

Work Hard 831

Chapter 831: I'll Forgive The Two Of You

He was going to give her a helping hand.

So the next day, news of Quan Ziye secretly meeting with a singing competition contestant was revealed. Xing Lan wasn't famous, but Quan Ziye was.

As a result, this one small move from Quan Ziye completely ruined Tangning and Lin Qian's plan.

Quan Ziye was known for having an evil charm, but he barely got involved in scandals. So, even if he didn't show up because they were lovers, they still had an unexplainable relationship.

Since it wasn't easy for the media to get a lead, they naturally latched onto Xing Lan and began digging into her past; perhaps even her ancestors couldn't escape being investigated.

As a result, Xing Lan's exposure shot up in an instant. Although the media didn't identify her immediately, they knew that she was competing in the Journey Singing Competition.

As soon as Lin Qian saw the articles, she immediately comforted Xing Lan and gave Tangning a phone call, "Sorry Ning Jie, Quan Ziye was looking for me."

"I already assumed that. Now that the news has been blown out of proportion, a lot of things are going to be beyond our control," Tangning explained. "I'm sure you know that getting exposure too early is a bad thing for Xing Lan. Not only will her sister discover her, the previous stealing incident is going to resurface."

"What should we do now, Ning Jie?" Lin Qian was a little stressed because she felt that she was the cause.

"I have an idea, but I'm afraid you will disagree," Tangning suddenly said after a moment of silence.

"Quick, tell me, Ning Jie."

"Explain your relationship with Quan Ziye to the public. That's the only way to protect Xing Lan. But, it may be difficult on you."

After hearing Tangning's suggestion, Lin Qian fell silent for a short moment before she replied, "Ning Jie, I agree to doing this. But, can you let me decide how to do it?"

"This is your own private matter, so of course you can. But you need to be quick before the public tears Xing Lan apart."

"Understood. I will start preparing immediately." After speaking, Lin Qian hung up the phone.

Tangning looked at her phone and took a deep breath. She then glanced down at the child crawling beside her feet and picked him up in her arms, "Silly little brat, is dad back?"

Mo Ting entered the living room and took Zixi from Tangning's hands, "I saw the news. This was Quan Ziyue's doing. As long as the matter between him and Lin Qian doesn't get resolved, there will always be a risk factor."

"I know. That's why I suggested a solution for Lin Qian, so she can finally make a choice between the Quan Family and her career," Tangning replied. "Quan Ziyue cares about Lin Qian, but Lin Qian is extremely stubborn, so I think they still have a long way to go."

"Pa...Pa..." While the couple were talking business, they didn't expect words like this to come from Zixi's mouth.

He called his father!

The first word he learned was 'Papa'!

Tangning couldn't help but feel a little jealous, "Why?"

"Zichen will definitely call mama first," Mo Ting comforted as he carried Zixi in one arm. "There's nothing to be jealous of."

"I'll forgive the two of you because I love you."

Due to the distraction from her child, Tangning wasn't as anxious as Lin Qian. Of course, since they placed all their bets on Xing Lan, if anything happened to her, Superstar Media would face the risk of being closed down.

So, after dinner, Tangning coaxed her two kids to sleep while Mo Ting snuck over to the study room to give Lu Che a phone call, "Give the media a call and try to prevent the matter from escalating."

Lu Che was smart, so he immediately understood what Mo Ting meant, "Don't worry, President."

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Meanwhile, Lin Qian was struggling with her thoughts. If Quan Ziyue hadn't caused this drama, she would have avoided getting involved with the Quan Family. She could already imagine the disgust on Mother Quan's face if she was to reveal that she was the Second Miss of the Quan Family.

But, for the sake of Xing Lan, she felt it was only right for her to make some kind of sacrifice. So, while she had the chance, she was going to take the opportunity to tell Quan Ziyue not to waste his time on her anymore.

"Lin Qian, will I be discovered by my sister soon?" Xing Lan asked. "I'm feeling a little uncomfortable."

"You don't need to be worried," Lin Qian accompanied by Xing Lan's side. "Trust me. After tonight, everything will return to how they used to be."

Xing Lan nodded her head and patted Lin Qian on the shoulder, "Sleep early."

Lin Qian responded with a smile before she grabbed a family photo and went to contact the media, "You guys should stop fussing over Xing Lan's identity. Quan Ziyue appeared at her place because he was looking for me."

The reporter on the other end held onto his phone and laughed at Lin Qian's explanation "You're just a manager. Why would Quan Ziyue come looking for you? You don't even know how to tell a lie."

"It's because I'm his sister," Lin Qian said before she sent the reporter her family photo. "I am an adopted daughter of the Quan Family's. In other words, I am Quan Ziyue's younger sister. Do you believe me now?"

The reporter looked at the photo and nodded, "I see. It seems you want to clarify this matter. I'll reveal it to the public tomorrow. I guess I can consider it as first-hand information."

"Thank you, Reporter Qin."

After contacting the media, Lin Qian grabbed her keys and drove over to Quan Ziyue's apartment.

As soon as the housekeeper saw her, he was quite surprised, "Second Miss..."

"It's none of your business," Lin Qian walked right past the housekeeper and found Quan Ziyue reading a script in his room, "I've just revealed our relationship to the media. Now that I've revealed my identity to everyone, are you happy?"

Quan Ziyue furrowed his brows, unsure why Lin Qian suddenly acted so recklessly, "Why did you do that?"

"You should ask yourself. Why did you make things seem so ambiguous between you and Xing Lan? She doesn't need exposure. So you left me with no choice but to sacrifice myself for her sake," Lin Qian explained coldly. "She's a pitiful person that had her crown stolen from her. Can you not hurt her for the sake of your own happiness?"

"And can you not hurt me...?"

"Lin Qian..."

"Didn't you want to know what happened between your mother and I? You should stop trying so hard to find out. I'll just reveal it to you. It's because your mother almost sold me for her own benefit. She said that I was just an adopted daughter that had been feeding off the Quan Family for many years and that it was time for me to make a contribution!"

"She tied me up and delivered me straight to a man's bed. If the man wasn't an understanding person, I would have already had a few kids. Of course, it would have been against my will!"

"Quan Ziyue, I hate your mother, so I can't help hating you as well. Please stop clinging to me, I find you extremely annoying."

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Chapter 832: Threatening Xing Lan To Withdraw From The Competition

"Second Miss..." the housekeeper followed behind Lin Qian and heard her ruthless words.

As she looked at Quan Ziye's shocked and hurt gaze, Lin Qian's heart also hurt. After all, ever since she was small, she had always depended on her older brother. However, the things that Mother Quan did in the past had already broken her heart.

"Housekeeper, take good care of him," Lin Qian said before she turned and left.

Quan Ziye watched her leave without even looking back and almost let out a laugh, "Look at how heartless she can be..."

"Young Master, if what the Second Miss said is true, what are you going to do?" the housekeeper asked helplessly. "If the Madam really did what she said, then..."

"This sounds like something she would do," Quan Ziye threw his arms back. Although he looked indifferent, deep down he actually couldn't accept that his relationship with Lin Qian had drifted further and further apart. "But, what else can I do? If Lin Qian refuses to marry me, then I guess I'll remain single for the rest of my life."

"That won't do."

Quan Ziye laughed and did not say another word.

There were some things that were better left unknown. If he had known how much it would hurt him earlier, he would not have pressured Lin Qian so much.

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The next day, due to Lin Qian's revelation, the media's attention was diverted towards her, hence ceasing the focus on Xing Lan.

Lin Qian was Quan Ziye's sister and an adopted daughter of the Quan Family. She even had a photo as proof. So Lin Qian's identity was without a doubt true.

However, after returning home, Lin Qian lay in bed and cried all night. Because, when other people were around, she never revealed the weak side of herself.

With the addition of Hai Rui's control, the matter did not reach the point of no return.

Unfortunately, Li Can had already discovered that the so-called 'Xing Lan' in the news, was actually her sister.

They were twins. So, even though Xing Lan changed her appearance and outsiders didn't notice a thing, she was still Li Can's sister.

Even if it was just a small glimpse, Li Can could still identify that it was her sister. Actually, even if she was burnt down to ash, she would still be able to recognize her.

But, she did not say anything at first. Instead, she personally paid the music school a visit.

"My dear sister, you don't know how to give up, do you?"

"Li Can, what should we do now?" her manager asked.

“What else can we do? Of course we need to teach her a lesson so she won’t overestimate herself again.” After speaking, Li Can put on her sunglasses and gestured for the driver to hurry and start the car.

Xing Lan’s apartment appeared on the news. Although the media didn’t take much notice of it, it made it extremely easy for Li Can to find her.

Li Can’s manager bribed the building’s security guard and discovered Xing Lan’s apartment number. So, the two women rushed into the lift, and within a few moments, they were ringing on Xing Lan’s doorbell.

Xing Lan thought it was Lin Qian. But, when she opened her door and saw Li Can, she froze.

“What is it, sis? From the looks of it, I’m not very welcome here,” Li Can pushed Xing Lan aside and entered the apartment. “Look at you. You’re about to debut, yet you haven’t got yourself a big house to live in. By the way, mom and dad have given me money to buy a villa, but they have no plans for you.”

“If there’s something you want to say, then say it. If not, then leave,” Xing Lan turned around and tried her best to control her emotions.

“My dear sister, did you really think that you could win this competition?” Li Can walked over to Xing Lan and rubbed her hand against her cheek. Her nails dug deep into Xing Lan’s skin, almost leaving a cut on her face. “Who gave you the confidence to do this?”

“If this is all you’ve come here to say, then go home,” Xing Lan ordered.

Li Can turned around and looked at her manager as she lifted her chin suggestively.

The manager understood what was happening. So, she immediately grabbed Xing Lan by the hair and slammed her against the wall.

She was a black belt in Taekwondo...

How could Xing Lan ever fight back?

“You must have forgotten that you are still viewed as a thief. How dare you sign up for a competition behind my back? Li Xin, have you forgotten that I could reveal the truth to the media?”

Xing Lan’s real name was Li Xin. Tangning wanted to make things comfortable for her, but she ended up being discovered by the media.

“It’s amazing that you have made it into the top 300. But, let me tell you, if you don’t announce your withdrawal from the competition before the next round, I will reveal your secret to the public.”

“Remember that you only have a few days to think it over.” After speaking, Li Can left with her manager. At this time, Lin Qian noticed the two women walking out of Xing Lan’s apartment. At first, she did not notice who it was. But, as soon as she noticed blood on Xing Lan’s head, she immediately ran over and stopped Li Can outside the building.

“Wait a minute.”

“How dare you stand in my way?” Li Can growled. “Do you know who I am?”

“Li Can, this is your sister’s manager,” Li Can’s manager reminded.

“That’s her?” Li Can scanned Lin Qian from head to toe. “I would suggest that you don’t waste your time on that b*tch because she is about to withdraw from the competition.”

“Who hit Xing Lan earlier?” Lin Qian was focused on this incident as her eyes gave a sharp twinkle.

“Didn’t she accidentally run into something herself?” Li Can laughed. “That’s enough, stop putting on an act around me. Even if you’re Quan Ziyue’s sister, I don’t think your relationship is very good. Plus, I have no reason to be afraid of Quan Ziyue.”

Lin Qian wanted to control herself, but...

...her heart was telling her to tear this woman apart or she’d regret it in the future.

“Do want to hit me? Let me remind you that the person behind me has a black belt in Taekwondo.”

Lin Qian wanted to be straightforward with the two women, but Xing Lan suddenly ran out with her injuries, “Lin Qian...let them go...”

However, Lin Qian refused to let them go as she closed the front door and blocked it with her body. She then gave Long Jie a phone call, “Long Jie, I have a problem that I can’t seem to resolve, so I need your help.”

“Oh, you’re calling for help? Fine. I’ll wait,” Li Can refused to believe that Lin Qian could recruit any help. “You’re not looking for your brother’s help, are you? He has never acknowledged you though.”

“Lin Qian...”

Lin Qian was a hot-tempered person. This was something that she never denied. She had always felt that there were some cases of vengeance that needed to be resolved on the spot. Regardless of the means, as long as it made her satisfied and the people she cared about satisfied, then life was worth living.

Meanwhile, Li Can wasn’t afraid at all as she waited for Lin Qian to call for help.

Initially, she thought Lin Qian would call Quan Ziyue or some people that could fight...

But, just one woman arrived.

This person was Tangning’s one-time manager, Long Jie. The woman who’s husband held an important role in Hai Rui.

“What’s wrong?” Long Jie asked Lin Qian as she entered the apartment.

“Xing Lan’s sister hit her and threatened her to withdraw from the competition,” Lin Qian summarized.

Chapter 833: The Incomparable Superstar Media

After hearing what had happened, Long Jie walked past the two women and glanced at Xing Lan who was leaning against the wall. Apart from noticing that her face was pale, there were also drips of blood on her body.

“Go check on Xing Lan’s injuries,” Long Jie immediately said to Lin Qian.

Lin Qian nodded before she moved away from the doorway and stormed past the two arrogant women towards Xing Lan’s side.

“Long Jie, right? Nice to meet...” Before Li Can even finished talking, Long Jie walked over and slapped her in the face. Li Can’s manager immediately stepped forward to protect her, but Long Jie pointed at the woman and warned, “If you dare touch me, I’ll make you immediately disappear from the entertainment industry.”

Words like this were originally quite ridiculous, but when it came from Long Jie, they suddenly sounded so intimidating.

Since her eyes were wide and her gaze was sharp, the other party suddenly lost all their confidence and forgot to make a move.

Li Can’s face was hit, so she wanted to retaliate. But, her hand was quickly blocked by Long Jie, “You dirty thief! If you have the ability, you should go ahead and reveal what happened three years ago. I’m waiting to see a good show. Let me warn you now, Li Can. Today will be the last time. If you dare to come looking for trouble again, I’m going to reveal that the so-called ‘Queen of Ballads’ went to Thailand and participated in black magic.”

“You...” Li Can’s face immediately turned red.

“Do you want to give it a try?”

Li Can’s manager wanted to stick up for Li Can, but she was quickly stopped by her, “Don’t bring trouble upon yourself. I’ll just leave. She is someone that has worked under Tangning in the past, so her methods against people are very different.”

“This is just the tip of the iceberg. I know much more than you think I do,” Long Jie revealed coldly.

“Let’s go.”

Li Can couldn’t accept defeat, but Long Jie was holding onto her secret and she had no choice but to surrender.

But, would Long Jie actually let her go so easily?

“You’re leaving just like this? What about an apology and medical compensation? Plus, don’t forget you stole the title of ‘Queen of Ballads’ from your sister. From now on, please don’t forget that you are also a thief and stop being a hypocrite. Stop thinking that it’s right for you to steal from others.”

Long Jie’s words were harsh; not showing the slightest bit of mercy. She hated people like Li Can who stole from others, yet had the audacity to taunt them.

Meanwhile, from the day that Li Can won first place, no one had spoken to her in this way. Long Jie was definitely the first.

So, she glared at Long Jie with her bloodshot eyes...To be exact, her eyes turned red in anger.

But, who did she think Long Jie was? Was Long Jie someone that would be afraid?

Li Can was just a simple singer. To be brutally honest, even talking to her was already degrading for Long Jie. Did Li Can really think that she held an important spot in the entertainment industry?

For Superstar Media and for Hai Rui, dealing with her was like squishing an ant.

In the end, Li Can gave up and said to her manager, "Apologize."

Although the manager was displeased with this decision, she had no choice but to obey.

At the same time, Li Can also gave an insincere apology with her back turned to Xing Lan. Afterwards, she left with her manager.

"Rubbish." Long Jie watched the two women leave before she said to Lin Qian, "Go contact the security and deal with any security footage. Don't let the b*tch benefit in any way."

"OK. I'll leave Xing Lan with you then." After speaking, Lin Qian left Xing Lan with Long Jie and rushed to wipe the security footage before the two women got to it.

Long Jie returned to the apartment with Xing Lan and immediately checked her injuries after they entered the living room. "You're lucky. It looks bad, but you simply lost a bit of skin."

Xing Lan was shocked speechless by Long Jie's fierce battling power. It was the first time that she saw Li Can being taught a tough lesson by someone.

"You're amazing..."

"I'm nothing," Long Jie laughed as she helped Xing Lan with her wound. "You will see much more of this in the future."

"I...don't think I'll ever get to your level," Xing Lan gave a bitter smile.

"You don't need to be afraid of that b*tch. You need to remember that, as long as you're innocent, we will have the ability to help you get back what belongs to you. You don't need to look down on yourself or be afraid. Superstar Media may not be good at other things, but when it comes to giving faceslaps, we are incomparable," Long Jie comforted.

"Are you the person that's been providing guidance during my competition?"

Long Jie shook her head, "Of course not. There's an even more impressive person."

Xing Lan was shocked. Long Jie was already amazing, how could there be someone even more impressive?

"Just focus on your competition. Superstar Media will handle everything else," Long Jie patted Xing Lan on the shoulder as reassurance. "If you come across someone like Li Can again, directly give me a phone call. I don't think she'll be brave enough to return."

“In that case...can I work with you?” Xing Lan felt that Long Jie was more capable at protecting her.

“Does Lin Qian not treat you well?” Long Jie asked with a smile. “You either work with Lin Qian, or you don’t work with anyone. Superstar Media doesn’t have bad artists, nor do we have bad managers.”

After hearing this, Xing Lan nodded her head, “I will compete well.”

“Get some rest. I still have things to do, so I’ll leave first.” After Long Jie was done talking, she picked up her bag and stood up. She was a straightforward and honest person; this had never changed. Before getting married, she was positive and carefree. And after getting married, she matured and became more like a big sister, making people feel that she was experienced and worthy of trust.

Soon, Lin Qian returned to the apartment. As soon as she saw that Xing Lan’s wounds had been wrapped up, she immediately rushed over to apologize, “I didn’t protect you well today.”

“No, it’s my fault for not contacting you earlier. If you hadn’t happened upon it, Li Can may have gotten away with it...”

“I know that you must think I’m not as good as Long Jie, but I will do all I can to help you win this competition. I hope you won’t be disappointed by me.”

It was actually normal for Xing Lan to think that Long Jie was better than Lin Qian.

But, after a few moments of silence, Xing Lan replied, “I trust you.”

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On the way home, Long Jie reported the entire incident to Tangning over the phone, “Now that Li Can knows of Xing Lan’s involvement in the competition, there is bound to be more trouble on its way. This is going to be hard to prevent. What should we do?”

“Who said that trouble is a bad thing?” Tangning asked. “Her every move is for the purpose of ruining her sister. All we have to do is jot down all she’s done and get her to pay back for each incident, one at a time.”

“Understood. However, you may need to comfort Lin Qian a little. After all, she hasn’t been in the industry for long and there are a lot of things that she doesn’t know how to respond to.”

“OK, you can get back to your own work,” Tangning replied.

Tangning simply hoped that Xing Lan would toughen up. They had all gotten to where they were by persisting through treading from others. So, she hoped to eventually see Xing Lan slap everyone in the face.

Chapter 834: President Mo’s Jealousy

After putting down her phone, Tangning returned to selecting clothes for her two babies. However, not long after, she received a phone call from Lu Che, “Madam, Quan Ziye wants to meet with you.”

“Him? I don’t have anything to do with him.”

“He wants to talk about Lin Qian,” Lu Che explained. “The President said that he’s here to ask for help. If you don’t want to see him, you don’t have to.”

Tangning could sense the jealousy in Mo Ting’s words, so she smiled, “I’ll head over to the office right now.”

Although she didn’t care about anything to do with Quan Ziye, this matter also involved Lin Qian. So, she was going to listen to what Quan Ziye had to say. After all, she was currently in a partnership with Lin Qian. But, after the short time they had spent together, she was already aware of Lin Qian’s temper and knew that she wasn’t the type to yield to anyone; she was extremely stubborn. So, it didn’t seem possible for Quan Ziye to break through the wall that she had put up.

Soon, Tangning asked the two mother’s over to watch her kids and drove over to Hai Rui.

After the incident with Xu Xin, she had retreated from being in the public eye to behind-the-scenes. So, people in the industry began to take less notice of her.

As a result, when she left the house, there was practically no obstruction.

Soon, Tangning entered Hai Rui through Mo Ting’s personal elevator. As soon as she stepped into the office, she saw the two men sitting inside awkwardly. Tangning let out a gentle laugh and comforted Mo Ting. Afterwards, she sat down on the sofa opposite Quan Ziye.

“Just this once,” Mo Ting warned coldly beside Quan Ziye’s ear.

“Speak. What did you want to talk to me about?” Tangning asked calmly as she scanned her eyes across the man. Quan Ziye appeared to be of mixed blood. His facial features were well defined with a slightly exotic appearance. But, most notably, he had an evil charm that could be sensed from his casual gaze.

A man like this was admired by so many women, yet he insisted on chasing Lin Qian all around the world.

“Let’s keep it simple. My mother hurt Lin Qian in the past. What can I do to win back her heart?”

“Why are you asking me?” Compared to the question he asked, Tangning was more curious about what he thought. “How did you know that I’d have a solution?”

“Because you can see through to a person’s heart,” Quan Ziye said as he looked directly at Tangning.

“This isn’t something that everyone can do. So, I came looking for you because I have no other choice but to look for you.”

“You should know that I’m not a nice person. I need to make an exchange,” Tangning expressed her standpoint. “To put it simply, why should I help you? Especially since you caused me a lot of trouble and almost ruined my plan.”

“It wasn’t ruined in the end, right?” Quan Ziye smirked. “You’re bound to find a use for me in the future.”

“For example?”

“For example, I could protect Lin Qian.”

Tangning laughed and shook her head, "Everything that Lin Qian has been doing is so that she can prove to the Quan Family that she's not useless."

"As for your assumption that she's been hiding from you because your mother hurt her, I personally feel that it's because you haven't truly shown her how you feel. Otherwise, she would sacrifice anything to be with you. Lin Qian's not the type of person that's afraid of obstacles."

"What should I do, then?"

"There's no point forcing her or forcing yourself. Why don't you make yourself useful for her instead. As for how, I'm sure you know better than I do, what she needs the most." After these words of advice, Tangning was done talking. If she kept going, she may have well changed careers into a matchmaker.

Quan Ziyue did not say anything else as he nodded his head.

He seemed to have understood.

Afterwards, he left Mo Ting's office without even bidding farewell.

Mo Ting sneered. As a result, Tangning giggled, "Nothing beats saving a life. You shouldn't be angry."

"He doesn't look like his life is in danger."

"His heart is almost dead," Tangning brushed her hand across Mo Ting's chest.

"From now on, every lesson we teach will cost \$1 million."

"Yes, we should start charging. In fact, the money we earn should go towards buying a present for my husband. Tangning wrapped her arms around Mo Ting's shoulders. "Ting...you don't know how fortunate I feel that we don't hurt each other and misunderstand each other. I'm also fortunate that you will always be on my side."

Mo Ting acted like he was still angry as he continued to let Tangning hug him. But, while she didn't see, his lips slowly curved upwards.

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After Li Can returned home, she locked herself in her room and remained angry for quite some time. This was because Long Jie continuously stabbed her where it hurt.

Long Jie claimed that Li Can was the real thief and that she stole Xing Lan's crown.

Li Can's biggest fear was for people to discover this fact. She hated it the most...

"Li Can, come out and eat some food..." her manager cried from outside her room.

A moment later, Li Can opened the door and looked at her manager. She then said, "Go contact the judges and see if you can do any PR on them. See if there is a way of directly getting rid of the b*tch."

After hearing this, her manager fell quiet for quite some time. Finally, she lifted her head and replied, "Don't act recklessly. Hai Rui is watching over this competition."

“In that case, prevent the b*tch from competing in the competition!” Li Can instructed coldly. “I can’t let her make a comeback. Otherwise, our lives won’t be very good. The top 300 elimination round is about to start. Be prepared to prevent Li Xin from competing.”

Actually, this was no difficult matter. After all, when Xing Lan was a teacher, she had developed deep relationships with the students at music school. If they played a few simple tricks and made use of the students, distracting Xing Lan didn’t seem like a difficult task to achieve.

“Don’t worry, leave this matter with me.”

“Dress yourself up nicely. Don’t get discovered.”

Her manager agreed and gestured for her to hurry and eat.

“If your plan doesn’t work, I will need to get help from my parents. I refuse to believe that this b*tch can call for help every single time.”

...

From the looks of it, there were bound to be difficulties no matter where Xing Lan turned.

Especially as the competition got nearer, Xing Lan’s performance began to reveal her panic. She was sure that Li Can hadn’t given up so easily.

Luckily, she knew how to ask for help. So, she spoke to Lin Qian, “I’m worried that Li Can will do all she can to prevent me from competing in this competition. She may even bribe the judges to not let me through to the next round. She has the ability to do that, doesn’t she?”

Lin Qian understood Xing Lan’s worries. She had also made a lot of hypotheticals and assumptions. However, a matter like this was hard to prepare for. Out of helplessness, Lin Qian ended up calling Tangning, “Ning Jie...”

“Did you want to ask me how you can guarantee Xing Lan gets entered in the competition?” Tangning seemed well aware of everything.

“Xing Lan’s not in the right mindset.”

“Give Xing Lan your phone,” Tangning instructed.

Lin Qian was surprised, but did as she was told. Xing Lan was curious. Especially since she had no idea who was on the other side.

However, Tangning simply said a few sentences and Xing Lan’s fears were immediately subdued.

“Li Can contacted your students and asked them to cling onto you. When the time comes, pretend that you are in a rush to return to music school. Halfway there, someone will cover for you and help you return to the competition.”

Tangning’s people were trailing Li Can’s manager...

So how could she not know about this small matter?

“Understood. But...who are you?”

Chapter 835: The Only Person To Directly Advance

"After you enter the top 100, you will be able to see me," a smile hung to the corner of Tangning's lips. She didn't speak too fast nor too slow, so her voice was very soothing.

This was how Xing Lan calmed down, even though the person backing her felt just as dangerous as Li Can.

Seeing that Xing Lan was now relaxed, Lin Qian leaned in and smiled, "Feeling better now?"

"I'm curious why you selected me," Xing Lan tilted her head curiously at Lin Qian. "People like me have no background and attract trouble. Why would you pick me?"

"Superstar Media's biggest aim is to find artists like yourself who are talented but have not progressed in their career," Lin Qian winked. "So, expect to see more people joining us in the future."

After hearing Lin Qian's response, Xing Lan was quite surprised. She couldn't believe that an agency like this existed in the entertainment industry and that she was lucky enough to come across them.

"Stop thinking too much. Relax and focus on your competition."

Xing Lan nodded as her curiosity grew towards the person scheming behind-the-scenes.

But, there was no need to be impatient; she was going to meet her very soon.

...

The Journey Singing Competition was actually very popular in Beijing. After all, it only happened once every few years.

On the streets, on the television and all over the internet...there were updates about the competition wherever one went. However, Tangning had asked Xing Lan to maintain a low profile. So, she did not feel like she was truly in the competition yet.

As usual, Lin Qian accompanied Xing Lan to the top 300 elimination round. But, before the competition started, Xing Lan spotted the beautiful woman from last time: Nana.

"Look. Didn't you bet that she would be eliminated?"

"She has indeed been eliminated. You mustn't have watched the replay of the show," Lin Qian said as she raised her eyebrows. "In fact, the judges gave her a pretty bad scolding during the competition."

"Really?" Xing Lan once again looked at the young woman in surprise.

Didn't good looks work?

"The round is about to start..."

Xing Lan held onto her phone, as nervous as ever. She knew that Li Can had planted a trap for her to fall into.

Lin Qian noticed her nervousness and quickly comforted, "It's fine."

As expected, Xing Lan's phone began to ring a few minutes later. She took a glance at the caller ID and said to Lin Qian, "I'm going to pop out and take this call."

"Don't take too long."

Xing Lan nodded before she stepped out into the corridors to pick up her call. After listening to the call, she blitzed out of the building's glass doors without mentioning a word to Lin Qian. Meanwhile, not too far away, Li Can watched the entire scene with her own eyes.

"My dear sister, you sure are naive," Li Can smirked coldly before she put on her sunglasses and left.

Xing Lan waved down a random taxi and hopped inside. However, before the taxi got very far, it ended up colliding with another car. The two drivers stopped to the side of the road and began to negotiate, but no one knew what happened afterwards.

Meanwhile, Lin Qian was aware of what Xing Lan was doing...but the competition was about to start – there were only a few minutes left. If she didn't return in time, the producers would simply disqualify her.

Fortunately, Xing Lan rushed back into the hall a little while later from the back door and sat down beside Lin Qian.

Lin Qian turned her head and leaned against Xing Lan's shoulder as she whispered, "Li Can was outside just a moment ago."

Xing Lan was wearing a new set of clothes. Which meant someone else had gone to 'greet' Li Can's manager on her behalf.

"I know," Xing Lan replied. "I'm going to let Li Can know that her singing is rubbish."

"Time to go on stage. All the best."

This time, Tangning did not give any instructions. She wanted Xing Lan to make her own judgment on how to get the best result.

To go from 300 to 100, the contestants were split into groups of 3. Out of the 3, only 1 would advance and the other 2 would be eliminated.

Compared to the previous rounds, those that were in the top 300 were not only skilled, but they definitely had a solid foundation.

So, the tactics used earlier were no longer effective. But, she had no options this time because the judges selected the songs. So, everyone that went on stage was extremely nervous.

Soon, it was Xing Lan's turn to go on stage. As the stage lit up and the atmosphere became more and more intense, Xing Lan could tell that the judges expectations had become more serious.

"Number 115, before you start, can you tell us why you entered this competition?"

The four judges looked extremely strict and did not look like they enjoyed flattery.

Xing Lan bowed at the four judges and picked up the microphone, "Because my dream was stolen from me and my life was taken from me. I am here to take back what belongs to me."

"I thought you were going to say that you had won many awards in the past, or something along those lines..." the judges were quite interested by Xing Lan's unexpected answer. "You sound like a person with a story. You can start your performance when you're ready. I'm sure you will tell us more about your past as the competition progresses."

Xing Lan gave another bow.

Soon, the stage turned dark and a single spotlight focused on her. Xing Lan listened intently to the prelude of the song and slowly a smile appeared on her face...

...

"Did you guys hear? Originally, the list for top 100 was to be released in 3 days, but one of the contestants improvised and rearranged her song, pleasing the judges so much that they immediately let her advance to the next round."

"Is that allowed? I thought they had to compare our performances to the original singer's version."

"Who do you think you are? How many people could possibly perform better than the original singer?" Two contestants discussed after the competition ended. As they watched a countrified girl step out of the bathroom, they ignored her and continued talking.

"Hey, do you think that girl is also here for the competition? She looks so lame, yet she's trying to act feminine."

"Hahaha, she got so far even though she's so ugly. She must be playing some tricks behind-the-scenes."

While the two women were laughing, Lin Qian suddenly approached from behind them and stood in the doorway, "The person you are laughing at, is also the only person to directly advance to the next round. I've been following behind you for quite some time, you two gossiping b*tches."

The two women were obviously shocked as their faces turned red.

Lin Qian sneered and left with her arms crossed.

Lin Qian was surprised by Xing Lan's high profile method of advancing to the top 100. But, when she thought about it now, why did it matter?

The time was right.

After all, news about Xing Lan was about to spread throughout the nation and Superstar Media was about to be discovered. So, it was the perfect time to reveal themselves, whether it was Xing Lan or Superstar Media.

Meanwhile, after Li Can returned home, she had already popped open a bottle of Champagne to celebrate. Unfortunately, the news she ended up receiving was of Xing Lan directly advancing to the top 100!

“That b*tch! How’s this possible?” Li Can was in disbelief as she quickly jumped online. But, to her surprise, the entire internet was already talking about Xing Lan.

Chapter 836: It Has Always Been President Mo’s Personal Responsibility

She had a simple appearance and a simple style, but she had a solid foundation and true creative talent.

The recording of Xing Lan’s performance was edited by netizens and circulated online.

But the thing that made her famous was not her creativity and ability to improvise, but because she was the only person that directly advanced to the next round.

“This plain-looking contestant is quite talented.”

“I rewatched the recordings of her performances in the earlier rounds. She previously stuck to a very modest path, but this time, she suddenly exploded onto the scene.”

“This chick is quite cool, has she signed with an agency yet?”

Because a lot of people paid attention to the competition, Xing Lan had a small taste of fame. If Tangning had not changed her name or image, she may have already been identified as Li Xin. Fortunately, it now took a lot more time to identify her.

That night, Lin Qian decided to help Xing Lan celebrate, “I promised you earlier that I’d take you to see someone after you get into the top 100.”

Xing Lan was more nervous now than during her competition. At this moment, she was actually sweating a little.

“What’s wrong? Are you scared?” Lin Qian held back her laughter while they were in the car. “I can give you a few keywords so you can try to guess who this person is, in case you get too shocked when you see her later”

“Quick, tell me.”

“Model. Actress. Married.”

“This isn’t much of a hint,” Xing Lan rolled her eyes.

Lin Qian laughed and did not say another word.

Soon, the two women arrived at the agreed hotel. At this time, Tangning had also just arrived. Xing Lan stood behind Tangning, and as soon as she saw her, she whispered to Lin Qian, “Is that Tangning? Is she the actress that retreated from the industry because she was involved in a death?”

“Why are you asking?” Lin Qian asked. “You don’t like her?”

“To people like me, she is like an unreachable star. I like her attitude on life and the way she handles things. Her films are great, she married an extremely capable man and she’s a hard-worker. I think any normal person would like her, right?”

“Lucky,” Lin Qian responded.

“What’s lucky?”

“Congratulations, she’s your boss,” Lin Qian said as she opened the door to the room that Tangning entered a step ahead of them.

Xing Lan was stunned as she stood dumbfounded in the doorway. She felt like she was in a dream. But, things felt even more surreal when she looked Tangning in the face.

“Come in,” Tangning said to the two women.

Xing Lan was surprised. This elegant woman was actually her boss.

To be honest, this was not hard to guess. After all, Long Jie had already appeared earlier. But, it was understandable that Xing Lan didn’t know because no one knew that Long Jie was still working for Tangning.

“That...that...”

“You can call me Ning Jie,” Tangning said to Xing Lan. “Congratulations for getting into the top 100.”

“I never imagined...” As Xing Lan looked at Tangning close up, she felt that she looked 100 times more beautiful and gentle than she did on screen.

“Are you going to continue being surprised like this?” Tangning said with a smile. Afterwards, she said to Xing Lan, “Entering the top 100 means that Li Can will treat you even more ruthlessly. You need to prepare yourself for ‘that problem’ to resurface.”

‘That problem’...

...was referring to Xing Lan’s alleged stealing.

Xing Lan’s face immediately turned pale, “What should I do?”

“You just need to endure it. Don’t give up because of it. Leave everything else for Superstar Media to handle,” Tangning replied. “You have no choice but to face it head on, even if it’s a thorn in your heart. Can you do it? No matter what happens, you can’t breakdown.”

Xing Lan looked at Tangning for quite some time.

Dear God, this was her boss.

Thinking of this, Xing Lan’s fear reduced by half. Although Xing Lan didn’t know her chances of beating Li Can, this matter was as simple as squishing an ant for Tangning, wasn’t it?

“I trust in you.”

“Entering the top 100 means your battle has officially started. Don’t let your guard down, you can’t make a wrong move.”

At this time, Xing Lan wasn't aware of the pressures that Tangning was facing. She simply thought that Tangning had high hopes for her. So, she promised herself that she'd win first place in order not to waste the second chance that Tangning had given her.

The three women ate as they conversed and got along extremely well. As night hit, Tangning received a pushy call from President Mo.

"Lin Qian, take good care of Xing Lan. I'm going to go home first. 'Someone's' waiting downstairs."

"OK, Ning Jie."

"Lin Qian, is that 'someone', President Mo?" Xing Lan asked curiously.

Lin Qian glanced at her, "Who else do you think it is? Ning Jie's safety has always been President Mo's personal responsibility..."

"How loving..."

...

As per Tangning's expectations, Li Can's current intention was to reveal Xing Lan's history of stealing to the public.

She wasn't simply focused on causing trouble during the competition, she even convinced her parents to cause trouble. She only felt assured after she had this double guarantee.

Afterwards, Li Can revealed her plan to her manager. But, her manager was worried because of the warning that Long Jie had previously given them.

"Why don't you just let the b*tch compete. She might not necessarily get a good result. If you offend Hai Rui, your future won't end well. Even if your sister debuts, she can't possibly be as famous as you..."

"No, you don't know my sister. She's truly talented. If we don't stop her like three years ago, she will definitely win first place."

Li Can wasn't overreacting. "Look at the way she entered the top 100, isn't it obvious? Between the two of us, only one can survive. I have no choice."

Her manager took a deep breath and nodded her head, "OK, we'll do as you say. But, this will be the last time. If you don't succeed this time, you need to stop. Otherwise, you will eventually ruin yourself."

Li Can nodded. She was sure that Xing Lan wouldn't be able to endure the pain from this scandal. She was an ambitious person, but this scandal was going to label her as a thief.

But, Li Can was even more despicable than this. To guarantee the success of her plan, she gave her parents a phone call, "Dad, sis is participating in a competition. If the news of her being a thief gets revealed, what would happen to our family's pride?"

"The two of you better stop her. Otherwise, I will also be destroyed. I've always had a lot of enemies, if they were to find out that my thief sister is parading around, I will definitely be implicated."

After hearing this, Father Li almost had a heart attack, "This animal, is she trying to kill me with anger? I'll go speak to her."

"She has an extremely capable manager at the moment. Be careful," Li Can warned with 'good intentions'.

"Don't worry, Can Er, your father knows what to do..."

Chapter 837: How Did Ning Jie Do It ?

They were both their daughters and they were twins. So, for parents to be bias to this extent, was extremely shameless.

But, Xing Lan was also someone that had embarrassed them. So, the two elders avoided their daughter like the plague. To be exact, they kept her under surveillance. Because, while they avoided her, they were also afraid that she'd do something even more embarrassing.

Hence, no matter how Li Can treated her sister, the two elders did not think it was wrong. In fact, they felt that Li Can was very thoughtful for taking responsibility of Li Xin.

The elders had been living a luxurious life because of their songstress daughter, so they couldn't allow someone to ruin it.

As soon as they heard Li Can say that Xing Lan was participating in a competition, the two elders felt their hearts tighten.

Xing Lan explained her situation with her parents to Lin Qian. Since Li Can had begun to cause trouble, her parents were definitely not far behind.

"After the top 100 is officially announced, the nature of the competition will change. You will need to attend a meeting about it later..." Lin Qian explained as she looked at the email sent by the organizers. But, Xing Lan's mind seemed to be elsewhere. "What's wrong?"

"Ning Jie asked me to endure the attacks from the public. That's easy, I can do that. But...I'm afraid of my parents. They are ruthless people."

They were blood related, so it was very different to strangers.

Even if she didn't care, how would the public view her?

Her parents had obviously never upheld their responsibility as parents.

"There's no point being afraid. Whatever will be, will be. Ning Jie will help you handle it. Don't worry, she's an expert and she's already given me thorough instructions." Lin Qian then handed her phone to Xing Lan. "Look through the email yourself. I'm not going to read it to you."

Xing Lan wanted to believe in Tangning, but she had already dealt with the cruel couple for so many years that she didn't think anyone could subdue them.

Lin Qian could tell that Xing Lan was still worried. But, when it came to matters like this, one had to witness it first hand to know that Tangning could handle whatever rubbish was thrown her way.

...

Tangning had never been one to sit idly by. So, when it came to Xing Lan's parents, she preferred to take the initiative.

While the two elders were deciding how to cause trouble for Xing Lan, Tangning sent someone to invite the couple to a dinner at a five-star hotel.

Of course, Long Jie was the most suitable person for this task.

"Miss Long, where are you taking us?" Mother Li asked curiously.

Long Jie did not say a thing as she delivered the two elders to the hotel, where they could eat and drink to their hearts' content. This was treatment that the couple had never experienced.

That night, Mother Li also received a \$1 million cheque from Long Jie.

"Your daughter asked me to give you a gift."

"Can Er is so good to us," the two elders were extremely satisfied as they repeatedly praised Li Can. However, Long Jie had to discourage them at this time.

"I'm sorry, but all that you're enjoying today, including this cheque, is from your elder daughter, Xing Lan; also known as Li Xin."

"This..." the two elders were shocked.

"Xing Lan is a filial person. After she signed with a good agency, she decided to give her first paycheck to you and did not pocket a single cent for herself," Long Jie added. "Also, she mentioned that she'd buy a house overseas if she wins first place because it's her parents' biggest wish."

"Uncle, Auntie, I know you have another daughter, Li Can, who is currently known as the Queen of Ballads. But, to be honest, what has she done for you over the years?"

"Xing Lan has mentioned the disagreement between her and her sister, and we have done some investigation into it. We discovered that Li Can has been scheming against her sister because she doesn't want her to win first place. By saying this, you might think that I am driving a wedge between you, but I hope you can look at the situation objectively."

"Xing Lan spoke to me already. If you guys need anything, you can always contact me. She told me that she believes her parents are temporarily blinded by her sister's lies and that your intentions aren't truly bad."

"If Xing Lan wins the competition this time, her future will not be limited to being a singer in a small agency, she may end up signing with a top class agency."

"Is this something that Li Can can do?"

"I know that the two of you dug into your savings to buy Li Can a house because you want to live with her. But uncle, if you don't believe me, you should give it a try. I bet Li Can will find a reason to shrug you off."

"I'm sure the two of you know what to do. If you need anything, let me know. I'll leave it at this for now."

After speaking, Long Jie boarded her car and left.

The two elders looked at the cheque in their hands with mixed emotions.

Mother Li immediately pulled out her phone and gave Li Can a phone call, "Can Can..."

"Mom, what's wrong?" Li Can thought her mother had already spoken to Xing Lan and was waiting for the good news.

"I wanted to ask if you've finished with the renovations on the house that we helped you buy. Your father and I are planning to move over and live there for a few days..."

"Mom...the house is still being renovated..."

"It's already been half a year. Hasn't it finished yet?" Mother Li asked.

"It takes a while to renovate," Li Can lied. "Either way, aren't you and dad living well at home? If you want to spend some time together, I can check my schedule to see if I have any free time."

"No need," Mother Li immediately hung up the phone angrily.

Xing Lan had just signed a contract and she already gave them \$1 million. In contrast, Li Can wouldn't even let them stay at her place for a few days. They must have been blind in the past.

"Old man, I think Xin Er is genuinely a good daughter. This money is enough for us to place a deposit on another house. Plus, her management agency seems to be quite rich. On the other hand, didn't Can Er say that her agency is still owing her money?"

"Hmmp!" Father Li snorted. "We supported that conniving fox for nothing. I bet she's deliberately keeping her income a secret from us."

"What should we do now? It looks like Can Er wants to prevent her sister from advancing in the competition and wants to use us as cannon fodder."

"In that case, we will just let Miss Long clarify what happened three years ago and let Xin Er win first place. After all, she is more filial and more promising."

"OK, it's decided then."

Like this, the two elders ended up changing sides.

Long Jie had given them enough benefits and these two were easy to deal with because they were blinded by their own interests.

Afterwards, Lin Qian received a message from Long Jie, "They've been dealt with. Don't worry, these two may even help Xing Lan in the long term. It's perfect."

Lin Qian showed Long Jie's message to Xing Lan, "Feel better? Your parents are now on your side."

"How did Ning Jie do it?" Xing Lan was surprised; her parents were greedy and shameless.

"A mastermind will naturally have a plan."

Chapter 838: Her? First Place ?

Li Can waited and waited, but she didn't hear anything from her parents about Xing Lan. As a result, she curiously dissected the situation with her manager, "According to the damaging power of my parents, destroying Xing Lan should be a piece of cake. Why haven't they made a move yet?"

"Call them and check."

"My mother called about staying with me for a few days and I brushed her off."

"You currently need their help. Can't you just appease them for a while?" her manager was a little surprised. "Is there something wrong with your brain?"

"I know what I should do, but it's embarrassing if someone captures photos of us living together," Li Can replied. "I don't care, I'm giving them a call to see what's going on."

After speaking, Li Can pulled out her phone. But this time, she ended up calling her father instead of her mother, "Dad...how's the matter with sis going?"

"Your mother and I are trying to think of a plan," Father Li lied. "We're just average people. It's not easy to get close to Li Xin."

"Dad, don't blame me for being ruthless towards Li Xin. If her past gets revealed, our entire family will be implicated," Li Can deliberately manipulated her father by triggering his pride.

"We understand," Father Li said before he hung up. But, he was so angry that he almost smashed the phone on the floor. "This animal only knows how to check if we've ruined her sister yet. What a heartless wench."

"Old man, what should we do now?" Mother Li asked.

"Give Miss Long a phone call."

Li Can was now an eyesore for Father Li.

The child that they previously considered as promising, was suddenly a cruel, scheming wench that plotted against her own family.

So, Father Li called Long Jie and asked her what to do next.

Long Jie could tell that the elders had taken her bait. So, she decided to increase their misunderstanding, "Uncle, just wait. Li Can is actually the daughter that will end up embarrassing you. In order to oppose her sister and prevent her from winning the competition, she is going to personally expose the past. Just wait and see."

“She wouldn’t dare!”

“If she does decide to do it, then uncle should pretend to help her and we will take the opportunity to clear Xing Lan’s name. If she is to win the competition, she can’t have any black marks against her.”

After Father Li received Long Jie’s instructions, he nodded his head.

If Li Can dared to make a move, he was going to throw everything out there. He was going to disown this daughter and help Li Xin instead.

In the end, as expected, Li Can could not be restrained.

The list for top 100 had already been announced, but Li Can hadn’t heard from the old couple. As a result, she decided to trail them. She discovered that they had indeed gone looking for Xing Lan and tried to cause trouble. But, Xing Lan’s powerful manager hired some bodyguards, making it impossible for them to see her.

In reality, this was all pre-planned by Long Jie.

The entire aim was to bait Li Can.

That night, Li Can gave her parents another phone call, “Since the two of you can’t do anything about her, I’ll have to take matters into my own hands.”

“What are you planning to do?”

“I will need to rely on my contacts to notify the organizers of the competition about my sister’s history of stealing. It will force them to deal with her internally and disqualify her. That way, we won’t be implicated.”

“But, no one has identified your sister yet!”

“Identifying her is only a matter of time,” Li Can warned. “I’m going to hang up now. I am determined to stick to my plan.”

“What a monster!” Father Li finally saw the real Li Can. Li Can simply didn’t want her sister to be more successful than her.

“Old man, since Miss Long has already made arrangements, let’s do as she has instructed.”

“OK,” the old couple came to an agreement. “After this incident is over, we’ll go take the house back. I’d rather let a dog live in there than to let a piece of trash occupy it.”

It turned out, forming a united front was actually quite easy to achieve.

Meanwhile, Li Can decided to reveal Xing Lan’s past before the top 100 round began so she’d have no chance of redemption. Unfortunately, everyone was already on Xing Lan’s side. So, there was a good show on its way.

“Are you really planning to do this?” Li Can’s manager was worried. She still felt things weren’t going to end well.

“When the time comes, I am going to deny any involvement with her so I won’t be implicated,” Li Can scoffed. “Her? First place? She should first consider who she’s up against!”

...

After the top 100 list was released, Xing Lan gathered with the other contestants to hear the new rules of the competition.

Following on, they would go from 100 contestants to 64 with no second chances and eliminations would be decided by popularity with votes from the public.

It finally felt like the real competition had started. As a result, Xing Lan suddenly felt stressed.

“Don’t be nervous. At least, after ‘that matter’ is over, you won’t have any external obstructions and you can focus on the competition.”

“Are you sure that Li Can will go ahead with her plan?”

“Why not?” Li Qian asked. “This is her only chance to destroy you.”

“In that case, she is very pitiful...”

With Tangning’s arrangements in place, Xing Lan was confident that her name would finally be cleared. All she had to put up with was initial backlash, but as soon as her innocence was proven, she knew she would receive the same amount of sympathy as the amount of suffering she was experiencing now.

Soon, Long Jie received information from her contacts and gave Tangning a phone call.

It had been a long time since Tangning had seen a good show and she was getting bored. If Li Can wanted to perform, she wasn’t stopping her. “Prepare for our counterattack. In particular, make sure that Xing Lan’s parents are ready.”

“Don’t worry, we have everything in the palm of our hands.”

“Good.”

“Luo Sheng also has good news. The director took him under his wing and has been taking him to many different events. He has now learned to negotiate his own contracts.”

“Let Luo Sheng know that Superstar Media will always support him no matter if he succeeds or fails,” Tangning instructed. “Also, make sure to help him fight for a Fei Tian Award next year.”

“OK.”

“Lastly, after the incident with Li Can is resolved, it should be time for Superstar Media to face the world.”

Tangning’s babies could already walk. Although they weren’t perfect at it yet, it still felt like the right time for her to take back what belonged to her. This time, no one would get the chance to knock her down like Xu Xin did.

This was the scene that Long Jie had anticipated for a long time. Especially when she thought about how her mother-in-law had turned up demanding for Lu Che’s sperm...

She would never forget that humiliation.

So, she knew, only when she improved on herself, would she deserve respect from others!

...

By this time, Li Can had already contacted the paparazzi and typed out a spectacular story. She even thought of an interesting headline.

[Former thief battles the stage again: changes name as a cover-up]

In reality, she wanted to be simple and crude and directly point Xing Lan out as a thief.

But, the paparazzi felt that she should tone it back and not force her sister into a corner...

Haha, force her into a corner!

Even the paparazzi knew that a story like this could ruin a person!

Chapter 839: Let's See If She Would Still Dare To Compete

"Who's Xing Lan?"

"She's the contestant in the recent singing competition that directly advanced to top 100..."

"Oh, what happened with her?"

"Apparently, she was disqualified three years ago from a singing competition because she stole from the organizers. Who would of thought, three years later, she'd compete again with a different name."

"So she's a thief? How could she advance with a dark past like that?"

"She must be shameless. She thought people wouldn't recognize her if she changed her name and appearance, but she ended up being discovered anyway. This is what you call karma..."

This was not the first time that a contestant of a competition-style programme had a scandal. Over the years, it had happened many times. But, this was Xing Lan's second time being the protagonist of a scandal and appearing on the news. So, the internet erupted with complaints. After all, thieves were especially hated in society and many people were strongly deterred by it.

"She's the sister of Li Can, the Queen of Ballads. How could the two sisters be so different?"

"Li Can's so talented. How could she have such an embarrassing sister."

"No matter the reason, I refuse to support a thief!"

"Li Xin should get lost."

"Get lost! Don't tarnish the stage."

These were the attacks and pressures that Tangning wanted Xing Lan to endure. As a result, an old wound had been reopened. Xing Lan originally thought that after it had been previously healed over, it wouldn't hurt as much the second time around, but it was just as bad as before.

Seeing Xing Lan looking a little upset, Lin Qian patted her on the shoulder and comforted, "This will only last for a little while. Don't be afraid."

"Li Can must be laughing in glee," Xing Lan said as she held back her tears. "I really didn't steal anything. I didn't... Whether it was three years ago or now, I would never take anything that belongs to someone else."

"We know."

There was no other way. If she wanted to clear her name, she had to reopen her wounds. Although doing this would cause Xing Lan a second round of pain, it would also give her a second chance at life.

It didn't take long before the incident escalated online. Eventually, the netizens came to a consensus that Xing Lan should withdraw from the competition and no longer appear in the public eye. As a result, the programme was also affected and the staff began to have conflicting responses. But, President Mo had previously instructed Lu Che to maintain the fairness of the competition. So, the staff were ultimately told that a decision would be made after a thorough investigation was held.

However, the internet was in an uproar. Why would they care about the truth?

They didn't believe that it was just a groundless rumor. If someone made an accusation about someone, then they must have done something wrong to deserve it.

As a famous songstress was involved, the reporters quickly contacted Li Can not too long after.

At first, due to Li Can's various excuses, she did not respond and turned the reporters away empty-handed. But, that was a part of her plan; not responding meant she was agreeing. As a result, the public's attacks became more and more intense.

In the end, she was afraid that the reporters would lose their patience, so she finally accepted an interview with them.

"Miss Li, we would like to ask you about your sister's history of stealing..."

"It's true," Li Can replied straightforwardly. "My sister is still young. I hope everyone can give her a chance and stop harassing her. She will withdraw from the competition."

Withdraw?

Who agreed to that?

"But, why were you avoiding this topic before?" the reporters asked.

"I was waiting for my sister to confess. But, she still hasn't, so I have no choice but to reveal everything on behalf of her," Li Can said indifferently. "Wrong is wrong. You can't cover up the truth by changing your name and appearance. That's what I believe. There's a fine distinction between right and wrong."

"I also hope that everyone can give my sister some space... Thank you."

Li Can's revelation was huge.

She hinted that Xing Lan denied any wrongdoing and tried to hide the truth by changing her identity. Most importantly, she made herself appear level-minded, while Xing Lan was portrayed as a coward that not only stole but also refused to admit to her faults.

“God, does Li Xin know shame?”

“This ‘Xing Lan’, even if she does cosmetic surgery, it won’t be able to hide the fact that she has sticky fingers.”

“I wonder if she’ll still be brave enough to compete.”

Would she be brave enough?

Why not?

Meanwhile, Tangning had already instructed Lin Qian to contact the organizers of the competition and everyone was made aware of the show that was currently playing out. So, before the commencement of the next round, they organized for Xing Lan to attend all events as normal.

But, before everyone knew the truth, the director reminded Lin Qian, “Take good care of Xing Lan, she’s very talented. Before everything gets clarified, she will definitely be rejected by the public. You will need to protect her well.”

“You don’t need to worry about this,” Lin Qian smiled cryptically at the director. “Superstar Media will take responsibility for her until the end.”

“Good, I can relax then. After Xing Lan’s innocence gets proven, I won’t have to worry about the ratings.”

“You sure know how to tell a joke, Director. Which one of your programmes aren’t a ratings guarantee?”

Seeing that Lin Qian was quite a sweet talker, the director laughed. After all, he had already spotted the benefit in the situation.

This time, Lin Qian headed to the television studio on her own to explain on behalf of Xing Lan. When she left the house, she was immediately surrounded by reporters. Of course, she also had the intention to be captured on camera by them.

“That’s Xing Lan’s manager, Lin Qian. She’s coming out...”

“That’s Quan Ziye’s sister. Hurry!”

Lin Qian was prepared to be put in a difficult position. Of course, she had wanted to experience the power of the media’s cameras for a long time.

“Lin Qian, as Xing Lan’s manager, what have you got to say?”

“It’s already been 10 hours since the scandal broke out. It’s time you give a response.”

“A response?” Lin Qian smirked at the mention of this word. “I would like to thank the reporters for their support towards Xing Lan. We have seen the attacks from the public, but we are confident that everyone will receive a thorough face slap.”

“If you think our Xing Lan is a thief, do you have any evidence?”

“But, Li Can...”

“Please don’t mention this name in front of me. Three years ago, Li Can participated in a singing competition with her sister and personally reported her sister for theft just before she was about to be awarded. As a result, Xing Lan was labeled a thief, while Li Can went home with first place and became known as the Queen of Ballads.”

“I hope everyone can pass on the message to Li Can that the truth isn’t far. I also hope that the reporters will continue to follow this matter.”

As soon as Lin Qian said this...

...the reporters realized the extra layer of meaning to her words. She was hinting that Li Can had framed her sister because she coveted the throne.

Oh God...so the matter wasn’t as simple as it appeared on the surface.

Was Xing Lan actually innocent? And was the actual culprit Li Can?

Chapter 840: Out Of The Two Sisters, Which One Was The Thief ?

“So, out of the two sisters, which one is the thief?”

“According to Lin Qian, Li Can stole her sister’s victory a few years ago. She must have felt uncomfortable seeing her sister participate in another competition, so she decided to reveal her sister’s past to everyone again. How dare she try to act level-minded. If this is the truth, then Li Can is much too cruel and frightening.”

“It’s obvious to everyone that Li Xin is talented. She never had any motive for stealing. As a fan that watched the competition three years ago, this is what I truly feel.”

“Where’s the proof? Does anyone have evidence to prove it?”

“I think, in this whole matter, Li Xin is more worthy of sympathy.”

Underdogs always attracted empathy.

Li Can never expected that Li Qian would say such words in public. As she began to watch public opinion sway online, she clenched her teeth in anger.

“I told you before that you’d be sacrificing yourself just to hurt your enemy, but you wouldn’t listen to me. Now that you’ve gotten yourself into deep trouble, are you happy?” Li Can’s manager asked beside her ear “Your only option now is to produce evidence and pay for fake comments. Something you shouldn’t have had to do initially.”

“I can’t let that wench debut. Mind your own business.” Li Can said recklessly. “It’s bad enough that you’re not helping me. Stop talking nonsense beside my ear and making me uncomfortable.”

“In that case, I’ll leave then,” the manager said angrily as she left Li Can’s apartment.

Li Can knew there was no point being angry. Three years ago, she was the one that testified against Li Xin and placed the stolen item in her bag. When it was discovered, Li Xin had nothing to say. As long as Li Can clung to this fact, Li Xin would never have a chance at revival.

So, she personally stepped forward and said to the public, "If we look back at the incident, all the contestants at the time can testify that I had no reason to slander my sister. I also felt guilty about the incident for a long time. But, we indeed found the stolen item in her bag. All the witnesses can prove it."

As soon as Li Can's explanation was released, Lin Qian immediately fought back.

"Xing Lan and Li Can are twins, so their appearance is the same. If Li Can stole something and placed it in her sister's bag, no one would notice a thing. After all, no outsider can differentiate between them. What do you think, Li Can?"

"B*tch!" Li Can threw her tablet on the floor in anger after she saw Lin Qian's response.

She couldn't believe that there were actually people online that supported Lin Qian and Xing Lan.

"Three years ago, I competed with Li Xin. She is a kind person that would never steal from others. On the other hand, Li Can is full of possessiveness and ambition and is easy to hate.

"In any case, I will believe the person that can produce evidence!"

"I'm on Li Xin's side!"

"I'm on the younger sister's side!"

The entire internet was debating about the two sisters and which one they believed to be the real thief as it was a very controversial topic.

One was the much-loved Queen of Ballads, while the other was an up-and-coming new singer. The two women were twins and each had convincing arguments. Even though the stolen item was recovered from Xing Lan's bag, the mystery was in the fact that the sisters looked exactly the same!

If one wanted to frame the other – it was much too easy.

Li Can knew that it was difficult to win public opinion based on her one-sided claim. So, she needed to call for backup!

Her parents!

The news of Li Xin being a thief had turned into a huge scandal and the Li Family's pride had been destroyed. She wanted to see how her parents were planning to deal with the wench.

With this thought, Li Can called her parents emotionally.

When Father Li saw that the phone call was from Li Can, he refused to pick it up. So, he handed it to Mother Li instead.

Although Mother Li didn't want to give her despicable daughter any attention, she couldn't ruin Long Jie's plan, so she picked up anyway, "Can Er..."

“Mom, did you see what they wrote online? Li Xin was obviously the thief, yet she slandered me for framing her. You need to get justice for me,” Li Can pretended to sob so her mother would pity her.

“But...how did this matter suddenly get exposed?” Mother Li asked.

Li Can froze.

“I’m not sure, mom. I haven’t had time to contact the organizers yet. I don’t know what happened either. Perhaps someone recognized Li Xin,” Li Can lied. “Either way, mom, this is not the main point right now. The main point is...she slandered me. You should help me get justice.”

“How do you want me to help you?” Mother Li asked.

“You know that the stolen item was found in Li Xin’s bag. Just tell the media what you know, otherwise, our family will be finished.”

“OK, how do you want me to do it?”

“My management agency is arranging an interview to clarify the matter. When the time comes, the two of you will also be invited. I hope you can help me,” Li Can said.

“OK,” Mother Li immediately replied.

“I knew you’ve always treated me the best, Mom. I’ll call you later then.”

Li Can had probably turned crazy from her ambition to win, so she treated everyone like fools.

Father Li sat to the side and listened to the conversation between the two women. After Mother Li hung up the phone, he coldly snorted, “Does she still expect me to help her?”

“Old man, we definitely need to speak up. But...” No one would be able to predict who they were going to speak up for.

Li Can had no self-awareness. She even wanted to use her parents. To be exact, she had already used them for many years...

However, she would have never expected that her parents wouldn’t be so easy to fool this time.

“With mom and dad helping me, let’s see if you can still survive!”

Li Can was full of confidence as she called her manager. Although the two women had an argument over a small disagreement, they were still on the same team. If one fell, the other would go down with them, so they still needed to agree on the big things.

“I’ve already asked my parents to testify for me, so now it’s up to you to arrange an interview.”

“I hope this will be the last time.” After her manager was done talking, she hung up the phone without hesitation. She was honestly tired. After all, Li Can never listened to her.

...

Soon after, Long Jie heard from the Li Elders that Li Can had accepted an interview.

Which meant, the game was reaching its climax.

Li Can would have never expected that inviting her parents to testify for her, would end up being the worst decision of her life. At a time like this, no one wanted to help her.

Out of the two sisters, which one was the thief? Probably, the entire Beijing wanted to know this answer. So, Li Can released word that she'd be presenting evidence to everyone.

But, what about Xing Lan?

"The level of excitement produced by the argument between these two sisters is no less than the argument between Tangning and Tang Xuan in the past."