

Work Hard 691

Chapter 691: Face Slap

[Online rumors claim, Hai Rui is suppressing Song Xin to maintain Tangning's status!]

[Genius Song Xin: An all-round artist that even Tangning is afraid of]

[Why Tangning fears Song Xin: Analysis chart explains it all]

These were the latest entertainment news headlines comparing Tangning and Song Xin on the same level. Song Xin's starting point had been too high and Tangning was often compared to her. All of a sudden, it seemed like no one in Beijing could compete with her. Only Tangning stood in her way.

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Today was the day of Huo Jingjing's discharge from the hospital. As her good friend, Tangning personally picked her up from the hospital even though she was pregnant.

Whenever Huo Jingjing was bored, she would look at the entertainment news. The rumors that were currently going around made her angry just looking at them.

"Is President Mo letting Song Xin do this?"

"Just go home and get some rest. This has nothing to do with you," Tangning replied calmly. "We don't want the media to cling onto you and uncover your old scars."

"Are you just going to allow an arrogant newcomer to step all over you?"

"She's the most famous in Beijing at the moment," Tangning chuckled, speaking the undeniable truth. "Plus, I am currently pregnant. Do I need to argue with her?"

"You should teach her a lesson..."

Huo Jingjing didn't care about herself, she simply didn't want to see Tangning being bullied. She especially didn't want to see Tangning being tread upon by a newcomer like Song Xin. What right did she have to do so?

"Just go home and get some rest won't you?" Tangning helplessly gestured for Fang Yu to take Huo Jingjing home. In addition to stopping Huo Jingjing's endless chattering, Tangning also felt bad to see the condition of her leg.

The vengeance she felt was deeply imprinted in her mind; she would never forget it.

Meanwhile, outsiders enjoyed the excitement, the arguments, the noise, but those within the industry knew that Song Xin was only putting up a front. If she had truly surpassed Tangning, she would not need to use Tangning to create hype and boost herself.

And, if Song Xin was smart enough, she would know when to hold back a little to prevent resentment from the public. Otherwise, society would be tempted to teach her how to behave.

But, of course, now that Song Xin had been arrogant for so long, it was time to teach her a lesson.

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Actually, the first to give a response was Tangning's fans. In the face of Song Xin's aggressiveness, Tang fans weren't going to let her have her way, "Over the past two years, any measly puppy or kitty that's grown some teeth has tried to challenge our Tangning. Hasn't anyone taught them about modesty? Look at our Ning...has she ever tread on any of her seniors?"

"Actually, after watching the show for so long, I've realized that Song Xin has a one-sided obsession with our Tangning. They are both in different fields, yet they are always getting compared. It's obvious who's trying to leech off the other's popularity?"

"Tangning's simply focusing on her pregnancy, observers don't need to take notice of any rumors."

"I think our Ning should come out and express her thoughts. Although Song Xin isn't anyone important, fans don't like to see you being clung to. Let that b*tch see what true popularity is."

During these conversations, Tangning was actually within the chat group. After seeing the last suggestion, she responded with her personal account, "OK!"

The fans didn't notice at first. When they finally realized, they screamed in excitement!

"What did I just see?"

"Am I seeing things?"

"It's Tangning! Tangning said 'OK!'"

Tangning did not continue to watch her fans' reactions. Instead, she gave Fang Yu a phone call, "What other activities does Song Xin have coming up?"

"Are you planning to strike back?" Fang Yu asked.

"I'm afraid, if I don't do something, Jingjing may not be able to control herself from sticking up for me. Do you want to see that happen?" Tangning used Huo Jingjing as an excuse. Of course, this wasn't completely just an excuse. It was very possible that Huo Jingjing would actually say something to the media.

"She has many activities coming up, including a charity music event."

"Understood," Tangning replied simply without explaining how she was going to strike back and whether she would need help. She then focused her gaze on the black satin pajama-clad Mo Ting and smiled sweetly, "Hubby..."

"If there's something you need, just tell me. You don't need to ask," Mo Ting walked over to the bed, lifted the blankets and wrapped his arms around Tangning.

"It's nothing big, I just want to appear in front of the media for a bit," Tangning did not change her sweet tone as she buried herself deeper in Mo Ting's embrace, "I promise, the baby won't be hurt."

Mo Ting reached out his hand and held her chin, forcing her to look into his eyes, "You must know, when it comes to your safety, I will never take it lightly. However, I don't want to stop you from doing what you want to do. So..."

"...go ahead with what you have planned, but, if there are any safety concerns, I will not make any exceptions, you need to let me protect you."

"That strict?" Tangning mumbled.

"What do you think?" Mo Ting asked back in seriousness.

"What if I do this?" Tangning placed a deep kiss on Mo Ting's lips.

"Non-negotiable!" Mo Ting did not budge.

"Then..." Tangning tore open Mo Ting's robe and placed a bite on his chest, "...what about this?"

Thinking of Tangning's mischief, Mo Ting suddenly smiled and revealed a slightly evil expression, "Even if you force yourself onto me...I won't go easy on my decision."

"Who wants to force themselves onto you?" Tangning leaned into Mo Ting's chest. She was already thankful for Mo Ting's understanding.

"Then...do you want it or not?"

Tangning noticed the burning desire in Mo Ting's eyes and bit her lip as she nodded, "Of course I do."

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Actually, to turn the tables and put Song Xin in a difficult position instead, wasn't a difficult thing to do. However, Tangning did not notify anyone beforehand because her face slaps always came without warning.

The charity music event...

Right now, for Song Xin, every event was important. And her diligence and seriousness undoubtedly created many opportunities for her. In particular, to be able to still persist under Hai Rui's suppression, proved she had strong determination.

That night, Song Xin was invited as a guest performer. This was her first performance since being a songwriter. It seemed, this was in preparation for the release of her new EP.

But, she would have never imagined, on the night that she thought she was going to shine that unfortunately, things did not always go as planned.

Soon, night fell...

To leave a lasting impression at the charity event, Song Xin chose to wear a black diamond-encrusted dress with a long train...

"Tonight will definitely go as planned. I'll be rooting for you, Song Xin!" Duan Jinghong cheered beside her.

Chapter 692: Only You Are Lying To Yourself

As Song Xin's van pulled up at the red carpet, other guests were gradually arriving.

Song Xin was currently a hot topic in Beijing, so there were plenty of reporters waiting to get an interview from her at the entrance.

As a result, as soon as Song Xin appeared at the head of the red carpet, the reporters immediately surrounded her...

Song Xin enjoyed the attention, it was an amazing feeling, like an addictive drug. She enjoyed being at the top.

Duan Jinghong followed beside Song Xin as the reporters followed her every step. On her face was an unerasable smile because the scene in front of her was proof of Song Xin's popularity. How many others in Beijing were on the same level?

However...Duan Jinghong's arrogance did not last for long because a Rolls Royce soon pulled up at the head of the red carpet and quickly drew everyone's attention away. As a familiar figure stepped out of the car, the reporters surrounding Song Xin immediately screamed in excitement and ran towards the figure with their equipment.

"It's Tangning..."

"Tangning's here. Hurry and get some photos."

"Ahhh...Tangning! My God, you are the most beautiful pregnant woman I have ever seen!"

Within a few minutes, Song Xin experienced how it felt to drop from the heavens straight down to hell.

She had always been confident that she was on a similar level as Tangning. In fact, she even thought there was a possibility that she exceeded her because she had been absent from the spotlight. But, contrary to her expectations, a simple appearance by Tangning was enough to make the reporters go crazy.

And everyone that had been surrounding her, had all run over to Tangning...

"Tangning..."

The reporters wanted to get closer to Tangning, but Tangning simply clasped her hands together and thanked everyone, "I'm sorry, due to my pregnancy, I cannot stand for too long. I hope everyone can go easy on me."

Hearing Tangning's words, the reporters immediately took a few steps back. They did not forget that she was pregnant.

Therefore, Tangning increased her walking speed and soon overtook Song Xin. Logically speaking, at a time like this, it was expected that the media would pull them together and ask them a flurry of questions. But, to see Tangning for a little longer, the reporters threw Song Xin and her assistant to the side.

That's right, they were thrown aside!

The excitement that Song Xin felt at the beginning had now turned into hate.

Most importantly, the scene that had played out was recorded accidentally by a fan.

"There is an online rumor that Tangning is jealous of Song Xin, so she snitched to Mo Ting in bed and asked him to suppress her."

"Do you believe such words? Have you considered the difference between the two women?"

"Whoever the media follows is currently the most popular."

"Hey, let me tell you guys about a funny video I saw. Song Xin was originally walking along the red carpet with the reporters following behind her. But, as soon as Tangning appeared, no one knew who Song Xin was anymore. Not only this, Song Xin was almost knocked over by one of the reporters. Hahaha, don't you think it's funny? This is what you call a disparity in capability and a proof of their difference."

A few female celebrities were gossiping amongst themselves in the guests' seating area; all of a sudden, Song Xin had become the biggest joke.

"I don't understand where she got her confidence from."

Song Xin's seat was in the same area. As soon as she heard everyone's mockery, she couldn't help but argue, "I may not know where my confidence has come from, but at least I know that I am better than you."

The women did not expect Song Xin to respond, so their laughter only got louder, "What's so good about being better than us? Are you better than Tangning?"

"Didn't you say that Tangning was jealous of your talents? Didn't you say that you posed a threat to her? After what happened on the red carpet, have you realized that you were wrong?"

"Originally, Tangning wasn't going to appear at this charity event. But, she ended up attending...Do you know what that means?"

"It means the face slap she gave you on the red carpet was much too satisfying."

"Tangning came to show you what true popularity is."

Song Xin endured the provocation from the group of women, unable to fight back. Not to mention others, even she was surprised by the show of power that Tangning had displayed on the red carpet and the attack that she had suffered.

Song Xin's confidence severely suffered a blow as she glared at Tangning sitting in the VIP area.

Tangning's appearance had caused her immense humiliation. So, Song Xin's performance was also affected. During her performance, there were a good few times when she almost sang out of tune as a result.

On the other hand, how was Tangning doing?

She simply greeted everyone with a smile and didn't even take notice of Song Xin.

Worst of all for Song Xin, during her entire performance, no one in the audience gave her any response.

No response!

Reality was cruel.

“Song Xin, what’s wrong with you tonight? Is it because of Tangning? Should you be affected by her to this extent?” Duan Jinghong was aware that Song Xin’s mood had been affected, but she didn’t realize that it would impact on her performance.

“Don’t say anything. Let me have some peace,” Song Xin clenched her fists.

Duan Jinghong sighed as she patted Song Xin on the shoulder. However, as soon as Song Xin noticed that Tangning was getting up to go to the bathroom, she immediately chased after her.

Duan Jinghong was afraid something would go wrong, so she quickly followed behind. The two women saw Tangning approaching the entrance to the bathroom. At this time, Song Xin immediately leapt over and blocked Tangning’s way, “Stay right where you are!”

There were already a few other celebrities in the bathroom. As soon as they saw Song Xin blocking Tangning’s way, they jumped to her defence, “Can’t you see that Tangning’s pregnant? What are you trying to do?”

“You did it on purpose didn’t you?” Song Xin asked Tangning over the two women that stood in her way. “You deliberately came here to make things difficult for me, didn’t you?”

“Miss Song, I don’t understand what you are talking about,” Tangning replied confusedly. “How have I made things difficult for you?”

“Stop being tricky. You weren’t supposed to attend this event originally, yet you appeared tonight. Didn’t you come just to show off your power to me?”

“I got to hand it to you, Song Xin. I think you should go back into your mother’s womb and reprogramme your morals,” a woman in a short purple dress that was protecting Tangning laughed as she crossed her arms. “We all know that you used Tangning to create hype. After all your talk about Tangning being afraid and intimidated by you, aren’t you embarrassed?”

“Just because you lied to create hype, it doesn’t mean that Tangning can’t leave her home.”

“Now that you’ve suffered a setback and realized your distance, you’re blaming Tangning for appearing at the same event as you. Didn’t you think you were doing something wrong when you were creating hype? Didn’t you expect something like this to happen?”

“Everyone in the industry knows that you are miles apart. Only you are lying to yourself...”

Chapter 693: Simply Terrifying

Possibly because the women’s words were too harsh and hurtful, Duan Jinghong suddenly stormed forward and dragged Song Xin away.

“That’s enough. You have no right to judge what my artist does.”

Song Xin felt like she had suffered a huge humiliation. She was so angry that she wanted to dig a hole to hide inside. But, how was Tangning at this moment? Her expression was indifferent, completely disregarding Song Xin's existence.

"If it wasn't because we saw your artist trying to make things difficult for a pregnant woman, why would we be bothered to judge her?"

"You..."

Song Xin didn't want Duan Jinghong to be humiliated as well, so she simply glared at Tangning and said in a shaky voice, "That's enough."

Hearing this, Tangning patted the women that were helping her on the shoulders and said, "Thank you for your help. I'm fine. You don't need to worry. At a place like this, they would never do anything to me."

Since the victim was fine with the situation, the women naturally had no reason to continue. So, before they left, they politely smiled at Tangning, "It was nothing."

Afterwards, they turned and left, leaving Tangning and Duan Jinghong standing in the entrance of the bathroom.

Song Xin's eyes glowed red. From her heaving chest, it wasn't hard to tell that she was desperately trying to contain her anger...

"I'm going to step out and get some fresh air," Song Xin said before she left. Every second she spent in front of Tangning made her feel like she was suffocating.

Duan Jinghong watched as Song Xin left. She then scanned her surroundings. Seeing that no one else was around, she finally said to Tangning, "There are rumors on the outside that you are a calculative person; they were right. Tangning, you are frightening. You obviously knew that your popularity was miles from Song Xin, yet you still humiliated her at a place like this. You are simply terrifying."

"What about you? You were aware that my popularity was higher than hers, yet you didn't warn nor stop her. You simply let her do what she wanted. What were you thinking?" Tangning asked as she raised her chin. "From what I see, you were deliberately trying to see her embarrass herself."

"Do you think people scheme against the people around them like you do? Now that you've humiliated Song Xin, I guess it's payback for the fact that she used you to create hype. So, from now on, we are even..." After speaking, Duan Jinghong tried to leave, but as she walked past Tangning, she heard a cold laugh from her.

"Even? Are you sure?" Tangning mocked with a deeper meaning. "Within this industry, I love getting even. But...are you sure that you've paid me back for everything?"

Hearing this, Duan Jinghong felt her body tremble all of a sudden as her palms got sweaty...

What did Tangning mean?

Did she realize something?

No...that wasn't possible.

"We obviously have a different understanding of this word," Tangning turned and glanced at Duan Jinghong before whispering beside her ear, "This is just the start."

Duan Jinghong's eyes grew big, but Tangning had already turned away.

Of course, Duan Jinghong expected people from the entertainment industry to be good at bluffing, especially the pregnant Tangning. The more someone was insecure, the more they pretended like nothing worried them. That was their only way to threaten their opponents. So, Duan Jinghong did not take Tangning's words to heart. She simply focused on comforting Song Xin and quickly forgot everything that Tangning said.

But, Tangning never bluffed...

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[Tangning never clarifies rumors, she lets her popularity do the talking!]

[Truth revealed at charity event: Where's the popularity that Song Xin was bragging about?]

This was the entertainment news that was released that very night. It seemed, the scene that played out on the red carpet had turned Song Xin into a joke in the industry. Due to her recent fame, there were plenty of people that were envious of her. Seeing her being beaten by Tangning in such a way, those that were previously suppressed by her, could no longer control themselves from making sarcastic comments.

Perhaps, even she herself did not know that popularity could be so destructive...

Because, she honestly did not know that she did not compare to Tangning. She had always thought too highly of herself.

After returning home, Song Xin did not say a word, so Duan Jinghong held onto her phone and said to her, "I've already arranged a lunch meeting between you and President Xiao for tomorrow. Go have a shower and get some rest. You don't want to give a bad impression tomorrow."

Song Xin remained silent. After quite some time, she finally put out the cigarette in her hand and got up to go to the bathroom.

As the saying goes, days were aplenty; Song Xin was confident that there'd be a day when she'd make Tangning pay.

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Later that night, Tangning lay in bed and waited for Mo Ting. As soon as she saw Mo Ting return from work, she slightly sat up and suggested, "I would like to keep a dog in the office."

"Who's office?" Mo Ting asked as he leaned on Tangning.

"Your office."

Mo Ting's lips curved upwards and he nodded his head, "OK, tell Lu Che what breed you want and tell him to organize it. But first, I need the doctor to make sure that it has no effect on you."

"Of course," Tangning nodded obediently.

A few days later, everyone in Hai Rui was introduced to a fierce new pit bull in Mo Ting's office. This breed was known as the ultimate fighter amongst dogs.

Of course, now that they had a dog, they also hired a professional dog trainer. Besides this, the dog was also allocated a specific space in the office. However, no one understood why Mo Ting suddenly adopted such a fierce dog in the office.

Even Fang Yu was a little scared every time he stepped in to see Mo Ting, "President Mo...why did Tangning adopt something like that?"

Mo Ting lifted his head, looked at the pit bull and brushed him off with a simple, "It makes her happy!"

"But, it's so fierce."

"It won't bite you." Mo Ting looked at the documents in Fang Yu's hands, "Give me the documents and leave."

In reality, Fang Yu did not dare to hang around for too long in Mo Ting's office.

It didn't take long before Fang Yu left. Afterwards, Mo Ting glanced at the intimidating pit bull and smiled. Of course, he knew what Tangning was thinking. This was obviously a surprise that she arranged for someone.

A moment later, an insignificant little staff member entered Mo Ting's office. If someone was to ask the people in Hai Rui who this person was, no one would recognize this insignificant member of staff. However, this person ended up staying in Mo Ting's office for an entire 20 minutes...

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That afternoon, like another order of business, Song Xin had afternoon tea with the infamous heir. But, no matter how hard she tried to hide it, the man could sense her repulsion.

"Miss Song...you didn't need to force yourself to come to lunch." The man's name was Xiao Yuhe. He was the second biggest shareholder of Kaihuang Theaters and owned half the theaters in Beijing. As viewers had higher expectations for picture quality and effects, Kaihuang had invested a lot of money to introduce foreign equipment into their theaters. They also tried to provide a first-class theater experience and were the rising stars in the industry.

"I'm simply in a bad mood..."

"Is it because of Tangning?" The man was wearing a pair of brown-framed glasses, a stripy grey suit and his hair was combed back meticulously, "Did you know that her new film, 'The Lost Relative', will be released very soon? The schedule has been moved forward."

Chapter 694: Tangning's Revenge ?

“What are you trying to say?” Song Xin didn’t quite understand.

“It’s fine if you don’t understand, I’m just happy that I can be of assistance to you. I can restrict the ticket sales of Tangning’s new film,” Xiao Yuhe smiled. “As long as it is one of Tangning’s films, Kaihuang will refuse to screen it and help you get revenge. What do you say?”

“Will that work? Won’t the other people in Kaihuang have something to say?” Song Xin asked with doubt.

“As the second biggest shareholder, I can make small decisions like this. Just wait and see Tangning being turned into a joke,” Xiao Yuhe said as he held onto his coffee cup with a deep and mysterious gaze. This was his way of getting on Song Xin’s good side. Mo Ting was capable, but he had no say in internal decisions made by individual companies.

After hearing Xiao Yuhe’s offer, Song Xin finally breathed a sigh of relief as she relaxed her tensed forehead.

But, during the release of Tangning’s previous two films, what difficulties had she not overcome already?

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That night, the lights in Hai Rui were still brightly lit.

Duan Jinghong returned to Hai Rui because she had been summoned by Fang Yu. However, as she stepped into Song Xin’s room, she noticed a woman walking around outside. Duan Jinghong felt something wasn’t right, so she opened the door and looked at the woman, “Which department are you from? Can you not pace back and forth here?”

The woman was in her early 20’s. As soon as she saw Duan Jinghong, she began to hesitate.

“Say something...”

The woman took a deep breath like she needed great determination, before she pulled out a piece of paper from her pocket and handed it to Duan Jinghong.

“What is the meaning of this?” Duan Jinghong asked helplessly.

“You’ll understand after you look at it. If you give me money, you can have it. The remainder is in the President’s office.”

Duan Jinghong was a little surprised, but she still pulled out a bit of money and handed it to the woman. However, as Duan Jinghong opened up the piece of paper in her hand, she was stunned. The paper was a part of an evaluation report done by the higher-ups in Hai Rui regarding Tangning and Song Xin. But, it was just a small part. In fact, it looked like it was just a draft. It seemed the woman was a cleaner who had picked it up from the bin. No wonder the woman had told her that the remainder was in the President’s office.

Duan Jinghong wanted to know what the board of directors thought of Song Xin and their future plans for her. But, how was she to see the final evaluation?

She had to find a way to visit the President's office...

The best idea she could think of was to look for the cleaner.

As a result, Duan Jinghong secretly took note of the cleaner and, after much difficulty, managed to get in contact with her. She quickly explained her intention: she wanted the woman's access card.

The cleaner simply wanted to make some money and did not want to take any risks, so she rested in the staff resting lounge and ignored her. But, Duan Jinghong took this opportunity to steal the cleaner's access card and placed it into her handbag like nothing had happened.

That night, as Duan Jinghong was about to head back out, Song Xin stopped her, "Where are you going so late at night? You've been extremely secretive lately."

"Go to sleep first. I'll be back before midnight. Don't ask too many questions," Duan Jinghong brushed her off.

Song Xin sighed. To be honest, she had never requested Duan Jinghong to be so attentive towards her. After all, Duan Jinghong had her own personal space and time. So, Song Xin did not insist on a response as she waved at Duan Jinghong, gesturing for her to leave.

But, she would have never imagined, after Duan Jinghong left this time, it would not be easy for her to return...

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Duan Jinghong was careful. She had done many things for Song Xin like this in the past. She was especially nimble as she entered Mo Ting's office without anyone noticing.

Afterwards, she approached Mo Ting's desk and carefully opened his drawers. But, she never knew that Mo Ting's drawers had an alarm system installed. As soon as she heard the alarm, she broke out in a cold sweat. Just as she jumped up to escape, a huge creature appeared behind her and bit down on her leg and dragged her a few meters across the floor...

"Help...help!"

A moment later, the dog trainer was awoken and quickly ran out of his room. Seeing the scene in front of him, he immediately ordered the dog to let go. But, by this time, Duan Jinghong's leg was already in a terrible state and was a pile of flesh and blood.

The dog trainer immediately called the ambulance and the entire Hai Rui was alerted to the matter.

Duan Jinghong was quickly sent to the hospital. After careful examination, her injuries were, of course, not light. Luckily, the dog had already been vaccinated from all forms of disease including rabies. Otherwise, Duan Jinghong may not be so relaxed.

"I want to call the police! I want the police!"

Hearing this, the dog trainer looked at her innocently. She called the police for her as a good deed.

Within 10 minutes, the police were dispatched. After arriving at the hospital, they asked Duan Jinghong, "Are you sure that your company's CEO deliberately sent the dog to hurt you?"

Duan Jinghong's eyes were red, about to burst into tears. But, the dog trainer said innocently, "Officer, I was the one that called you. This incident isn't the way that this woman has described it. I can confirm that this woman snuck into the President's office to steal something from him. However, she had no idea that there was an alarm system in the President's desk. The dog has been trained well. When it realized that there was a thief, it reacted naturally."

"I can help her apply for compensation, but my dog and I will not be blamed for deliberately harming another person."

"She was the one that stepped into a dangerous place. Don't tell me someone else should be held liable."

After hearing this, the police pointed to Duan Jinghong and asked the dog trainer, "Do you have any proof?"

"Officer, our President has surveillance cameras installed in his office. You are welcome to look through the surveillance footage," the dog trainer replied.

Duan Jinghong was injured and guilty. So, after the policeman left, she turned her back to the dog trainer and pretended to get some rest.

"Tsk tsk, how pitiful..."

Duan Jinghong never imagined that she'd experience a dog bite so quickly. In fact, her injuries were even worse than Huo Jingjing's. After all, how could a bulldog compare to a pit bull?

As Duan Jinghong thought about the fierce dog, she wanted so badly to tear it apart.

What was she to do now? She had obviously asked the cleaner if Mo Ting's office had any surveillance cameras and she was certain that there wasn't...

But, what if there really was?

What would she do?

And what about her leg?

Duan Jinghong lay in bed as tears rolled out of her eyes. She did not dare to contact Song Xin. But, as she lay there, she suddenly thought of something frightening.

Could this have all been a part of Tangning's revenge?

Chapter 695: Did My Manager Get Bitten By A Dog ?

The more that Duan Jinghong thought about it, the more frightened she felt and the more she sensed chills down her spine. Eventually, she found a countless amount of reasons to comfort herself.

"Impossible. Tangning can't be smarter than Song Xin. Tangning couldn't have discovered what I had done."

But, everything was such a coincidence. Did coincidences like this really exist?

The next morning, Song Xin headed into Hai Rui all on her own and found out through the staff in the office that her manager had been bitten by a dog, “Last night, someone overestimated themselves and tried to steal something from the President’s office. But, they were unexpectedly bitten by the President’s dog. I heard they are currently lying in hospital. I’m not sure if it’s true or not.”

“Of course it’s true. That person was none other than Song Xin’s manager, Duan Jinghong. The police dropped by early this morning to get an understanding of the situation and to get a copy of the surveillance footage. What a joke! She completely shot herself in the foot and got caught on the spot!”

Song Xin overheard the cleaners talking while she was in the elevator. As soon as she stepped out, she gave Duan Jinghong a phone call, “Where are you?”

“I...I may need to go back to my hometown for a while. Something happened to my family,” Duan Jinghong immediately created a lie.

“Jinghong, you know the consequences of lying to me.” Song Xin stormed into Fang Yu’s office without waiting for Duan Jinghong’s response and glared at him, “Did my manager get bitten by a dog?”

“She’s your manager. Shouldn’t you ask yourself? Why are you asking me?” Fang Yu asked back without answering her question.

“What’s the meaning of President Mo’s actions? Why did he release his dog onto my manager?”

“The President’s dog is kept inside his office. It hasn’t bitten anyone else, so I wonder why it bit your manager,” Fang Yu continued to avoid answering. “The police have investigated into the matter and have looked through the surveillance footage. It was your manager’s fault for not sleeping at night and instead sneaking into the President’s office to steal something. That’s why she was bitten.”

“I don’t believe you.”

Fang Yu seemed to have anticipated this response, so he turned on his computer and showed the surveillance footage that the police had studied earlier to Song Xin, “Whether you believe it or not, the evidence is before you.”

Song Xin did not look pleased, especially after seeing the entire footage. She never thought that Duan Jinghong was so stupid as to sneak into Mo Ting’s office.

So, she closed her eyes and turned her face away from the screen.

“Hai Rui will announce the truth to the public soon before they arrange compensation for her. From now on, I wish her all the best on her own.”

“By the way, to avoid affecting you too much, it’s best you keep your distance from your manager and draw a fine line.”

After hearing this, Song Xin immediately grabbed onto Fang Yu’s arm, “Hai Rui can’t announce the truth. How am I going to face the world after this?”

“Hai Rui are obligated to cooperate with the police and reveal the truth,” Fang Yu replied calmly. “Plus, President Mo’s dog was fine all along and did not attack anyone. Why should it be blamed because of

your brainless manager? If others didn't know, they would think that our President Mo is a violent person."

Song Xin had no reason nor right to stick up for Duan Jinghong. After all, she was caught red-handed and there was surveillance footage as proof.

But, she couldn't figure out why Duan Jinghong had done what she did.

Before the incident began to spread, Song Xin put on a complete act and arrived at Duan Jinghong's hospital; she was afraid that people would relate her to the word, 'steal'.

"Song Xin, you're here. Hurry and help me."

Duan Jinghong's legs were covered in bandages as she sat pale-faced in bed. As soon as she saw Song Xin, her eyes lit up with hope.

"Help you?" Song Xin pushed Duan Jinghong away with extreme disappointment, "The entire Beijing is about to hear about your embarrassing incident. How am I supposed to help you? The police have already checked the facts and Hai Rui are ready to announce the truth. Fang Yu has asked me to keep my distance from you. So, you will need to suffer a little and handle yourself in front of the limelight on your own." After speaking, Song Xin pulled out a bank card from her handbag.

"There is enough money on here for you to fund your daily expenses for the rest of your life. Hold onto it..."

"Are you planning to abandon me at a time like this?" Duan Jinghong was shocked by Song Xin's actions.

"I'm not abandoning you, I'm just avoiding you for a little while. You don't want both of us to be destroyed, do you? Give it a bit of time, after you've moved out of the limelight, you can change your name and return to my side."

Duan Jinghong did not say a word. After all, the first thing that Song Xin did as soon as she arrived was not ask her what to do or the condition of her leg. Instead, she gave her money and tried to get rid of her.

After quite some time, Duan Jinghong finally asked, "Aren't you afraid that I'd stab you in the back?"

"You wouldn't do that. We're still good friends," Song Xin replied confidently.

In reality, both women knew the other's secrets. If one was to betray the other, they would both suffer. How was Duan Jinghong to compete with Song Xin who was currently popular and had a judge as a father?

So, Duan Jinghong sneered and said in a dull tone, "Go ahead and leave. Don't forget to lock the door."

Song Xin confirmed that Duan Jinghong knew what to do, so she told her to get some rest. A moment later, Duan Jinghong disappeared into the hospital room like Song Xin had never appeared at all.

It was often said, a person showed their true self when faced with difficulties. It turned out, it happened so easily.

Duan Jinghong could only wish Song Xin all the best with her fame...

...

Soon, Hai Rui officially announced that Duan Jinghong had been bitten while trying to steal something. As it was an official announcement and it was accompanied by a police report, the name 'Duan Jinghong' quickly became a hot topic online. Of course, she was hot topic throughout the nation for being a joke.

"This manager is such a troublemaker. She has dragged Song Xin down too much."

"Does she have a pig's brain? How dare she try to steal from Mo Ting's office? She deserves to be bitten by a dog!"

"I feel embarrassed on her behalf. She's humiliated herself in front of the entire nation."

"Hai Rui dealt with this matter pretty well. Although this manager has no brains, they still helped her arrange compensation. If it was me, I wouldn't give her a cent. She obviously provoked the dog herself."

"Now, even when I look at Song Xin, I feel a bit embarrassed too. I don't know why!"

"Haha, you're not the only one."

The internet was filled with opinions. Although Song Xin tried to maintain a low profile, she was still affected in one way or another. After all, Duan Jinghong was her manager and her actions made it difficult to separate the two.

"I feel like Song Xin was aware of this and may possibly be the instigator."

"Song Xin is in an awkward position. The best thing for her to do at the moment is to stay quiet."

...

The public continued to discuss the issue enthusiastically. But, of course, Fang Yu found the entire thing quite strange. Duan Jinghong did not appear to be such a stupid person. How did she make such a huge mistake?

Most weird of all, why did Tangning – someone that was about to give birth – suddenly adopt a dog?

Chapter 696: She Also Wanted To See Song Xin's Fate !

Fang Yu felt a bit uncomfortable; he had to know the truth. So, he decided to give Tangning a phone call, but Tangning was at Hai Rui, "If you have any questions, come ask me at the office."

Fang Yu hung up the phone and headed over to the CEO's office. As soon as he saw Tangning sitting safely on the sofa and the fierce dog was no longer anywhere to be seen, his gaze was full of confusion.

"The dog injured someone, so we've sent it away," Tangning clarified naturally.

"What exactly happened?" Fang Yu asked, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. "You should at least tell me what's going on."

"Don't you think that this scene seems familiar?" Tangning looked at Fang Yu seriously.

Fang Yu stared at Tangning for a few minutes; a seemingly impossible possibility suddenly came to his mind. So, he asked, "This couldn't be related to Huo Jingjing, right?"

"This is what she owed Jingjing: her legs and her career. Although she can't be compared to Jingjing, this is her payback for now," Tangning said calmly, but Fang Yu could not comprehend the coldness in her eyes, "I did not expect much. I simply wanted to give her a tooth for a tooth. But, she still owes one more thing. I will send it over on behalf of Jingjing soon."

"Wasn't Jingjing's injury an accident?"

"Of course not. Xiao Yue saw with her own eyes that Duan Jinghong was near your apartment on the night of Jingjing's injury. In this world, if someone has done something, it is impossible to leave no trace," Tangning replied before she looked at Fang Yu with a dark expression, "You are Jingjing's husband. If you knew about this matter beforehand, you wouldn't have been able to control your emotions. Regardless, this is a battle between women, so I didn't think it was necessary to implicate you. That's why I handled it without consulting you first. Especially since I had my own payback that I needed to get."

Fang Yu was suddenly speechless. He was shocked by the truth because he felt that the human heart was an ugly thing.

Of course, he would never pity Duan Jinghong, otherwise, what about his innocent wife?

"I can't believe that I'm the last to know..."

"No, Jingjing doesn't know yet either."

Fang Yu did not say anything else, because he knew, everything that Tangning did was to help Huo Jingjing get revenge.

In the end, Fang Yu did not know when he left Mo Ting's office, all he remembered was, before he left, Mo Ting had told him, "Prepare for the promotion of 'The Lost Relative'. Since the release date has been moved forward, we need to ensure that nothing goes wrong."

Afterwards, Fang Yu went to visit Duan Jinghong at the hospital on behalf of Hai Rui. After her other visitors finished giving their well-wishes, Fang Yu requested for some time alone with Duan Jinghong.

Duan Jinghong did not know what Fang Yu wanted to talk about. Perhaps, he simply wanted to tell her not to drag down Song Xin or something similar. But, to her surprise, Fang Yu asked, "Was it your idea or Song Xin's idea?"

Duan Jinghong froze, unsure what Fang Yu was trying to ask.

"Using an aggressive dog to attack Jingjing: was it your idea or Song Xin's?"

Hearing Jingjing's name, Duan Jinghong clasped her hands nervously and shook her head, "I don't understand what you're saying."

"I'm sure you know how you ended up this way. I want to know who the mastermind was. Answer me."

Fang Yu expressed himself clearly: Duan Jinghong had ended up in her current state because it was planned and not because of an accident.

However, it was all payback!

After thinking for a moment, Duan Jinghong's eyes turned red. Since Song Xin thought so highly of herself, then she was going to leave the matter for Song Xin to deal with by herself, "Song Xin."

"Hasn't anyone warned you not to provoke Tangning? I've seen plenty of overconfident people, but their fate...You can just look at yourself..." Fang Yu's voice was icy cold. "I heard that you and Song Xin had a falling out. Think about what you've done for her and look at how she's treated you in return. I can simply say that you reaped what you sowed!"

Duan Jinghong could not retaliate. After all, everything that Fang Yu said was the truth.

People in this world were terrifying. Just like Song Xin and Tangning.

Song Xin did not need a reason to hurt someone. It could simply be because she didn't like the look of a person.

However, there was a person like Tangning who always made people pay for their actions. She never provoked others, but she always got her revenge.

When comparing the two women, she liked Tangning's methods more. At least...

...Tangning maintained her bottom line.

"I know that Huo Jingjing is your wife. If you want to get revenge, direct it towards me. I can handle it."

"No need. You're just a pawn. Plus, you've already paid back enough," Fang Yu was trying to say that the most important person in this incident was still Song Xin.

Even so, Fang Yu still left a small present for Duan Jinghong as he left.

The originally secure hospital was suddenly filled with reporters. In front of the cameras, Duan Jinghong's last bit of dignity was stripped clean...

...

Meanwhile, Song Xin was too afraid to even take a deep breath. All she could do was hide at home, too afraid to express her thoughts towards Duan Jinghong's matters.

After Duan Jinghong's accident, Song Xin's work could only be temporarily suspended. Hai Rui had no intention to appoint a new manager for her either, so the current situation was at a standstill.

Song Xin waited until the situation died down before she finally sat down and thought about Duan Jinghong's accident. From her understanding, Duan Jinghong wasn't such a stupid person.

However, in the spur of the moment, she simply focused on drawing a fine line with Duan Jinghong and did not ask about the incident in detail. Although Hai Rui had announced the result of their investigation, they never mentioned the motive.

After thinking for a moment, Song Xin gave Duan Jinghong a phone call, "Jinghong, no matter how I think about it, I can't understand what happened. I feel like someone schemed against us."

Duan Jinghong held onto her phone and sneered, "I was simply not careful enough. This was all an accident..."

She wouldn't and couldn't tell Song Xin that Tangning knew about the tricks she had played. She wanted to slowly watch Tangning swallow Song Xin whole.

Song Xin thought she was a genius. She thought she was unrivaled in all aspects. Who would have thought, when faced with Tangning, she was but a mantis stalking a cicada 1 .

She couldn't imagine the extent of Tangning's EQ nor did she want to guess how much Tangning knew...

"Jinghong, you need to tell me the truth. That's the only way I can guarantee safety for both of us."

You're just protecting yourself, Duan Jinghong thought to herself.

"There's really nothing more to it. I was momentarily possessed by greed. I'm tired, I'm going to get some rest," Duan Jinghong said before she hung up the phone.

Song Xin...

From now on, she had to handle things on her own.

At times, Duan Jinghong hated Song Xin. After everything she had done for her, what was the result?

She also wanted to see Song Xin's fate!

Chapter 697: You Are Wetter Than I Am, You Should Wipe Yourself Off First !

When Huo Jingjing found out the truth, she felt like everything had changed. At the time of the dog attack, she simply wanted to protect Xiao Yue, so she was brimming with courage and did not have time to feel panic nor fear.

Above all, she never considered that there'd be an ugly scheme behind the entire incident. Even if she had figured it out, she wouldn't have been like Tangning; stealthily monitoring her enemy for so long, just to get revenge.

At times, she admired Tangning's patience and her intentions. In Tangning's words, the industry was a place where people stepped on each other. If one did not set rules and clarify their bottom line, someone was bound to use their shoulders to boost themselves up, until one day, their corpse would be found lying around outside without them knowing what had even happened.

If the dog attack had not happened, Huo Jingjing may not have been so emotionally affected. But, in the face of fame and fortune, whenever shortcuts existed, people were bound to do anything to take them, even if it meant hurting others.

"Following on, you still have Song Xin to deal with. What do you plan on doing?" Huo Jingjing asked over the phone.

“Do you think she’ll just sit around quietly and do nothing?” Tangning asked back.

“But, Duan Jinghong’s news has already implicated her. I’m sure she’ll watch her behavior, right?”

Tangning’s motive was indeed to suppress Song Xin’s arrogance. But, she did not think that Song Xin could be controlled so easily.

“That’s enough, let’s move away from this upsetting topic. I saw that Fang Yu’s been preparing the promotion for your new film. Your third film is about to be released. Congratulations!”

Third film...

It felt like a long time ago, but, whenever Tangning thought about the satisfied looks of the audience as they left the theaters, she was extremely proud. No matter how many times she experienced that feeling, she would never get sick of it.

After all, she was an actress that looked forward to the reactions of the audience.

...

Plenty had happened during this period of time, but An Zihao placed his focus on Chen Xingyan and did not take notice of Tangning’s actions.

That night, the weather was rainy again. After filming in the forest, the production crew quickly returned to the hotel. But, as An Zihao arrived, Chen Xingyan was nowhere to be seen. So, he went to ask the director.

The director held his head and thought carefully. After a few minutes, he finally answered, “The last scene I filmed was with Ling Long. Afterwards, I notified all the staff to pack up and leave. The staff wouldn’t have forgotten to notify her, right?”

An Zihao did not listen to another word from the director as he immediately ran downstairs to prepare a car. He was going to drive back to the film set in the forest.

Ling Long was downstairs at that moment. As soon as she saw An Zihao, she immediately stopped him in his track, “Director An, I remember Chen Xingyan mentioned that she’d be returning to Beijing, do you want to call her to check?”

As soon as An Zihao heard this, he immediately called Chen Xingyan’s phone. But, her phone was already switched off. In such rainy weather, if Chen Xingyan was planning to go anywhere, she would have told him – unless her phone was out of battery.

Afterwards, An Zihao got into his car and rushed back to Beijing. At this time, Ling Long pulled out Chen Xingyan’s phone and threw it in the bin.

“That’s what she gets for being proud.”

The present Ling Long had been demoted to the position of supporting actress, while Chen Xingyan had been given back her role as female lead.

Ling Long was filled with resentment. She had been waiting for an opportunity to deal with Chen Xingyan. So, now that she had been given a rare chance, she wanted to see how long Chen Xingyan would last up in the mountains in such harsh weather.

...

Enroute back to Beijing, An Zihao kept thinking about what Ling Long had said. It was often said that people got flustered when a matter involved themselves. So, why did he easily trust Ling Long's words and believe that Chen Xingyan had returned to Beijing?

Thinking of this, An Zihao immediately turned the car around and drove straight up the mountain. But, because of the heavy rain and uneven roads, the car had its limitations.

However, for the sake of Chen Xingyan, he couldn't overthink things. Without grabbing an umbrella, he directly jumped out of the car and went in search of Chen Xingyan in the rain.

"Xiao Xing..."

"Xingyan."

A voice drifted towards Chen Xinyan from the distance. For a moment, she thought she was hallucinating. She was indeed trapped in the forest because no one had told her that filming had ended and she had fallen asleep on set. However, when she awoke, she realized that her phone was missing. Originally, she had already decided to spend the night there and leave the mountain in the morning. But, to her surprise...An Zihao came looking for her.

Chen Xingyan wasn't a delicate woman, but when she saw An Zihao appear from the rain, she couldn't believe that she'd pounce straight into his arms.

Luckily, the crew had set up a wooden cabin where she could temporarily hide from the rain. Otherwise, how would she have withstood the night?

"Are you OK?" An Zihao asked as he hugged her.

"Yes, I'm fine," Chen Xingyan murmured.

An Zihao froze for a moment and remembered that his shirt was completely soaked. Originally, he wanted to push Chen Xingyan away, but she refused to let him go.

"I'm wet, you'll catch a cold."

"I'm not afraid," Chen Xingyan argued childishly.

"We can't stay here, let's think of a way to leave the mountains." An Zihao noticed that the cabin couldn't block out the wind, so he took off his jacket and threw it over himself and Chen Xingyan, "Let's go down like this. My car is parked not too far away."

"I'm not that delicate..."

"You have a man now. Even if you're not delicate, you should act delicate in front of me," An Zihao hugged Chen Xingyan as he led her out of the cabin. The couple walked through the rain and quickly

arrived at An Zihao's car. After they boarded the car, An Zihao grabbed a blanket from the back and handed it to Chen Xingyan, "Dry yourself off..."

"You are wetter than I am, you should wipe yourself dry first!"

"Stop nagging, I need to drive," An Zihao said before he started the car and returned to the hotel where the cast and crew stayed.

Half an hour later, An Zihao pushed Chen Xingyan into his room and ordered, "Have a bath."

"What about you?"

An Zihao did not respond as he stormed over to Ling Long's room and knocked on her door. Of course, to avoid any misunderstandings, he asked a hotel staff to accompany him.

Ling Long opened her door curiously to find An Zihao with one arm outstretched, "Give me back the phone!"

"I don't understand."

"Of course you do. Where's Chen Xingyan's phone?" An Zihao's voice had a trace of danger. "If you don't tell me right now, I can guarantee that you'd be kicked out of the cast tomorrow. I'm sure you know that Chen Xingyan is Mo Ting's sister."

Ling Long's face turned pale in fear...

But, she still refused to admit that she had the phone, "I...I truly don't understand what you are trying to say. Director An, I think we have a misunderstanding."

"Great, absolutely great!" After speaking, An Zihao left Ling Long's room...

Chapter 698: Then...Can I Kiss You More Often ?

A moment later, An Zihao gave Tangning a phone call. He wanted to use Mo Ting to help Chen Xingyan get revenge...

When he finally returned to the room, Chen Xingyan had just finished getting changed. Seeing the anger on An Zihao's face, Chen Xingyan figured that he had gone to get payback, so she quickly shook her head, "You didn't need to do that."

"I went to stick up for you. Why are you complaining?"

"No one has ever stuck up for me in the past," Chen Xingyan laughed, "And my life still turned out fine, didn't it?"

It was because she had always protected herself that Chen Xingyan became a person that acted independently and was extremely self-centered.

"That was the past..."

Chen Xingyan pounced towards An Zihao once again and hugged him. Her soft body pressed firmly against his soaking wet body...

“Have a shower and get some rest...” An Zihao quickly pushed Chen Xingyan away, afraid that he’d act impulsively and do something unforgivable.

“But, you also need to wash yourself off...”

“Don’t mind me,” An Zihao held Chen Xingyan’s head in place, not allowing her to move recklessly. “I have my desires, if you keep making reckless moves, I may eat you up.”

Chen Xingyan froze and looked at An Zihao blankly.

An Zihao sighed. Just as he was about to turn around, Chen Xingyan wrapped her arms around him in a hug, “I refuse to believe that!”

“Don’t act like a little thug. A woman’s every decision should go through careful consideration.”

“So...everything that’s gone through careful consideration, is correct? A woman’s decision doesn’t change depending on the man they meet?”

This was the first time that An Zihao lost to Chen Xingyan verbally.

“Stay here tonight.”

“People in the crew will find out.”

“Everyone can already tell that you like me,” Chen Xingyan said with slightly flushed cheeks.

“It will ruin your reputation,” An Zihao said with a strict expression. “Listen to me, go to sleep.”

“If you reject me again, I will kiss you in public tomorrow!” Chen Xingyan threatened childishly.

“In the end, you don’t care about your acting career, do you? What woman acts as casually as you do? How could you ask a man to stay the night so easily?”

An Zihao appeared ready to explode in anger, but...Chen Xingyan rubbed her head against his chest and said, “No one has treated me the way that you do: you’re kind to me, you worry about me and you take care of me. Ever since my father left, I haven’t experienced this feeling of being protected until now. I’m asking you to stay, not because I want anything to happen between us. I simply want to keep the feeling of being protected for a little longer.”

An Zihao was stunned by Chen Xingyan’s words. After a short moment, he suddenly covered her with his jacket, “Let’s go.”

“Where?”

“You’ll see when we get there.”

After speaking, An Zihao led Chen Xingyan out of the room. As he walked, he spoke to the director on the phone, “Director, Ling Long trapped Chen Xingyan on the mountain and caused her to be soaked by rain. I am taking her to the hospital right now. Please rearrange the filming schedule for tomorrow.”

As soon as the director heard what Ling Long had done, he immediately replied, “OK, take good care of her.”

An Zihao did not say any more as he continued to lead Chen Xingyan out of the hotel. He ended up taking her to the hospital as per his conversation with the director, but he simply bought some cold medicine.

Afterwards, he took Chen Xingyan to a seaside bed and breakfast to stay the night.

The location was peaceful and the bed and breakfast was owned by a friend, so they weren't at risk of being followed or photographed.

Chen Xingyan did not expect An Zihao to take her to another accommodation. Her heart began to race in panic and anticipation...

"Go. You can finally have a shower and get some rest, right?" An Zihao asked helplessly.

If Chen Xingyan had been obedient, she would have been deep in her dreams by now.

"But...there's only one bed..." Chen Xingyan said as she pointed to the bed. "You..."

"Look at you. You're not an old lady, but why are your thoughts so complicated?"

Just as An Zihao was about to say that he'd sleep on the sofa, Chen Xingyan suddenly moved in and bit down sensually on his lip.

An Zihao's eyes grew big. He wanted to push her away, but she began to run her hands randomly all over his body.

An Zihao couldn't resist temptation, so he immediately pressed Chen Xingyan under his body and kissed her passionately. Their cheeks flushed red, but after quite some time, An Zihao ended up releasing her and warned, "Get a good night's rest. Stop thinking too much. Kissing is my bottom line, don't think about doing anything else!"

"When can we move beyond kissing?"

"You're not even 20 yet. Don't talk to me about adult-rated stuff," An Zihao said as he pinched her nose.

"Then...can I kiss you more often?"

An Zihao stood up from the bed and covered her head in a dry towel, "Depends on your performance."

"It seems very peaceful here," Chen Xingyan mumbled as she enjoyed the special drying service provided by An Zihao.

"A friend opened this place. The area is not bad," An Zihao replied.

"Then, let's make this place our secret meeting spot from now on, what do you say? With our identities, we don't get many chances to go on dates."

Hearing Chen Xingyan's complaint, An Zihao stopped drying her hair. He suddenly felt like he had deprived her of things that she shouldn't have been deprived of: a girl's longing to be in love and the sweetness they desired from their lover.

As a result, An Zihao agreed, even though he originally wanted to say no.

He obviously knew what would happen if they got discovered, but he still dove headfirst into danger. Because, Chen Xingyan was amazing and he didn't want to lose her...

...

Meanwhile, Tangning was lying on Mo Ting's chest as she told him about An Zihao's phone call.

"Ting...don't you think An Zihao has overstepped his boundaries with Xingyan?"

"Isn't that what you wanted to see?" Mo Ting hugged Tangning as he placed his warm palms on top of her stomach; enjoying the movements of the baby inside.

"You're Xingyan's older brother. Since your sister is suffering, I think you should help her."

Mo Ting did not respond, he simply focused on the movement in his palms. After quite some time, he finally whispered seductively in Tangning's ear, "Hurry and give birth..."

"This isn't something that I can decide," Tangning supported her back tiredly. "When will the building next door be finished with its renovations?"

"Our baby will be able to move in after you give birth."

"Will that be bad for the baby?"

"The renovations followed strict guidelines, it won't be harmful for the baby," Mo Ting replied. "I've almost forgotten how you looked before you were pregnant..."

"Am I fat? I must look bad," Tangning covered her cheeks and sighed.

Mo Ting chuckled without responding to Tangning's question. He simply leaned towards her ear and said something completely unrelated, "It's not that you look bad...It's just inconvenient to do certain activities..."

Chapter 699: Fight Until The End !

Mo Ting wasn't going to care about Chen Xingyan, otherwise, An Zihao's job was much too carefree.

...

Over the past few days, due to the upcoming release of Tangning's newest film – 'The Lost Relative' – the 30-second trailer was set on repeat on the big screen outside Hai Rui.

Everyone that walked past would take a glance. Even though plenty of fans had seen the trailer before, Tangning still had a magical drawing power. A cold fighter wasn't something that existed in everyday life, but the way that her character searched desperately for her husband and the way she portrayed it so realistically, made other women feel like they could relate and could feel her pain.

The film was originally scheduled for the vacation period, but, because of recent events, the public were relatively negative. Therefore, Mo Ting decided to move the release date forward to take advantage of the moment and draw the public's attention away.

This film was spectacular in both drama and action, so Hai Rui had high expectations for it. The film was scheduled for an April 21st release and starred Tangning; it was expected that the distribution of the film would be highly popular. But, there was one particular theater that did not plan to screen it at all: Kaihuang Theaters!

They were rising stars in the industry and they grew quickly in popularity. But, they completely shocked everyone with their decision.

Mo Ting asked Fang Yu to handle the matter, but the other party contacted them first and said that their boss wanted to invite Mo Ting and his wife to lunch.

Unfortunately, Tangning was 9-months pregnant and did not like to move around too much, let alone accept invitations to go anywhere. Plus, she did not know the man, nor were they connected in anyway.

“I’m simply asking you to join me for a meal. Are you afraid that I may do something to you? Does Hai Rui not want a harmonious relationship within the film and television industry, perhaps? Or, have you not thought about working with a big partner like Kaihuang?”

Tangning was pushed into the firing line by Xiao Yuhe’s words. After all, Hai Rui had other shareholders; if she didn’t go, the ramifications weren’t severe, but the other shareholders would not be pleased.

Obviously, this man did not have good intentions.

“Let’s meet then,” Mo Ting replied.

Two days later, inside one of Kaihuang’s subsidiary hotels, Xiao Yuhe invited Mo Ting and Tangning to a lunch in their scenic top-floor restaurant.

“President Mo and Mrs Mo aren’t easy to invite...I put in a lot of effort to get you here.” Xiao Yuhe was dressed in a grey suit and he stood with a good posture like a gentleman. On the surface, he appeared to be quite an outstanding man.

“I’m close to giving birth, so it’s not convenient for me to move around” Tangning smiled. “I’m sorry for dismissing your kind gesture.”

“I’ve heard how President Mo and Mrs Mo have combined their powers to create a successful business...”

“President Xiao, let’s be honest and not go around in circles,” Tangning spoke alone, almost like she was Mo Ting’s manager. After all, Mo Ting had no intention to speak to the man because he had no regard for him.

“Song Xin is my girlfriend. I want to see her progress in Hai Rui and I want President Mo and Mrs Mo to go easy on her. I hope you can stop suppressing her so much,” Xiao Yuhe let down his guard after seeing Tangning’s directness.

“Mrs Mo’s third film is about to screen. I had a look at it and I know it’s a good film...but, my father does not think so. That’s why we haven’t distributed it to any of our theaters.”

“What I’m trying to say is, can I come to an agreement with President Mo? If you give Song Xin the best resources, I’ll give Mrs Mo the best platform for her film.”

So...it was because of Song Xin...

“President Mo should understand me the most, right? After all, you only have one Mrs Mo. I simply don’t want my Song Xin to suffer. Look at her, from the moment that her manager has been injured, no one’s cared about her or helped her arrange anything...My heart hurts just thinking about it.”

Xiao Yuhe was nothing like Song Xin. He appeared reliable, but hard to read.

If one read between the lines, his appeared both flexible, yet threatening.

At this time, Mo Ting finally responded. He placed his right arm on the back of Tangning’s chair and looked at her as he said, “There aren’t many people in Beijing that are brave enough to threaten me.”

“Really? I guess President Mo has to get used to it...” Xiao Yuhe laughed naturally.

“But, President Xiao, I think you may be mistaken...” Mo Ting retrieved his gaze from Tangning as his black diamond-like eyes lit up with a wise twinkle, “Song Xin is my artist and I hate it when my artist breaks the rules set in their contract. For example, there is a rule in Song Xin’s contract that clearly states that she cannot date during the period of her contract.”

“In addition, Song Xin’s matters are handled by our Vice President. If every artist is addressed by me personally, how tired would I be? Huh?”

“Lastly, it is entirely your decision whether you want to distribute a film or not. But, you’ve overestimated the situation. I really don’t care as much as you think I do. How much of a loss do you think Hai Rui will suffer? I think you should be controlling your threatening attitude; from what I see, you should be pleading me instead.”

After speaking, Mo Ting looked at Tangning. His voice was no longer as cold, “Have some chicken soup, you haven’t been eating much lately.”

“Uh huh,” Tangning nodded obediently as she minded her own business and drank some chicken soup.

Xiao Yuhe’s original intention was to apply pressure on the couple, but to his surprise, he was rendered speechless by Mo Ting’s words. He couldn’t argue back at all.

More importantly, the couple began to do their own thing and dug into their meals without any consideration for him.

Xiao Yuhe couldn’t laugh, cry, nor get angry. But, he didn’t want to admit defeat. So, after they were done with their lunch, he asked, “Since President Mo doesn’t look highly on Song Xin, why don’t you do me a favor and just free her from her contract? I’m more than willing to train and support her.”

“You can call Hai Rui’s Vice President and consult Song Xin’s contract. We will do as the contract says,” Mo Ting brushed him off.

“President Mo, don’t you think you are acting a bit strange? Your reaction makes me feel like Song Xin has offended you in some way.”

Hearing this, Mo Ting lifted his head and stared at Xiao Yuhe.

There were some things that did not need to be pointed out.

How could he possibly let Song Xin go? How could he let someone that tried to hurt Tangning and his child go?

“From now on, if you have anything concerning Song Xin, you can speak directly to the Vice President of Hai Rui. Thank you for the warm hospitality, I will make sure to return it to you someday.”

In the end, even after an entire meal was over, Xiao Yuhe did not achieve his motive.

He couldn't threaten Mo Ting, nor could he secure any special treatment for Song Xin. Worst of all, he couldn't even retrieve her contract.

During this entire time, Song Xin was separated from the three by a wall of glass. After hearing what Mo Ting had said, Song Xin finally understood his attitude towards her.

She felt her entire body burst into flames of anger. In the end, she had no choice but to be suppressed by Tangning. She was suppressed strongly by Tangning!

Since that was the case, all she could do was go all out and fight until the end!

Chapter 700: Who Exactly Plagiarized Who ?

‘The Lost Relative’ was about to be released and people from all walks of life paid close attention to it with much anticipation. Tangning had plenty of box office appeal and the action film was a big production, so the 30-second trailer was already enough to amaze everyone, let alone a 2-hour feature film.

Everyone looked forward to April 21st, while fans showed their support through various methods. However, the day before the official release...

...an online post titled, [‘The Lost Relative’ confirmed as plagiarized material. All those in support of the film are accessories to the crime!], attracted everyone’s attention.

With the growing public awareness of copyright, most people now had a zero-tolerance attitude towards plagiarism. In the post, there was clear evidence that the ‘The Lost Relative’ copied a novel called ‘The Tracker’. From the main storyline to the general structure of the story to the plot setting, everything was frighteningly similar. So, as soon as this post was written, it attracted quite an uproar.

“I can’t believe it was plagiarized! How hateful! I originally wanted to watch it because of Tangning’s acting, but the anticipation was all in vain.”

“Plagiarism is a shameful act. Get rid of this film right away and don’t embarrass yourselves!”

“Sorry, we have zero-tolerance towards plagiarism.”

“Was Tangning aware of the plagiarism or not?”

“But...why have I never heard of ‘The Tracker’ before?”

According to online data, ‘The Tracker’ was a web novel that was last updated 3 years ago, with a total of 540,000 characters. Perhaps due to its performance, the author only wrote this one novel and never appeared again.

But, the oddest thing about the novel was, why did no one take notice of such a great story? And why was there so little information about it online?

Either way, the novel was indeed released earlier than 'The Lost Relative', so it was more convincing.

"Did they plagiarize it because it wasn't famous?"

"What a shameful plagiarist!"

Regarding this, Hai Rui immediately provided a response and declared that they would begin an investigation and disclose the facts.

Afterwards, Hai Rui contacted the screenwriter. The screenwriter was angry and felt wronged, "This is a complete insult to my character. I've already written many scripts in the past and have won multiple awards. Why would I plagiarize someone's work and ruin my reputation?"

In the end, fearing that Mo Ting did not believe him, the screenwriter produced all his creative material as proof.

"President Mo, although I don't know what this is all about, I can guarantee that I did not plagiarize. Please investigate this matter in detail and help me get justice. I have no idea where 'The Tracker' came from."

The claim indeed had its flaws.

But, the public did not care to look for the truth. All they knew was, if someone plagiarized, then they would boycott it – it was that simple.

The consequences of plagiarism were severe. Tangning had experienced it in the past when the script of 'Stupid' was leaked and Mo Ting released a book to secure the copyright. But, the current film was one step from release, yet something like this happened. So, were they still to release it or not?

Logically speaking, the average person would go ahead with the release schedule and start screening the film as normal while telling the public that they'd investigate the matter. But, in reality, they would take advantage of the publicity created by the scandal to sell out at the box office.

However, this matter involved Hai Rui and it was the first time they dealt with a matter like this, so the higher-ups attached great importance to it. Hence, Mo Ting personally declared, "Until the truth is revealed, the film release will be postponed indefinitely. Hai Rui will never pollute the eyes of the public with plagiarized material and Tangning will never use it to prove her strength."

"Please wait for us to unravel the truth."

The majority of people agreed with Hai Rui's reaction. After all, Hai Rui was the leader in the entertainment industry and its status was as powerful as ever; postponing a film was no big issue to them, nor did they need to worry about losses.

However, there were some people that believed that Hai Rui were avoiding responsibility. By doing what they did, they could still maintain their dignity.

To take the investigation a step further, Mo Ting directly invited the screenwriter to his office. For the sake of his own reputation, the 50-something-year-old middle-aged man brought all his manuscripts with him to Hai Rui, "I'm not sure why it is so similar. 'The Lost Relative' was indeed written in the last two years, but I never plagiarized anyone."

Mo Ting did not say a word as he exchanged glances with Tangning.

In the end, Tangning gave the man a definitive response, "We trust you."

"I actually think that this 'Tracker' person copied the framework of my script. After all, the test screening has been done and the storyline is no secret," the screenwriter explained.

"In that case, are you familiar with the platforms used for web novels and how they work?" Tangning asked.

"I have friends in that field. I've heard that they update daily according to a fixed number of characters, and then they earn money according to the number of views," the middle-aged man replied.

Tangning fell into deep thought as Mo Ting explained, "We need to look into 'The Tracker' to find answers."

"But, it was indeed written before my script."

This was the crux of the problem!

If they could prove who came first, the roles could well be reversed.

...

The film had been postponed and the public were in an uproar; this was exactly the result that Song Xin wanted to see.

How did she manage to arrange something like this? It was probably because she was also a part of the writing industry. Generally speaking, authors weren't as ambitious as screenwriters, so they were happy to accept new and interesting things within the industry. As a result, she was familiar with web novels and understood how they worked.

Since Tangning wasn't going to make things easy for her, she could also make it so Tangning's film remained locked away and never released.

She wanted to see how Tangning was to ever win the Fei Tian Award for Best Actress if she had a history of appearing in a plagiarized work.

She wouldn't be able to even think about it!

They were talking about plagiarism! Everyone hated plagiarism!

However, Tangning did not suffer a blow as Song Xin assumed. After all, she was already accustomed to multiple twists and turns. Plus, she had faith that the screenwriter did not plagiarize and there were other reasons behind the scandal.

She simply needed a bit of time to get her head around an unfamiliar industry and to seriously find answers. She too wanted to know the truth and to solve the mystery behind the timing.

Who exactly plagiarized who?

How was she to prove that Elder Wu did not plagiarize anyone?

“That’s enough. You’re about to give birth. Can’t you rest for a couple of days and leave the investigation for Fang Yu to handle?” Long Jie couldn’t stand watching Tangning handle the matter personally.

“I can rest for a couple of days, but the person that is attacking me from the shadows won’t be resting,” Tangning replied as she looked at ‘The Tracker’.

“But, it’s obviously plagiarized. The novel was released a few years before the script.”

“There’s definitely a problem. I will definitely find it,” Tangning said as she flipped through the information in her hands. “Long Jie, tell me, do you think it’s possible to alter the release date of a web novel?”