

Beautiful 391

Chapter 391 Shotgun

The female clerk had her cheeks reddened when she was brought out, worried some people might judge her, ashamed somebody had to carry her.

When they got out, she saw someone being pressed onto the floor by another officer. She was surprised it was Lin Fan and immediately tried to explain.

"It's protocol and we still have suspicions among the hostages." The operators explained.

The female clerk nodded as her group passed over Lin Fan and noticed an immobile figure of the operator, similar to the one, who tried to rescue her. Her eyes widened and tears welled up.

She felt saddened and guilty somebody lost his or her life, just to save her. From the current group of operators before her eyes, she understood they were only here for her.

Which sane person would regard these men and women, doing the rescue work, as their duties and responsibilities?

Lin Fan was dragged over and the operators on watch of him helped the one who got shot in the face.

Seeing the 'dead' stand up without problems, Lin Fan and the female clerk had their mouths agape. The clerk was immediately happy, sensing no heavy burden, while Lin Fan tried to study the rare specimen.

After all, it was rare to see someone get shot in the face and walk just fine. When he wanted to ask how she survived, a fierce exchange of gunfire erupted again. The war continued.

Near the bank vault, the Spirit Foxes and the robbers fought back and forth. The operators had their hands loose, even though only one hostage, a manager, remained inside.

They no longer needed to consider the hostages' well-being affecting their performances. But the commander was annoyed her group of elites was pinned down before reaching the vault entrance by newbie gunners.

Spraying bullets from the cover without aiming was disgusting. It wouldn't hit one but it did pressure people. The commander faced troubles with the method to proceed.

If the operators assaulted without any fear, too many secrets would be unveiled and trouble Ling Qingyu, their boss. They had to act 'normal'.

While she was deep in thought, a shockwave caused by gunfire near her ears brought her attention back. She almost cursed at the culprit. If not for excellent equipment, she was definitely impaired with deafness and momentary shock.

She glared at the culprit and her eyelids twitched. This was a shotgun girl, she had scolded before.

The shotgun was not a pump action one and could fire repeatedly as long as the ammunition was available in the chamber.

The words about to exit from the commander's mouth paused as this shotgun girl wasted all the rounds and suppressed the robbers' blind firing. At least, she couldn't complain about the perks brought by this girl.

Compared to automatic weapons, shotguns had a powerful deterrence effect, the extraordinary bang and unpredictable trajectories. Without requiring her orders, the rest advanced and took strong positions.

The commander also followed and stacked up. Mechanism producing several metallic brushes sounded from behind.

Looking over, the commander's lips twitched uncontrollably. The same shotgun girl was reloading. Why are you following me?! The commander rubbed her brows.

Her actions so skillful and fast that she must admit she wasn't as good as her even if the commander was a senior.

The girl continued her quad-load. Well, her vest was also exactly tailored for such purpose, now that her eyes carefully studied.

Quad-loading is a professional technique of reloading four rounds into the chamber rather than one at a time.

Now, the girl held four in her hand each time and with a flick of strong thumb and grip, she slid in two by two, perfectly executing the technique. Within 2 seconds, she completed two sets and finished reloading, ready for action.

"Stop it, don't shoot, unless I told you to," The commander held down the shotgun in the girl's hand. "If you shoot now, the hostage inside will be in danger."

The girl pouted and nodded reluctantly. The commander was relieved this girl knew the importance.

"You're very good. Now I won't say another word about your hobby," the commander praised to avert the girl's downed mood.

Sure enough, this girl became joyful again, hugging the weapon, firmly in her arm. The commander chuckled—the warm friendly scene contrasted the event that decided the lives and deaths of many people.

The operators captured the vault entrance, pinning the robbers, with impending doomed fate. Resist, they would die. Surrender, there might be a chance of survival.

Of course, sometimes, people weren't always rational. The leader of the robbers, who managed to survive the heated exchanged, pushed the bank manager to the forefront, a couple of steps away from the doorway.

He roared and threatened. "Don't think of coming in. He will die once any of you step closer."

His threat worked as the operators didn't dare to move. Hiding their presence, they would also blindly fire in the direction of the entrance, causing the special units to not see clearly.

They understood for a fact, that a hostage was pushed to the front as human shield and they dared not fire back, worrying their response would kill the manager.

The commander realized the situation was a bit under control and radioed her subordinates who were ordered to secure the hostages. "Evacuate the hostages. The situation is safe for now. Don't cross the path in the direction of our firefight. I say again, do not cross unless necessary for the hostages. Let them stay in their appropriate area."

"Understood."

The Spirit Foxes bellowed commands, pushing the hostages and cuffed robbers outside. Their formation ensured no one drifted away by accident or on purpose. Hurriedly pushed to outside, where the group obtained access to a large area of flat land to perform a meticulous search and final investigation to guarantee no threats had been missed, numerous figures stumbled out.

Some still had tears from so many dramatic events. Some with smile that they survived a disaster. A few were in panic, belonging to the robbing faction, without any thoughts as they understood their future was screwed.

Chapter 392 Almost over

4 Spirit Foxes sprinted upstairs, clearing room after room, in search of their boss. When they reached one of the rooms, they found two dead bodies, wearing hoods on their heads.

No need to guess, they understood, these bodies belonged to the robbers. Relieved, they were able to speculate, that these were the results of Ling Qingyu's actions.

Unlike before the gunfire at the beginning had died down, which made them hard to search Ling Qingyu. There was sporadic gunfire underneath, loud curses and bangs, a mixture of war symphony.

Just a few meters away, Ling Qingyu already received news from Athena who was paying attention to the entire building that her subordinates had arrived.

She couldn't act too familiar, especially when the guards were in the guise of law enforcement. There were two other strangers beside Ling Qingyu, even if she could tell the truth to Yin Jingfei.

It wasn't because she didn't trust the women, who survived a disaster together. It was a matter of minimal necessary vigilance against others.

"Please, all of you, I don't want today's event to be known to outsiders," Ling Qingyu requested. "This will stay as it is inside. Can I trust you, two?"

The two women meekly nodded. They had known they knew too much about Ling Qingyu and were worried that the ruthless woman had planned anything disastrous for them. Now that Ling Qingyu stated her demand, the burden fell apart.

Ling Qingyu glanced at Yin Jingfei who immediately replied: "Don't worry I won't either. But won't the police put the mystery together later on; I think it's better to make a statement earlier."

"Well, you're right. Don't bother about this stuff because I have friends at a high place. They'll take care of the affairs. You won't suffer a single mishap," said Ling Qingyu.

Since Ling Qingyu said so, Yin Jingfei stopped advising. The women around Ling Qingyu never felt strange about Ling Qingyu's connection. It was the norm for the powerful and influential people.

Ling Qingyu put away the weapon and walked toward the exit, robbers had barricaded. There were so many wires and locks, puzzling her. Locking every entry and exit? Ling Qingyu reckoned the IQ of the robbers. Once entrapped, the robbers had only one choice to survive—surrender.

Based on the effectiveness of the team structure, the leader shouldn't be stupid, what did she miss?

While contemplating, Ling Qingyu broke away the locks with her bare hand, stunning the women behind. Yin Jingfei had her eyes brightened, whereas the other two gulped.

Once the door opened, they couldn't wait to run out but they controlled their impulse. Since the robbers had initiated a heist, nowhere was safe. Ling Qingyu took the lead.

In fact, she was pretending to scurry around. Her main goal was to wait for her subordinates. Spirit Foxes didn't disappoint her and arrived before her leg passed over the threshold.

The women were frightened after hearing the footsteps but as soon as they saw the outfits, everyone patted their chests and sighed, giggling at the joy of surviving a crisis.

The group was escorted downstairs through the emergency exit gate Ling Qingyu unlocked because the fight hadn't stopped yet.

Two at the front and rear protected Ling Qingyu's group before reaching outside where her subordinates returned to the building.

Ling Qingyu now had time to cuss at Lin Fan's physique always inviting misfortune. She was certain, it wasn't hers, even though she had transmigrated into this world along with Miss System. Not all transmigrators were protagonists, children of the destiny.

Look at her, Ling Qingyu was a member of a stallion's harem and her sister was a masochistic heroine. One day, she would surely fight against these protagonists.

When Ling Qingyu and the trio got out of the building, the operators left after handing them over to the officers on site, serving as logistics, while they moved toward the sound of gunfire.

Because they were women, two policewomen came to them and provided comfort, also preparing psychological counseling sessions, perhaps after the event finished.

The group separated and Yin Jingfei still followed her. Ling Qingyu found a familiar busy figure, Cai Ning and happily shouted. "Sister Cai, Over here!"

Cai Ning turned her head in her direction. After conveying some orders to her subordinates, she jogged over. "Sister Ling, it's good to see you in one piece."

"I'm sure you're more fearful of missing the greatest donor." Ling Qingyu joked.

"Alright, you never say polite words back," Cai Ning shook her head in speechlessness. Ling Qingyu's character was such.

"That shows how close the relationship is between us. You experience a special treatment."

"Who's this?" Cai Ning's eyes were on Yin Jingfei, who waved and mouthed hello.

"Well, let me introduce you, she's my personal nurse during the time, I stayed in the hospital due to an accident." Ling Qingyu answered. Yin Jingfei's eyes widened at how she became a personal nurse.

"I see, Hello."

"Hello Madame, I'm Yin Jingfei."

"Since you're with Sister Ling, you can address me as a sister."

"No, no no. That's too impolite," Yin Jingfei said, shaking her head.

"But I insist."

"Sister Cai." Yin Jingfei called out helplessly. She didn't think her status could connect with higher up in the police and people like Ling Qingyu. It must be her fortune and her good deeds in her past life to meet Ling Qingyu.

"Sister Yin is really beautiful. I can see why..." Cai Ning nodded and stared at Ling Qingyu with her curled lips.

Ling Qingyu rolled her eyes at this police chief's teasing and patted her shoulder. "You are pretty too."

Yin Jingfei was confused at Cai Ning's hidden message and Ling Qingyu's weird behavior but she replied. "Yes, Sister Cai is also beautiful. From my perspective, I pale in comparison."

"Alright, you wanna take a rest?" Cai Ning asked.

"No, I can sit inside my car. I'll take her with me."

"Sure, I will tell my subordinates. You don't need to care too much and thanks for the assist. If it weren't for your existence, we'd be in another deep trouble."

Both Ling Qingyu and Cai Ning understood each other, referring to Ling Qingyu's guards' involvement in reducing the police workload and increasing their reputations while Yin Jingfei thought Cai Ning was referring to Ling Qingyu's action of killing the four robbers upstairs and didn't speak.

"Go ahead and do your job. We'll meet in the evening." Ling Qingyu rubbed Cai Ning's arm and headed toward her Bentley, which drove by itself and stopped nearby.

"Sure," Cai Ning nodded and trotted away.

"Come inside and take a rest before we can go." Ling Qingyu brought Yin Jingfei into her car and closed her eyes, exhausted mentally and physically. "Don't worry, this car is bulletproof and the safest area."

Yin Jingfei hummed and looked at the commotions. People were being taken to the floor and carefully searched. The hooded people were separated from others, possibly robbers.

Those checked clean were directed toward another safe zone where police took over from the specialists. Honestly, Yin Jingfei was surprised by how quick and efficient the police were. Not even half an hour had passed and it appeared the heist was nearly solved.

She also captured a strange sight where a woman wrapped around in a large wardrobe brought out with a princess hug. Her heart sank as she understood what the woman likely experienced. She had no idea the specialist had made it on time. Gazing at Ling Qingyu gently, Yin Jingfei copied her behavior closing her eyes, feeling secure.

After experiencing the danger together, Yin Jingfei realized the two's relationship had got closer than ever before. She reached out to hold Ling Qingyu's arm as if to share the warmth.

Ling Qingyu didn't react to Yin Jingfei's approach but her lips curled up unconsciously. Anyone familiar with her knew from the angles and curvatures in her smile was the exact moment when she had succeeded in her conspiracy.

Chapter 393 Explosion

"If you keep shooting, we'll enter. Otherwise, how do I know the hostage is safe and sound," roared the pointsman near the vault. "If you surrender, the court might give you some leniency. Don't further complicate your situation."

She looked behind at her commander asking for advice. The commander gestured two fingers at both stacks. Momentum must be followed and they would never succumb to robbers' demands.

What the commander ordered was to throw two flashbangs and storm in. Although they could negotiate on better terms with the current advantage, she had a premonition if she negotiated, they would suffer.

Amidst the suppressive fire, two flashbangs flushed in, piercing the hearing levels inside. The gunfire from the robbers stopped and the operators' team flushed in, covering corners and center, quickly dominating the room.

"Get down!" A man who seemed like a manager was ordered. Nobody was certain whether this man was genuine.

Quickly securing the manager, the rest killed a few robbers with guns who didn't throw away their weapons even after being warned repeatedly.

As for the manager, two operators took him outside to safety where they would search and interrogate him for a while before handing him over to the police.

From the man's face through the operator's helmet cam, Athena understood this man was a real manager and relayed the message—all hands were loose. There was no holding back.

The fight became fierce. Bullets ricochet across the corridors, prompting the operators to stay away from the wall.

After the initial surprises, the robbers held the remaining ground without fear. Although their numbers had thinned down, the Spirit Foxes needed more time to eliminate every threat.

When the Spirit Foxes advanced further, they discovered two explosive devices attached to the wall, hidden from their eyes on the way they came in.

Now that they saw two, everything was too late. "Bomb!"

Only a cry was uttered and an explosion engulfed the entire leading team. Even the commander staying behind could only leap toward cover. The remaining were swung out by the shockwave.

Not yet over, another explosion occurred. The ground quivered as a result. Smokes and fire occupied the vault.

Fortunately, none of the operators died or suffered a huge injury. Given their protective frag-suits manufactured with several black technologies already anticipating the dangers, apart from some confusion and shocks, nothing happened.

Tang Ziyi estimated and prepared so many safeguards for the Spirit Foxes, because she felt terrified listening to Ling Qingyu's whines. Of course, it was also because she reckoned the equipment would increase the soldiers' experience level and expertise in the coming future which training couldn't enhance.

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger? Every time they survived they learned a new lesson. Naturally, Tang Ziyi and Athena were considering VR and AR solutions so that the experience could reach a new height of reality for the Spirit Foxes to train.

The operators at the forefront lay on the floor helplessly as they coughed from the smokes and sudden multiple stimulations, trying to get up. The surviving robbers who already expected the results appeared and opened fire on the 'helpless' Spirit Foxes.

Several shots landed, some even hit the visors. Too many rounds poured on them so that the operators curled in self-protection. In fact, if they endured and resisted, nothing would happen but who could swear for certain, they could do otherwise in the same scenario?

The 'surviving' operators returned fire and downed two more but their shots were no longer accurate under the dust, allowing a few to disappear with bags.

When the vision cleared up, they helped their fallen comrade and continued clearing, checking the dead robbers.

"Everything's clear."

"Hey, there's a hole underneath." This statement attracted everyone. The commander also ran toward the speaker, studied the hole and immediately understood the robbers' original plan.

If it weren't for Ling Qingyu's bodyguards on standby, ruining the robbers' rhythm, the heist would have become the greatest success in history.

From her inference, the robbers had two plans. They snatched and left publicly, already planning the way out by avoiding the CCTV network through a route they created. They would capture the hostages and throw them in an enclosed space till the strangeness was discovered from outside. By then, they were gone.

Two, if found out and surrounded by police, they would pretend to barricade and negotiate trying to prolong the process and complicating the rescue work once there was a mayhem. At the same time, they would blow out the hole, they had dug out so many days ago to evacuate safely and disappear from the public eye.

What a brilliant idea, the commander nodded inwardly. Preparation for so many days or even months that there was no way they could dig a tunnel silently underneath quickly.

"Should we pursue them?" The shotgun girl asked. She was the luckiest to not experience what an explosion felt like at close hand.

"Pursue, of course. We must chase them down. You have seen what they are capable of and what they have done to others." The commander patched Cai Ning through the radio and asked for further orders. Meanwhile, she gestured to a few operators to explore the tunnel but warned them not to go far and lose communication.

"Tunnel you say?" asked Cai Ning from the radio.

"Yes, we've apprehended more and killed some but a few escaped through the tunnel. I've asked my comrades to investigate below. Awaiting for your further orders."

"Understood, wait till K-9 units and more reinforcement arrive. We'll initiate a large manhunt later. For now, stay put."

"We'll scout a few meters then. I recommend you check every hostage since we strongly believe there might be an insider helping the robbers."

"Already working on it. We'll take over from here; thank you for your service, out."

The commander stopped everyone from chasing. They had completed the work here and should delegate to other units. Even though their group wasn't official, they had to abide by unspoken rules between different departments for a better relationship.

"Alright, Spirit Fox, we've completed the mission successfully. Initiate a secondary clearance and prepare for a debrief." The commander walked toward the shotgun girl. "You and you will secure this hole. Make sure nothing comes out of it."

The shotgun girl pursed her lips and exchanged a helpless glance with the unlucky teammate beside her. They gotta think about how to spend the boring time today.

The bank was soon cleaned up, room after room, in case the specialist missed anything. Hostages were arranged outside, and interrogated personally by the detectives. This robbery was obviously planned for months and if not for Spirit Fox's quick reaction, City N Police Force's head would have a hard time raising up for a long time.

Soon, Spirit Fox team left and stayed near their vehicles outside, chitty-chatting with excitement, while some laughed at the ones who were 'shot' and 'severely wounded', particularly those engulfed in the explosion.

Well, as women, they also paid attention to attraction and beauty even if their work demanded something else. Seeing blackened faces with ash marks from smoke on the skin they showed—the area between the brows and nose—they didn't care about their sisterhood and poked the pain.

As for the robbers who fled, Spirit Fox delegated the mission to other departments. They had gained too much credit, not that they cared much. Nonetheless, everyone had requested Athena to search for suspects once they had any updates. They weren't giving up on chasing these bastard. How dared these robbers try to force on a woman in front of them?

Well, sirens blared continuously as the much-awaited reinforcement arrived. The group stood tall as they gazed at their fellow foxes, proud and feeling accomplished as they had succeeded within a short

time frame. Perhaps, their comrades, who lost the opportunity for an experience might be envious when they retold the story tonight.

Chapter 394 Jealous Yang Qingyue

Ling Qingyu opened her eyes when Athena informed her, Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue had arrived. Even Yang Qingyue was included, probably hurrying here after knowing she was also in danger.

How sweet to have loved ones! This must be true love.

Tang Ziyi, Xiao Yue, Yang Qingyue, Miss System: vomiting silently.

Looking through the glass, so many Aegis vehicles and vans had arrived. This mass show of force indeed stunned everyone. Ling Qingyu knew that wasn't all she had from the number of guards she remembered.

But the current exhibition had spoken about the true strength of Spirit Fox, or CAITO. Even the police officers tackling routine work were awestruck.

The operators dispersed and went to work immediately, while the leading figures ran toward the temporary headquarters where Cai Ning was stationed.

Only Tang Ziyi, Xiao Yue, and Yang Qingyue walked toward Ling Qingyu's Bentley. Well, why wasn't Yang Qingyue coping with her duty? Were you so relieved seeing Cai Ning carry the burden alone?

In fact, Cai Ning was gritting her teeth when she discovered Yang Qingyue obviously turning a blind eye. Hmph, it wouldn't be easy to soothe her mood later, she would show how dangerous if a childhood friend became angry.

Although Xiao Yue and Tang Ziyi were dressed the same as the other operators, Ling Qingyu already identified them easily. Given their distinct trademarks on the clothing, it became an easier task.

Ling Qingyu got out of the car and spread her hand. Yang Qingyue leaped in and hugged. The two bodies pressed together, causing serious depression and deformation.

Well, Ling Qingyu admitted she felt good. The stable hormones rose again as she rubbed Yang Qingyue's smooth back. She even wanted to make out on the spot if not for public presence.

When Yin Jingfei exited the vehicle, Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue narrowed their eyes. Ling Qingyu could only hehe and awkwardly blink.

Yang Qingyue detached from the embrace but her arm remained around Ling Qingyu's tight waist, as if to declare she was hers.

"I'm sorry, who might you be?" Yang Qingyue asked, though Ling Qingyu already informed what she planned to do in the morning. Her brain didn't register the fact when she heard Ling Qingyu was in danger.

"Hello, my name is Yin Jingfei."

"Aww, you're Sister Yin, the nurse who takes care of her. You're like an angel—very beautiful." Yang Qingyue immediately remembered and smiled. This scum always hovered around beautiful women. Since knowing Ling Qingyu was a les, Yang Qingyue began to pay attention to the companions around, but she discovered helplessly, that there were too many. "Nothing happens to you, right?"

"I'm sorry that you have to experience this."

"No, no." Yin Jingfei waved back. "Sister Ling protects me throughout the journey. I'm more of a burden here. If not for my work..."

"Sister Ling?" Yang Qingyue hummed and glared at Ling Qingyu, looking elsewhere in a guilty conscience.

"Yes. If not for her, I might not even survive."

"Hey, don't be like this. Sometimes, we can't predict what the world will bring us." Yang Qingyue comforted the nurse, while her hand twisted the flesh on Ling Qingyu's waist.

Ling Qingyu almost rolled her eyes in pain. Even if her physique had been strengthened multiple times, her skin still retained the nervous system of pain.

It hurts. Ling Qingyu grimaced as she bit her lips. Why Yang Qingyue? You were the one who gave permission for me to flirt, Ling Qingyu thought. She prepared tonight's attack, which must be fierce to show who was dominant.

Of course, she dared not exclaim her complaint and suffered bitterly. How could Yang Qingyue smile and say things to Yin Jingfei in a gentle manner while she acted like a ferocious monster to her?

Conversing longer, Yang Qingyue understood why Yin Jingfei and Ling Qingyu met and was relieved. Naturally, she still couldn't be sure if this cunning slick bastard had weird thoughts.

"Alright, I'll get back to work now. I don't know if Sister Cai will be cussing behind my back." Yang Qingyue chuckled and moved away, not forgetting to deliver a warning glance at Ling Qingyu. Actually, she never meant to come since she trusted Cai Ning and Ling Qingyu's subordinates could handle it flawlessly.

And things were just as she expected. If not for hearing the news that Ling Qingyu was on the victim list, she might still be sleeping.

Shrugging, Ling Qingyu pursed her lips and watched Yang Qingyue continue her work. But the two figures standing by made her speechless. They were watching her embarrassing moment.

"Well, you two. You don't have work?" Ling Qingyu raised her brows and inquired.

"If not for you, do you think we would even be here?" Tang Ziyi muttered.

"You're repaying our kindness coldly, Sister Ling." Xiao Yue hugged her hip and shook her head.

"Oh, come on, I'm deeply grateful but you see I'm all well. Why don't you let me take a rest?"

"I'm sure Sister Yang will be handling them soon. You just wait to avoid public attention. You know once they know the news that you're involved, Province N news will be like moths to the fire to write this news." Xiao Yue warned.

Ling Qingyu nodded. "Of course, I know what's at stake here. To be honest, if the two women whom I saved, spread the news despite my request, I'm also helpless."

"Where are they? I'll handle them." Xiao Yue's scurried around. "The sooner you solve them the better. We can pay to shut their mouths with some threats. At least, they won't have resentment for our actions breaching their privacy."

"In fact, I don't care whether they spread the news or not. In the worst case, I can exploit the sudden reputation for my benefit."

"I don't doubt your vision. You always thought far." Xiao Yue agreed. "However, you mustn't forget you still have enemies. The reputation you'll gain from this event will become a double-edged sword."

"Then, do as you said." Ling Qingyu replied after some thought. "I believe the products I sell, don't need the feeble advertisement. The quality and time will tell. Let's not take risks then."

"Then, I'll go and warn them. Where are they?" Xiao Yue asked Ling Qingyu to identify. The two carefully searched and found the two in one of the ambulances.

As soon as the heist upgraded to a deadly level, all emergency departments responded. Police, fire, paramedics raced to the scenes. City N might not be the capital but it wasn't wrong to state that it was the central hub of every institution in Province N.

Xiao Yue left alone. Ling Qingyu found it strange and said in a weird tone to Tang Ziyi. "What's wrong with you today? You aren't staying together? Did something happen between the two."

Tang Ziyi rolled her eyes. "Nothing happens. It's just I wanna find out more from you and what you went through. How do you feel?"

Ling Qingyu smiled and stiffened her chest. "Proud and confident. You know, I don't know my limits in front of you but I discover in reality, I'm way way way beyond."

"Great, congratulation on your first experience." Tang Ziyi praised.

"Eh—how come you're saying good words? Did the moon rise during the day?" Ling Qingyu looked upward and craned her neck in exaggeration.

Chapter 395 Rebellious Athena

Tang Ziyi stepped in and hugged Ling Qingyu over her shoulder tightly. "What did you say? I seem to see a big fish dancing in a small pond in front of fishermen."

Ling Qingyu shrunk, reminiscing about the consistent results after dueling with Tang Ziyi, and replied. "I'm grateful you teach me well. Without you, I might be suffering a fate worse than death. It's my greatest luck to meet you as my friend and sister."

Tang Ziyi shooed away in disgust, receiving Ling Qingyu's rainbow fart. There must have been an anomaly if Ling Qingyu acted completely strange.

Yin Jingfei, who was listening on the sideline, might not understand completely but she figured out the relationship. She felt funny watching the two's comedic bicker, while lamented Ling Qingyu's network.

Although she didn't know who Yang Qingyue was, she could guess she might be the top official within a police force. The two operators were also friends with Ling Qingyu. Somehow, Yin Jingfei envied and admired these two for being able to work in the dangerous field, shoulder to shoulder with men.

She also noticed the specialists who rescued them were females as well. Now, Yin Jingfei even had serious doubts whether she didn't explore her gender's limit.

Listening further to the two's conversation, which they never meant to hide from her, Yin Jingfei realized Ling Qingyu was describing the entire event. The other woman nodded and pointed out a better way but overall, her words were filled with praise.

Tang Ziyi turned around Ling Qingyu's figure so that both their back were directed toward Yin Jingfei. With her chin gesture, she asked in a small voice: "What's the matter with the nurse? I see your eyes aren't so clear and innocent."

"It's not like you don't know me; I learn from the greatest teacher," Ling Qingyu retorted and as expected received a gift. "Ouch! Why hit my head? You're bullying too much."

"You still can't act properly in the game of love playwright. No wonder, you can't even handle Yang Qingyue." Tang Ziyi said with despise.

"Shit, you can train Xiao Yue now? Wow!" Ling Qingyu widened her eyes.

Tang Ziyi's lips twitched. This must be a naked revenge. She stared at Ling Qingyu, not wanting to miss any signs of lying and stopped talking about the domination topic but she understood Ling Qingyu did on purpose. "So, you're trying her?"

"How could I as a selfless businesswoman, who cares about reputation commit such a heinous act?" Ling Qingyu argued. "Do you see me as that kind of people? Please don't judge people with the same measurement as your heart does."

Tang Ziyi gritted her teeth and exhaled strongly. She was pissed, that was it. "Sis, you're too deep now. It will be hard to extradite later. Remember, I still have a lot to teach."

Ling Qingyu gulped. "Ahem—I'm trying. After all, I can't bear to see another man taking advantage. It's better for me to treat them than handing them over to others."

"Them?"

"I mean in the future."

"..."

Tang Ziyi and Ling Qingyu exchanged the most secretive message and nodded. As expected of her disciple, Ling Qingyu inherited everything.

"Then, you better hurry up. I'm also thinking about her. She looks beautiful too. Hehe." Tang Ziyi smacked her lips.

"Sis, boundary! Boundary!" Ling Qingyu hissed. "It's not fair. You better stay away from her."

"What do you mean fairness?" Tang Ziyi shook her head. "There is no such thing as fairness in a love game. Whoever win is the victor?"

"Stop. Stop. Stop. You're encroaching over the limit. You sure you can handle everyone."

"That's my problem, not yours." Tang Ziyi patted Ling Qingyu's arm.

Ling Qingyu sighed. "It's going to be a long way to achieve my dream, hugging left and right."

"Tsk. Tsk. I'm sure many single men will definitely chop you after hearing your remarks."

"Alright, I have to ask you something by the way, now that this thing baffles my mind."

"Yes?" Tang Ziyi felt a bad premonition.

"What's wrong with you and Sister Cai? Don't deny it, you must have done something. With your slutty behavior, you must have tease her. I see her giving you complicated looks."

"How dare you call me a slut. It seems like you have a bad memory." Tang Ziyi said. "It's a long story,"

"Then make it short."

"..."

"See, you have lit a fire in your backyard. Ha!" Ling Qingyu laughed. "So, how do you hide from Xiao Yue though? I'm sure she'll notice something since even an insensitive mind like mine realizes the truth."

"Of course, she just doesn't dare. Don't you know who I am?" Tang Ziyi folded her arms.

Ling Qingyu returned a distrustful expression till Tang Ziyi relented. "Alright, Sister Ling. You won. I didn't say anything and acted like I don't know."

"Well, but what you've done will be recorded. If Xiao Yue wants to investigate she can just ask Athena too," said Ling Qingyu.

"Actually, she did ask Athena."

"Woah!" Ling Qingyu gasped and snickered later. "That's the fate of a player."

"I'm not a player. I'm serious. Anyone I touch, I'll never give up."

"You and I both understand each other; so, don't mention more disgusting facts." Ling Qingyu waved her hand. "So, Xiao Yue saw everything?"

"Of course, not. Athena is on my side."

Ling Qingyu's eyes bulged. Her innocent daughter seemed to be walking on a stray road. She must teach her daughter back on the right path. "You, what have you done?"

She had a bad feeling and waited anxiously for Tang Ziyi's reply. "Nothing, I bribe her."

"What!"

=====

Inside the Bentley, which slowed down and stopped smoothly at a traffic stop, Ling Qingyu remained silent. Yin Jingfei watched her with worries.

Since Ling Qingyu left the female specialist she chatted, she uttered only small words. In fact, Athena tried to lower her presence after Tang Ziyi admitted everything. Damn, Aunt! YOU broke our promise.

"Sister Ling..."

Ling Qingyu exhaled and smiled. "What's the matter?"

"Are you okay? What happens"

"I'm fine. It's nothing. I'm thinking of ways to produce a serious lesson so that a certain child won't do bad things."

Athena shivered so much so that even superb computing power couldn't generate the slightest heat.

Yin Jingfei chuckled. "That's it. I thought you encountered a hard problem."

Athena, whose eyes not leaving Ling Qingyu for a moment, pouted: What, that's it? I'm about to suffer. Hmph!

Ling Qingyu knew Athena was paying attention to her because a regular coquettish daughter who always spoke with her had disappeared. What else but feeling guilty?

Remembering Athena's tone and gesture, Ling Qingyu's frustration disappeared. In any case, no one overstepped too much. Athena understood discipline and she needed not to fear.

As long as she didn't die, Athena wouldn't become the scariest existence. That, Ling Qingyu guaranteed. So, she must discuss everything later on.

There must be an agreement between the two. Athena had grown up, Ling Qingyu curled her lips, delighted yet reluctant. So, that was what every parent felt when they had to relinquish control over their children.

Speaking of, Ling Qingyu remembered about her mother. She should solve the Ling family soon and return justice to Mom, letting her decide their fate. And her family overseas, Ling Qingyu almost forgot after investigations failed to gain results. Now that she had Athena, and her plans to expand, the investigation should gain something in the future.

Chapter 396 Yin Jingfei's problem

"Do you plan to work today?" Ling Qingyu inquired, concerned that Yin Jingfei wouldn't be able to work after experiencing today's trauma.

"No, I'll just go home and take a rest." Yin Jingfei replied. "I'll text Sister Mo about my situation, lest she becomes worried after reading the news on the television."

Her phone buzzed and Yin Jingfei concentrated on messaging back and forth. From the notification tones, Ling Qingyu already knew they were talking. "What does she say?"

"She said, it's great to see our well-being and that we are lucky. She's also worried after reading the news just now. Fortunately, I report it fast to relieve her fear."

Ling Qingyu laughed, imagining the frantic Doctor Mo and how her seriousness transformed into a crying baby. "Tell her, it must be Sister Mo's blessing that everything went well."

Yin Jingfei pursed her lips. She knew clearly how they survived. If not for Ling Qingyu, she and the other two women surely would suffer an unwanted fate. There was no doubt, even if the rescue made it in time. Her survival without any scratch was based on Ling Qingyu.

After texting Ling Qingyu's words, she received a reply and displayed the screen to Ling Qingyu.

"When do we meet?" Ling Qingyu read it quickly and thought. "How about tonight at my residence? Sister Yin, instead of going back home, why don't you visit mine?"

"Isn't it going to be troublesome?" Yin Jingfei hesitated.

"No trouble at all. Frankly, my mom and my aunt will be happy to see my life savior. I'm sure you'll have something in common with them." Ling Qingyu persuaded. "Come, invite Sister Mo as well. We'll have a dinner tonight at my place. Of course, you can have lunch with me too but Sister Mo should be still busy now."

"Well, I'll follow your lead," said Yin Jingfei. "I just hope, I won't be another burden. I already feel heavy with your help starting from this morning."

"Nah, don't mention it." Ling Qingyu pressed the pedal and directed the car according to the GPS. The two went quiet, each in deep thought.

"Sister Yin, I'm terribly sorry, your banking case isn't going to work for a while. Do you like to try another?" Ling Qingyu asked, when traffic slowed down.

Yin Jingfei's pupils trembled, remembering her urgent matter. Indeed, Ling Qingyu's help wasn't needed, provided that she sacrificed her work.

She still had a younger brother and sister, who needed her money when they studied at the university. They were in a different province. The parents were old already and she didn't let them work, bringing up the upkeep burden by herself.

"No need, Sister Ling. You've helped me a lot. If not for me, how could you encounter danger?"

"I said, we've reached a friendship, a deeper one at that after surviving together. Not to mention, it wasn't your fault to begin with." Ling Qingyu chided. "You call me Sister, then I'll have to help."

Yin Jingfei smiled and said nothing, looking at the passing cars. She witnessed how a strong network and background played a great role. Because of Ling Qingyu's existence, they weren't interrogated, nor were they checked multiple times, nor were they requested to make a statement.

"If you need me to transfer money, I can lend it to you," said Ling Qingyu. She wanted to give away but the strong nurse wouldn't accept her offer. And such an act could disrupt the current warm relationship. "Without interest, you can pay me back anytime."

"Sister Ling, thank you." Yin Jingfei was lost for words. "I...I will pay it later when I receive my salary."

"Haha. Don't think too much. If you need help, just don't forget I'm here too." Ling Qingyu replied. Saying more could cost a bad impression. "If I'm not mistaken, your situation shouldn't demand a huge amount. Is there something wrong?"

"This..."

"Sister Yin, do you even consider me as a close sister?" Ling Qingyu humphed.

"Actually, it isn't me."

"Your parents?"

"No, they are doing fine."

"Oh, that's great. I was worried immediately."

"The trouble came from my younger siblings."

"Tell me about them. I'm all ears."

Yin Jingfei described her family situation. Hearing the sweet nurse's experience, Ling Qingyu swore this one was an angel. When the words reached about her younger siblings, Ling Qingyu frowned.

The two siblings were studying in the capital. A prestigious university with scholarship opportunities, making the whole family proud. Her sister was 2 years older than the younger one.

Despite the scholarship support, it wasn't enough, given that living expenses in the capital were terribly high. Not to mention, the amount received wasn't hundred percent.

After all, the kids were indeed clever and hardworking but they were far away from the top tier section. Ling Qingyu didn't believe being in the top meant success, nor at the bottom assured failure.

According to her experience, had anyone ever heard of the top three being successful and famous? Maybe, but she had heard little. More so that those who failed and struggled at the bottom tended to become successful as proven by the saying—failure is the mother of any success.

So, Ling Qingyu believed Yin Jingfei's younger siblings were already good. They were raised well and in a non-problematic family.

Nonetheless, the girl, facing materialistic lack, worshiped money. Seeing her roommates, wear expensive jewelry, bags and costume and show off, she also wanted to try out and follow the same behavior.

An innocent girl was destroyed because of her narrow vision and average heart. Under the friends' persuasion, she also attempted dating a rich guy, in the hopes of indulging her materialistic desire. In any case, her friends were doing the same, she shouldn't be wrong, right?

In fact, she was targeted from the beginning. Her good genes, evidently seen in Yin Jingfei's beauty plus a genuine innocent vibe, attracted a certain second-generation existence. Spotting her weakness, the guy bribed her roommates and friends.

For the rich playboys, girlfriends were like clothes. They would play with whoever they want. Anybody they dated was never meant to be their partner. Only those chosen by their family could match up as their spouse.

Even then if the women were weak enough, they would cheat openly and continue playing. Nothing should stop their indulgence. So many flowers were destroyed by them in the name of true love, treating them as playthings.

As for those who knowingly suffer, that was a different story. For these girls, no-strings-attached benefits caused no problems. Everybody took what they wanted. However, even among those girls, if anyone met a psychopath or evil villain, an unbearable and unimaginable fate awaited.

Yet, the likely short easily obtained wealth corrupted the girls' minds to pursue even if the slightest chance of themselves getting harmed existed.

The harder to pursue, the more desire piled up and the more thrilled they became. Yin Jingfei's sister refused many men's approaches in the beginning, adhering to her elder sister's and parents' warnings. But no defense lasted long without a strong foundation. If one doesn't understand the true reason for one's action, everything turns useless.

Persuasion from 'friends' and peer pressure combined with her weakening will, in the face of lavishness, led her to fall.

Chapter 397 Do you think money is everything?

From Yin Jingfei's narratives, Ling Qingyu already guessed what happened next. Playthings never ended well, both in real life and in the fiction, if the people involved had no experience and raised their hopes high.

Of course, Yin Jingfei's sister might not realize her state yet but would be soon ashamed and have her mood turn downhill. Or since Yin Jingfei stated a problem, Ling Qingyu understood this meant the little girl likely suffered the brutality and cruelty of life.

What Yin Jingfei said next confirmed her guess. Showered under sweet words and depiction of material fulfillment, the girl succumbed. The rich boy exploited the situation and played with her feelings.

When the girl discovered the man was merely playing around and wasn't as serious as she expected, she was devastated. Her younger brother found her situation and stood up.

Simply, he marched and confronted the one who harmed his sister and punched him in the face. The brawl happened in public and no need to guess what happened next.

Given the man's background, the brother was arrested and sued; the final results shouldn't lead to a bigger penalty but since the two's backgrounds weren't the same, justice was impossible.

The man refused to come to an agreement and demanded a large sum of compensation, nearly impossible for a family like Yin Jingfei on purpose. Otherwise, the younger brother would be jailed with a minimum of 5 years above for an assault.

"Or?" Ling Qingyu asked while she had a rough idea about the man's alternative demand based on the previous profile she built, listening to Yin Jingfei's description.

Exactly as she predicted: the man gave a way out if the sister accompanied him and his fellows for a week. Until then, Yin Jingfei still didn't know what difficulties her siblings were facing because they were trying to solve themselves.

Fortunately, her sixth sense led her to call and she intervened. The amount needed to pay was still above her limit too, not to mention these teenagers. But she figured, she could mortgage the house, her parents resided in. That was why she asked for help from Ling Qingyu to ensure the bank loaned her.

Ling Qingyu's brows furrowed more. Even if Yin Jingfei participated, things would never end well. This bastard might still refuse to accept a deal and increase his stake.

Because the two sides weren't equal in the first place, things shouldn't be resolved as easily as Yin Jingfei anticipated.

Moreover, Ling Qingyu was certain the man might be torturing Yin Jingfei's brother as they discussed. Lawfully, there wasn't any problem with playing other's feelings and exploiting a girl's simple mindset.

Nonetheless, the actions of the man and his further decisions had broken moral boundaries a human should respect and uphold. Wantonly relying on the corrupted power to oppress ordinary people brought hatred in Ling Qingyu.

She wondered if she didn't ask Yin Jingfei, this bastard could lay his eyes on her personal nurse. Or maybe, he already investigated and tried to raise more problems to attract Yin Jingfei. Who knew? Damn it, she sentenced him and his family to death in her mind.

"Why didn't you tell me sooner?" Ling Qingyu asked in a bland tone as she tapped her fingers on the steering wheel. Each thud caused Yin Jingfei to lower her chin more and more.

Though from the outside, Ling Qingyu sounded chill. To Yin Jingfei's ears, she was too chill, the coldness seeped into her bones. The warm temperament she was familiar with had been replaced by a demon.

Yin Jingfei knew the energy wasn't directed at her but she still sensed it greatly. Of course, Ling Qingyu might just be angry with her behavior of not consulting a friend.

"I thought I could solve it by myself. As long as the money is paid, everything will be fine." Yin Jingfei answered, her voice getting softer when Ling Qingyu stared at her.

"You really think this guy is after money?" Ling Qingyu expressed distrust.

"Isn't it?" Yin Jingfei was unresponsive for a while. "I mean money can solve anything."

"But regarding your affair, you can't." Ling Qingyu shook her head. "Which second generation needs money that much? They don't even care, nor are they trying hard to find one, especially this kind of person in the elite circle. It's not wrong to say they are the black sheep, misrepresenting the rich."

"Ehmm..." Yin Jingfei was speechless. Now that she thought carefully and began to stop being optimistic, she understood, the problem would never end well. "What should I do, Sister Ling? I thought—"

Ling Qingyu rolled her eyes. "Alright, Sister Yin. That's why I told you to ask for help from your companion. What are we here for if you're thinking of solving everything by yourself? When you can't handle one, learn to seek us."

Yin Jingfei nodded meekly. Her heart felt heavy with gratefulness since the start of the day. Ling Qingyu helped her facilitate bank affairs and now she was considering the problems at the root.

"Then, should I go and meet him?"

"You better quit talking. What is the difference between this and entering a trap?" Ling Qingyu controlled herself from swearing. "I'll handle the affair. Don't think too much."

Yin Jingfei shrunk in her seat because of Ling Qingyu's fierce reaction. "But I haven't even named my siblings yet."

"No need. Don't forget who I am?" Ling Qingyu smirked when she got the chance to flex her muscles. "Athena..."

"Mom, I'm here. I've arranged everything in order. You can take a look." Athena spoke hurriedly, listing out several important facts to sift through.

Ling Qingyu's lips twitched from Athena's reactions, probably trying to facilitate her in everything so that her previous anger would be gone. "Okay, I'm not really angry."

"You sure, why do your eyes say otherwise," said Athena with doubt.

"Forget about your business, we'll talk tonight later. Let's help with Aunt Yin first. You read everything to me what you've found."

"Aunt Yin," muttered Yin Jingfei dubiously.

The bastard was nothing usual. Indeed, a prosperous second generation, drinking and sleeping with women, indulging in the desire. Although his family background wasn't serious enough, their connections had seeped deep into the top officials indirectly.

Even the former Ling Qingyu, must treat it with some care. For Yin Jingfei and the ordinary family, the bastard's family suppressed them to the point, the struggle was in vain.

Ling Qingyu nodded when Athena listed out corruption and the huge scandals involved. As always, no good children would come out of corrupted parents. Since she gained so many secretive handles through Athena's hacking, she had an easier task.

However, Yang Qingyue was her lover now and she must pay respect and give her a call to also honor her mother-in-law too. Try to solve legitimately before resorting to her ways.

"Athena, call Yang Qingyue for me, please."

"On it, mom."

Yin Jingfei watched silently as Ling Qingyu conversed seemingly on a phone. From her tone, it appeared the problem was easy to solve. When could she ever repay? How lucky was she to meet a person like Ling Qingyu?

On the other side, Ling Qingyu had to accept Yang Qingyue's fervent suspicions about why she was so keen on helping. Naturally, both conversed in a playful manner but Ling Qingyu's forehead was filled with sweat.

Only one word sieved through her brain-woman. Never try to argue, she learned it from her past life and she implemented the ancient wisdom impeccably, not once going against the flow. Fortunately, from outside, Ling Qingyu looked no different from being serious about the case, merely humming in agreement.

Her important face wasn't lost in front of her angel. That was what mattered the most. At the end of the call, Ling Qingyu told Yang Qingyue that she would intervene if the result ceased to satisfy her, under the admiring gaze from Yin Jingfei.

Chapter 398 CEO is in trouble

"I'll ask my mom first and call you back later."

"Alright, I'll be waiting. You should know how massive the scale could be if some things are unveiled," said Ling Qingyu.

"I understand."

"What I don't like is the process became long till pressure decreases with time." Ling Qingyu paused. "And politicians compromising in order to avoid startling the fake peace."

Yang Qingyue went quiet on the line. "Trust my mother, she'll take care of them."

"That is why I call you instead of acting my own, you know." Ling Qingyu sighed. "I don't want to mess around yet. My strength isn't enough for now."

"It's good that you're self-aware," Yang Qingyue cracked a joke, lightening up the mood.

"Remember," said Ling Qingyu impassively. "I don't want to see negative repercussions because of my willfulness but I hope to see my questions getting answered. I can also take matters into my hands. You know me."

"If we ain't lover, I have arrested you on the charge of plotting a treason."

"You can arrest me anytime, my dear." Ling Qingyu retorted. "I'm always yours."

"Cheesy as ever," laughed Yang Qingyue. "Ok then, if that's all then I'm gonna hang up because I still have work to do."

"Sure, just bear that in mind. If I didn't notice any effect, I'll proceed in my own manner." Ling Qingyu replied. "I can wait but the boy and girl may not be able to afford to wait."

"Alright, I promise I'll get them out or ensure their safety."

"If you know any relevant legal counselor contact, please help them. I can surely satisfy their demands."

"Got it, anything else?" Yang Qingyue asked.

"No my dear, happy hunting. Use my girls to the best limit."

Ling Qingyu stopped talking and smiled at Yin Jingfei who was watching her every move. She was initially worried the nurse might look at her with weird expressions after she murmured—my dear, my love, and other cringe stuff—but it turned out she was overthinking.

In fact, Yin Jingfei heard everything and felt strange, wondering if Ling Qingyu had a lover or boyfriend. But, she attributed Ling Qingyu's behavior of speaking closely with someone with a deep relationship since the tone didn't sound like exchanging love and affection.

"So, is there anything I need to do?" Yin Jingfei asked.

"No need, Sister Yin. I've taken care of everything. Just call your siblings what they need to bear in mind."

Yin Jingfei nodded and listened to Ling Qingyu's detailed explanation. At the end of the speech, she was relieved as if her entire shoulders lightened up. "Whew, fortunately, I have you."

"We're lucky to have each other."

The two soon arrived at the destination. Ling Qingyu handed over Yin Jingfei to Lin Xiao for accommodation and food. She also introduced the nurse to the elders and Yin Jingfei mingled along with them without effort.

As expected of the nurse and angel profession, Ling Qingyu was relieved that Yin Jingfei didn't feel uncomfortable in a new environment. She excluded herself, saying that she had some affairs to work.

"Mom, Aunt, and Aunt Zhao, I'll leave Sister Yin to your care. Please do not frighten her, okay?" Ling Qingyu said.

"Well, don't worry, Yu'er. We're adults; how can we bully young people?" Amorette laughed and said in an angry tone. Mama Zhao nodded, pretending to be displeased with Ling Qingyu's words.

Denise added: "Little Yu, why are you only bringing girls to us? When will you bring the opposite gender?"

Amorette agreed and added: "Yeah, now that Denise mentions it. Come on, mommy is waiting for grandchildren. When will you give us?"

Ling Qingyu's face darkened. What man? She would vomit with just a mere thought of a possibility. Impossible in this life! "Mom! Aunt!

How could you say that? There's a lot of time."

"Oh, you always give me the same excuse," said Amorette, shaking her head. "You're not young anymore. It's going to be more difficult after 30s. I don't want to see you lonely in the future."

Yin Jingfei sniffled her chuckles and minimized her presence. For the first time, she discovered a new side of Ling Qingyu. The always successful and calculative CEO was stumped with relationship problems. Nonetheless, whenever she imagined Ling Qingyu being with a man, she pursed her lips and felt unwilling. How could she?

Just when she was confused with her chains of thoughts, her snifle received Ling Qingyu's glare and she smiled and sold cuteness to save herself.

"Mom, please. I'm not going to be lonely. I have you and many sisters to accompany me." Ling Qingyu explained.

She couldn't admit her orientation directly and ruin her future plans. Of course, she was more afraid to disappoint her mother and aunt.

Although this world had more reforms and freedom than in the past, some conservative ideas couldn't be changed drastically.

Some people still couldn't accept their children, going in the direction contrary to their hopes. Ling Qingyu cared not what others thought but she didn't want to let her family face public pressure and discomfort.

"What if we grow old and cannot accompany you anymore?" Amorette said.

"Oh, mom and aunts. Don't worry, You'll live longer for a very long time than you think. Believe me, with current technology. I just hope you don't find me a nuisance in the future."

"Hey..." Amorette sighed. "I won't intervene. Worry not. I just hope that you do well. I don't want my past relationship history to affect you, you know? Else, I'll be guilty."

"Don't Mom. It isn't that, I swear. There are other reasons which I'll explain later." Ling Qingyu quickly said goodbye and left.

Mother's mantra was the hardest to accept. She didn't want to be baptized again. Ling Qingyu's fast escape stunned the elders. Yin Jingfei changed the topic as she retold Ling Qingyu's history in the hospital while she listened to learn more about Ling Qingyu from the elders.

Greeting the maids, Ling Qingyu scurried over her room and descended toward the secret underground realm. As soon as the elevator's doors slid closed, Ling Qingyu wiped the sweat on her forehead.

Speaking with elders was intimidating as always. A famous CEO who had no public pressure couldn't withstand a simple skirmish from her mother, Ling Qingyu chuckled and her smile dissipated.

One day in the future, they would know. What should she do? Ling Qingyu became confused. Should she travel around the world as an excuse for business and personal cases?

Or should she slowly divulge her way of thoughts and likes, gradually unveiling the secrets? No, Ling Qingyu understood, the elders would spot it immediately one way or the other.

Holy shit! Help! This was harder than founding a business, Ling Qingyu massaged her brows.

Chapter 399 Ling Qingyu doubted herself

Underground secret realm.

"So, Athena, show up. We have to talk." Ling Qingyu folded her arms and tapped her skin. Her eyes devoid of emotion as she waited.

For five more seconds, Athena didn't appear until a fuzzy hologram appeared. "Mom, is there anything I can help you with?"

"Hmph! You know what I'm talking about," said Ling Qingyu. "Don't think about your lousy plan to make me forget because I won't."

"Alright Mom. Right now, Aunt Xiao and Aunt Tang are taking care of the aftermath. Most robbers have been neutralized but a few escapes. They're now busy on it and Athena is trying her best. I might not have time and energy for a moment yet. Can you please wait?"

Ling Qingyu controlled her facial expression so that Athena couldn't read her mind. She never underestimated Athena's wisdom. Named after Greek Goddess wasn't for nothing because Ling Qingyu understood how terrifying Athena could be if she had no control.

But she wanted to laugh when Athena made several attempts to escape from her strict supervision by transferring to various important topics.

Actually, when Ling Qingyu heard some robbers escaped unscathed, her brows wrinkled. She never expected these robbers to be so organized and meticulous in planning to the details of evacuation.

If not for her presence and her subordinates, the outcome must be completely different. However, thinking of Lin Fan's figure, maybe there might be very little change.

As for what Athena said her energy on other aspects, Ling Qingyu didn't believe her daughter at all. Even scanning the entire Province or the country to obtain a complete data within seconds cost no more than a single digit percentage of her computing power.

That was when Athena had other jobs to do. It shouldn't even cost if Athena conversed with her. What a lame excuse! Too bad, she found her daughter so cute, what to do?

Seeing Ling Qingyu still stoic, Athena utilized the strategic weapon, no one could resist—selling cuteness.

She floated in the air and hugged Ling Qingyu's arm. Though her existence was a mere projection, the lovely sight still affected Ling Qingyu's promised nonchalance.

"Mom...Please...I'm just curious," whined Athena.

No matter how Ling Qingyu moved away, Athena managed to stick to her body. Even though her body sensed nothing, Ling Qingyu admitted she was defeated and coughed. "Alright. Stop your behavior. Let's settle things like adults."

"But I'm your daughter," replied Athena.

Ling Qingyu rolled her eyes at this remark. She was forced to have one not that she gave one naturally. Greeting Miss System, Ling Qingyu sighed and decided to relent.

Who made her have such a cute and beautiful Athena as her cheap daughter? The mere eyes movement and the expectation seen in the expression melted Ling Qingyu.

So, with Athena's bitter smiles and tears, the two signed an agreement, not meeting Ling Qingyu's initial demand but she was satisfied. As for Athena, her mood was not enough to be described as indulging in profound nine heavens, or a certain cultural saying in Country C.

Although Athena had to submit to Ling Qingyu for certain restrictions, graduating from childhood and must work harder, these were negligible to her gains where her mother had released so many leashes. In any case, both parties got what they wanted.

In order to placate her mother and prevent Ling Qingyu from taking back her words, Athena mentioned one great news.

"Really?" Ling Qingyu was surprised. She knew Athena was capable but this was too much. It appeared she underestimated Athena's productivity yet again.

"Yes, Mom. I have now completed a new mobile phone design and one is available. You can try it out," said Athena with excitement.

"What are the specs that can win over other competitors?" Ling Qingyu controlled her expression and inquired for more informations, understanding that Athena would never disappoint her.

"Well, Mom, are you sure you'll understand what I'll say?" asked Athena, tilting her head.

How cute again, oh no. Did Athena state her brainpower was insufficient? Ling Qingyu paused and stared at her daughter with icy gaze. "What did you just say?"

"Ahem, nothing Mom. Let's begin...please listen carefully. Since completing the entire circuit and mobile interior and exterior design, everything is set. However, to compete with others or even overwhelm them we need an advantage. A mere software aspect isn't enough to suppress others. So I focus my development on the hardware...

"As you know, given my condition with anything printer, manufacturing components becomes extremely easy. What others struggle for a day, I'll get it done within a second."

Ling Qingyu: "I know my daughter is excellent, please get to the point." She was speechless with Athena's bragging behavior. Where did she inherit from? Surely, it couldn't be her, Ling Qingyu was certain.

"Okay, don't interrupt Mom, here's the best part. Because of my extensive hack—I mean...ahem...research, plus iterative simulations and extrapolations, I have succeeded a groundbreaking discovery in the field of electronics for commercial use. Even Aunt Tang doesn't know yet; you are the first."

"Do I have to be proud of that?" Ling Qingyu snorted.

Athena didn't mind Ling Qingyu's reaction and continued. "With our current technology, I have been able to produce 2nm chips, the most essential semiconductors in any electrical components. Are you excited, Mom? Do you know what it means for us in the world? We're in the top!"

Amidst Athena's raised exhilarated voice, Ling Qingyu questioned. "How so? I know the world top technological company can already produce nano materials with limited properties, not as much as people envisioned yet. What's the deal with your 2nm?"

Athena stopped and stared at Ling Qingyu in amazement. She blinked several times as if to judge whether Ling Qingyu was joking. Until she really understood, Ling Qingyu was serious, Athena helplessly covered her face and groaned.

"What's the matter?" Ling Qingyu narrowed her eyes.

"Oh my CPU... I feel like I'm playing the greatest music to a cow."

"Athena! Is your skin getting itchy?" Ling Qingyu roared. Though she had no idea why Athena felt dismayed, she knew Athena was looking down on her. "Although I really can't anything to you, I can just ignore you." Ling Qingyu said a useless threat. Indeed, apart from ownership and some limitations, she had no rights.

Of course, in front of her cute daughter, Ling Qingyu couldn't bear to make Athena cry.

"Ah! Mom, slip of the tongue. I couldn't control myself." Athena reacted quickly.

"You mean, you're telling the truth and what you have in mind." Ling Qingyu's eyelids twitched.

"No, I mean wrong words. Wrong words." Athena gave a sad smile.

"Hmph!"

"Mom, don't be angry." Athena utilized the 'nuclear arsenal', selling cuteness.

"I'm not angry." Ling Qingyu sighed, her anger almost gone. "Do you look down on your Mom?" Ling Qingyu inquired, a bit saddened. "Or do you think I'm so bad?"

Frankly, listening to Athena's simplified explanation, Ling Qingyu had a huge doubt whether she had lacked behind so much. She knew nothing about those nm chips. This was the first time. All she

understood was that silicon, the important base ingredient, was produced from desert sand. Hence, the reknown Silicon Valley. Nothing more.

Chapter 400 Future Conquest

So, Athena began to explain everything and the effects the development had on society. Hearing the positive aspects, Ling Qingyu's breathing quickened.

She realized how much Athena's product was superior compared to others. Heck, the smaller the chips, the better the performances and more power-saving. There was another essential factor of increasing efficiency.

All in all, the chip development of a nation displayed a civilization's technology level. Even though the current country C didn't have a negative relationship because of a common enemy—the World Government, the fight for hegemony still existed which meant there would be some barring and restriction in terms of exports, not to mention the suppression to hinder the development.

"So, 2nm is a lot, right? How about compared to others?" Ling Qingyu asked.

"Mom, there's no one, not one mobile phone or computer, utilizing 2 nm. Things are still in the laboratory stage. Mass production needs time." Athena explained. "Of course, time depends on those capitalists whether they want to speed up or shave enough wool from the consumers."

"Then, Athena, do you already have a complete set of technology for mass production?"

"I have it in my blueprint, even the required lithography technology." Athena nodded.

Ling Qingyu didn't feel strange, since who knew what Athena had gained after a trip of roaming around in other private databases.

Based on new understanding, Ling Qingyu understood how crucial was the chip technology. A nation's entire semiconductors or electronics industry depended on the chips, which meant military's and civilian's future development depended heavily on this technology so that the competition between one another remained fierce.

"Mom, you have no idea. With my help, you can become the number one in this country and even over the entire world. Haha." Athena laughed out like an evil witch as if her conspiracy to take over the world had succeeded. "Look, even the Samsung company in our neighboring country can only produce 3 nm, 5 nm.

Country C, we're in, manufactures 7 nm only and yet everybody here is taking pride in this mere achievement.

"Of course, it isn't easy but the 7 nm they're talking about here, backed by the government, is flawed to those who have some expertise and knowledge, regarding the semiconductor industry. 7 nm made from EUV and DUV are completely different—heaven and earth is a more appropriate description."

"EUV and DUV," Ling Qingyu scratched her sweating hair. Never in her life had she sweat more listening to Athena's detailed explanation. It was another eye-opener.

"Extreme ultraviolet and deep ultraviolet."

"I see, so my current country is several steps behind."

"Indeed it is. But now, with me here, Mom, I will be your pride. Everybody will come and flatter you." Athena's eyes gleamed with sharp vision that she had contributed to her mother's success.

"Athena, you've always been my pride since day one. You don't need to tell me twice. I'm proud to have you as my daughter." Ling Qingyu replied. "However, we can't go public with your innovations. We must go through step by step. Otherwise, too many eyes and malicious intent will drown us later."

"Oh..." Athena immediately wilted and wanted to argue. "But...but..."

"You can manufacture the devices, just for our circle." Ling Qingyu couldn't bear to see a discouraged Athena. "Baby, if suddenly we come out with 2 nm products, we'll never be able to live freely again. It's not time yet."

There was another method which Ling Qingyu didn't state—handing over the key technologies to the country. But who was Ling Qingyu? A proper standard businesswoman, seeking profit, power and influence. Why would she become a fish on another's board? The government should become her puppet, not the other way around.

If unsuccessful, there would be many other nations willing to accept her; Ling Qingyu hoped not to see this scene where she had to leave the country.

"Then, what to do with this?" Athena voiced her rejection reluctantly.

"Of course, you're amazing. I can take several steps ahead. Start with a 7 nm lithography machine, a proper true technology to build up the chip manufacturing industry here." Ling Qingyu laid out her plans. "Then step up with little improvement with some time so that people are not too suspicious.

Even then, there'll be so many problems to handle, not to mention we must fight with the chip manufacturer here since we're killing their business."

Athena hummed and said nothing more. Now that Ling Qingyu pointed out the terrible consequences of not staying low, Athena no longer had reluctance and agreed.

Moreover, Ling Qingyu figured it was indeed time to raise her power and stopped staying low. Gradually, a huge palm had encroached on the entire Province N over several months and began to spread its fingers outward and no party was aware a great existence had been born to suppress them. Xia family and Shen family had become the early fish.

"Well then, Mom. I've produced a mobile phone and a laptop, specifically for you to try. Don't worry, testings have been conducted and the results are outstanding nonetheless." Athena patted her chest. "CPU, power consumption, and reliability all optimized to a degree, no other party can in this world, Mom."

A robot with a trailer brought the devices for Ling Qingyu to see. Modernized yet retaining the world's aesthetic design brought Ling Qingyu to a joyful mood. The happiest since she fended off against the robbers.

"How's the software?" Ling Qingyu asked, turning on the phone to see how it run. Even the startup was incredibly fast. A flash with Spirit Electronics and the phone could be used. Scrolling through the screen, Ling Qingyu nodded imperceptibly and tried her hands on the laptop.

"It's the best fit. For instance, if we say only 20 percent of the software capabilities shows up in the old devices, then now it's 150 percent. With further upgrades, you can imagine how revolutionized ours has become. Of course, the AI features have improved dramatically by another 80 percent, more lifelike and more responsive."

"Good, it seems like your software company must expand to a hardware one. I presume I have to make several calls and search for a company's residence."

"Well, Mom. It's better to be your call with your prestige. Please...so many people will come to you on their initiative once you say a word. Otherwise, the locations we receive might not be so good." Athena begged her mother.

"Don't forget about the blueprints after we're done." Ling Qingyu reminded.

"I know, Mom. Even if I forget, it only takes a second."

Ling Qingyu's lips twitched at Athena's excuse. Having a talented daughter burdened her mental power. Once she thought she could rest, another appeared.

Counting her finger, Ling Qingyu raised her brows at the number of industries she possessed—heavy automotive industry, food and agriculture, fashion and design, beauty and health products, electronics and apps. Now another semiconductor had popped up but she must carefully tread the deep water. Another workload had appeared again but Ling Qingyu was almost impatient to prove her path.

She swore very soon, aerospace, naval and medicine fields would be next. It wouldn't be long. A smile curled up as her cheeks blushed from joys and expectations for the future conquest.

I see. I hear. I come. I conquer!

Whoops! Too much drama....Ling Qingyu coughed at her weird Alexander's personality.