

## Beautiful 231

### Chapter 231: Another unscrupulous boss

Ling Qingyu had time to glance around and saw many individuals who knew was at least familiar with. But many were unknown.

All of them, whenever they met her eyes, smiled and expressed a gesture of goodwill. Some nodded. Whether their behaviors were truthful or pretense, Ling Qingyu returned her goodwill.

She met people from various industries from medicine, electronics, shopping mall, supermarkets to publishing houses.

She even saw Lin Fan and Lan Xi, sat and joined their own circle. She recognized some of them were bosses in real estates.

Thinking of the rising industry, real estate was never a failure investment. It had proven for many years, the success wasn't without reasons.

Seeing Lan Xi interacted with these individuals, Ling Qingyu raised her brows. Everyone stayed in a similar circle and she suspected the ones Lan Xi talked to were likely related to gangs.

She withdrew her eyes and drank the water filled in the glass to quench her thirst. She felt sad, seeing the gangs and officials able to talk on the table, without conflicts, as if they were deep friends.

Who had weapons? Only officials and the bad guys. Ordinary people had to rely on the officials for their safety. It was unfair, why wielding weapons could dictate others.

In the face of threats from the bad people, they had no defense and must wait for others to rescue. The most ridiculous finding was that bad people somehow managed to get hold of firearms, even if the country maintained the strictest policy on firearms.

At the end of the day, those who were vulnerable belonged to the ordinary groups. Ling Qingyu found her past life's thoughts ridiculous. She thought those mass-shootings could be prevented if firearms were controlled.

If there wasn't mass shootings, there were other terrorist attacks. Driving through people. Slashing with machetes. Even, setting up a building on fire.

The real root cause was people were sick from work pressure and the economy tolls. While the rich were getting richer, the poor got their life worsened. The outlet from various stresses caused people to vent.

When the situation affected people who had weak will or could be easily manipulated, such tragedy happened. Ling Qingyu understood her belief was too simple.

It appeared, controlling firearms merely barred the ordinary from accessing the weapons while the officials and the criminals wielded however they liked and gained power.

Then, the power belonging to the people dissipated until a strong one arose again to quell the chaos. The circle would keep on going.

Fortunately, the officials in charge was Yang Qingyue and Ling Qingyu could now allow her subordinates to wield firearms freely. Since things were now in her favor, she didn't consider changing the already set circumstances.

However, with her participation, the city would become the safest in the province and spreading her influence further was a certainty.

Ling Qingyu noticed Yang Qingyu remained staring at her face. She brushed her cheeks with her hands and asked. "What's wrong? Why are you looking at me like this?"

Was she becoming so much handsome and powerful, Yang Qingyu fell for her?

Luckily, Yang Qingyue had no mind-reading power. "Nothing, I sense in your eyes, your thoughts flying around so much. What do you have in mind?"

Ling Qingyu pursed her lips. "Nothing. It's just lamenting how unfair the world is."

Yang Qingyue's eyelids twitched and almost cussed out. "You're thinking your life is unfair?"

"Heck, no." Ling Qingyu replied. "Look at the woman, Lan Xi, and I found despite being a gangster, she could live like an elite wealthy family. Maybe her levels were low but the officials of some particular rank must treat her with caution."

"I get where you're thinking. But I believe everything will change soon." Yang Qingyue nodded and said. "With you, I don't believe my goals won't succeed. After getting to know you more and more, I'm starting to get frightened."

"Do you regret joining hands with me?" Ling Qingyu joked like a little villain. "It's too late to go back now. The secrets must be kept."

Yang Qingyue chuckled and took a sip of water. Because the event hadn't begun, only water was served on the table.

"I have never regretted what I have done. I believe, my intuition is always correct." Yang Qingyue whispered the later part. "Besides, I have chosen you with my heart. I'm just waiting for the thin layer between us to break."

"What do you say?" Ling Qingyu thought she heard it wrong. She guaranteed with her heart, she heard Yang Qingyue was willing to be with her. That was a huge improvement.

How could Yang Qingyue say out again. She immediately refused to say again. "Nothing. I'm just badmouthing about you."

Ling Qingyu didn't push anymore and took a step back. Since she had raised Yang Qingyue's interest in her, there was no need to put more pressure. Ling Qingyu gave a disbelieving expression.

"Where's Sister Cai? You didn't throw away all the mess at her, right?" Ling Qingyu changed the topic.

"Oh, how could I bear to hurt my friend? I'm training her to become my right-hand person soon." Yang Qingyue refuted this. "She is at the temporary CP—command post—directing the officers for the security. Tight security is essential with so many big names coming in."

"I think you're more like treating Sister Cai like a tool person." Ling Qingyu laughed. "Don't copy my behaviors of transferring my jobs to Sister Zhao."

Zhao Xiurong shook her head helplessly, hearing President Ling calling her out, and added. "I don't think it that way, Sister Ling. I felt lucky to be under your guidance."

"See. That's what I'm doing for Sister Cai. Don't wrongly accuse me." Yang Qingyue defended herself. "I'm not an unscrupulous boss for my subordinates. Instead of arranging tasks for them, I'd rather participate myself."

Ling Qingyu's lips twitched. She didn't know why she was flared up easily by the words—unscrupulous boss.

Thinking of the first time she met Yang Qingyue, Ling Qingyu couldn't argue. As a superintendent level, whose job should lean more toward a high administrative role, Yang Qingyue investigated her accident personally.

Despite her promotion, it seemed Yang Qingyue loved tackling and arresting people. As expected in most cops, everyone hated paperwork.

"Okay. Nobody is accusing you of anything. Where's Sister Su and Sister Jiang then." Ling Qingyu asked.

"Su Ruomei and Jiang Yu?" Yang Qingyue recalled the two names. "They're most likely beside Cai Ning, accompanying her work or maybe patrolling around the perimeter and arranging the personnel. But the last time I see they're with her."

"As a chief, don't you even have a communication contact?" Ling Qingyu's eyes turned strange. This Yang Qingyue couldn't be too irresponsible as a chief, could she?

Yang Qingyue rolled her eyes, probably realizing what Ling Qingyu had in mind. "Come on, as a chief, I have a different task today—interacting with politicians and important people for my next policy. It's no use for me to personally direct everything. Having Sister Cai is enough."

Ling Qingyu thought Yang Qingyue's words made sense. If everything must be handled by the chief, what was the use of having subordinates? But she didn't expect Yang Qingyue to transfer the power easily, not long after she took the position.

Perhaps, only Cai Ning as her childhood friend deserved her trust to take over Yang Qingyue's post temporarily.

Chapter 232: Ling Qingyu being condescended

Ling Qingyu rubbed her chin as she thought Yang Qingyue already attempted delegating power. She wasn't certain, whether it was out of boredom or after serious contemplation.

She hoped it was the latter. But with Yang Qingyue's behavior, the chances were slim. Although Yang Qingyue didn't like the desk work, she remained serious in whatever she did. Those were the traits, necessary in a successful person.

Ling Qingyu guessed a few years later, Yang Qingyue's rank would increase again, despite strong opposition based on her merits and background.

She wasn't sure why this cute policewoman came to Province N but she knew when the relationship between the two improved, Yang Qingyue would tell her soon, the real reason.

Yang Qingyue, Zhao Xiurong and Cai Ning already were in a close relationship with her. Ling Qingyu must strive to improve the status to close sisterhood.

No need to mention regarding Su Ruomei and Jiang Yu. Their closeness was reaching the level of her relationship with Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue.

There were still Yin Jingfei and Mo Yunxi in the hospital, who she needed to brush positive favorability and bring them in her arms.

Until the girls were as close as sisters to guard against Lin Fan, she must be vigilant and prevent any chances from appearing. Otherwise, she was scared she would cry a lot in regret.

She made the decision to quicken the process and got nearer with the girls, starting from today. While she was deep in thought, a voice interrupted.

"Ladies, can I take a seat here?"

Ling Qingyu raised her eyes and saw a fat man already sitting on the chair near her before anyone had ever replied. Did it make sense for them to reply?

The girls on the table were unhappy but didn't say more, because everything was arranged by the Shen family and the seat placement wasn't theirs to interfere with.

Besides someone had already taken a seat; it would be impolite for them to reject and create a commotion.

The girls were sitting in a semi-circle formation with Tang Ziyi at one end and Ling Qingyu at the other. Ling Qingyu didn't know if the seat the man took was a coincidence, aiming at her.

Although Ling Qingyu admitted she was a narcissist, it wasn't wrong in her way of thought when there were many other seats available. It was definitely hard to regard this man as a gentleman.

Seeing the man's action, Ling Qingyu's expression turned cold. She controlled her emotions from showing up.

If the man waited for their permission, she wouldn't mind the situation but things were quite the opposite. Everyone went quiet, uncomfortable with the newcomers.

As long as the man didn't bother them, things might not be worse. However, Murphy's law acted as a wonder. The man coughed and leaned forward, stretching his arms on the table while he flicked his left wrist several times.

Ling Qingyu's eyes moved and saw Patek Philippe watch, with silver and brown linings. One of the world's top luxury watch brands. Although she wasn't a watch expert, she still saw it wasn't a collection type. Or simply meaning, bought from auction.

The watch the man wore belonged to the ordinary tier but the prize was staggering, even for a rich. Ling Qingyu flickered her eyes, thinking the man's identity wasn't simple and looked closely.

The man's appearance was average but the fat layers destroyed any charm that could be used. He wore a black large tuxedo to fit his 'plump' belly. Ling Qingyu wondered if the person would suffer from bending over the table a little.

Although she wasn't discriminatory, who liked a fat appearance unless the person knew and interacted with one for a long time? The sight soiled her eyes so much so that her head tilted toward her girls and she sighed in relief.

Whew. Beautiful girls soothed her discomfort. Ling Qingyu savored the long legs and gorgeous faces of the girls and corrected her mentality. Luckily, she didn't ruin her first impression of others by expressing obvious repulse.

But Ling Qingyu's reaction caused the man to smirk in satisfaction. Just merely showing off his watch had attracted her attention and she dared pretend to be uninterested. Such an old classic move.

Among the girls, he chose Ling Qingyu because she captured his eyes straight away. She was the most beautiful, he had ever seen.

There were many he had a relation with but none could ever compare with Ling Qingyu. Not to mention, there were also other similarly attractive women around, enough for him to spend a month in lust.

Despite their seemingly reluctant expression, he was sure to take them down soon. Wasn't Ling Qingyu already interested? The fat man smiled inwardly.

Which woman didn't love vanity and wealth? Although his fatness dissuaded women at first side, when he showed his wealth, all of them were like clothes, easily coming to his side.

Which woman didn't behave as he expected? He didn't believe Ling Qingyu was an exclusion.

Even the most handsome guy couldn't compete with him in terms of the girls he had slept with. This was the proudest moment for him.

He was now a bit old nearing his fifties. Having experienced a lot, he understood as long as enough price was given, women were willing to spread their legs.

Even the high cold goddess before him might have higher demand but at the end of the day, it was just a matter of price.

If Ling Qingyu knew the filthy thoughts of the man beside her, even though she somewhat guessed he was planning for her, Ling Qingyu would definitely spring out of her seat and beat the shit out of him.

Was he worthy? Saying women don't have a bottom line; it was just a matter of price. What about his mother? Ling Qingyu would ask. A man without giving any respect or dignity to women shouldn't come out in the first place.

In fact, the man was a wealthy entrepreneur, who worked from the bottom to the top, now owning 80 billion yuan net worth. It was a mistake to regard him as having no brain.

The corruption of wealth had led him astray and became the person, who many would hate.

There was one thing this man overlooked. The seating arrangement of beauties at the forefront meant their statuses weren't simple. Even a fool knew troubles would come if he offended the girls.

No, he knew. However, he hadn't heard of any beautiful wealthy women, in peer to his status. Most were reaching old age.

And most of the women as successful as him in the business never had a beautiful appearance scoring a perfect ten. When someone can rely on appearance, why work hard? That was his motto.

He suspected these girls were from the entertainment company, Shen family invited. Why else would every woman be so alluring? There were definitely artists and a high-tier too.

He shouldn't be too eager and decided to wait and see. He had already flaunted his wealth. Let him see when this iceberg goddess could no longer stand and ask.

Ling Qingyu and her groups of girls didn't realize the tiresome mental journey going on inside the man's head. Noticing his lecherous leering gaze, uncomfortable would be an understatement.

Based on Tang Ziyi's and Xiao Yue's personalities, they would have beaten him till he doubted his life. But since he only resorted to glances, they ignored him and whispered against each other.

Soon, time passed and people who should have arrived had arrived. The final high-ranking guests had come and taken their seats.

Shen family arranged waiters and waitresses to deliver refreshments such as wine and light snacks before the event began, since many people had come early in order to avoid being slammed later on as having no conscience for the guests.

Chapter 233: Can't bear it any longer

Ling Qingyu clicked her tongue at Shen family's behavior. Was it because of fearing offending the big officials, that the refreshments and drinks only began now?

Treating people differently, is nothing unusual when people always strove for hierarchies. Ling Qingyu sighed at the humanities. Who knew how many ordinary people wished to be wealthy yet boot-licking behavior and people stepping on each other never ceased to exist.

The waitresses served the wine and small dishes such as potato chips and slices of barbecue meat. Ling Qingyu motioned the girls to go ahead and eat.

Although her seat was at the forefront with high-level individuals, she had no fear or pressure. People who were observing her couldn't help but nod their heads.

Those who knew her didn't think she didn't deserve the seat. Only foolish and blind people like the fat man beside Ling Qingyu went in a different frequency and never regarded Ling Qingyu's group identities to be high.

For him, they appeared more like performers belonging to the Shen family. Seeing them eating the dishes without giving him any face, it would be wrong to say he remained expressionless.

Though offended inside, thinking of the beauties about to lean under his grasp, he decided to tolerate them.

Ling Qingyu's group of girls: "...???"

He coughed and opened the wine bottle, and gestured at the girls. Ling Qingyu understood his meaning and her eyes narrowed but she accepted his gesture.

There was nothing wrong with the man's behavior. Whether his action came from goodwill or not, Ling Qingyu mustn't lose etiquette.

As long as he didn't overreach, she could tolerate and ignore his existence. She politely collected all the girls' glasses and pushed them before the man to pour the wine, to prevent the man from standing up and messing around too.

The man gave a toast and everyone raised their glasses. Afterward, Ling Qingyu took a sip and put the glass down.

The man's lips twitched. He received a mere thank you. Should he lament his luck he didn't gain a good guy card?

Ling Qingyu's group continued whispering among themselves. His move didn't even cause a ripple. Did he read wrong? The man stared at Ling Qingyu.

Dressed like a nature goddess, a green tulle gown accentuating her white skin and curves. With a mixture of Eastern and Western features, the best of both worlds appeared on her. Sapphire's icy eyes told the man, he had made a mistake somewhere.

The banquet had begun. Mr. Shen stepped up the stage and grabbed the microphone. As usual, every ceremony began with a little bit of speech.

Fortunately, the content wasn't long. They were talking about the goals of today's auction and wishing for success.

All the money spent on the auction should go to charity funds. Well, not all but part of it. Ling Qingyu had a distinct idea of how these organizations worked.

Only a proportion of funds reached those who were in real need. Most were to avoid taxation from the government, especially, the rich always did these.

For their circles, taxes had already reached millions and were not a small amount. Besides, many figured they could make good use of the money for other investments.

Ling Qingyu didn't have any problems with their actions. What unnerved her was the donated money exploited which reached the people, manipulated by staff in the organization.

Stories of corruption and scandal appeared most in this particular sector. What she hated most was the intended money to help others, exploited by some ambitious people.

In her past life, the same happened even in the respectable UN and international organizations. The majority of the humanitarian aid provided by the donors was sniped away.

The most notable ones were provided to a country but it used that money to build weapons and kept them in their own pockets.

Ling Qingyu didn't think this world would be an exception. Even though humanities, rights and ethical values were very high, she didn't dare to underestimate the evil embedded deep inside every human.

After the speech, another one came up, it was the mayor. Strangely, his eyes seemed to hover regularly over her table. Ling Qingyu was unsure whether the mayor was also a pervert like the one beside her.

Perhaps, most women would like to capture the attention of men and savor their eyes and feel good themselves. Ling Qingyu wasn't on the list. She detested the feeling. That was the reason, Ling Qingyu went out without any extravagant makeup and dressed simply.

At least, she wouldn't shine like today, causing everyone's eyes on her, most of the time. She gritted her teeth at Ling Yunxiang and Zhao Xiurong.

However, seeing herself in a new light also satisfied her vanity. Somehow, the conflicting thoughts of her desires gnawed her mental energy. One moment, she liked to see herself in the most beautiful goddess appearance. The other moment, she hoped not many paid attention to her beauty.

The mayor swore to heaven and earth, he wasn't gazing at the beautiful girls. It was Yang Qingyue's presence which attracted his attention unconsciously. His eyes glanced at Yang Qingyue occasionally in fear.

They had fought both openly and behind the scenes. Victories only belonged to Yang Qingyue. No matter his influences or connections in Province N, all were lost before Yang Qingyue.

Now, the winner had even taken the post of a police chief and he was worried about his unstable mayor position. Although there were no signs of further pursuit, who could tell in the future?

Soon, everyone, who should show their faces on stage finished their speeches and the stage began playing music.

Shen family invited some artists to sing for the audience before the main themes began. People started to move around under the music background and met familiar ones.

Chuckling and cracking jokes, exchanging contacts and even some business deals. Mr. Shen conversed with several important figures.

Many individuals desired to show their presence and enhance connections but they understood their strength and were reluctant for not having a chance to get in to talk.

In contrast to their eagerness, Ling Qingyu's group remained calm and without interest in mingling. She hated networking with people, comprising of favors and gratitudes.

But the human world was never revolving around a single person. To live and to survive, cooperation and allies were necessary.

Besides, even if she didn't need those connections, because people might be begging to see her soon when her plans unveiled, Zhao Xiurong, her secretary, had a different situation.

In addition, it was better to make friends and show her openmindedness by chatting with more people, rather than being labeled as arrogant.

Ling Qingyu sighed when even though it wasn't necessary to tend to the public pressure, she must abide by those rules and etiquette in order to avoid being left out.

She, who had her family members and friends, didn't mind but just a little bit of energy to avoid troubles, only a fool would refuse.

When Ling Qingyu stood up and was about to grab Zhao Xiurong to introduce to other influential individuals, a voice, full of malice and dissatisfaction flew into her ears.

"You little girls, I have given you enough respect by pouring wines and you all refuse to give me any face. Where do you put me?"

Chapter 234: Troubles

"You little girls, I have given you enough respect by pouring wines and you all refuse to give me any face. Where do you put me?"

Ling Qingyu turned toward the source of the voice. It was the wealthy fat man sitting around their table. Here came the problem—Que Sera, sera. What will be, will be.

She initially thought this man had some self-knowledge, except for his uncomfortable forceful taking of the seats, and understood the women around her had no interest at all.

It appeared she judged wrong. From his expression, it seemed he couldn't bear any longer.

"I don't understand, what your excellency means." Ling Qingyu breathed deeply and said without losing a smile. But her pupils chilled ever so than before. People around felt the temperature dropped and something was amiss.

"Stop being pretentious," The man said. "You and I both know what I mean. Do you know who I am?"

Ling Qingyu went speechless facing the incoming nonsense bullets. Whether she knew or not, a person lived by one's mind. Even if the person was a president, she would only mind her own business.

Although the man's voice wasn't loud, the surrounding felt the tension and looked at the two. When they saw Ling Qingyu against the fat man, whom many in the same tier recognized, they were surprised.

Why were the two against each other? Was there any misunderstanding? Even though people were aware something went wrong, no one came up to interfere and solve the fight. But their eyes brightened to see what was happening and bet who would win the fight.

People who became bored after staying in a high position for a long time sought drama and enjoyment. The argument between Ling Qingyu and the man appeared more attractive than the palace drama fight, despite not understanding the problem.

If Ling Qingyu's group didn't know the man was finding problems, everyone should go to a mental hospital. Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue reddened their cheeks in anger.

Although Zhao Xiurong didn't say anything, her face didn't look good either. Ling Yunxiang's eyes remained stagnant, fully aware of how most women felt oppressed for being beautiful.

Yang Qingyue understood it was their group's beauty attracting troubles. She clenched her fist and was about to stand up.

Noticing her girls' reactions, Ling Qingyu felt warm but her eyes signaled them to stay calm and told them she would deal with him.

"No, Mister. I really don't know and I don't care about your identity." Ling Qingyu replied coldly. "And I don't need to. If that is what you want to say, I suggest you stop our nonsense."

The man laughed and his layers of fat trembled. "Girl, you're too innocent in this world. When you offend someone who you can't afford, your whole life is in trouble."

Ling Qingyu chuckled. "Oh, I'm interested who might you be? I'm worried I might knock over the wrong god." She said in a despising tone.

"Hah!" The man didn't mind Ling Qingyu's mocking and replied. "You might even bend down and bow to me when you hear my name. I'm Xie Cheng, the boss of the number one pharmaceutical in this Province."

Ling Qingyu's anger dissipated, and instead, the urge to face-slap arose within her. So, this was how someone felt when they were sure to smack the others' pride like dust.

Although she wasn't feeling good about the man, she decided to play along and see what his face would transform into later. Well, with his pride and arrogance, she guessed, this man might not even pay attention to her real identity. She was also certain, that their group of girls was underestimated.

"Oh! My bad. Forgive this young and inexperienced girl for not clearly distinguishing and recognizing this Sire." Ling Qingyu said. "But how can you even affect our lives? Where there's a clear law to protect against unlawful actions I don't think what you're saying will happen. Besides, I've never broken any rules."

Those who knew Ling Qingyu had strange eyes, hearing her words. Why did they have a strong premonition, that this man would become another poor victim?

"The world is never simple. Why do you think people struggle for wealth and power?" The man said with a winning smile when he saw Ling Qingyu give in. "Your group of girls working in an entertainment circle should know more. I don't know how you deal with others, prideful of your popularity, but in front of us, you are nothing."

Yang Qingyue looked down, controlling her laughter but her shaking shoulders betrayed her cover. Ling Qingyu's face turned weird, along with the onlookers who were paying attention to the slight commotion here. Many nudged their forehead slightly. The fat man picked off the wrong opponents and even regarded Ling Qingyu as an entertainer. That was an insult on a new level.

In contrast, the fat man, noting Ling Qingyu's and the others' change in expression as fear and shock, curled his lips and sneered. He had long wanted to teach these women, lessons. A momentary pride due to popularity and he just liked to crush it, especially the ice cube type.

The man continued, satisfied with Ling Qingyu's and the other girls' reactions. "But I can forgive your previous impoliteness and be magnanimous for the ladies, especially the beautiful one, if you all toast wine for me."

"I beg your pardon." Ling Qingyu said, pretending to be fearful and innocent. "You'll forgive us, once we drink wine with you."

The people around who were familiar with Ling Qingyu had their eyelids twitched. The audacity of the acting level exhibited by Ling Qingyu opened their blind eyes.

Even though they were aware that Ling Qingyu hadn't suffered once or held her bad breath, fighting against the number one prestigious company, particularly the pharmaceutical industry drove their curiosity.

Of course, some who didn't know Ling Qingyu had sympathies in their eyes, another poor beautiful girl exploited by a pig. Some of them whispered their thoughts and shook their head while others asked for Ling Qingyu's identity.

"Of course not. Don't be silly. That'll only quench my anger." The man said, like a boss in full control, poured wine slowly, savoring every moment the fluid splashed. "We might need a private discussion between us later on."

"What if we disagree." Ling Qingyu looked around as if seeking help from her friends, whose gazes landed far away to avoid destroying her pretense. "As girls, can't you not forget about the past? We really didn't do anything."

"Hmph!" The man humped, shaking his extra layer of skin. The vibrato was so intense, causing Ling Qingyu to gulp.

She had seen fat people but the level of obesity almost caused her to vomit when the imaginary scene of this guy pressing over the girls with the tricks he currently used on her.

Her reaction increased the man's vanity more. "Then, you'll face troubles in your careers and lose your dreams out of your grasp. Don't you want to be famous? I'll just destroy the possibilities. Once my words get out, I'm sure your coworkers will fly away."

"But I have my own business and I don't need to rely on anyone." Ling Qingyu muttered and tapped her chin.

"What a naive child." The man clicked her tongue.

Everyone nearby almost slipped and slammed the floor from the standing position. They had strong urges to ask—where did he see innocence and naivety? Where did he think the ruthlessness trait came from?

Even Ling Qingyu's eyelids twitched. She even wondered if she overdid her part. Well, for the sake of saying good things for her, she should punish less.

"But I'm telling the truth. People seek cooperation with me. Some are even willing to lose their properties and let me take charge so that more money can flow in. I take pride myself as a cash printer." Ling Qingyu replied and she was telling the truth.

Chapter 235: Yang Qingyue stepped in

The man chuckled. "Hehe, I see, you still haven't let go of your useless pride. As an elder, I'm saying this from my perspective. Pride will only consume you."

"But as an elder, couldn't you forgive and forget the younger generation?" Ling Qingyu wanted to know more about this fraudulent gentleman's inner mindset.

"If forgiving and forgetting is easy in this world, where would the real lesson come from? People will never learn and keep making mistakes." The man said.

"Indeed. You're right." Ling Qingyu nodded. She agreed with the statement of having a memorable lesson. But who was giving who? She curled her lips.

At the end of the day, the premise was to have strength to teach others.

"So, only after having a substantial gain embedded in your memory, you won't make the same mistakes again." The man said. "An entertainer must have a mindset of entertainer."

Hearing the words, those who were working as famous artists clenched their fists in anger but were frustrated their fists meant nothing to people like the fat man. This was the most hurtful for them even if they were kings and queens among thousands of people.

Even Ling Yunxiang pursed her lips but her frustration wasn't too much since she knew her elder sister would teach this pathetic guy living in his own world a lesson soon.

"Anyway, you can't do anything to me with your feeble wealth." Ling Qingyu shrugged, prompting some waves of laughter around.

The most sniffling came from her group of girls. They thought they had never seen Ling Qingyu as a black-bellied type.

"We'll see in the next few days, You'll lose your career and because of your stubbornness, your sisters will suffer. Oh, who knows they might stab you in the back. In the world of stepping each other, you'll go down toward the path of misery until you'll come and beg me." The man slowly mouthed his words. "By then the price you have to pay will be much larger than ever before."

"I think we have a misunderstanding here—"

"No, unfortunately for you, nope. My words—"

"Excuse me, Mister." Ling Qingyu cutoff. "I think you're regarding me as an entertainer, which I'm not. And that's the reason why I say you've no control over me."

"Yes, I have control over you...Wait—Did you just say you're not an entertainer." The man now realized something was wrong.

"Yes, I've been trying to tell you just now. I'm also a businesswoman the same as you, senior." Ling Qingyu said with a smile.

The man pointed at the rest of the girls. "Neither are they?"

Ling Qingyu shook her head. The man's eyelids twitched predicting bad premonition. Since Ling Qingyu was working in the same field as him and sitting at the forefront, their statuses weren't simple. He was quickly thinking of the solution to remedy the subtle enmity.

"May I know who might you be?" The man was panicking since this woman could sit here, it was best to solve the feud. But his expression remained stoic and confident.

"I'm Ling Qingyu."

"Hmm, never heard of it." The man scratched the back of his head.

Ling Qingyu was stumped for the first time. There were still people who didn't know her identity at all. She had been used to gazes of admiration and worship by many women and the urge to conquer from the men.

Nonetheless, she shrugged off the uncomfortable feeling. She also didn't know this man at all; so, why stuck with the useless fame?

Perhaps noticing Ling Qingyu's crack in her expression, the man quickly asked. "Miss, what's your company?"

After Ling Qingyu told the name, the man took out his phone and searched for more information. He was immediately relieved.

Just a mere 30 billion net worth company, although impressive within a short frame, didn't post any threats to him. He was a bit puzzled why this woman was eligible to sit equally with him and his peers.

Because he was searching quickly, he wasn't aware of Ling Qingyu's deeds except for some headlines highlighting her donation amount. The fat man widened his eyes but didn't think much.

He could also gift away more but why would he? He even wondered if this woman had the heart of saintess to uselessly squander away money without any benefits.

"You're an impressive girl to reach this stage." The fat man nodded as if he was affirming the junior's work. "Since this is the case, let's forget what I say but you must drink this cup of wine."

The fat man thought there were many ways to cure Ling Qingyu. Even though he couldn't press on like he used to the weak artists, his strength was stronger than hers.

He didn't want his action to backfire, resulting in a loss-loss situation. He intended to slowly boil the water so that the frog inside the well wouldn't be aware until it was too late.

Besides, Ling Qingyu was a small businesswoman in his opinion, her net worth and her connections weren't comparable to his.

If others heard his inner thoughts, people would complain. Dude, this woman dared to fight even the capital behemoth. What are you?

The fat man might be number one here owning the company but he belonged to the chamber of pharmaceutical companies in the capital. The shares despite owning the majority weren't his alone too. Based on Ling Qingyu's past hands, countless methods to slap him hard.

Ling Qingyu sneered at the man's action. For a short moment, this man softened his tone in panic and after discovering the 'truth', he instantly hardened his stance.

For this type of people, Ling Qingyu only had one method in mind—crush them to their starting point. And she was about to do so.

She hated the wine culture, popular in the workspace. She had no idea who started it and since when but people followed suit. It was bad behavior yet no one thought of a change.

They used wine culture to oppress those weaker than theirs. They should change for the better since almost everyone came from the starting point and had experienced them.

Nevertheless, they enjoyed seeing others suffer. At the end of the day, those who were overworked suffered diseases like stomach and intestine cancer because of the wine culture.

Ling Qingyu, in the past life, therefore, never sold her dignity for a more comfortable life. If you lost the real you, throughout your entire life you are not you anymore.

Self-respect, balanced pride and dignity were essential to be a true human being. When others were allowed to trample at will, no one but you could save yourself. Some might argue for a better life, sometimes letting go was the solution.

Ling Qingyu only had one belief—never ever sell yourself. The journey might be arduous but the reward of do or die was something hard to achieve.

"I'm never gonna toast you this wine, nor at anyone. This bullshit wine thing needs to stop." Ling Qingyu said, not caring if the words would offend people. "I may respectfully take a sip or two for enjoyment but I'm not going to be forced by others nor do I like those bullying others. If I see one, I might even help the weak to find their place."

Remembering some poor stories in her past, Ling Qingyu thought why not she helped solve the root cause but she sighed at her powerlessness because the culture was too deep. Maybe a slight change could be made from here.

Just when Ling Qingyu was about to end her pretense and face-slap, Yang Qingyue stood up and interrupted. "Hold on, this Mister. Who do you think you're to dictate others."

Chapter 236: Yang Qingyue being awesome

Yang Qingyue kept silent under Ling Qingyu's eyes but she couldn't bear it any longer. She had fought against those types of bullies since childhood without fear.

Perhaps her strong background had allowed her to survive and retain the essential innocence and longing for true righteousness. Now, someone dared to bully Ling Qingyu in front of her, and the urge to beat the fat guy flared up again.

But she wasn't young anymore; her position also restricted her actions. She couldn't act without restraints any longer.

As a police chief and high-level official, her actions must abide by the rules. She stood up and pulled away Ling Qingyu, covering with her body as she whispered. "I'll take care of this."

Ling Qingyu raised her eyebrows and glanced at Tang Ziyi, who understood what she wanted. All black materials of the fat man could be uncovered soon. But since Yang Qingyue stepped in, she had to show restraint too, since she promised she wouldn't no longer cause illegal acts.

She hadn't even asked Yang Qingyue for forgiveness for the hacking events in the past few days. If she did it again, she had a premonition, that things would go in a direction which she would dislike. The two parties could even become estranged.

Compared with her precious relationship, what was the matter with the fat man's life? Besides, the moment she made a move, it was an overkill like slaughtering the mosquitoes with the cannon power. She didn't plan to bother this guy any longer.

Somehow when Yang Qingyue posed in front of her, Ling Qingyu felt warmth in her heart. Yang Qingyue's action shone a light in her eyes.

"Who are you to talk with me in this serious tone? Don't think with your friend's protection, I can't do anything at you." The fat man said in anger. "Even if your friend is rich and talented, she needs time to grow. The fewer people offended the better for her."

A collective slap on the forehead rang inside the minds of the onlookers. You, fat man, were really courageous. You formed a feud with a ruthless businesswoman. Now, you fought against the police chief whose limelight even capital must give face.

Everyone who hadn't noticed the commotion going on had realized by now and were nearing with their ears perked. Even Mr. Shen was alarmed and hurried to the scene. He was about to save Ling Qingyu from the fat man's action but Yang Qingyue took the first step.

He could only watch from the sideline. He wasn't too worried for Ling Qingyu since he understood her ability. He regretted he lost the chance to show off and handed the scenes over to Yang Qingyue.

"Oh! I'm not qualified?" Yang Qingyue muttered in mockery. "Maybe I haven't worked for long, some people can't recognize me. I don't know, this Mister, as a chief of police in City N, do I fit your requirements?"

The fat man blinked his eyes in confusion and stared at Yang Qingyue in shock, almost dropping his glass. "You...You're the police chief, the new witch Yang—ahem—I mean the new excellent talent from the capital."

Yang Qingyue's face instantly darkened, but Ling Qingyu laughed softly, drawing her glare. Ling Qingyu flashed a thumbs-up for the fat man, possessing such immense courage. Not only her, but the rest of the girls giggled at Yang Qingyue's new title.

This showed how much horror Yang Qingyue brought with her every move. Furthermore, Yang Qingyue's guilt of slightly exploiting her power diminished. This fat man dared to call out the nickname, which meant he was also in the same party as her enemies.

"Well, people can attest to my identity. I'm sure." Those in the surroundings, who were paying attention, nodded. "If I haven't misheard, did I listen to someone threatening others, abusing their powers and wealth with confidence?" Yang Qingyue asked with an intriguing smile.

The fat man stood up and shook his head, bending his waist slightly and waving her wrist in disagreement. "You heard it wrong, Chief Yang. How could I, as a responsible citizen, make threats to others? Those having strength must abide by their responsibilities. Else, I will be ashamed of myself." The man said righteously.

By now, if the fatty didn't understand he had kicked an S-tier steeled plate, no heavy steeled block, he should sell his business. Others were embarrassed at the man's thick skin. Literally, he had one though. There were no mistakes in his expression when he confused right and wrong.

"Are you certain, Mister?" Yang Qingyue stepped closer, without losing a smile, and pressed harder. "What about the wine that my Sister Ling must drink?"

"Ahem— hehe...Forgive me if I haven't made myself clear. I was merely joking. As my peer, I hope to enhance our relationship. There's a saying, becoming friends after drinking wine." The man quibbled. "Yes, I intend to make friends with this lady and exchange our business views. There's no conflict."

Yang Qingyue was non-committal with his denial. Which sane person dared to repeat his previous words in front of law enforcement, particularly the real powerful one too.

If the man thought the commotion would end here because he said so. It was terribly wrong. "No, no, I'm of the opposite opinion. Threatening others whether through manipulation or coercion is a felony. I have a feeling this isn't your first time. You might have done the same thing on some poor girls."

Yang Qingyue added: "Based on your tones, I made an inference, a plausible reason to detain you. Your views tell me forcing women with a cane and placating them with a carrot seems like your usual tactics

resembling a sexual predator, Sir. I'm sure with further investigations, more hidden cases will be uncovered."

The man lost composure and quickly refuted. "With all due respect Ma'am, you have no evidence whatsoever that pointed out I said as you depicted."

"Even with the testimonies, witnesses can give? Not very smart of you."

"I'm a businessman; I made many enemies."

"And my sister beside me too?" Yang Qingyue narrowed her eyes.

"It's an allegation! And it was just a joke." The man stammered. He knew he was in crisis the moment Yang Qingyue admitted her identity.

"I think not, on the contrary. Sorry to disappoint you." Yang Qingyue took out her phone and played the recording. All the voices during which the man unceremoniously threatened Ling Qingyu in various manners were included. "From the serious tones and the CCTV recording here, and my personal sight, I saw no jokes. And I don't have time to fabricate the audio recording, do I?"

The man was completely at a loss and he sat down, wobbling the chair. His eyes searched for rescue from around. Everyone avoided the gaze.

Ling Qingyu widened her eyes at Yang Qingyue's swift method. She was indeed impressed. The young police chief acted thoroughly and strategically, leaving the man in an enclosed corner.

Yang Qingyue dialed a number and spoke while waiting for the other end to receive it. "Sir, I hope you come to our station where we need to talk in detail. Your behavior can be attributed to sex trafficking."

"What trafficking? I didn't even hurl the women around."

"I sure hope you didn't or you'll never end very well." Yang Qingyue said. "But I can still press charge for it. Manipulating women through coercion, controlling their wealth, and making a threat, indirectly asking for intercourse already allow such allegation.

"Hello, Sister Cai. Hmm, nothing emergency happening. I need a team of officers to come to me. We need to take a statement from someone at the police station."

While Yang Qingyue talked on the phone, the man panicked. He wasn't frightened of the sexual allegation because, through his lawyers, he could easily defeat or elongate the process with money.

However, being taken to the station in public meant a serious demise for him. The resulting losses because of Yang Qingyue's action weren't something any rich people could tolerate.

Chapter 237: I don't know you

The man's eyes quickly discovered the mayor, who he had supported back in the old days. As if gripping the last straw, he hurried over and pleaded help.

When the mayor saw the man's sight on him, he screamed bad inside his heart. He didn't find trouble but trouble came to him.

"Mayor, please help me explain my situation to Chief Yang." The man said. "As a close friend, am I depraved to such an extent? It's impossible."

The mayor only had swear words inside his heart. When did the two become close friend? The only relationship the two had was cooperation when the man donated money for the election.

As his donor, he must at least come forward to help out but the man's mouth was too unstable to screw things up and he still pulled him over when trouble arose.

"Ah! What happen? I didn't hear the commotion. What troubles did you just make?" The mayor pretended to be puzzled. "Chief Yang, what's going on here?"

The people around him sneered at his pretense. They heard everything, why couldn't he? The number one skill, a politician should possess was acting confused.

The mayor felt guilty and angry when he saw everyone looking at him jokingly. He almost blew up but after Yang Qingyue glanced at him with a meaningful smile, he shuddered.

"I have some probable evidence leading toward serious crime, this gentleman might have committed." Yang Qingyue said. "He must come with me to the station, personally. I'm sure, as a major, you should understand my duty."

"Chief Yang is joking. Why should I interfere? I'm really just asking a question." The mayor breathed heavily and replied. "I'm sure Chief Yang is righteous and will not do anything meaningless. There must be your reason but I hope you'll give me due evidence later on."

"That depends on the case, Mayor." Yang Qingyue shook her head. "Sometimes, the identity issues can ruin the witnesses. I'll soon deliver the report after the investigation is finished."

"Alright, I'm sure Chief Yang is doing all for the sake of justice." The mayor relented and cursed the man who nearly found trouble.

If he kept trying to save the fat man, the mayor felt his chair might be gone the next day. Yang Qingyue, in the following weeks, would have unprecedented power and prestige because of her victory over her opponents.

He, a little mayor, should avoid offending her, when he could guess, that Yang Qingyue's future might reach the provincial level at the very least and possibly the ministerial level too. That was a big official, probably hopeless for him.

But Yang Qingyue, with her background and merits, was definitely eligible, meeting the requirements. As long as her ship didn't encounter a life-threatening storm, it would sail safely and reach her destination.

Yang Qingyue gave a look of suit-yourself and stared at the fat man, who seemed to have resigned to his fate because he heard the mayor didn't even fight for him.

"Then, I will not embarrass my job." Yang Qingyue said.

Both big officials had already decided, the ending was doomed. Soon, four officers arrived and under Yang Qingyue's order, the fat guy was taken away.

No matter how he pleaded Yang Qingyue, they could discuss it privately, it was of no use. Since Yang Qingyue decided to punish this guy, how could she allow a way out, no matter how much he hinted?

With the public appearance at the police station for questioning the scandal, news should probably spread soon. By then, even if the guy came out, he had to face a crisis in his industry due to a loss in reputation.

One had to note, the reason why wealthy and influential individuals weren't easily arrested compared to ordinary people solely based on probable cause except with strong evidence was to reduce the impact the event had on the society.

Unless there was an order from above or very strong and obvious evidence, their movements were only restricted.

However, what Yang Qingyue did to this guy, was the most punishing method, cutting off wealth and comeback. If the man didn't sacrifice a lot of energy, she would have a hard time escaping out of the quagmire.

The commotion passed and Mr. Shen stepped in to apologize for being late. Ling Qingyu understood and saw his action from the corner of her eyes. Because Yang Qingyue stepped in, he had no opportunity to make amends.

She easily forgave and was relieved. Fortunately, Sister Yang took action fast and became the limelight.

But she was envious of Yang Qingyue and wanted to know how it felt to face-slap someone. She had numerous opportunities but she never had to make a move. Her confidantes were quicker.

Ling Qingyu dragged away Zhao Xiurong and Ling Yunxiang, and began to converse with others, introducing them in the process.

Many were willing to give face whether due to Yang Qingyue's action or fearful of her reputation. There were also some who carried favor and Ling Qingyu reciprocated their actions.

After all, making many afraid of her would put her in a common enemy position in the future if exploited by a strategic person. She was also willing to talk to them, as long as, no one behaved like the annoying fat guy.

Usually, conversation with a man merely focused on the plausible cooperation and future economy. With women, even Ling Qingyu had bulged inside her brain.

She even prayed the topics to end fast and cut the conversation. From beauty maintenance to mastering the art of socialites, it never ended.

Zhao Xiurong and Ling Yunxiang gained a lot. Compared to a salaried worker, the business circle found wealth through negotiation and exchanges.

She saw Yang Qingyue mingling around with other important government officials; many seemed to be stiff and laughing awkwardly in front of her.

She didn't need to listen to know her police sister was definitely giving them a memorable lesson. Even though her means were restrained, from today's appearance, she had changed everyone's impression of her.

Yang Qingyue was no longer the willful demoness who relied on only fists. She had learned to use everything to her advantage. At the back of her mind, she cursed at Ling Qingyu for teaching her those skillsets.

After a while, Mr. Shen announced another session where people would donate his charitable foundation. One by one, wealthy individuals except the government officials and staff, entered the amount through their mobile bank account.

Afterward, the paper, probably recording the lists of names and the donated amount, reached Mr. Shen's hand. Holding the mic, he announced according to the list.

"Lu Corporation 1 million!"

"Everblue Corporation 2 million!"

"Rose Group 700,000!"

Ling Qingyu eyed toward Lan Xi and was surprised of her move but then realized they were selling favors to the officials by trying to do charity work. And as expected.

"Hu Group 500,000!"

"XXX Corporation 2 million!"

"XX Corporation 5.5 million!"

"..."

"XX Group 50 million!" This announcement drew gasps as the amount wasn't really small. But the latter lists became higher and higher.

"Xia family 300 million!"

"Hiss!"

"Incomparable, incomprable. Gotta give up competing against these strongs." People murmured. Everyone was also in fact racing to rank prestiges among each other.

"Spirit Group 500 million!" Silence. Absolute silence.

Chapter 238: Selling oneself

Murmurs erupted again. "What's Spirit Group?"

"How come we've never heard of it?"

"But the names sounded familiar."

Naturally, Spirit Group belonged to Ling Qingyu's future name of the consortium she planned. Under it comprised of electronics, automobile, heavy industry, food, agriculture, fashion and many more.

People realized after a while and gazed at Ling Qingyu in awe, while Mr. Shen became speechless. Throwing away half a billion without hesitation not long after she spent 2 billion.

Even the reputable Xia family comparable to theirs only spend around 300 million yuan. This woman hid too deep; how long had she been planning?

Sometimes, when a person was too mysterious, people allocated the reasons toward mythical and luck. And they were right—it was impossible without Miss System's and Athena's contributions.

In fact, Ling Qingyu could spill several billions and shut down everyone's brain but she never wanted to waste her wealth, not especially when she had no idea whether her money would reach the intended area.

If she had control over the cash flow and the ability to monitor throughout the entire path, she might have no hesitation.

Mr. Shen continued, listing out the names but no commotion arose. People's hearts were numbed by Ling Qingyu's number and the others seemed more like decorations.

Groups and corporations referred to the business contingents, specializing in several sectors. There were also some specific names such as entertainment and so on. Ling Qingyu heard various companies' names for the first time, including publishing houses.

Although the net worth of less than 1 billion appeared feeble, Ling Qingyu would never underestimate any businessperson. It all depended on skills and mostly luck, particularly opportunities during the journey, which differentiated the ranking.

Just because her business was doing well, Ling Qingyu never swelled and this was what attracted others.

While many were focusing on the lists, Yang Qingyue flowed through the crowd, came in front of Ling Qingyu and dragged her away.

Noticing Yang Qingyue's corny and excited expression, Ling Qingyu didn't refuse and came into a corner where there was a private space for the two.

Yang Qingyue rubbed her hands and asked in expectation. "I save you from the bad guy, are you not rewarding me with anything?"

Ling Qingyu's nose twitched. What in the world? She thought there was something important to discuss far away from the crowd.

Now Yang Qingyue was acting as a hero saving the beauty and begging for a reward. "Why didn't you ask me when you finished scolding the fat guy?" Ling Qingyu asked curiously. "Besides, do you think I can not solve this simple retard?"

She wasn't upset by Yang Qingyue's behavior, because this was the first time she saw her acting cheeky. As long as Yang Qingyue opened her mouth, Ling Qingyu would do so.

Of course, she was never a lickster and Yang Qingyue was never someone who only exploited others. Both understood each other's mindset long before they got close together.

"Well, I feel I'm troubling you if I ask more." Yang Qingyue said softly. "And I also wanted to show you I can also protect you."

"Come on, Sister Yang. I'm already glad you've protected me a lot these days. I don't need to know anymore because I understand you." Ling Qingyu's words reddened the young police chief's cheeks.

"Actually, when I know the amount of money you spent, I guess your limits." Yang Qingyue said with guilt and shuffled her feet. "You can spare the same amount for me, right?"

"For you?" Ling Qingyu was confused. "Do you want me to buy a diamond ring or other precious jewelry?"

Yang Qingyue stomped her foot and shook Ling Qingyu's arms. "Sister Ling! What're you talking about? I'm requesting additional funds for my police force, in case the above cut us off. And when have you ever seen me decorating myself? I wore everything simple today."

"Oh! It's indeed beautiful. I like your uniform style more though. Heroic and dashing." Ling Qingyu acted like a rascal, continued teasing. "But Sister Yang, everything must have an equivalent exchange."

Yang Qingyue rolled her eyes at Ling Qingyu's behavior of trying to take advantage of her.

"I have nothing. How about this girl repay you with the uniform?" Yang Qingyue curled her lips and said in a seductive tone.

"I will not be ensnared by beauty and firmly stick to my goals." Ling Qingyu replied.

Yang Qingyue's eyebrows twitched. If she hadn't noticed wavering eye movement from Ling Qingyu and heard a slight swallowing gulp, Ling Qingyu's words might sound convincing.

"Come on, Sis." Yang Qingyue acted coquettishly, swaying her body and sticking around Ling Qingyu. Although Ling Qingyu desired to continue enjoying the honey trap, there were still people around.

She felt unsafe and didn't want a dam to appear to obstruct the flow. Once execution started, there was no turning back.

"Alright deal. But you must not forget your promise." Ling Qingyu breathed hard and rubbed her nose. She sensed the increasing heat and cursed—a true goblin to devour her energy.

Yang Qingyue released her grip and gently held the hand, walking back. Well, even though she sold herself for the benefit of the entire City N police force, her heart looked forward to the promise.

"By the way, I know from your eyes, that you want to eat away the fat guys' company but be careful of swallowing over your limit." Yang Qingyue warned. "I've seen your expansion; you should consolidate before moving on."

Ling Qingyu nodded, feeling warm. Yang Qingyue had learned to care for her. "I'll listen to our lady. As ordered."

"Pah! What lady?" Yang Qingyue swatted away Ling Qingyu's cheap hand and arrogantly strode away.

Ling Qingyu's lips stretched into a wide grin. The coming days were never going to be boring again.

....

Splash! Splash!

Water dripped over the healthy whitened skin. The hands washed away the foams around and shook off any remaining droplets.

Ling Qingyu turned off the faucet. With support on her palms, she leaned on the basin and studied herself from the reflection in the mirror.

She had no idea if the wine was the factor or Yang Qingyue's teasing, her face blushed more and the boiling redness hadn't dissipated yet.

During the pause before the main event began, Ling Qingyu went to the toilet. For security reasons, Xiao Yue accompanied her and now stood on her right leaning against the wall.

Noting her confidantes, Ling Qingyu frowned. "Really. Do you have to stay near me all the time?"

Xiao Yue shrugged. "Who would like to listen to your nature sound?"

F\*\*k, Ling Qingyu swore, these two girls always gave her high blood pressure. She worried the capillaries might rupture, if she continued the topic.

Ling Qingyu raised her hands. "I know. I know. Someone has been trying to kill me and we don't know who yet. Till we have better news, due vigilance is necessary." She replied like a report to the teacher and sighed.

Xiao Yue stepped forward and patted her shoulder. "Don't worry. With our presence, it's only a matter of time."

"You know, I want to make wealth in silence. No one knows I'm great. No one is even aware, that someone ordinary ranked very high on the wealthy list. That's my dream—becoming a hidden rich." Ling Qingyu said calmly. "But things push me more for publicity."

Xiao Yue remained quiet and served as a good listener. Ling Qingyu didn't say the deal she made with Miss System caused her reclusive plan to be impossible.

Earning merits meant people had to be aware of her existence. Only with higher prestige, she could seek more merits and a virtuous cycle formed.

No one spoke till Xiao Yue added. "I think your original idea shouldn't be your true wish. It's more like an effect brought from your previous life. What's wrong with showing off, as long as your action doesn't bring troubles. And becoming ordinary doesn't solve any problems or avoid one. You already experienced the fat guy.

How many similar types are on the street? Given your beauty, it won't be long before another disaster comes. Me and Sister Tang also extinguished one of them, the moment we came into this world. What makes you think being ordinary and reclusive life is what you desire?"

Xiao Yue poked Ling Qingyu's chest, causing the recipient to blush and the culprit to cough in embarrassment. "Haha, I'm into the play too much. But Sister Ling, believe me, everything is meant for a reason. You coming here, us coming here, even your...hmm...gender problem."

Ling Qingyu: It's better if you don't say it.

Chapter 239: Xiao Yue's crow's mouth

Shaking her head, Ling Qingyu went out and returned to the hall to catch up with the main event. Tonight's auction might bring out credible and valuable materials.

Thinking of the ancient collections decorated inside her manor, Ling Qingyu rubbed her chin. Not bad.

And what if she met some more golden fingers and secrets of the universe? Who knew if those materials belonged to the advanced civilization? Ling Qingyu was looking forward to it.

What if the items she picked up opened the path to immortality and godhood, or any ancient martial arts? Every mortal's dream of becoming a strong powerhouse shouldn't be far away.

Unfortunately, Miss System poured cold water over her head. [It's impossible for you in this life to own such opportunities with my presence.]

Ling Qingyu nearly exploded, asking frantically in her mind. 'Why? What do you mean?'

[You already gained numerous prizes from me, I'm not going to allow you to become an invincible existence.]

'Come on. It's not like I'm going to bully someone.'

[Like hell, you do...To be honest, immortality and godhood aren't impossible but don't think about it for now.]

Ling Qingyu sighed. 'How about ancient martial arts strengthening?'

[Scientifically, it's possible but don't hope too much. The world I chose you, didn't even have the slightest aura.]

'How about genetic engineering or any nano-technologies to provide more power to the cell?'

[That's something you've to realize by yourself. With your wealth and search for talent, I'm sure it's not far away. That's also the reason why I'll suppress you even if you find similar treasure. What's not yours won't be yours.]

Ling Qingyu flagged a middle finger secretly in her mind. You bastard System. Why do you suppress my luck?

Miss System: Female Pervert, what can you do?

Of course, the necessary banter between the two was a daily love exchange. Ling Qingyu didn't think Miss System would really do what she said. It must more likely be her ideas were nonexistent in this world.

Pity, Ling Qingyu thought. However, the scientific method was still possible and wasn't restricted—it must be good news.

Ling Qingyu felt a push and glanced back. Xiao Yue asked with worry. "What's the matter with your face? What are you thinking? One second, you beamed with joy; the next second you seem like you've eaten shit."

Ling Qingyu's face darkened and she snorted, not bothering to reply. Eating shit. Too much of a description here. Xiao Yue's giggles rang from behind.

After exiting the toilet and contemplating everything, Ling Qingyu figured she must adapt to the changes, in contrast to the original plan of laying low.

Her reputation would only rise more. Since the results were already out, she didn't mind buying with money.

There were also advantages she gained during the few days. Yang Qingyue covered her and allowed more freedom. As long as she didn't repeat her act of hacking the Qin family again and again, she remained safe.

However, she understood, it wasn't for long before she might face numerous attacks. She had confidence in her confidantes and her ability to tackle through this difficult moment.

So long as she firmly planted her status in Province N, even the capital would have to think twice. Despite future struggles, Ling Qingyu felt steady—a little test from fate meant nothing to her. She should dig a grave if she couldn't solve the predicament with so much help around.

On the way back, Ling Qingyu was greeted a lot, and responded accordingly, neither too cold nor too warm. Some even wanted to have a dialogue to obtain her impression and she solved them with skills.

"Miss Ling is getting more and more famous." Ling Qingyu heard a man's voice, His tone consisted of vicissitudes and powers. Only those who rose from ashes had this aura in their voices.

"Thank you, Mister. I'm just doing what I can to repay the society." Ling Qingyu didn't want a high title on her head. Instead of praise, it was a burden.

"Not many can have the same mindset as yours. As there is white, there is also black." The man muttered.

"How do I address you, Mister?" Ling Qingyu asked while her intuition sensed weirdness in this man.

"The old man's surname is Hu." The man appeared in his late fifties, wearing a grey man suit, and standing tall like an old mafia boss.

"So, it's Mr. Hu. I wonder what's the connection with the real estate enterprise of Hu Group." Ling Qingyu asked.

"I'm just a little boss compared to Miss Ling's grandeur." Mr. Hu sounded peaceful but Ling Qingyu had no idea why she sensed malice. "Ms. Ling's methods were too good and clean."

"I'm sorry I have no idea what you're talking about." Ling Qingyu was puzzled for a while and later realized the man before her was indeed the leader of the Hu gang.

She had no idea how she became related to those desperadoes. Ling Qingyu didn't really want to get close to the gang factions which affected the relationship with Yang Qingyue.

Or left a handle for her enemies to attack Yang Qingyue in the political arena. Knowing now that the man was the gang leader, Ling Qingyu intended to cut him off.

But would Mr. Hu grant her wish? "Although I have no idea, Ms. Ling Qingyu encountering an accident a week ago also brought bad news for me. In contrast to your good recovery, I lost my men and my son."

By now, Ling Qingyu knew she met someone saying Yin and Yang with her. When she was about to go around, Mr. Hu blocked her.

Ling Qingyu's eyes drifted toward Xiao Yue in complaint. Did this girl possess some attributes similar to a crow's mouth?

She just stated troubles would always come and spoke the longest words, Ling Qingyu ever heard. It seemed she must be fearful should Xiao Yue begin to say for long.

Xiao Yue shrugged and spread her palm, helplessly. Heaven forbid or any deity, she never meant to experience straightaway.

Ling Qingyu's lips twitched and returned her attention to Mr. Hu. "I don't quite get it, Mister. Although you have my sympathy, I'm also helpless." She replied, expressing her innocence.

Ling Qingyu understood what matters the man was talking about. She gave a secret glance at Xiao Yue, who also nodded imperceptibly.

Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue followed Ling Qingyu's retaliation plan and messed around the Hu gang, responsible for her 'death'. They even burnt the son of gang leader alive.

Ling Qingyu gave full support for their actions. These gang members had been arbitrarily abusing other helpless people and needed to be taught.

"My son was burnt alive, according to a police report." Mr. Hu gritted his teeth as he said. "And the perpetrator are let loose. If the justice system couldn't give me the answer, I intend to pursue it with my own hands."

A naked threat. Ling Qingyu probably knew this man suspected and confirmed it was hers.

"Perhaps, the system is inherently flawed, that some people exploit the holes and burn themselves. You play with fire; you're gonna get burned someday." Ling Qingyu said sarcastically.

The man cracked his fists as he glared at Xiao Yue. "You have good subordinates, Miss Ling."

"No, I have a better family, who love me and protect me."

Chapter 240: A war

Mr. Hu went speechless and subconsciously agreed with Ling Qingyu's words. His group of gangs was filled with factional fights and power struggles.

"I gotta go if you don't mind, Mr. Hu." Ling Qingyu smiled and walked past him. "So, please excuse me."

Xiao Yue stuck with her, preparing for any moves should Mr. Hu take. Ling Qingyu was confident there wasn't going to be any problem in this place.

Once the old man made a move, he was doomed. Although for his son, he desired vengeance it hadn't consumed his rationality.

"Ms. Ling should know, that accidents happen every day. Don't think the thunder will never strike the same place?" Mr. Hu said.

"I'll take care of my own business. I trust my own security team and my luck." Ling Qingyu slowed down but kept walking.

"What about your employees then, Ms. Ling? Can you take care of them on a daily basis?"

Ling Qingyu stopped her steps, her back against the man, while Xiao Yue stood beside her with her eyebrows twitching.

Although Ling Qingyu appeared soft and gentle, under skin exuded a strong steel-like mindset that refused to budge an inch to the aggressor. Don't look at Ling Qingyu losing in front of them and giving up.

That was because they were familiar and as close as sisters. If she made up her mind, no one could sway her goal.

"Sir, is this considered a threat? Am I hearing everything correctly?" Ling Qingyu sneered and turned her head a little to the side.

The man chuckled and fixed his collar. "No, Ms. Ling. I'm giving you some advice so that you can think more deeply about the consequences."

Ling Qingyu laughed coldly and said slowly. "Mr. Hu, you've got my attention. Congratulations! From now on, my eyes are going to be on you."

"Same here. Vice versa, just the way we work in a business." Mr. Hu turned around and smiled.

"So, you want to play a game with me, huh?" Ling Qingyu rotated her body to the side.

"Of course, not after you cross me, you think you can get out of Province N in one piece; a metaphor by the way." The man stepped closer, his every pace increasing his momentum.

Xiao Yue wanted to slap her forehead and pray for the old man. One had to remember with only Tang Ziyi and her existence, Ling Qingyu thwarted the entire gang into chaos.

Now that Ling Qingyu had more professionally trained special guards, who also could act like law enforcement, she was already bullying Mr. Hu.

Nonetheless, the rascals had their ways. Mr. Hu's threat worked. Looking out for every staff inside her company seemed daunting and if not for his reminder, Ling Qingyu felt her action might be too late before she realized her weakness.

"I must say—thank you for reminding me. If Mister hasn't said anything, I might never know my weak spot." Ling Qingyu remained unfazed, releasing her aura and colliding with the gang leader like a queen on a high throne.

Mr. Hu smiled at Ling Qingyu's reply. He didn't think he was doing something advantageous for his enemy. Only through psychological pressure, Ling Qingyu would make mistakes and boom—it was his moment to move.

"After all, in front of the ladies, I've to be a gentleman."

"A man?" Ling Qingyu snickered. "You're not worth calling yourself a man. A scum wasting our precious soil; animals should be better than you. If it weren't for the public occasion, you ain't going to be talking like this to me."

"Same to you as well, Miss. You gotta thank Shen family; otherwise, we might be talking privately in a cellar." Mr. Hu replied.

"Indeed, we will. But who's the hunter and who's the prey? I think it's difficult to tell." Ling Qingyu didn't give in.

"My wife is still in trauma, not recovering from my son's death, while you lived a life of enjoyment. What says you?"

The hallway seemed to dim as Mr. Hu's words hung in the air, each syllable heavy with grief. Ling Qingyu's surroundings blurred, and the air felt thick, like an impending storm.

"I hope your whole family follows your son. He died a good death. I've to give applause to the culprit you are searching for because his death saves many more women from suffering and many families from breaking up." Ling Qingyu said. "No, I fix my words—I regret you weren't also burned. Tsk...Tsk."

"LING QINGYU, You think having Yang Qingyue keeps you away from harm." The man took a deep breath.

"No, I don't. I prefer self-reliance than depending on others." Ling Qingyu said. "I thought of letting you enjoy freedom but never expected you don't have gratitude and instead blame me for your son's death. Remember, once you make a move, I won't hold back either."

"Likewise. Likewise."

"Life and death," Ling Qingyu said, pausing. "A feud will be settled soon." Each word hung in the air, pregnant with a promise that sent a shiver down Mr. Hu's spine.

Ling Qingyu walked away, clanking her heels impassively. Xiao Yue followed and pursed her lips. Soon, an evil laughter rang from behind, echoing across the corridors.

"Ling Qingyu. Ling Qingyu. Hahaha! I never expected one day, the person I most hate would be a woman. Hahaha!"

Mr. Hu stepped away in the opposite direction.

The two's dialogue went smoothly without anyone's presence. As for whether there was someone eavesdropping, no one cared.

When Ling Qingyu turned the corner, she paused and struck hard on the red carpet wall with her fist.

Her eyes blared and her nostrils widened a little, gasping for more breath and exhaling deeply. She was controlling her frantic emotions when she spoke with the man just now.

It was hard, withholding her frustration and anger, to the brink where she even wanted to destroy her high heels. How she wished she could've slammed the old man to the floor and thrown him around like a useless bag?

"Sister Ling. Don't worry, you have us. Remember, you're not alone in this." Xiao Yue tried to console.

"I know. I'm just a little moody." Ling Qingyu gasped for breath. "Perhaps, my period is nearing so much so that I needed to vent." She cracked a joke.

Xiao Yue felt relieved and nodded at Ling Qingyu's psychological forbearance. "It's good this way. He's merely poking a hornet nest. He has no idea what enemies he made today."

Ling Qingyu felt better after she heard this. "Indeed. My anger rises not because of a threat but because his words reminded me of Wang Xiuying's trauma. How many more have to suffer before it stops? Whenever I think of my employees, who are mostly women, suffering under their hands...!"

Ling Qingyu gritted her teeth. She didn't need to say more, Xiao Yue understood. Thinking of women facing their worst nightmare, Ling Qingyu's brain fumed.

Sex trafficking, forced prostitution, destroying happy families—none ever got justice and fixed. Now, this man who worked in those fields, laid his eyes on Ling Qingyu; she would be lying if she wasn't pressured.

Gangs never confronted and merely bullied the weak. That was what Ling Qingyu feared—being hit hard and suffering a tragedy when her focus was somewhere.

Xiao Yue smiled suddenly. "You don't need to care too much. Continue your normal routine. We almost forgot we have Athena."

"Yes! Athena!" Ling Qingyu exclaimed. "Godlike existence perfect for the job. Little Yue, you are indeed my number one strategist."

Neither said more but their brains worked at the same frequency. Athena cooperating with her guards and the police solved everything.

"I say, Sister Ling, stop calling me little, and are you sure you even have other strategists other than me."

"Thank you, Shortie Yue."

"...Ah!... Ling Qingyu...F\*\*k you."

....

Ling Qingyu and Xiao Yue returned to their seats, before the main event began—the auction.

Xiao Yue sat beside Tang Ziyi and whispered what happened after they came from the toilet. Obviously, Tang Ziyi wrinkled her brows and tapped the table rhythmically with her index finger.

"I guess, we aren't going to be free in the following days." Tang Ziyi said.

Xiao Yue nodded. "Exactly. But it's great that we are free from boredom."

Tang Ziyi was nonchalant to Xiao Yue's words. "It seems we must upgrade and intensify the training of our guards. They are already good but I want the best out of them."

Xiao Yue's corner of the mouth twitched. She prayed for the poor souls who would be tortured in the next days and swore it wasn't her fault.

Every Ling Qingyu's guard felt chills deep in their spines. Somehow, the premonition that they were going to suffer came into their mind. Everyone kicked away the weirdness and concentrated on their current task.

Apart from Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue, no one knew what happened when Ling Qingyu went out. She didn't want to create an extra burden on her confidantes.

Knowing more would only be detrimental to them. As for talking to Yang Qingyue, please, she didn't have to add more restraint unless necessary.

Since she meant life and death, there would only be one victorious and the result should likely end in killing Mr. Hu and his family. If Yang Qingyue knew her plan, she would immediately prevent her actions.

Ling Qingyu intended to cut off the roots, not even leaving weeds. It was for the better, for the people of Province N. If she sent those guys to jail, they would merely prosper inside the prison.

Who knew whether they could make a comeback? Only foolish people would rely on justice system in regards to those gangs.

No need to look far—wasn't her previous world, in Mexico, the cartel never waned or got extinguished. It was the justice system, which fed them advantages instead. Only brutal bloodshed could solved the deep root problem.

Soon, the host came up on the stage and a group of beautiful girls, wearing traditional red cheongsam brought up various packages hidden underneath the cloaks on the table and stepped behind with smiles and alluring eyes.

While many were breathing unstable, awaiting for the items to be unfolded, Ling Qingyu leaned on her palm, eyes moving up and down, scanning the girls' body.

She sighed in regret. Although not to her standard, they were pretty in their own way. Anyway, it was better than a group of men posing.

"Hmph!"

Ling Qingyu straightened her waist and sat properly, coughing to show seriousness. No need to find who humphed, except for her petty Yang Qingyue.

Why couldn't she even feast over the eye candies? Ling Qingyu smiled appropriately at Yang Qingyue.