

Work Hard 821

Chapter 821: He Can't Step On Us And Become Famous

Even SMY's agency felt that Luo Sheng was stupid for not taking the opportunity to join a new agency.

"With that face of his, if he was smart, he would already be famous throughout the entire nation and not be at home selling vegetables for his father."

"It's lucky that he isn't famous. Otherwise, our current mess would be even harder to clean up. I was already careful, how did these scandals start?" the manager of SMY said to the boss of the agency.

"As someone sitting at the bottom level of the entertainment industry, did you still think that you could have secrets?"

Everyone felt lucky that Luo Sheng was at home working hard as a commoner with no involvement in the current matter. After all, if an artist had no background and was unwilling to take part in under-the-table transactions, then they deserved to be stuck in a dead end.

SMY's members didn't like the fact that Luo Sheng was the only one that received praise, so they instructed some people to cause trouble at Luo Sheng's store.

"Tell your son that he better hide himself well and not show his face. Otherwise, we will hit him everytime we see him."

The trio of burly men arrived at Luo Sheng's store, smashed everything they saw and frightened Luo Sheng's parents pretty badly.

Afterwards, Mother Luo kept the entire incident to herself in order not to affect Luo Sheng.

As a result, Luo Sheng was completely oblivious. However, Long Jie had sources everywhere and knew exactly what had happened, so she noted down this vengeance on behalf of Luo Sheng.

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Soon, the television drama featuring Luo Sheng as the secondary lead, began to broadcast during primetime on a famous channel. U.p.dated by B O X N O V E L . COM

Although the cast consisted of new faces, they were all undeniably handsome and beautiful. Plus, their characters were evil, cold and intelligent. Even though their performances weren't extremely outstanding, their acting was consistent. So, after two episodes, they already received a huge response from the public.

"Oh! Have you guys seen the latest idol drama? My girly heart is beating out of its chest."

"Phwoar, everyone is so good looking. Even through the screen I can sense the high levels of collagen."

"I feel like I've returned to my youth."

"Only two episodes have been released. After watching it, I feel it's OK and not cheesy. That's quite rare."

“Chase! Chase! There’s a drama to chase now.”

As there had only been two chapters, the secondary male lead barely appeared on screen. But, the cold school bully played by Luo Sheng immediately made the female viewers squeal in excitement as soon as they saw him.

He was wearing a clean white shirt and a pair of white sneakers. As he walked past his fellow schoolmates, he gave off a distant vibe even though he was physically close to them.

“This young man is quite clean cut.”

“Why does he look so familiar?”

“Oh, I looked at the names of the cast. He is Luo Sheng!”

“He is super handsome. Luo Sheng, I want to have your babies!”

Indeed, as Tangning expected, those that had been searching desperately for information on Luo Sheng were filled with excitement after seeing Luo Sheng’s television drama.

Especially when it came to younger women. How could they not blush when seeing Luo Sheng’s handsome face?

It didn’t take long before the television ratings for ‘The Devil’s Out’ began to rise. So, from the third night of airing onwards, the numbers continued to shoot upwards. Soon, the first thing that schoolgirls did when they returned home was watch the drama alongside their homework.

Even parents that noticed their daughters swooning over this young man couldn’t help but sigh, “This young man is very clean cut.”

They originally wanted to turn off the drama. But, in the end, they simply allowed it. After all, who hadn’t been charmed by good looks when they were young?

At this time, Luo Sheng’s previous agency finally received news of his appearance in a television drama.

Seeing Luo Sheng’s fan base increase every single day, his previous manager was furious, “This Luo Sheng! I thought he left the industry. It turns out, he went to film a drama behind our backs. In fact, his drama has only aired a few episodes and he already looks like he will be famous. How shameless!”

After seeing the news, SMY’s members were shocked too, “Luo Sheng sure has his tricks. So he abandoned us to take part in a drama.”

“Mi Jie, we can’t let him continue like this. Otherwise, what would become of us?”

“Exactly. We started from the same boy group, he can’t step on us and become famous.”

“Don’t worry. I’ll do what I can to contact his current agency. I would like to see which agency managed to give someone like Luo Sheng a second chance.”

However, no matter how they denied it, Luo Sheng was already famous.

SMY’s bad reputation was known to the entire nation, while Luo Sheng was given a new lease on life. All of a sudden, he was on the path to stardom.

“He received a lot of invites for threesomes in the past. I wonder if his fans would still like him if we revealed this information.”

“He also looks like the type that likes to drink alcohol.”

“Idiots!” SMY’s manager slammed her hands on the table after seeing their immature way of thinking. “If you are to point out Luo Sheng’s faults at this time, you will simply look like troublemakers that are slandering him. Worst of all, the public will think that you are trying to leech off Luo Sheng’s popularity. How bad of an image do you want?”

The three young men retreated without another word.

“I will handle this matter. The three of you don’t need to worry about it,” the manager glared at them. But, how would they have known that Luo Sheng’s jump to fame was not an accident or moment of luck?

Everything happened because of Tangning’s precise judgment, Long Jie’s execution and Lin Qian’s management.

The outside world was crazy about Luo Sheng’s looks, but Luo Sheng hadn’t prepared himself for this sudden rush of attention.

Seeing a rare smile on Luo Sheng’s face, Long Jie warned, “You will continue to grow in fame, so your previous agency will eventually come looking for you. They may try to slander you, bribe you or try other tricks on you.”

“Don’t worry, Long Jie, I will do as you say.”

“There’s one thing I haven’t told you yet,” Long Jie thought for a moment and finally revealed the incident with Mother Luo and Father Luo. “I am aware of the consequences of telling you this, but I’ve chosen to tell you anyway because I want to know if you will act impulsively. Do you trust that we will get revenge for you, or will you impulsively act on your own and destroy the life that has just been reborn.”

After hearing this, Luo Sheng clenched his fists so tightly that they cracked.

“It’s not time yet.”

Hearing Long Jie say this, Luo Sheng took a deep breath and calmed himself down, “Don’t worry, I won’t act recklessly.”

“Good. Did you know? The drama hasn’t even been aired halfway and advertisers have already started looking for you. Plus, you’ve also been invited to take part in another idol drama. Your path has just begun.”

“As for those other feral creatures, they will simply grow in jealousy. You simply need to focus on your performance and leave them for us to deal.”

Chapter 822: Try To Complain? Get A Face Slap.

To prevent people from causing trouble again, Long Jie specifically hired two bodyguards for Luo Sheng's parents. These two men appeared to be normal workers in the store, but in reality, they could paralyze a person with one swift move.

Of course, SMY's members couldn't accept being overshadowed. Especially since they had always been the ones to bully Luo Sheng. How could they let him tread on top of them now?

So, they hired three men to appear at Luo Sheng's parents' store to cause trouble again. Unfortunately, as soon as they stepped foot into the store, they were kicked out by the bodyguards arranged by Long Jie. On top of that, they were dragged to an empty alley and given a good beating.

"If you turn on the three rascals that hired you and give them a beating, I will pay you triple of what they offered you. What do you say?" the two bodyguards tempted. "We can give you a deposit first."

The three men were beaten up badly, but as soon as they heard that they'd be offered triple the amount, they immediately confirmed, "Are you serious?"

"Of course."

Meanwhile, the three rascals were waiting for the good news. But, to their surprise, as soon as the men they hired returned – they ended up beating them up!

Even though the men weren't professional bodyguards, they were experienced with fighting, so it was impossible for the three rascals to defend themselves.

The three men were badly injured. But, even after arriving at the hospital, they were too afraid to call the police or make a fuss. If people found out about this incident, they would eventually discover that they were actually the ones that tried to cause trouble for Luo Sheng's parents first.

If that happened, their predicament would be even worse.

"I never thought that Luo Sheng would become so ruthless!"

"Somebody's famous now and has money to hire bodyguards. The son of a b*tch is impressive, but I am going to destroy him."

"With your abilities?"

"Don't let me find out which agency signed him on!"

Not only SMY's members, but also their agency was desperately trying to find information on Luo Sheng's current agency. They discovered that the agency's name was 'Superstar Media', but, where did this agency suddenly come from?

No one had ever heard of them before.

"Since it's a no-name agency, they should be easy to deal with. How dare they snatch our artist from us? I'm going to show them who's boss!" Mi Jie said confidently. "I am going to take this opportunity to snatch back Luo Sheng's contract."

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In a short amount of time, Luo Sheng managed to produce some good results. So, late one night, Mo Ting couldn't help but open a bottle of champagne to help Tangning celebrate. U.p..date.d b.y B.oxnovel.com

"You've already secured initial victory and are doing well."

"Mr. Mo, are you trying to say that I am still miles away from being like Hai Rui?" Tangning raised an eyebrow while sitting at the dining table. "Don't worry, I won't disappoint you. By the way, I've noticed that you've gained some weight."

"Really? I must thank my wife for feeding me well."

As Tangning had been spending more time at home, she found herself using half her time experimenting with recipes; even though her cooking was never bad to begin with.

So, these days, Hai Rui's staff would see President Mo carrying a lunch box to and from work everyday. Everyone was so jealous that they would find themselves dribbling at the sight of it. Hence, they all assumed that Tangning had become a housewife after Xu Xin's incident.

"If you get any fatter, I won't want you any more."

After hearing this, Mo Ting lifted Tangning onto the dining table and grabbed hold of her chin, "I dare you to say that again."

Tangning smiled and hooked her arms around his neck submissively, "Why don't you punish me instead?"

"I was just about to do that." As soon as he was done talking, Mo Ting immediately undid his buttons. It seemed, he needed to show his wife properly whether he had truly gained any weight. In reality, he was still as powerful and strong as ever.

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Later that night, Long Jie gave Tangning a phone call, "The manager named Mi Jie has been going around asking for information about our agency. I'm sure she'll come looking for us very soon."

"Good..." Tangning replied as she helped Zichen remove his clothes. "It would be even better if you meet while Luo Sheng is around."

To gain a person's loyalty, one had to give them what they wanted.

The manager had bullied Luo Sheng for a long time, so he was bound to be boiling with hatred. This was an unstable factor that Tangning and Long Jie had to consider.

"Understood. I will display my skills well in front of Luo Sheng and show Mi Jie how to be a proper manager," Long Jie laughed. "That's all for now, good night."

To allow the woman to find her, Long Jie deliberately leaked the agency's address to people within the industry.

And just before she went to sleep, she gave Luo Sheng a phone call, "Come to the office tomorrow afternoon to discuss an endorsement deal."

This was perfect!

However, Lu Che was a little jealous, "Why are you calling your artist so late at night?"

Long Jie understood what he was thinking, so she glared at him with a smile, "Are you jealous?"

"No, it's just that...from now on, you should call your artists earlier..."

"Just admit that you're jealous."

"Fine. A little," Lu Che couldn't deny. "After all, the artist you ladies are investing in is especially good looking, isn't he?"

"I'm already a mother. What are you thinking?" Long Jie hit Lu Che on the chest. "Plus, in my eyes, you will forever be the low EQ block of wood that I like. No matter what happens in the future, nothing can change that."

Lu Che understood that Long Jie wasn't like that. He was simply a little jealous.

"Plus, I know that I will never be as good as you."

"So, even though the President told me not to help the Madam...I'm aware that he never said that I can't help you..."

"Haha...my good husband!" Long Jie didn't care about her pride. She knew that one day she may actually need Lu Che's help.

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Long Jie loved it when her enemies presented themselves in front of her. Especially when they overestimated themselves.

So, early in the morning, she headed straight for the office, just so her enemy wouldn't show up in vain. 8am was sincere enough, wasn't it?

Soon after, Luo Sheng also arrived. Seeing that Long Jie was humming happily to herself, he couldn't help but laugh, "Did something good happen today? Why are you so happy?"

"It's nothing," Long Jie placed a few advertising briefs in front of Luo Sheng. "Although you have plenty of options, you can't simply accept everything. You need to select the ones that are well suited to you. Have a look at these advertising briefs and pick out the ones you want."

Luo Sheng looked at his options: they were either shampoo brands or food brands. Worst of all, the accompanying lines were extremely cheesy...

"Can I...reject them all?"

"Why?" Long Jie revealed a meaningful smile.

But, before Luo Sheng got a chance to reply, Long Jie's secretary began knocking on the door, "Long Jie, the person you've been waiting for has arrived."

Chapter 823: Your Debt May Be Settled, But I Haven't Started With Mine Yet

After hearing the secretary's notification, Long Jie raised her eyebrows and asked Luo Sheng, "Want to watch a good show?"

Luo Sheng looked at Long Jie questioningly, but nodded his head after a few seconds of silence, "Uh huh."

"In that case, promise not to make a sound," Long Jie instructed.

Although Luo Sheng didn't understand what was happening, he didn't question it. From his perspective, he knew that Long Jie would never do anything to hurt him.

Soon, the two of them reached the meeting room. Just outside the door, Long Jie turned and looked at Luo Sheng, "Stay here. Don't come in."

Luo Sheng nodded gently and leaned against the door.

Inside the meeting room, Mi Jie was not alone, she had brought along a knowledgeable lawyer. As soon as they saw Long Jie, they stood up and stuck out their hands, "Hello."

Long Jie glanced at the two people and sat down in her seat, "Mi Jie, let's just get to the point!"

Mi Jie was surprised. She didn't expect Long Jie to know her name, "You..."

"You're Luo Sheng's previous manager, it should be no surprise that I know your name. Speak, what are you here for?"

Mi Jie adjusted her black-framed glasses before she instructed her lawyer to pull out some documents. She then placed it in front of Long Jie, "I came today to discuss Luo Sheng. Three months ago, he paid off his contract cancellation, but he still has a debt that hasn't been cleared. So, we came today to clarify whether Superstar Media will be paying for him, or whether he will be handling the debt himself."

After hearing this, Luo Sheng placed his hands on the door, ready to storm inside, but he remembered what Long Jie had told him about being quiet.

So, he endured it.

"Oh? A debt? Let me have a look," Long Jie grabbed the documents out of the lawyers hands and flipped through it casually. She then smiled and asked, "Why didn't you ask for this three months ago? Now that Luo Sheng's famous, you suddenly show up asking for it. Don't you have a bottom line?"

"This has nothing to do with bottom lines. It is only fair for someone to pay back what they owe," Mi Jie demanded. "I actually don't want much from him. As long as he returns to my agency for half a year, he will clear everything he owes."

"Do you have any shame?" Long Jie asked.

"We are simply negotiating..."

"I am also negotiating with you," Long Jie replied smoothly. "Previously, when Luo Sheng wasn't famous yet, you kept complaining about him. Now that he's made a comeback, you expect him to return?"

“Since you refuse to take our offer, then Superstar Media can pay his debt for him.” U.p..date.d b.y B.oxnovel.com

“Fine. Next year, during the Qing Ming Festival I will burn a few extra notes for you,” Long Jie said as she slammed her hands on the table. “Have you looked at yourself in the mirror? How dare you try to play tricks in front of me? Would you believe that I’d reveal to the public that you are keeping three toy boys in private? Back when I was a manager, you were still playing in the sand pit. How dare you act arrogantly in front of me!”

After hearing that Long Jie knew about her secret, Mi Jie’s face turned pale.

“You...you’re talking nonsense!”

“I can speak nonsense, but evidence won’t. Not only do I have evidence about you, I also have evidence that your boss is keeping a mistress in a lake house and this mistress has given birth to two children. If I reveal this information to the public, do you think your agency will still be able to make a sound? You are completely shameless!” Long Jie immediately pulled out a stack of photos from her drawer and threw it in front of Mi Jie.

“You investigated me?” Mi Jie went from feeling fear to feeling guilt and anger.

“Did you think that I’d need to personally investigate a rubbish agency like yours?” Long Jie sneered. “Don’t think too highly of yourself. Let me tell you clearly right now that your appearance at Superstar Media was a bad decision from the start. I can make it so you no longer exist in the entertainment industry.”

“So, think it over. Do you still want Luo Sheng to pay his debt?”

Mi Jie swallowed nervously realizing that she had hit a dead end. So, she picked up her documents and got up to leave. But, Long Jie stopped her, “Wait.”

Mi Jie did not move nor make a sound.

“Your debt may be settled, but I haven’t started with mine yet. There’s no need to rush.”

Mi Jie was trembling, but she had no choice but to turn around and sit back down.

“To prevent you guys from showing up again to try and bite us like crazy dogs, I’ve prepared a contract. After you sign it, Luo Sheng will no longer have any ties to you. If your agency tries to use Luo Sheng’s name again, then we will see you in court.” After speaking, Long Jie pulled out a contract from her drawers and threw it in front of Mi Jie.

“Secondly, when it comes to Luo Sheng’s debt, both you and I know where it came from. If in future, I hear anything from the media about Luo Sheng being in debt, I won’t care who’s at fault, I will automatically hold you liable. If that happens, you will need to accept the consequences.”

“Thirdly, if we were to talk about gratitude and appreciation, Luo Sheng has not gained anything from your agency. So, don’t you dare go around claiming that Luo Sheng got to where he is today by treading on you and leeching off your hard work. He was created by Superstar Media. Don’t try to take credit for yourselves.”

“Lastly, and most importantly, don’t ever appear in front of Luo Sheng and I again. After you sign this contract, get lost!”

Mi Jie never expected that Long Jie anticipated her arrival and had already prepared a contract for her.

The funny thing was, she even thought she’d go home with some benefits.

It seemed, from now on, relying on Luo Sheng was not a feasible option.

How annoying!

Mi Jie had no choice but to sign the contract and leave.

But, as she walked out the door, she noticed Luo Sheng standing in the doorway.

“Luo...Sheng...”

However, Luo Sheng completely ignored her and walked over to Long Jie, “Let’s continue discussing my endorsement offers. I haven’t explained my decision yet.”

“OK, let’s go to my office for now.”

Mi Jie took a deep breath as a common saying crossed her mind: times sure changed!

But, Long Jie did not think that way. Luo Sheng was simply serving back what he had been dealt.

As she watched Mi Jie leave with her head between her legs, Long Jie felt especially satisfied. How amusing!

“Long Jie, thank you,” Luo Sheng said from the bottom of his heart. He knew, with Long Jie’s threat, Mi Jie would no longer act recklessly and he would be free from the rubbish agency.

“We aren’t trying to trick you into doing anything. We simply hope that one day, when you’re famous, you will remember that we helped you achieve that fame.”

Luo Sheng nodded.

“So...tell me, why didn’t you choose any of these offers? They obviously look like great opportunities.”

“I think the agency’s image of me does not suit this kind of silly and innocent style.”

Long Jie nodded and patted him on the shoulder, “Luo Sheng, you need to remember that an artist can only last if they pave their own path. A viral sensation can’t last more than three years. So, it’s important that you make the right choices while you are still on the rise. When it comes to resources, it’s not about quantity...but quality.”

Chapter 824: Is She Planning To Make A Comeback ?

“How about ‘that person’? Is she planning to make a comeback?”

Long Jie understood who Luo Sheng was referring to and smiled, “Does she need you to worry about her? If she managed to pull you up from the dead, do you think that she’d be held back by a few rumors? She will naturally return when she feels like it.”

After hearing Long Jie’s words, Luo Sheng’s respect for Tangning grew deeper.

Exactly how impressive was Tangning’s abilities?

Even Mo Ting wouldn’t be able to answer that question.

Regardless, there was one point that was absolutely undeniable: with Luo Sheng’s current results, he was still far from Tangning’s standards.

“Long Jie, help me schedule more jobs. I don’t care how tough or exhausting it is. I can handle it.”

“We don’t need you to endure anything, we simply hope that you don’t complain about anything that we arrange for you.” Afterwards, Long Jie added, “Regardless of whether you want to be an actor or a singer in the future, you need to be capable of everything. Don’t think that just because you are a main vocal, you don’t need to worry about acting. Which actor doesn’t want to pursue more than one field these days? So, after your small taste of fame, Tangning has asked you to think clearly about of your standpoint.”

“Following on, we have booked you in for a few more acting roles. They will all be supporting characters; no mains. You need to understand how it feels to be a supporting actor first. Hai Rui only wants the best.”

“Hai Rui?” Luo Sheng was surprised by the mention of this name.

“That’s right. We have a partnership with Hai Rui. As long as an artist qualifies, they will eventually end up signing with Hai Rui. So, if you want to go there, you will need to work hard.”

After hearing this, Luo Sheng felt an increase in motivation.

Entering Hai Rui meant that he could become a future legend.

If someone else had said the same words to him, he would have felt that they were making empty promises. But, when it came from Long Jie, it meant that it came from Tangning. If this was the case, it was impossible for him not to believe it.

“Don’t worry, Long Jie, I can handle hard work.”

Long Jie gave him a secretive smile and placed a new script in front of him, “Have a look at this and report to the set as soon as possible.”

Luo Sheng would never forget that his second acting role was a villain. In fact, it was a role where he wore a mask for majority of the time...

But, Luo Sheng was prepared. Since Tangning picked it, then she definitely had a reason for it. So, a few days later, Luo Sheng held onto his script and arrived on set.

Seeing Luo Sheng’s seriousness, Long Jie finally relaxed. As a result, when it came time to report to Tangning, she put in a few extra words of praise for him.

“Should we hire an assistant for the young man?”

“No rush,” Tangning replied. “He is just a secondary lead at the moment and doesn’t need much help. He’s already experienced a lot in the past; he’s not that prissy. Plus, we need to focus on signing another artist after he’s done with this drama.”

“Have you already picked someone?” Long Jie lit up with excitement.

“Lin Qian is currently keeping an eye on her,” Tangning replied.

“A few days ago, Luo Sheng asked me when you’d be making a comeback.”

“When Superstar Media becomes famous,” Tangning replied.

But, this time, she had no intention of returning as a model nor an actress. She would be returning to the industry as a manager and boss. Perhaps, by that time, the two little rascals would be able to accompany by her side.

“I look forward to that day,” Long Jie said before she hung up the phone, tidied her stuff and drove home. However, as soon as she stepped in through the front door, she felt the atmosphere was a little odd.

It turned out, Mother Lu had arrived.

Lu Che was still at work, so the nanny was currently taking care of their daughter.

As soon as the nanny saw Long Jie, she glanced at her awkwardly, gesturing that she didn’t want to get involved in their battle.

So, Long Jie nodded her head, allowing her to leave.

After the nanny left, the only adults left were Long Jie and Mother Lu. At this moment, the atmosphere felt extremely hostile.

“It’s only been a little over a month. How could you abandon your child and go to work? Can’t Lu Che afford to feed you?” Mother Lu challenged. “When I asked you to have a son, you made it seem so tough. Yet, you have so much energy to go to work.”

“Mom, don’t make it sound so bad,” Long Jie said calmly, trying to show respect and virtue to the elderly.

“Do you and Lu Che have any consideration for me?”

“No we don’t, so, you have no point being here,” Long Jie replied smoothly. Now that she returned to work and socialized a lot more, her response came a lot more naturally. Afterwards, Long Jie went into the nursery to look for her daughter. However, she discovered that the crib where her daughter was supposed to be, was empty.

“You can give up your search, I’ve already taken the child away. Since you don’t know how to take care of your own child, I’ve found someone to take care of it for you,” Mother Lu growled.

At this point, Long Jie could no longer tolerate the old woman. So she walked over to her and asked, "Is there something wrong with your brain? Since you look down on my daughter, what does my child have to do with you? You're a f*cken psycho! I will have another child, only if I feel like it. In other words, it is none of your business!"

"Would you talk to me like that when Lu Che's around?" Mother Lu yelled.

"Don't bring up Lu Che. Even if the king appeared in front of me, I would still talk to you like this. Who do you think you are?" Long Jie replied as she pointed to Mother Lu. "You better return my daughter to me before I treat you like an outsider."

However, Mother Lu simply smirked and turned to leave. But, Long Jie quickly stopped her, "If you don't hand over my child, you're not going anywhere."

Soon, Lu Che finished work and returned home. Sensing the intense atmosphere, he simply had to take one look at the mother and daughter-in-law to know what was happening.

"Your mother took our child away. Tell her to give her back. From now on, I refuse to be in the same place as her. She's a f*cken crazy psycho!" Long Jie said before she stormed into the bedroom.

Lu Che took a deep breath and looked at Mother Lu, "Why must you ruin our mother-son relationship?"

"You should have expected this day to come when you first married this woman."

"Give me back my daughter. Otherwise, you're going to suffer," Lu Che's voice was calm, but it contained a serious threat. "You've already made Xiao Man upset. Don't you think you've done enough?"

"All you care about is that woman. Have you considered your mother at all? You want your daughter? Give me a grandson in exchange. Otherwise, I'd rather die than let you find your daughter! Don't even dream about it..." U.p..date.d b.y B.oxnovel.com

"If your wife refuses to give birth to one, then give me a sample of your sperm, I'll take it to do IVF...Medicine has advanced a lot. You don't necessarily need her. Lu Che, I really want a grandson..."

Chapter 825: I Think She Should Save Herself First

"If I agree, will you guarantee to return my daughter to me and never show up in front of us again?" Lu Che asked. U.p.date.d b.y Boxnovel.com

"We can sign an agreement."

"No, I want to completely end our mother-son relationship," Lu Che said. "Tomorrow at 9am, I'll see you in front of the hospital. Bring my daughter along. From tomorrow onwards, you are no longer my mother. Please leave for now."

Mother Lu never expected her son to go to such extremes.

However, she didn't think there was anything worth holding onto, so she arrogantly turned around and left.

Seeing that his home was in a mess, Lu Che did not immediately head for the bedroom to comfort his wife. Instead, he cleaned up the place first before he knocked on the door and called her name, "Xiao Man."

"Where's my daughter?" Long Jie asked as she opened the door.

"I agreed to give my sperm to Mrs. Lu so she can try IVF. In return, she will return our daughter to us at the cost of our mother-son relationship."

"You..."

"Don't worry, I won't give it to her. I have other plans," Lu Che said as he placed his arm around Long Jie's shoulder. "I want to see if she'd continue acting crazy."

No one would willingly treat their mother like this if the mother treated their child lovingly.

Unfortunately, not only was Long Jie stuck in the middle, even if she didn't exist and Lu Che knew that his mother was this crazy, he wouldn't have possibly tolerated her.

"OK, after we get back our daughter, I want to move," Long Jie requested. "I hope a disgusting person like that doesn't show up in my life again."

Lu Che pulled Long Jie into his embrace and patted her comfortingly on the back "Sorry, it's my fault for not managing your relationship well."

"Forget about it. No one can manage with someone like your mother. I can't handle her, but I can hide from her."

"Wait for a good show tomorrow."

After their chat, the couple had a bath and headed to bed.

The next morning, Long Jie did not accompany Lu Che to the hospital. To resolve the matter, Lu Che utilized his contacts and asked the doctor for some assistance.

"The doctor already has what you want. Where's my daughter?" Lu Che asked after returning to Mother Lu an hour later. "If you go back on your word, then don't even dream about having a grandson."

Mother Lu scoffed. After seeing the doctor nod his head behind Lu Che, she finally replied, "Your daughter is in the car. Someone is taking care of her."

"I am officially declaring it now: from this moment onwards, I am no longer your son. From now on, I am not related to any of your matters, not even your so-called future grandson," Lu Che said firmly.

"Hmmp, don't worry, I won't bother you. Your father and I will bring up the child on our own."

"As you wish."

"My grandson will definitely have a better future than your delicate little daughter."

Lu Che looked at Mother Lu with deep meaning. He then put away the phone that he was recording their conversation on and left the hospital to retrieve his daughter.

After Lu Che left, Mother Lu sneered, "Right now, he may not care and think that daughters and sons are the same. But, wait 'til he grows old and realizes how pitiful it is to not have a son by one's side. Just wait and see."

...

After returning to his car with their daughter, Long Jie finally breathed a sigh of relief, "What trick did you play?"

Lu Che smiled and replied, "I got some samples from the hospital's storage. Since she wants a grandson so badly, she can have one all she wants."

"But, she will find out sooner or later that it isn't blood-related to her," Long Jie worried.

"Don't worry, I won't let the child be an orphan. If Mrs. Lu decides to abandon the child, someone will be ready to take care of it," Lu Che replied. "You could consider it as helping someone else achieve their dream."

Long Jie didn't understand what Lu Che had planned, but she trusted that he knew what he was doing. After all, they were talking about a life.

Since Lu Che had already made arrangements, then it was only right for her to let the matter go...

"Will Mrs. Lu never appear in front of us again?"

"We will move immediately," Lu Che said as he planted a kiss on Long Jie's forehead.

"From now on, don't lose our daughter again," Long Jie warned.

Lu Che nodded firmly.

...

Meanwhile, Luo Sheng was on set focusing on his secondary lead role. Of course, Tangning's ability to select the best was unrivaled.

The character this time was the perfect example. Although, Luo Sheng had to wear a mask to begin with, his character removed it towards the end. When the director saw this, he was deeply satisfied with Luo Sheng's look and continuously praised that the fans would go crazy as soon as he appeared on screen.

In reality, Luo Sheng didn't have high expectations for this role. He simply thought that Tangning was training his persistence and his acting.

While all this was happening, Tangning had selected her second artist and Lin Qian was watching over her.

But, in relation to Superstar Media, Hai Rui's higher-ups began to question Mo Ting about the agency. Half a year had already passed, yet they hadn't heard anything from Tangning.

Didn't she know that she was on a time limit?

As time passed, their doubts increased. Could she really create a superstar by staying at home and taking care of her kids? How could things be that easy?

“President Mo, I previously had high hopes for Tangning, but now, you need to give us some reassurance. Otherwise, after one year is over, she will need to close down her agency.”

“Exactly! It’s already been half a year...”

“I think she should save herself first.”

“Since there’s still half a year, then I think you should all remain quiet,” Mo Ting immediately brushed them off. “Has she prevented you guys from making money in this half a year?”

The shareholders had nothing to say.

In actual fact, even Mo Ting didn’t know what Tangning was getting up to. Previously, Luo Sheng was already doing well, yet she decided to make him play another secondary lead role. As a result, the popularity he had gained, slowly subsided. What exactly was she thinking?

But, Tangning never intended to make Superstar Media famous by using Luo Sheng. She knew that he was a newcomer and she couldn’t be impatient with him. Plus, Luo Sheng couldn’t possibly achieve much in a short period of time anyway. Hence, she decided to slowly train him instead.

This was the reason why she had created Superstar Media in the first place.

So, when it came to producing results, her hopes were actually placed on her second artist.

Her second artist was an extremely talented female singer.

Three years ago, she almost won first place in a singing competing, but her younger sister framed her for stealing from the organizers. As a result, she was disqualified from the finals.

Although this matter wasn’t officially announced to the public, it caused quite a stir within the industry because everyone assumed she was a thief.

But, while she put up with the years of slandering, her sister had become a famous singer...

Chapter 826: B*tches Deserve An Eye For An Eye

They were sisters...yet one was glorified while the other was shamed.

However, Tangning knew that this young woman was a uniquely talented singer who had been left with no choice but to settle as a music teacher.

So, Tangning felt it was the right time to contact her because a large scale singing competition was about to start.

Plus, Lin Qian had been monitoring her to see if she was still passionate about winning.

That night, Mo Ting returned home and wrapped Zixi in his embrace as he looked at Tangning, “There’s not much time left.”

Tangning held onto her bowl and chopsticks and glanced at Mo Ting, “You don’t trust me?”

“I’m just getting impatient on your behalf.”

“You don’t need to,” Tangning handed Mo Ting a bowl and chopsticks, “When have I disappointed you?”

“You really don’t need my help?” Mo Ting asked suggestively as he raised an eyebrow.

“No. I know I will need to pay for it,” Tangning wasn’t falling for his trick.

After dinner, Mo Ting gave the two rascals a bath while Tangning gave Lin Qian a phone call, “We don’t have much time left. It’s time to make a move.”

Actually, Lin Qian was already struggling to control herself. Such a talented young girl was being schemed against by her own sister. It wasn’t hard to imagine how angry she must be. Especially since she spent everyday at music school, repeating the same easy work that she obviously didn’t like.

However, Tangning had not told Lin Qian to do anything until now. So, now that Tangning finally felt it was time, Lin Qian immediately threw out her invite.

The next day, while the young woman was teaching a class, Lin Qian waited outside her classroom. And, as soon as she finished, Lin Qian invited her out for a chat, “Could I please have half an hour of your time. I’m aware you don’t have any classes in the afternoon.”

The woman was a little surprised, but after seeing Lin Qian’s business card, she nodded her head.

Although she wanted to reject Lin Qian, she couldn’t possibly turn away anything related to the entertainment industry.

Soon, the two women arrived at a cafe near the school. As soon as they sat down, Lin Qian began to introduce herself, “You can call me Lin Qian. I am from Superstar Media.”

“I’ve never heard of Superstar Media before,” the woman shook her head.

“That’s not important. What’s important is, do you want to get back what belongs to you?” Lin Qian asked straightforwardly. “I’ve actually been monitoring you for some time and I’m aware of your past...”

“I think things are fine the way they are right now,” the woman unexpectedly rejected Lin Qian before she even finished talking.

“You must think I’m a scammer, don’t you?” Lin Qian laughed. “Don’t be offended by my honesty, but what do you have for me to scam? If I want money, you don’t have any. If I want to take advantage of your body, you don’t have that either.”

“Eh...” the woman looked at Lin Qian awkwardly.

“I know that you almost came in first place in a singing competition but you ended up being disqualified because of your sister,” Lin Qian jumped to the main point to keep the woman interested. “If we can give you another chance to step onto the stage, do you have the confidence to secure first place?”

The woman’s eyes obviously lit up for a moment, but it quickly faded.

“There’s no use. My sister told me, if I participate in a singing competition again, she will reveal my history of stealing to the public.”

“What if I told you that we can clear your name?” Lin Qian asked with a smile.

“That’s impossible...” U.p..dated b.y Box novel. com

“There’s nothing that Superstar Media can’t do.” After speaking Lin Qian pulled out her business card again and handed it to the woman. “Don’t lose it this time. I have a feeling you will need it.”

“I can promise you that we will not only clear your name, but we will also secure you a position in an upcoming singing competition. Of course, you need to be brave as well.”

“If you want to spend the rest of your life being humiliated, then no one can help you.”

“Think it over. If you are happy to go ahead, then come sign a contract at Superstar Media tomorrow.”

After speaking, Lin Qian left the cafe, leaving the woman alone with her rapidly beating heart.

Even in her dreams she hoped to step on the stage again. However, her sister kept finding ways to suppress her. Even her current job had to get the approval of her sister.

What meaning did she have left in her life?

After a moment of thought, the woman gave her sister a phone call. But, her sister picked up the phone in an extremely annoyed tone, “Didn’t I tell you that I’m really busy during the day and that you shouldn’t call me? Do you want the entire nation to know that you are a thief?”

Hearing her sister’s threat, she quickly took a deep breath and apologized, “I’m sorry...”

“What’s the point of being sorry? You never remember anything. Didn’t you consider that I’m a famous singer? How could I have such an embarrassing sister? Don’t ever call me again.”

After speaking, her sister hung up the phone.

The young woman held onto the phone in a daze. In the end, she let out a cold laugh.

Perhaps...

...Superstar Media was worth a try...

Actually, that night, Lin Qian was also quite unsettled. She had to admit that she wasn’t as convincing as Long Jie and didn’t know how to appeal to one’s emotions. However, she still had a feeling that the young woman would show up.

So, the next day, she arrived nice and early at the office. Not long after, the young woman also arrived.

“I am happy to sign a contract, but I would like to add one condition. You can’t allow my sister to know that I’m participating in the competition,” the young woman said to Lin Qian.

“That’s easy,” Lin Qian shrugged.

The woman impulsively signed the contract before she realized that she acted too hastily, “I think...I’m a little regretful.”

“You don’t need to be regretful. We’ve already signed you up for the competition using a new stage name and have scheduled a makeover for you. No one will recognize you for now. Only after you qualify for the national rounds will ‘someone’ notice you, if you know what I mean.”

“As for the music school that you are working at, I will make arrangements with them so your sister doesn’t find out. You simply need to focus on getting back what belongs to you.”

“I don’t understand. Why are you doing this?” the young woman was confused; they weren’t cheating her of her money or her body. At the same time, she wasn’t famous, but they were willing to do so much for her.

“You will understand when the time comes,” Lin Qian concluded without explaining anything.

As it was her first time dealing with a matter like this, there were a lot of things that Lin Qian didn’t know how to do. So, she needed guidance from Tangning. Including, arrangements for the young woman during the competition. So it seemed, Tangning needed to personally step into action this time.

As for the shameless younger sister, perhaps only someone at Tangning’s level would be able to deal with her.

B*tches deserved an eye for an eye.

However, the young woman was still worried that her history of stealing would be revealed. She didn’t believe that Superstar Media had the ability to clear her name. So, she constantly reminded herself to be careful.

Meanwhile, Tangning was waiting patiently for the day that the younger sister came knocking on the door.

Chapter 827: I Want A Daughter

Long Jie had the ability to manage Luo Sheng, but Lin Qian wasn’t experienced enough.

Tangning needed to make arrangements and give her pointers, especially since their new artist was the key to Superstar Media’s survival. So, following on, Tangning placed all her focus on this woman.

Luo Sheng quickly found out from Long Jie that Superstar Media had signed a new artist and this artist was not only a female, but she was also a singer. Which meant, the two of them weren’t competitors. After all, the circles in which they each existed weren’t likely to overlap.

Actually, he expected all along that if Superstar Media wanted to progress, they couldn’t possibly just sign one artist. However, he could tell that the entire agency was already very thoughtful towards him.

“Luo Sheng, since Superstar Media has signed a contract with you, they won’t just give up on you. You don’t need to worry,” Long Jie personally visited Luo Sheng on set to provide reassurance. As she looked at the director, she also whispered beside his ear, “Your director is a righteous person. You can get to know him better.”

Although Luo Sheng was a little confused, he still nodded his head. He knew that Long Jie’s words weren’t simply what they appeared on the surface.

“Your current homework is to gather contacts. You don’t need to use any fancy words, just be sincere. Even if the sky falls down, Superstar Media will ensure that you get famous.”

At this point in time, Luo Sheng didn't fully understand the meaning behind Long Jie's words. But soon, he would realize that Tangning's advice was a turning point in his career towards stardom.

...

Mo Ting quickly found out that Tangning signed another artist and was planning to enter her into a singing competition called 'Journey'.

He had to admit that Tangning's arrangement made sense.

"If you can help her win first place, she can come directly to Hai Rui," Mo Ting said to Tangning.

"I don't need you to go easy on me..."

"I'm not. Hai Rui is a sponsor for this competition and we have a contract with the organizers," Mo Ting replied gently. "If you can secure first place for her, then she deserves to enter Hai Rui."

Tangning's eyes lit up in surprise, "Really?"

Mo Ting carried Tangning's freshly bathed body in his arms and placed her on top of their bed as he ran his hand across her belly, "When have I ever lied to you?"

"You can't meddle with the results just to help me," Tangning needed reassurance, "I want her to hold the trophy in her hands because she deserves it."

"Yes, as you wish." After speaking, Mo Ting leaned over and placed a kiss on Tangning's stomach.

Tangning took a deep breath as she gripped onto Mo Ting's hair.

"Ting...I still want a daughter."

"But...I don't plan to make you pregnant again," Mo Ting replied. "After all, the two rascals already caused you so much pain when you were giving birth to them. If you suffer again, it will break my heart."

"That was because it was my first pregnancy. The second time won't be as bad," Tangning assured.

"I still won't allow it."

"But, I want to see your helpless and loving expression around your little lover..." Tangning persisted.

"Now that the two rascals can walk and I have some spare time, I want to have a daughter."

"If you want to have a daughter, then we will have to see what you are capable of," Mo Ting lay down and looked seriously into Tangning's eyes; it was obvious what he was trying to say.

She would have to make it happen herself!

Tangning glared at him, but still flipped over and pressed herself on top of his body. Even if she didn't want a daughter, she wouldn't be able to keep her hands off Mo Ting's body anyway – because simply admiring it with her eyes wasn't enough.

After being in a relationship for so long, the couple understood each other's sensitive spots. So, Tangning knew that focusing behind Mo Ting's ear would make him lose control.

Seeing Mo Ting react, Tangning smiled, "You can't resist anymore, can you?"

“Hurry...”

Mo Ting wanted so badly to squish this woman between his arms.

Why was she still so irresistible to him?

...

The next day, at Hai Rui. Although Tangning had told Mo Ting not to get involved, he still called Lu Che into his office and instructed, “Keep an eye on the ‘Journey Singing Competition’. We can’t let anything unfair happen. If any dirty deals are made or winners are unofficially predetermined, you know the consequences.”

“Don’t worry, President,” Lu Che nodded.

Since the competition was important to Mo Ting, it was necessary for it to be completely fair.

So, Lu Che immediately contacted the organizers and told them to strictly abide by the rules of the competition because Hai Rui would be watching.

Meanwhile, Lin Qian took the young woman to see the stylist she had arranged so she could get a makeover. To keep her hidden, Tangning instructed the stylist to cut her hair short and give her a gender-neutral look. On top of that, to separate her from the usual divas, Lin Qian asked the stylist to draw a mole just below her right eye.

Lin Qian remembered Tangning’s instructions to make the young woman look like a country bumpkin; that it’d be best if she disappeared when placed into a crowd.

“Remember, you have a new name. You are now called Xing Lan.”

The young woman looked at herself in the mirror and nodded her head, even though she didn’t understand Lin Qian’s plan.

“The auditions are about to begin. You will need to go through a short period of training.”

“Understood.”

“You’ve entered a competition before and should understand the rules. The entire process will take 3 months and the final winner will directly sign a contract with Hai Rui,” Lin Qian explained, “Which means the competition won’t involve any dirty tactics and won’t be unfair.”

Xing Lan turned around and looked at Lin Qian with a twinkle in her eye, “I will definitely win first place. You just wait and see.”

“But you can’t depend on singing alone, you still need some battle techniques. Unfortunately, I am of no help when it comes to this, but you will have a special mentor,” Lin Qian said as she raised an eyebrow in a secretive manner.

Xing Lan was confused, but, without realizing it, she had already developed a trust towards Superstar Media.

“However, your mentor will not appear until you enter the top 100. For now, if there are any problems, you can contact her through me.”

“OK. I will definitely see her very soon.”

Although the expectations for the initial stages of the competition weren't very high, it didn't mean that one shouldn't be cautious.

The day before the auditions, Xing Lan decided she was going to blow everyone away with her performance. But, that night, she received a phone call from Lin Qian, “Simply display your general abilities at the auditions tomorrow, don't reveal too much of yourself.”

“But the judges may not remember me if I do that.”

“Although Hai Rui will ensure that the competition is fair, you must not forget that competitors will compare themselves to you. If you steal the limelight from the beginning, do you think you'd safely make it to the top 100? Keep a low profile. The judges will be able to tell if you are capable or not. Trust me.”

“You will only get one chance at the competition. If you lose your chance, then it's your problem!”

Chapter 828: Ready To Shock Everyone

“Plus, do you want your sister to discover you straight away?”

After listening to what Lin Qian said, Xing Lan contemplated for an entire night and agreed that Lin Qian's reasoning made sense. She needed to keep a low profile, even if not for any other reason but to hide from her sister.

So, for the auditions, her aim was to display that she had a solid foundation.

9am. Xing Lan arrived at the auditions accompanied by Lin Qian. Seeing the crowded hectic scene, Xing Lan couldn't help but sigh. No matter how difficult it was, the amount of people that wanted to be famous would never decrease.

There were strict guidelines for the auditions. Whether it was age or height, there were certain standards. After all, the winner would eventually sign with Hai Rui. So they couldn't just accept anyone.

Xing Lan's conditions weren't bad. In the eyes of the judges, apart from looking a little countrified, she pretty much ticked all the boxes.

However, they had no idea that Tangning had deliberately made Xing Lan look this way.

Her non-threatening look made her less noticeable and unlikely to attract enemies.

As for those that captured attention straight from the start and were too flashy, they were easily remembered, but they also became the public enemy.

Against someone like Xing Lan, enemies would only use 30% of their strength, but against someone that liked to show off, they would use everything they had.

Gradually, those that qualified for the auditions received a number and headed into the main hall to wait for their names to be called.

As there were a lot of candidates, the judges could only give each person a short amount of time. Everyone wanted to make the best use of their time to prove themselves, but plenty of them ended up revealing their weaknesses instead.

In fact, to get into the next round, some of the candidates put a lot of effort into their appearance and clothing just so they could stand out in the crowd and leave a lasting impression on the judges. But, Xing Lan followed Tangning's instructions and turned up with basic clothes and no makeup. Her appearance was simple, yet slightly cool.

"Go, it's your turn." Lin Qian was accompanying Xing Lan. So, as soon as she heard the judges call Xing Lan's name, she immediately gave her a nudge, "Don't think too much. Trust in yourself."

Xing Lan nodded and walked straight into the audition room.

The judges had gotten used to seeing extravagant and fancy appearances, so Xing Lan was quite a surprise.

Although she didn't look as neat and tidy as the other candidates, she had a clean appearance and looked especially pure and innocent.

One of the judges took a glance at Xing Lan and waved her hand, "Start."

Xing Lan's voice was clean and she did not select a difficult song to sing. In fact, she chose a relaxed and cheery children's song. This made the judges put down their pens and turn their focus to her.

"Hey, this one's not bad."

"After listening to so many songs, this one has been the easiest on the ear."

"The previous female singer was so high-pitched that my eardrums nearly popped."

"After putting up with so much rubbish, it's quite relaxing to listen to a children's song."

As a result, Xing Lan sang the entire song – for three whole minutes!

The judges looked at Xing Lan and nodded their heads, "Keep doing what you're doing. There's no need to look fancy. Just focus on your singing and you will go far."

"This is what we call a singer. You're through to the next round."

The four judges came to a unanimous decision.

After bowing to the judges, Xing Lan felt tears almost escaping from her eyes.

It turned out that the most simple things were the most eye-catching.

This was Tangning and Lin Qian's intention.

There was no point being flashy in front of others. Being able to leave an impression in front of the judges was true success.

After seeing Xing Lan walk out with a pass for the next round, Lin Qian let out a sigh of relief. But, there was still three months left to the competition. At this rate, she still had a lot of anxiety to put up with.

“Director Lin, thank you. From now on, I will listen to everything you say.”

“Did you think that I came up with this idea? This was all thanks to the expert that’s guiding me. You still haven’t seen the most impressive part of her yet. Let’s go. Keep a low profile. Time to go home and prepare for the next round,” Lin Qian placed an arm around Xing Lan’s shoulder and led her out of the audition hall.

Not too far away, Tangning’s car was actually parked in a hidden corner.

She watched as Lin Qian and Xing Lan exited the hall and saw the joy in their eyes. It seemed, things went well.

In this world, being capable wasn’t enough. One had to understand how to help themselves gain points.

“She’s only passed the auditions. There’s still a long way to go,” Mo Ting said beside Tangning. “But, with a mentor like you, I’m sure she will go home with first place.”

“Thank you for having so much faith in me. If I was still young, I would definitely give the competition a try,” Tangning chuckled.

“That’s not allowed. Only I can hear you sing,” Mo Ting restricted. “Especially at night when your ‘voice’ sounds particularly good...”

“Be serious,” Tangning nudged Mo Ting’s shoulder playfully before she asked Lu Che to start the car. The competition had just started and there was still a long way until the winner was announced.

Meanwhile, being in a competition again made Xing Lan especially happy. So, after returning home, it was impossible for her to sleep. But, her ‘songstress’ sister always picked the right time to give her a phone call.

“What did you want to talk about a couple days ago?” the songstress still sounded as uncaring and arrogant as ever.

“It’s nothing,” Xing Lan replied. “I just wanted to ask when your concert tour will start. I was going to come show some support.”

“Oh, that...I don’t have any more tickets to give you, so it’s best you just go to work. I have plenty of fans, I don’t need your support.”

“Actually, there’s something I’ve been wanting to ask you for a long time. Do you feel even the slightest bit of guilt towards what you did to me three years ago?” Xing Lan asked.

“Why would I feel guilty? It’s normal for an older sister to step aside for their younger sister. Plus, you should blame yourself for stealing,” the young woman replied. “My good sister, haven’t I been making sure that you’re not starving? I’ve been feeding you well and I’ve supported you. What else do you want? You don’t know how tiring it is to be a singer.”

“By the way, mom and dad bought me a house.”

“Just for you...?”

“Of course, why would they buy one for a daughter that embarrasses them?” Xing Lan’s sister asked. “Don’t think that mom and dad are being biased. You asked for this. By the way, I have other things to deal with, so I’m going to hang up now.”

Xing Lan felt her heart being sliced open, but she resisted the urge to explode.

One day, she was going to let the b*tch know how it truly meant to be a winner.

As for her parents – from the moment that they kicked her out of the family home – she no longer considered them as her parents. One day, she was going to make them regret what they had done!

But, her main priority for now, was to get into the top 100. She had to meet the person that was guiding Lin Qian behind-the-scene.

It was at this time that Superstar Media also began to become widely known. So, at this time, Tangning was ready to shock everyone.

She was never going to let the world bully her again!

Chapter 829: Tangning’s Back Again !

The organizers decided to name the competition using the English word ‘Journey’ because it sounded extra impressive and they intended to create an image of an ultimate battle.

The first stage of the competition was split into auditions, preliminary round, top 300 and top 100, and utilized the most ruthless method of elimination. There were no second chances or other arrangements. Which meant, only those in the top 100 had the privilege to find out about the next stage in the competition.

Starting from the preliminary rounds, the competition would be broadcasted live at 6pm every Saturday. And it was expected, within one month, the top 100 would be decided.

The competition was fast-paced; within the short span of a few days, the contestants were expected to be ready for the next round of fierce rivalry. This was the reality behind the ruthless ‘journey’ that they were on.

“A frightening number of people passed the auditions, so don’t let your guard down by assuming that there are a lot of spots available for the next round. It’s OK for you to relax, but you need to understand how important this competition is to you,” Lin Qian reminded after escorting Xing Lan home. While she was there, she took the opportunity to scan over her apartment. “This place won’t do, it’s too basic. You need to move.”

“But, won’t that attract suspicion from my sister?”

“Don’t worry, from the moment that you signed with Superstar Media, your private matters were made confidential, that is, unless you reveal it yourself,” Lin Qian guaranteed. “Your sister will simply think that you are quietly being a teacher at music school.”

“OK, I’ll follow the agencies arrangements.”

“In that case, I’ll take you to dinner first and we can come back to pack your bags after.” Lin Qian ended up taking Xing Lan to a hotel for dinner. However, not long after they sat down, they began to hear people talking about the competition. It was, after all, a big production that only took place once every few years, so it naturally started conversations.

“You entered the competition too, did you pass the auditions?”

“Who do you think our Nana is? She’s pretty and has a great voice. She’s born to be a star.”

Hearing the conversation from their neighboring table, Lin Qian shook her head and looked at Xing Lan, “Remember that girl named Nana. I bet she’ll be eliminated in the next round.”

“No way! She’s so pretty.” The woman was dressed in a long white dress with a sweet and beautiful appearance. No matter how one looked at it, she was bound to get a good result.

“Did you think that this is a beauty contest? Trust me, a piece of disgusting news will soon surface.”

Fame and fortune was a huge temptation. Once one got hold of an opportunity to gain it, they would not be so silly as to let it go.

“Don’t worry. The way you’ve been keeping a low profile is perfect.” Xing Lan wasn’t a threat for anyone. At least for now, she wasn’t going to attract any trouble. Lin Qian was proud of this, but of course, this was all thanks to the guidance from Tangning.

In response, Xing Lan revealed a smile.

The next round was due in six days. However, unlike everyone else, Tangning was in no rush to train Xing Lan, nor did she hire any experts to perfect her singing technique. Instead, she instructed her to relax. Xing Lan wasn’t any less talented than anyone else. All she was lacking was a stable mindset and confidence.

Soon, the next round took place inside the Beijing Stadium. As usual, Lin Qian accompanied Xing Lan to the competition.

This time, it was also an elimination round. The contestants were split into groups of 5, but only one survived from each group.

The two women spotted the beautiful Nana in the stadium, and as usual, she was dressed to the nines. When one looked at her, it was impossible to take their eyes off her. But, according to what Lin Qian said the other day, this woman was going to be eliminated today.

“Go draw a number,” Lin Qian reminded Xing Lan. After drawing a number, the contestants split up, found their respective groups and waited patiently.

However, after Xing Lan found her group, the other girls simply looked at her with disdain. In fact, their expressions showed that they didn’t think much of her and didn’t view her as a threat because she did not stand out at all.

At this time, Xing Lan finally understood why Lin Qian wanted her to look so countrified. If one didn't appear to pose a threat...their enemies would overlook them.

"What's the tactic this time?" Xing Lan asked beside Lin Qian's ear.

"Sing something that you're comfortable with and keep your true abilities hidden. It's not time to dazzle everyone yet."

"Understood."

So, while the other contestants gave their all on stage, singing until tears almost flowed from their eyes, Xing Lan's performance was extremely steady.

Just like during the auditions, she maintained her simple and basic image. However, this time, there was an experienced judge on the panel that was also present at the auditions. So, as soon as he saw Xing Lan, he was quite interested by her.

However, he did not mention it to the other judges because he needed time to confirm her abilities. If he mentioned it now, it would merely increase everyone's expectations for her.

"Child, you can start," a judge initiated.

This time, Xing Lan did not sing a children's song. Instead, she chose to sing a warm and comforting song. After hearing the other contestants singing their lungs out, the judges eardrums were in pain. So, a comforting song at a time like this, was the perfect remedy for their tired ears.

As usual, Xing Lan's voice was clean. Coupled with her warm and sweet smile, she sang in much the same way that Tangning acted; she simply let the song flow naturally and the meaning was automatically portrayed.

If one was to critique her singing technique, there wasn't much to say. But, when it came to the quality of her voice, it was stable and extremely comfortable to listen to.

Out of the five women, only one could pass to the next round. That was a one in five chance or 20%.

The probability wasn't considered high or low, but if they lost this chance, it would be forever.

Soon, the five women made their way onto the stage. It was time to determine their fates.

The other contestants didn't even consider for a moment that the common-looking woman on the left would have any chance of advancing.

Were they kidding? This was the entertainment industry. It wasn't a place where a non-stylish country bumpkin could enter.

But, contrary to their expectations, the judges actually announced Xing Lan's name.

"Congratulations, Xing Lan, you received the highest score in your group and will be advancing to the next round. Get ready for next week's competition."

Xing Lan bowed thankfully at the judges, while the other contestants were left in shock.

"What?"

“What just happened?”

“Why is that country bumpkin advancing?”

“Something unfair must have happened!”

Meanwhile, Xing Lan did not need to care what the others were saying. With her chest held high, she left the stage and returned to Lin Qian’s side, “I successfully got into the top 300. But now, I need to prepare for next week’s competition.”

“The day that you get into the top 100, is the day that you will meet your mentor. That is when the real competition starts.”

That was also when Tangning planned to tell everyone that she was back!

The media’s expressions at that time...

...was bound to be hilarious.

Chapter 830: Don’t Go Meddling With My Artist

During the times when Luo Sheng had nothing to film, he would take note of the progress of ‘Journey’.

In fact, he roughly remembered that Long Jie mentioned that the artist newly signed by Tangning was called Xing Lan. So he specifically took notice of this young woman and realized that she didn’t really stand out amongst the crowd but she was filled with confidence.

This was one thing that Luo Sheng liked about her. Particularly when he heard that she entered the competition using a children’s song, he was sure that she had the ability to win first place.

At this time, he also remembered what Long Jie said about getting to know the director; even if they couldn’t become close friends, he could at least be an obedient actor.

So, later that night, while Luo Sheng was waiting to film his next scene, he noticed the director was a little unsettled as he listened to a series of phone calls.

So, Luo Sheng approached him and asked, “Director, what’s wrong?”

As soon as the director saw Luo Sheng, he put away his phone and smiled, “It’s nothing. Let’s get back to filming.”

“If you are having any difficulties, you can talk to me about it,” Luo Sheng didn’t have much to say except for this.

The director had always liked people that were obedient, talented and hardworking, so when he heard what Luo Sheng said, he joked, “I’m in debt. Can you lend me some money?”

“How much?”

“\$1 million.” The director was simply scaring Luo Sheng. After all, a young man like Luo Sheng who was still a rookie actor couldn’t possibly pull out so much money. However, Luo Sheng did not hesitate for a second and immediately called Long Jie to borrow \$1 million.

Seeing that Luo Sheng was being serious, the director immediately shook his hands, “I’m just joking. I’m still a director. Don’t make me feel like I’m taking bribes!”

Luo Sheng put away his money and smiled, “My manager said you’re a righteous person, so if you’re really in trouble, I’m more than willing to help.”

“Oh?” the director squinted his eyes and led Luo Sheng to the stairs. As a result, the two men sat down and ended up having a chat, “I know that you used to be a part of a boy group and used to sing. Afterwards, you signed with a new agency and found a new path. Young man, from now on, why don’t you work for me?”

Luo Sheng thought for a moment and shook his head, “No. I can be friends with you, but I will never leave my management agency.”

“Tell me which agency you’re with.”

“Superstar Media.”

“I haven’t heard of them before,” the director said as he shook his head. “It must be a new agency. I don’t think there’s much of a future with them. You will need to struggle for at least another three years before you see any results.”

“It won’t take that long. I believe that I’ll be famous within one year,” Luo Sheng said confidently.

“Who’s your boss? How can you be so confident.”

Luo Sheng remained silent for a few seconds as he remembered what Long Jie had said about being honest with the director. So, without hesitation, he told him, “Tangning.”

“Who?” the director’s eyes almost popped out in shock.

“Tangning!” Luo Sheng repeated. “It’s none other than the actress, Tangning.”

“My good boy, this is big news. I had been wondering what Tangning went to do after she stepped out of the limelight. It turns out, she went to be a manager. Since she’s your boss, then there’s no point trying to convince you. If she can achieve a Best Actress award for herself, then helping you won’t be an issue,” the director exclaimed. “How come no one mentioned this?”

“She hasn’t revealed it yet...”

The director understood and nodded his head, “Don’t worry, righteous young man. I will keep this a secret for you. You’re going to be a future superstar. You actually have a real talent for acting, so after this film is over, I will recommend you to other directors and help you develop a relationship with some big names in the film industry.”

“Thank you, director,” Luo Sheng immediately thanked.

“There’s no need to thank me. These days, there aren’t many sincere people in the industry. Tangning is definitely one. I’m her fan. But, it’s a shame that she won’t be filming ever again.”

This time, Luo Sheng finally got a chance to converse with the director, heart to heart. Of course, Luo Sheng had yet to find out the broad spectrum of contacts that the director had access to. But, after today, Luo Sheng treated Tangning’s words like a royal decree.

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Meanwhile, Quan Ziyue finally discovered that Lin Qian had become a manager and was managing a young woman that was competing in a singing competition.

As her older brother, Quan Ziyue felt it was only right for him to give a response. So, on the eve of the top 300 elimination round, when Lin Qian escorted Xing Lan home, she found Quan Ziyue in the dark, leaning against the wall, just outside Xing Lan’s door.

“Why are you here?” Lin Qian furrowed her brows with a cold expression.

“He is?” In the darkness, Xing Lan could not see Quan Ziyue’s face properly. She simply felt that this man was extremely tall.

“You can go up first,” Lin Qian instructed.

“What? Are you afraid that I’d hurt her?” Quan Ziyue took a couple of steps out of the dark, revealing himself in the light. He then stretched out his hand charmingly towards Xing Lan, “Hello, I’m Quan Ziyue.”

“Quan Ziyue...”

“Xing Lan, my brother is a jerk, just ignore him, he’s dangerous,” Lin Qian immediately said to Xing Lan. “No matter how he tries to get close to you, don’t trust him. Understood?”

Xing Lan figured that the two had some personal grudges between them.

“I’ll leave you two to chat. I’m going to go upstairs first.”

“OK.”

As soon as Xing Lan left, Quan Ziyue immediately stood in Lin Qian’s way, “You seem scared that I’d make a move on her.”

“If you want me to hate you for the rest of my life, feel free to do it,” Lin Qian replied. “I hate people that can’t separate business from their private matters.”

“You don’t hate anything. You simply hate me,” Quan Ziyue laughed coldly.

“You’re right.”

After speaking, Lin Qian jumped into her car. But, just before she started it up, Quan Ziyue ran over and threatened her, “Are you not worried that I’d ruin her chances in the competition? Hasn’t she already made it into the top 300?”

“By doing this, you are simply forcing me into a dead end,” Lin Qian glared at Quan Ziyue. “Do as you please. After all, I still need to thank the Quan Family for supporting me, don’t I?”

“What exactly happened between you and my mother?”

“Aren’t you great at investigating? You must have put in a lot of effort already. So, why haven’t you found anything yet?”

Quan Ziyue had previously asked his housekeeper to arrange a dinner with his mother so he could try and get some information out of her. But he didn’t receive any answers.

“Haha. How about this? I’m not young anymore and your artist seems decent. Why don’t I pursue her?”

“You can pursue whomever you want. Just don’t go meddling with my artist,” Lin Qian said before she started her car and drove off.

Quan Ziyue laughed and quickly disappeared into the night. His Qian Qian seemed to still have her guard up around him. But, if she wanted to be a manager, he was going to let her. As for the grudge between Lin Qian and his mother, he was going to find out about it sooner or later.

Either way, he didn’t think that Xing Lan could win first place without depending on some form of backing.

Tangning was dreaming...