’t cautious of Mo Ting.

“Yes, I will take responsibility.”

“With what? Based on this, I can see why you deserved to be replaced by Luo Xing.”

Hearing this, Song Yanshu looked a little upset.

“You were shamelessly sticking to Luo Xing before and caused scandals throughout the entire country. Look at you now. No one is stepping out to help you...”

To retreat from the limelight, the two women suggested to move their discussion to one of the waiting rooms; Song Yanshu agreed. But, Tang Jingxuan witnessed the entire scene and saw Song Yanshu’s tightly clenched fists. This world was made for the strong to survive.

The women had no guts to bully an artist of Hai Rui’s, but when it came to a mere manager – a position that was only slightly better than an extra – Song Yanshu could only accept it as bad luck.

But, just as the three women began to leave, Tang Jingxuan suddenly blocked their path, “Where do you think you’re going?”

“It appears, Prince Luo wants to stick up for Song Yanshu?”

Seeing the woman’s smirk, Tang Jingxuan took a step back and replied, “It seems, you have no right to punish someone from Hai Rui.”

Song Yanshu looked at Tang Jingxuan with complex emotions. But Tang Jingxuan did not take a single glance at her as he pretended she didn’t exist.

“You are currently immersed in rumors and can’t save yourself, yet you’re trying to stick your nose into other’s business?”

Tang Jingxuan couldn’t be bothered to talk nonsense with the woman. So, he pulled Song Yanshu behind him and shielded her, “Yi Jie, show me some face. We are all trying to survive in this difficult industry.”

The woman known as Yi Jie brushed her hair back and shrugged, “As long as you can promise that my fall won’t be published on the headlines of entertainment news tomorrow.”

“That’s no problem,” Tang Jingxuan nodded.

Everyone was currently talking about Tangning and ‘W.H.’, who would be bothered to take notice of an average actress who had been in the industry for many years without receiving a single award?

“Fine, you promised,” Yi Jie did not dwell on the issue as she waved her hand and left. In an instant, only Tang Jingxuan and Song Yanshu remained in the theatre.

Tang Jingxuan shoved his hands in his pockets with no intention to talk to Song Yanshu. He simply sighed and turned to leave. At this time, Song Yanshu suddenly grabbed onto him and held him back, “Let’s have a chat.”

“I am still trying to help you hold onto your last two fan concerts...”

“No need,” Tang Jingxuan replied.

“Luo Xing, some things aren’t as simple as you think it is. Can you not give up on yourself? I know that I disappointed Ning Jie, can you let me make up for it?”

“Make up? What did you do wrong?” Tang Jingxuan laughed, “Don’t force yourself because of me. When I say that I don’t need your help, then I don’t need it.”

He had already decided to retreat. What use did he have for so many fan concerts?

Chapter 525: Taking Advantage of the Situation to Advance

“Luo Xing...”

This time, Tang Jingxuan turned around and did not look back. Relationships were tiring and he was really in need of some rest.

Song Yanshu watched as Tang Jingxuan left, but she was in no position to hold him back. She was nobody to him. If she had to identify as something, it would merely be his ex-manager.

...

Tang Jingxuan entered the underground carpark on his own. As he walked in, he spotted Yi Jie and her manager, who he had just spoken to not too long ago.

“Luo Xing, do you have time to go get a drink?”

“I’m sorry Yi Jie, maybe another day?” Tang Jingxuan rejected.

“Aren’t you afraid that I’d cause trouble for your ex-manager again?” Yi Jie gave a proud smile, “It’s just one drink...I promise...”

Tang Jingxuan wasn’t stupid. He obviously knew her intention.

She had already reached a certain age and her acting had remained at the same level, plus she was only ever chosen for supporting roles, so she was naturally getting very impatient. After all, as an actor, if one did not have talent, then they could only rely on youth and good looks. If not, their only other option was to borrow the help of outside factors.

For example Tang Jingxuan...

Tang Jingxuan was a hot topic and often sat at the top of popularity rankings. Above all, he was the Fourth Master of Tang Corps and the younger brother of Tangning. As soon as one's name appeared alongside his, everyone's attention would immediately be drawn over. No wonder Yi Jie wanted to have her way with him.

She wanted to create hype!

Tang Jingxuan closed the car door and looked coldly at Yi Jie. His eyes were filled with an obvious hatred towards scheming.

"Fine, but I decide on the location!" Tang Jingxuan smiled.

Seeing Tang Jingxuan agree so swiftly, Yi Jie immediately nodded her head afraid that he'd change his mind, "OK."

"Get on board!" Tang Jingxuan opened the back door of his car like a gentleman so that Yi Jie and her manager could step inside. Afterwards, a smile appeared on his face as he pulled out his phone and sent a message.

Yi Jie's real name was Zhao Qinyi. She was about the same age as Mo Ting, but because she wanted to attract people's attention, she generally dressed more mature and elegant. But, this unfortunately made her look at least five years older than she really was.

Afterwards, the car began moving. As the car turned into unfamiliar roads, Yi Jie immediately asked, "Where are we going?"

"To a place you'd never expect."

Zhao Qinyi thought Tang Jingxuan had developed some lustful ideas and wanted to take her back to his home, so she felt her heart lighten with joy.

But before long, Tang Jingxuan had driven the car into Hyatt Regency; a high-class estate that Zhao Qinyi had never been to before.

"We're here, get out," Tang Jingxuan opened the car door in front of Tangning and Mo Ting's love nest and gestured for the two women to get out.

"Is this...your home?" Zhao Qinyi looked at the Spanish palace-styled villa in surprise.

"Go in and you'll know," Tang Jingxuan smiled and led the two women to the front door.

Of course, Tang Jingxuan had notified Tangning in advance, so the door had been left open for him to open easily.

This confirmed the suspicions that Zhao Qinyi had; she was certain that this was Tang Jingxuan's home. After all, not many people had ever stepped foot into Hyatt Regency. The security was so strict that even the most experienced paparazzi couldn't slip through without the surveillance cameras catching them.

However, after entering the villa, Zhao Qinyi was left stunned at the doorway.

Because lying on the sofa was Tangning with her head resting on the armrest. In her arms was a cushion to hide her stomach and on her body, she wore a white turtleneck sweater. With half her hair tied up, she emitted an ethereal beauty that made other's envious, yet unable to look away.

Zhao Qinyi was obviously older than Tangning by a few years...

But, in front of Tangning, she couldn't help but feel self conscious.

The sense of inferiority emanated from the depths of her heart to her extremities...

"I heard Miss Zhao wanted to invite my brother for a drink. Since it's a drink you want, why not have it here at my place?" Tangning's voice was gentle and melodious. "Please sit. Make yourself at home."

However, in reality, who dared to treat this place as their own home?

One Tangning was enough to make one tremble in fear, not to mention the fact that there was also a Mo Ting backing her.

"Errr...it's getting late. Let's postpone it to another day," Zhao Qinyi's voice was involuntarily shaky. Perhaps, even she herself noticed how shameful she appeared.

"I go to bed late. Don't worry," Tangning said slowly, deliberately torturing Zhao Qinyi's terrified heart.

"I still think it's best if I go..." It was impossible for Zhao Qinyi to not be frightened by Tangning's presence. So, all she could do was try to escape frantically. However, just as she turned around, Tangning suddenly held her back with her words, "Yi Jie, I don't like to quit a game halfway. Since it has already started, then we should play by the rules!" Tangning stood up, no longer talking as gently as before. In fact, her voice was now mighty and powerful, "From now on, if you see Luo Xing, it's best if you go the other way. Otherwise, I will destroy you."

"If you want to take advantage of the situation to advance your career and get more exposure, look for someone else, I have no objections. But, don't you dare go near my brother."

"Otherwise, don't dream about getting famous in this life...or the next."

Zhao Qinyi turned around and made a proper bowing gesture, "I understand..."

"Next time you want to invite my brother for a drink, you can come directly to Hyatt Regency...He is relatively busy, but I have plenty of free time," Tangning raised an eyebrow. "Yi Jie, what do you think?"

Yi Jie was stunned for a moment before she obediently nodded her head. At this moment, apart from fear, there was no space left in her heart for any other emotion.

Tangning: the supermodel and actress.

This mysterious person had already drifted far away from her usual idea of a woman...

"I'll...do as you say."

Tangning smiled in ridicule without another word. This time, all she wanted, was to wake Zhao Qinyi up a little. She wanted her to know that in this world, one could not do bad things as they wished because there was always an oriole lurking somewhere.

As he watched the two women scurry off in fear, Tang Jingxuan stood to one side wanting to laugh, but too afraid to do so... Only after they left did he reveal a rare smile, "Sis, your presence is amazing. You can directly suppress others with it."

"So you brought them over without first consulting your brother-in-law?" Tangning couldn't help but glare at him.

Chapter 526: Godly Acting

"Who told you to be quick, effective and ruthless?" Tang Jingxuan raised a thumb at Tangning before sitting down on the sofa and continuing, "I watched 'W.H.' sis, you were amazing."

"I don't think anyone in this world is more suited to being an actress than you. I also watched the other films that just got released, and to be honest, although the other female leads aren't bad, they aren't as impressive as you."

"Are you saying this because I'm your sister?" Tangning subconsciously furrowed her brows.

"It's what I truly believe."

Tangning hadn't watched the completed film yet, so she could not relate.

"You haven't watched it yet? After you watch it, you will be convinced by yourself."

Just as Tang Jingxuan was getting excited, Mo Ting walked out of the study room wearing a black turtleneck. His every step was steady and powerful like an almighty king.

"Don't you want your sister to get some rest? What time is it now?"

Tang Jingxuan was aware that Mo Ting had reached his limit, so he stood up from the sofa and waved his hand, "I'll get going now. Sis, sleep early and say hi to my nephew for me."

Tangning watched as Tang Jingxuan rushed off and smiled helplessly as she clung onto Mo Ting's arm, "I know...I won't do it again...I couldn't ignore him and not help."

Mo Ting did not respond. His eyes lit up like diamonds. That brat kept coming to cause trouble every 2-3 days; it was time he did something about it.

...

['W.H.' exceeds \$1 billion at the box office on its first day: reputation and popularity on the rise!]

['W.H.' breaks domestic record for the fastest film to make \$1 billion]

['W.H.' receives extraordinary results: there is hope for domestic disaster films!]

"After watching 'W.H.', I didn't feel frightened nor disappointed. Instead, I cried...I cried out of happiness. I couldn't believe that I'd come across such a serious director and such a talented team of actors in my lifetime. I must say that the creature in 'W.H.' performed better than some of the idol actors out there."

“The storyline flows smoothly, the non-action scenes were well thought out, the action scenes were incredible and the special effects were subtle. On top of that, Bei Chendong’s acting is great and he is deserving of the title, National Treasure Actor. Plus, Tangning’s expressions are amazingly explosive; I was shocked by her reactions quite a few times. She made me feel like I was there with her, it was amazing. From now on, I am going to watch every movie that Tangning participates in.”

“Although I’m not a fan of disaster movies because it makes me feel depressed, I must point out that Tangning’s acting beat all the current popular actors. This is the truth.”

Online, most of the reviews for ‘W.H.’ were positive. This was because the film’s entire crew poured their hearts into producing it and were sincere about creating a great film.

“The selection stage for the Fei Tian Awards is about to start. I think, if Tangning doesn’t win it, then there’s something wrong.”

“I agree with the commenter above. Although the other films are great, ‘W.H.’ truly shocked me. In the past, I had always thought that disaster films were made for idiots to watch. But, ‘W.H.’ has given me hope. It was a great film with great actors.”

The longer that ‘W.H.’ remained in theatres, the better Tangning’s reputation and popularity became. She had used her own attitude and professionalism to prove to everyone that she was an actress that could be trusted.

Of course, as a result of all the positive feedback for ‘W.H.’, Tangning’s fan count exceeded all the other award nominees and everyone started saying that Tangning’s odds for winning were the highest.

...

Late at night, Tangning awoke from her sleep to find Mo Ting sitting on the edge of the bed looking deeply into her eyes.

“How come you didn’t wake me up when you arrived home?”

“I couldn’t bear to do it,” Mo Ting carried Tangning over to the walk-in closet. “Get changed, there’s somewhere we need to go.”

“Huh?”

Mo Ting did not explain. He simply wrapped her up tightly in some clothes and led her to the car.

Tangning had no idea what Mo Ting had planned...until their car pulled up outside a theatre...

“What would we do if someone spots us?” Tangning looked around nervously.

“I’ve already made arrangements. We will be the first ones to enter and the last ones to leave. No one will realise we are there,” Mo Ting smiled before leading Tangning into the VIP room. “Tonight, let’s watch a film like a normal husband and wife. The film is called ‘W.H.’. I’m sure Mrs Mo has heard of it...”

Tangning froze as she suddenly felt warm inside. She knew how busy Mo Ting had been recently, yet he somehow managed to think of her first. He even remembered the fact that she hadn’t watched ‘W.H.’ yet.

“I don’t think I acted well enough.”

“It doesn’t count when you say it,” Mo Ting helped her into her seat as other people began to enter. They originally thought there were only going to be a few other people, but, just before the film was to start, they were surprised to find that the theatre was full.

There was not a single empty seat!

In fact, Tangning could even hear discussions from the first few rows, “Haiz...I can’t believe the theatre is full.”

“Of course. The movie has received amazing feedback. It would actually be weird if it wasn’t full. This is my third time watching it. The first time, I went by myself; second time with family; now third time with friends.”

“Is it really that good?”

“You will be shocked to tears...”

Hearing these words, Tangning felt a sense of joy and pride, but also anxiety. She knew, from now on, these people would have higher expectations for her.

Not long after, the lights turned off and the film started projecting onto the screen...

In the 100+ minutes, even Tangning found herself clenching her fists in suspense for the female lead. It was a weird sensation.

Mo Ting watched the reactions of his wife and was surprised to find that she had such an adorable side to her.

“That was spectacular, much too spectacular!”

“Wow, Tangning has godly acting skills! I was so shocked that I got goosebumps all over my body.”

As soon as the film finished screening, everyone couldn’t help cheering. At this time, a theatre staff yelled out, “Please don’t leave yet, there is a hidden surprise in the credits.”

Hearing this, everyone immediately sat back down and waited for the surprise. Eventually, Tangning and Bei Chendong reappeared on the screen; it was behind-the-scenes footage from their filming.

When filming beside the ocean, Tangning barely got to dry herself. In fact, there were times when she had sand in her mouth.

When filming in the village, Tangning was covered in blood the entire time. A few members of staff even vomited from the smell, yet Tangning was the one to comfort them.

Seeing this footage, the fans could clearly see Tangning’s sincerity.

“If Tangning doesn’t receive the Fei Tian Awards, it would be ridiculous!”

Chapter 527: No Fans Turned Up !

Mo Ting watched in seriousness from beginning to end. This was Tangning's actual first time at being the main female lead.

Tangning looked at Mo Ting nervously as a smile appeared on his face.

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

"I want to know your thoughts," Tangning replied, "Because you know best how to evaluate an actor."

"I feel honored that Mrs Mo thinks so highly of me," Mo Ting hooked his arm around Tangning and rested his chin on her head. "To be honest, I don't need to say anything. Every single member of the audience has already expressed their thoughts and I am merely one of them."

"Ning...you've done really well and you will only get better. With your results from 'W.H.', you will definitely receive The Fei Tian Award for Best Newcomer!"

These weren't just comforting words from Mo Ting, they were the truth. In fact, Tangning's abilities had exceeded Mo Ting's expectations...

Especially when she acted alongside Bei Chendong. The interaction between the two made people feel suspense and excitement.

The Best Newcomer Award!

This was what all new actors dreamed of; Tangning was no different. Otherwise, a hopeful look would not appear in her eyes.

However, just as her film was selling out rapidly, the media suddenly released an explosive piece of news. The Prince of Music, Luo Xing, was rumored to be dating Zhao Qinyi, a no-name actress that was older than him by 10 years!

In fact, there were pictures of the two boarding a car together as evidence. The car was also captured to be entering Hyatt Regency; it seemed, they went in to seek Tangning's approval.

"I guess this Yi Jie couldn't be trusted," Tangning said with a ridiculing smile.

"It might not be her. She wouldn't dare," Mo Ting said as he looked into Tangning's eyes. "She may have been used without knowing it."

"Let Tang Jingxuan handle it..."

This time, Tangning had no intention to get involved.

But, the thing that surprised everyone the most was that Tang Jingxuan was expected to step out immediately and clarify the entire incident, but he didn't, even though he knew that plenty of his fans liked him for his youth and good looks and this rumor with an older woman would crush their hearts.

"I hope Luo Xing will clarify everything soon."

"Why is such an old woman bothering my Luo Xing?"

"Luo Xing, are you blind? If this is true, I'm not going to be your fan anymore!"

“Zhao Qinyi is much too shameless. Is this old cow trying to feed on fresh grass?”

The websites of Luo Xing’s fan club and other entertainment portals were filled with discussions. Thanks to his relationship with Tangning, Tang Jingxuan was destined to float around the hottest headlines for the next few days. So, when Fang Yu went to question him, he simply replied, “I originally planned to do one last fan concert anyway, my reputation doesn’t matter anymore. We’ll just let Yi Jie have her way...”

Fang Yu held his left elbow with his right hand and leaned against the floor-to-ceiling window, “This incident had nothing to do with Zhao Qinyi. She was sold out by her manager. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have waited so many days before releasing the photos. Her manager obviously did it for money.”

“How are you feeling?”

“Huh?” Tang Jingxuan didn’t quite understand Fang Yu’s question.

“I’m referring to...her. Don’t you care what she thinks?” Fang Yu hinted towards Song Yanshu.

Tang Jingxuan looked at Fang Yu with a stunned expression; he had not had the chance to think about this consequence yet. But, after a short moment, he calmed down and shook his head, “This is my own matter. It has nothing to do with her.”

“Fine, do as you wish,” Fang Yu sighed. “When you have some spare time, write a few songs. After all, the agency spent heaps of money to train you. You should make a contribution so your brother-in-law can be proud in front of others.”

“Yes, I know.”

After a short chat, Tang Jingxuan left Fang Yu’s office. However, as he walked into the corridor, he saw Song Yanshu on the other end, standing anxiously against the barrier.

Tang Jingxuan pretended not to see her. Just as he was about to turn around and walk the other way, Song Yanshu turned around and saw him.

“Luo Xing...”

“What’s the matter?” Tang Jingxuan asked calmly.

“Aren’t you going to clarify the rumors that are going around? I don’t believe that you would be dating Yi Jie.”

“We are indeed together,” Tang Jingxuan cut in. “Otherwise, with my identity and Hai Rui’s abilities, did you think she’d be able to expose something like this?”

“But, your concert is just around the corner...”

“Miss Song, this has nothing to do with you,” Tang Jingxuan heartlessly burst her bubble before turning to leave.

Song Yanshu was left standing all alone as she watched Tang Jingxuan walk away. Tang Jingxuan was right, this indeed had nothing to do with her.

But, things only got worse, because another piece of news was released soon after. This time, it was exposed that Yi Jie was pregnant – and the child belonged to Tang Jingxuan!

“Oh God, if this is true then Luo Xing must be blind.”

“No matter what, I can’t accept that Luo Xing is with an old and ugly woman.”

...

Song Yanshu often looked through the news at home. Every time she came across an article that was negative towards Tang Jingxuan, she would delete it. But, this time, the news was much too aggressive; she couldn’t handle it on her own.

Afterwards, Song Yanshu thought long and hard about everything that had happened recently. It seemed, from the moment that her and Tang Jingxuan laid their cards on the table, Tang Jingxuan had not been normal again. Could everything that happened be because of her?

With this thought, Song Yanshu felt regretful and sad. She wanted so badly to offer Tang Jingxuan a hand, but...

...the situation was worse than she thought.

If she had known this would happen, she would not have hidden her true feelings...

But, the least expected thing was yet to come...

Because of Tang Jingxuan’s rumors, his concert was greatly effected; over half his tickets had already been refunded.

This made the organizers feel extremely awkward; they had already come too far to back out...

In the end, the host of the concert contacted Tang Jingxuan to ask for his opinion, “I think you only have one option now. You should cancel the concert.”

“No...I also have a second option. I can pay from my own pocket. Even if no one turns up, that’s fine.” He simply wanted to do it for himself.

The man looked at Tang Jingxuan and sighed as he nodded his head, “Should we ask Tangning for help?”

“No need,” Tang Jingxuan shook his head. “This is my own matter, I don’t want to trouble Sister Three.”

The man looked at Tang Jingxuan like he was looking at someone that was crazy. He couldn’t understand what he was thinking. Allowing something like this once would open up the floodgates for future occurrences; it would change the rules in the industry and bring shame upon them.

“Fine, the concert will go ahead as planned.”

Tang Jingxuan thanked the man once again. But thinking about the last stage that he’d be stepping foot on, he couldn’t help but reminisce about his once passionate self...

Unfortunately, in the end, no fans turned up at his concert!

Not a single one...

Chapter 528: Retreating From The Industry !

“I’ve never seen such a pitiful singer. Should we still play the accompanying music?” one of the musicians on the stage asked his colleague as he looked at the empty venue.

“I’ve played for over a decade and never seen anything like this. Today has really opened my eyes,” the drummer replied as he brushed back his hair. “Even I feel sympathy for Luo Xing.”

“What use is your sympathy? We need the audience to show sympathy! How bad could his rumor have been?”

“I must praise Luo Xing for his courage. He’s spent the entire year at the top of the popularity charts. Last time when he held a fan concert, he filled a stadium of 10,000. What a pity!”

...

In reality, Tang Jingxuan knew exactly what was happening outside. But, he remained seated at the makeup table and got ready like usual.

Within the industry, for one to enjoy the glory of the limelight, they must also understand how pitiful it feels to be hated.

5 minutes before the concert was to start, Tang Jingxuan was dressed in a dark grey cocktail suit and ready to head on stage. However, at this time, he suddenly received a phone call from Tangning.

“Don’t be afraid. Even if you lose everything, your family will always be here.”

Tang Jingxuan’s heart was deeply touched by Tangning’s words.

If a moment ago, he still had any trace of weakness or hesitation, then at this moment, after hearing Tangning mention family, he completely relaxed. Putting down his phone, he looked at the staff and made an ‘OK’ gesture.

Seeing Tang Jingxuan’s persistence, the host felt all his awkwardness disappear as he stepped onto the stage like there were millions of fans before him.

To his surprise, there was a person seated calmly in the VIP section of the audience. And this person, although not a fan, was significant enough to be equivalent to millions of fans.

The host was a little stunned as he felt himself fill with excitement. After all, Tangning was at a level where a small host like himself would not easily get the chance to see her. So, he couldn’t help but feel slightly nervous.

Perhaps she sensed his discomfort, so Tangning looked at the host and smiled. This would be a night that the host would never forget.

A moment later, he collected his thoughts and told himself to pretend he was in a rehearsal.

In an instant, he was in the right mindset.

“Please welcome our Prince of Music, Luo Xing, to the stage.”

As the stage lit up, Tangning watched as Tang Jingxuan jumped out from behind a mirror accompanied by his dancers, dressed in a black leather jacket.

He had always specialized in ballads. But for the sake of his last concert, he put on his spunkiest clothes and performed his most inspiring dance.

Of course, Tang Jingxuan never expected to see Tangning seated amongst the empty audience. But, thinking about what Tangning had said to him earlier, he realized, even if the entire world abandoned him, his family would never leave his side.

Tangning would never leave his side!

Tang Jingxuan continued to dance as he shined brightly on stage. Meanwhile, he felt his eyes begin to water. After 3 fiery minutes, Tang Jingxuan handsomely completed his dance and walked over to the host as he tried to catch his breath.

“Luo Xing, today...”

“You don’t need to be so serious. Take it easy today. If possible, can you hand me the microphone? I have a few things I would like to say.”

As usual, the fan concert was being broadcasted live. Although there weren’t many people watching it online, Tangning had prepared a surprise gift for her brother. She had hired the biggest public screen in Beijing and the concert was being broadcasted on there as well.

“OK,” the host nodded his head.

“Firstly, I would like to say hi to my fans, even though none of you showed up,” Tang Jingxuan said disappointedly as he bowed to the cameras. “However, I won’t be upset by this. Because, below the stage, I still have my beloved family.”

“I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the rumors that are going around about me. There is no relationship between Miss Zhao Qinyi and I, nor am I the father of the child in her stomach. The so-called evidence is based on the fact that I invited Miss Zhao to Hyatt Regency as a guest. I’m sure you all understand that this industry is all about creating hype, so I simply wanted my Sister Three to tell Zhao Qinyi that I didn’t want to help her.”

“As for what happened afterwards, I don’t think there is a need to explain. Before I entered this industry, I must admit that I thought a celebrity’s only responsibility was to sit around being admired by others. But, after experiencing the industry for myself, I’ve realized that this industry is much more dirty and dark than I originally thought.”

“Love is all a lie; talent is all a lie; sometimes, even fans are all lie.”

“Following on, I would like to dedicate the song, ‘Hypnotize Myself’, to the people that abandoned me. They were the ones that made me realize that reality could not be changed and a person’s heart was unpredictable.”

After Tang Jingxuan finished talking, a melodious tune resonated across the stage and he was quickly consumed in the emotional song...

“If leaving someone is for their own good, looking back is pointless...”

...

Tang Jingxuan’s voice was broadcasted to multiple corners of Beijing via the city’s biggest outdoor screen. Those that saw it, couldn’t help but stop in their tracks.

He had no audience!

He had no fans!

But, he was still the same singer that loved his music.

“To be honest, I wanted to say this a long time ago...” Tang Jingxuan said in seriousness after his song was complete, “Life is a mess in itself, but this industry is even a bigger mess.”

“I know a lot of people want to see me disappear from this industry because I disgust you.”

“Since we’ve gotten to this point, I can only say that I’ll do as you wish!”

“I, Luo Xing, officially announce that from tonight onwards, I will be retreating from the entertainment industry and will no longer sing. In fact, I will never take a step back into the industry again.”

“Once upon a time, I sang because I enjoyed it. Afterwards, I sang because of my fans...”

“But, faced with the fickle fans that turned on me overnight, I can’t see anything that is worth me wasting my youth on anymore. Especially since my family has been waiting for me.”

“From this moment onwards, I am Tang Jingxuan, the Fourth Master of the Tang Family; future heir to Tang Corps!”

After speaking, Tang Jingxuan tore off the costume on his body and threw it on the ground...

“Lastly, I would like to thank you all for your short-term love and your current hate.” After speaking, Tang Jingxuan took a few steps back and bowed to the cameras before stepping off the stage and walking towards Tangning. It appeared, there was nothing in the industry that he’d miss.

Meanwhile, the netizens were in an uproar online.

The Prince of Music, Luo Xing, had retreated from the industry to prove his innocence!

Chapter 529: I Would Be Very Disappointed

[Luo Xing announced his retreat from the industry!]

[Luo Xing announced his retreat from the entire entertainment industry!]

[Luo Xing announced his retreat with no restraint.]

“Song Jie, have you seen today’s news? It’s pretty explosive! The previous singer you managed, Luo Xing, has announced that he’d be retreating from the industry,” Song Yanshu’s artist laughed as he handed

her his phone. "I heard not a single fan turned up at his concert today. I've never seen anyone as pitiful as he is."

Hearing this news, Song Yanshu was stunned as she put down the magazine in her hands and received the phone in her trembling hands.

"This can't be possible!"

"What do you mean? Every single news source is reporting on it. I originally quite liked his songs. But, it seems he's having a run of bad luck."

By this time, Song Yanshu was no longer listening. Her mind was completely blank and her heart felt like it was being pricked by a thousand needles.

Although she couldn't determine her true feelings for Tang Jingxuan, she was certain that Tang Jingxuan's retreat was partially due to the pain she had given him.

With this thought, Song Yanshu immediately pulled out her phone and gave Tang Jingxuan a phone call. However, there was no response from the other side. So, she decided to call Tangning instead, but Tangning's phone was switched off...

"He can't...Luo Xing can't retreat from the industry," Song Yanshu mumbled to herself..

"Song Jie, what's wrong?" her artist asked in a caring tone after noticing that she was in a bit of a daze. However, Song Yanshu could no longer care about anything else around her as she directly ran out of the waiting room.

But, by the time she reached the location of Tang Jingxuan's concert, the place had emptied out and all that remained were a few staff members that were packing things away.

"Where's Luo Xing?" Song Yanshu asked as she grabbed onto one of the staff members.

"He left ages ago. Why would he stick around? Haiz...this industry is disgusting. Luo Xing is such a decent young man, yet 'someone' couldn't help but use him to create hype. Look at what happened in the end, he had no choice but to leave. And the fickle fans: just yesterday they were obsessed with him, yet today they completely despise him. How cheap are these people's feelings?" complained the middle-aged man.

Hearing this, Song Yanshu felt worse than before...

While Luo Xing was going through his toughest time, she was managing an artist that snatched his job.

Song Yanshu suddenly remembered the words that Tang Jingxuan had said to her: either be his woman or be a stranger.

She assumed that Luo Xing was still young and would eventually forget this matter, but...

...she never thought that after Xia Jingyi broke his heart, her actions would then stab him in cold blood.

"Luo Xing..."

...

[Luo Xing's supposed girlfriend steps out to clarify rumors: "Luo Xing is innocent!"]

[Manager instigated scandal: Zhao Qinyi produces solid evidence of Luo Xing's innocence]

[Asian businessman named as the child's father: Luo Xing has no involvement!]

Not even half an hour after Tang Jingxuan announced his retreat, Zhao Qinyi released a series of statements to prove that he was innocent as well as proof that the scandals were instigated by her manager.

Afterwards, Zhao Qinyi accepted interviews from the media with a face full of tears, looking extremely exhausted, "In regards to any negative effects that the public has suffered, I would like to give my sincere apologies. This incident had absolutely nothing to do with Luo Xing and he had done nothing wrong. Truthfully, we only met for the first time at the premiere of 'W.H.'. If you don't believe me, you can compare our schedules."

"Of course, if we only just met, there's no way we could be lovers. Although I once had ulterior motives, Luo Xing refused to cooperate. So, the entire scandal was just a big misunderstanding."

"I never expected to cause Luo Xing so much pain. Especially after hearing his words on stage, I felt a deep sense of guilt..."

"That's why I've decided to clarify everything. If you guys want to blame someone, then blame me. This has absolutely nothing to do with Luo Xing."

"Lastly..."

"...I would like to say something that I've been holding in all night."

"I also saw Luo Xing's fan concert through the big screen. To be honest, if I was Luo Xing, I would be extremely disappointed..."

"Don't you think so, fans?"

After speaking, Zhao Qinyi bowed towards the cameras and left under the protection of her assistant.

"This Zhao Qinyi is such a joke. She didn't say anything when the incident was first released, yet now she's suddenly decided to throw herself out there," the media scoffed.

"At least she knows to take responsibility. Aren't there a lot of male artists that have suffered the same fate, but couldn't say anything?" another reporter added. "I must say, Luo Xing's fans took things a bit far this time. He was, after all, an artist they once liked. How could no one have turned up at his concert?"

"This isn't a rare occurrence. But, I don't think Luo Xing cares anyway. Even if he is no longer a singer, he is still the Fourth Master of the Tang Family; he can always return home and take over the family business."

"Good on him for leaving this disgusting industry!"

...

It turned out, Luo Xing was innocently slandered and he had no relation with Zhao Qinyi.

However, his departure from the industry was a huge faceslap for both his fans and Song Yanshu.

“Oh, I’m so regretful for not trusting Luo Xing...”

“He actually retreated. He retreated so easily.”

“He must have been too disappointed in us.”

“Luo Xing, sorry...We are so sorry...”

The fans posted a series of apologies online. Some even went as far as to buy a column in the newspaper to show their sincerity. But...

...only some things in life could have a second chance, others were gone as soon as one missed out on it.

...

Song Yanshu spent an entire night looking for Tang Jingxuan. She even went to the Tang Household. But, she realized, Tang Jingxuan was most likely at Hyatt Regency.

Song Yanshu was too ashamed to face Tangning, so she had no choice but to return home empty-handed.

“Song Jie, where did you go? You suddenly disappeared.”

Looking at her own artist, Song Yanshu held back her tears, “Did I just miss out on something beautiful?”

“What are you talking about?”

Song Yanshu looked at her artist and suddenly lost control of her emotions, “I want so badly to apologize to him, but I never expected him to be so cold-hearted...”

“Song Jie, what’s wrong with you?”

Song Yanshu calmed down and shook her head. There was only one thought in her mind: would she ever see him again?

Did this mean she’d never see Luo Xing again?

How could he give up on everything so easily? Was his singing career so disposable?

What Song Yanshu truly didn’t understand was whether she minded that Tang Jingxuan gave up his singing career, or...the fact that he had bid her farewell so easily.

Chapter 530: Grandfather Invited to be a Judge

After Tang Jingxuan announced his retreat, his songs naturally made their way onto the top of the charts, making him a huge hit.

But, no matter what his fans did and how they apologized, he did not appear in front of the public again after the night of his last concert. As well as that, all his previous forms of contact were deleted or disconnected.

It was almost like this singer had never existed in the entertainment industry.

So what if he left behind so many great hits?

As the year came to an end, he also received many music awards. But, because of his retreat, all his awards were received by a Hai Rui representative on his behalf. And each time they went on stage, they would simply say, "Luo Xing thanks everyone for their support."

It was a cold and general response with no real sincerity. The truth was, he did not need to thank anyone, because everything he had was a result of his own hard work.

Hearing Tang Jingxuan's response, Song Yanshu and his fans felt a piercing pain in their hearts. Only they knew that Tang Jingxuan's disappointment in them was deeper than it appeared.

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Late into the night, at the Tang Household, Tang Jingxuan was packing his luggage. Elder Tang walked in with his walking stick and sat on the edge of his bed, "Are you set on your decision? Are you going to the US to study?"

"Grandfather, don't worry. I thought about this carefully," Tang Jingxuan replied.

"Was it because of...that girl?" Elder Tang tested. He had not seen Tang Jingxuan smile for quite a few days. "Are you leaving your family to go to a faraway place, all because of a mere woman?"

Tang Jingxuan froze for a moment before putting down the clothes in his hands and replying to Elder Tang in seriousness, "Grandfather...after what happened, I've realized where I am truly of value."

"I admit, I do feel slightly regretful, but I hope you can trust me when I say that I'm doing all this because I want to be responsible towards the Tang Family."

"Sister Three was born to be an actress and the film industry will help her shine. So, leave the Tang Family to me."

"Are you sincere about this?" Elder Tang continued to question. In reality, he already believed that Tang Jingxuan had the motivation to move forward. After all, his older sister, Tangning, had already done enough for him.

"I couldn't get any more sincere than this. Grandfather, during the time that I'm not around, take good care of yourself. Don't get too close to Tang Xuan. That woman is crazy; no one knows what else she has planned."

Elder Tang sighed and patted Tang Jingxuan on the shoulder before he nodded his head, "Take care during your time away. Your flight is at 7am tomorrow morning, isn't it? Grandfather will accompany you..."

"No need, Grandfather. I can go on my own," Tang Jingxuan was determined to leave.

“OK.”

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This result was all within Tangning’s expectations. This was the only way that Tang Jingxuan would truly be a Tang Family member.

She shouldn’t have initially jumped to conclusions regarding Tang Jingxuan’s love life. Obviously, after this incident, Tang Jingxuan had figured out for himself whether Song Yanshu suited him or not. Perhaps...he still needed time to grow up. And perhaps, no one could predict what the future would hold.

To avoid being recognized, Tang Jingxuan arrived at Beijing airport at 5am. But, of course, with his current popularity, there was bound to be a few people that recognized him.

“Is that Luo Xing?”

“I think it is. Hey, Luo Xing.”

As the two girls suddenly approached, Tang Jingxuan’s expression turned cold. Crossing his arms, he replied, “Sorry, you got the wrong person.”

“You are obviously Luo Xing...”

“Yes, that’s right...”

Tang Jingxuan did not respond because he was about to pass through security. One of the two girls sensed the unwelcome vibe and dragged her friend away without saying another word. However, they remained a certain distance and snuck photos of him from behind.

Not long after, the flight was to take off. Tang Jingxuan had entered the first class cabin, so he finally received the peace and quiet that he so desperately craved. From today onwards, he couldn’t allow himself to be weak; he needed to learn how to say no. From today onwards, he needed to protect Tangning and the Tang Family and he had to get rid of all his weaknesses to become a better person.

But, because his fans captured photos of him at the airport. His trip to the US was quickly exposed online.

“Song Jie, is it because of him that you have been in a daze over the past few days?” Song Yanshu’s artist showed her the news, “He’s gone to the US.”

Song Yanshu froze for a few seconds before looking at the phone that was being handed to her.

Seeing Tang Jingxuan all prepared to leave Beijing, Song Yanshu’s heart once again dropped to the depths of the abyss. It was like a part of her had flown off with him, leaving behind just a shell.

Afterwards, Song Yanshu gave Tangning a phone call, “Ning Jie...”

“What is it, Yanshu?” Tangning asked, even though she knew the answer.

“I want to know about Luo Xing...”

“He’s gone overseas to study. It’s likely that you won’t see him for a good few years,” Tangning replied calmly.

“Oh...I wish him a safe journey then,” Song Yanshu didn’t know when she had hung up the phone. All she knew was, the moment that she put down her phone, her heart was completely empty.

Not only did Tang Jingxuan retreat from the industry, he left without hesitation...

This was obviously the decision that she had made...but, why did she feel so regretful? Could it be that Tang Jingxuan’s motive was to make her feel regret for the rest of her life?

Over at Hyatt Regency, Tangning had just put down her phone.

Seeing the creases between her eyebrows, Mo Ting gently massaged it to help her relax, “You always have something to worry about.”

“Ting...do you think the brat and Yanshu’s fate has come to an end?” Tangning asked as she leaned into Mo Ting’s embrace.

“I don’t care if their fate has ended or not. My aim is simply to help you win The Best Newcomer Award,” Mo Ting said in seriousness. “Did you know, in the short amount of time that ‘W.H.’ has been screening, it has already broken multiple box office records? Everyone is full of praise for you...”

“Even the old man personally told me that your acting in ‘W.H.’ was very impressive.”

“I heard that grandfather has been invited to be a judge for the Fei Tian Awards...” Tangning lifted her head and looked at Mo Ting.

“Did you get this information from Long Jie? It’s true...but don’t expect grandfather to give you extra points.”

“I, of course, know he wouldn’t. But, I’m worried others might have that thought. I hope the award in my hands will be acknowledged...” Tangning couldn’t help but feel worried. According to her turmoil-filled life, this award wasn’t going to come easy.