

Big Shot 471

Chapter 471: Fans Surge by 1 Million; Offended the Boss of Ma Jia!

#Qianshan#, #Episode 4#, #Stripping Fu Xi's Clothes#—these keywords quickly became trendy, spreading across various social media platforms worldwide.

Shen Ying's fans quickly noticed this and went to check out Gu Qiusha's comic.

Many couldn't help but switch their allegiance on the spot and became fans of Gu Qiusha.

Although they felt a little guilty about abandoning Shen Ying, whom they'd followed for two years, they couldn't resist the charm of Gu Qiusha's art.

Shen Ying is a platinum-level star on Penguin, and due to the excitement from the TV drama trailer, Shen Ying's originally 9 million followers just broke 10 million that night, making them the only platinum star on the platform with ten million followers.

Meanwhile, before tonight, Gu Qiusha was just a small-time creator with barely over 100,000 followers.

So, although many fans migrated to Gu Qiusha, Shen Ying still had a large fan base and many loyal fans.

After reading Gu Qiusha's comic, their first reaction wasn't amazement. Instead, they quickly reported to Shen Ying:

"Boss, boss, someone is riding your wave of popularity, drawing a story about Fu Xi and Nuwa too!"

"Where did this little nobody come from, daring to write the same theme as our boss? Does she have no shame?"

"Boss, she's shamelessly stealing our fans. Half of the fan group went to read her comics today!"

"Boss, should we do something to crush her and show her the power of our devoted fans?"

"Boss, just say the word and we'll stir things up!"

Meanwhile.

Gu Pinting, who was filming, also received the news.

A crew member, frowning, whispered into Director Zhao Jin's ear for a long time, making Zhao Jin's face look very unpleasant.

He cursed a few times and said, "Speed up filming. We must release ours before theirs comes out! Once we capture the audience's attention, they won't have any traffic and will be dead. Ha, trying to compete with us? Don't they know that ours is funded by Fourth Master, the biggest investment production in the entertainment industry?"

"Everyone, pull yourselves together. We're filming overnight tonight! Anyone caught dozing off will get it from me!"

Everyone had been working overtime for several days already, and the thought of another all-nighter made their inner curses fly, but they had to keep forcing smiles and continue working.

Gu Pinting yawned and called to a staff member, "Why is the director so furious?"

"Miss Gu, you don't know yet? Director Ma and Miss Xi, who visited the crew the other day, have formed a new crew and are also making a drama about Fu Xi and Nuwa. They even found some minor comic artist to draw the script in comic form and are serializing it during filming. It's catching all the hype; it just hit the trending searches!"

Gu Pinting sat up straighter, feeling wary.

She didn't care about some nobody comic artist, but what if another drama with the same theme competed against hers as the lead actress?

"Who did they cast as the lead actress? Is it Best Actress Fan Qingqing?"

"They're keeping it a tight secret. We don't know yet."

Unable to find out more, Gu Pinting scrolled on her phone, discovering that although the comic had only three episodes out, its popularity was astounding. Not only did it trend as a topic but it was also viral on the Penguin Reading Square, and the artist's follower count skyrocketed from 100,000 to 1 million in just one night.

This made her even more nervous.

If the script's popularity surpassed Shen Ying's, her role as the lead would be affected too.

She immediately texted Gu Shiyin: "Aunt, can you get in touch with Shen Ying? Big trouble, someone is riding her wave, gaining a million followers, and it's threatening our crew's status. You must warn Shen Ying."

Gu Shiyin replied with three simple words: "Got it."

Chapter 472: The Vicious Counterattack of the Boss of Ma Jia

Gu Pinting saw her aunt so calm and composed, her heart grew even more anxious.

Oh dear, why doesn't Aunt take it seriously? If it weren't for Shen Ying being so mysterious, with no one knowing her identity as Boss of Ma Jia, she'd really want to rush to Shen Ying to lodge a complaint.

Helpless, Gu Pinting could only log into her side account, head to Qianshan's book review section, leave a bunch of low-star reviews, then pour out her frustrations with a barrage of scolding on Weibo.

Damn it, trying to ride the hype, shamelessly competing with my TV series, blocking my path to stardom!

Besides me, Gu Pinting, no one else is allowed to play Nuwa, hmph!

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Gu Shiyin received the message, put down her phone, but didn't contact anyone.

With a cold expression, she opened Penguin Reading and logged into the author backend.

In the upper left corner of the page, it showed the author's name: Shen Ying. Fans: 10.14 million.

Her book had already concluded its serialization, and the rights had been sold for millions, bringing in profits. She didn't even bother to look at it.

Tonight, she was pondering how to send a warm, comforting message to Yin Hu, who was being punished by cleaning toilets at the camp, to convey her sentiments and casually inquire about Bao Gucheng's recent activities.

Since the last time at Mr. Gu's birthday banquet, it had been a long time since she'd seen Bao Gucheng.

There had been absolutely no news of him in the social circles, making her uneasy.

However, considering Bao Gucheng often had secretive actions, if she couldn't see him, it meant Zuzi couldn't see him either.

This considerably lifted her spirits.

Moreover, judging from Elder Gu's attitude at the last birthday banquet, he didn't care for Bao Gucheng as a grandson-in-law, probably because he considered Bao Gucheng too old, merely deeming him fit to be Zuzi's teacher... which was also advantageous for her.

After all, Bao Gucheng should be considered of her generation.

How in the world could a niece take away her aunt's boyfriend?

Gu Shiyin's good mood didn't last long before it was shattered by a message full of complaints from Gu Pinting.

Unexpectedly, some unknown and insignificant illustrator wanted to ride on her coattails, thinking her as Boss of Ma Jia was easygoing, and she wouldn't retaliate?

She coldly glanced over the backend data and messages.

She skimmed through the fans' complaint reports at a glance, then copied the name "Qianshan" to check the other person's works.

Unfazed by the discovery, her smile turned even colder.

"Just a flop with barely a million fans from their first book, daring to challenge me, a platinum author? I suppose you don't yet grasp the unspoken rules of the authors' circle, do you?"

Gu Shiyin, having been in the industry for just two or three years, had already become a big shot in the authors' circles, thoroughly familiar with its rules, blessed with plenty of official resources.

In the circle, whenever other authors launched new books, they'd be cautious to search first; no one dared to clash topics, names, or even character designs with a platinum giant, lest they be scorned to death.

Unlucky ones could find themselves being cursed out by three generations of a platinum giant's fans, with the entire book community bombarding them with bad reviews and low scores, and even websites issuing orders to amend works, not allowing even a tiny collision with a giant, driving the newbies unable to continue.

That's the unspoken rule.

Whoever holds the power of speech, monopolizes all resources, even if the textual resources aren't exclusive or original ideas.

Now, a clueless newbie actually dared to challenge this rule?

Haha.

Gu Shiyin warmly replied to a few fans' comments: "At the airport, just got off the plane. Don't get angry, we don't argue."

Then she logged into the "Shen Ying" account on Weibo and posted two statuses—

Chapter 473: The Last Vest Collected: Mrs. Bo!

First post: "Let the clowns do their dance, I just love peace and tranquility." (Image: a lotus flower unstained by mud.jpg)

Second post: "Protect originality, everyone has a responsibility" (Image: cover of Intellectual Property Protection Law.jpg)

As a figure with millions of followers, her Weibo comments boiled over instantly.

"Ahhh, you're finally here! It's been so hard for you flying around, yet you still took the time to reply to our comments at the airport, love you!"

"You're just too oblivious to the world, too at peace, which is why those clowns think they can bully us by riding on the popularity of our book!"

"Everyone, focus on the key point! She said it herself, protecting originality is everyone's responsibility. Haven't you noticed? That book 'Long Immortal Road' not only rides on our popularity, it's outright plagiarizing our author's book."

"Damn, dare to plagiarize from Shen Ying, we'll never reconcile with them!"

Finally, someone understood the underlying meaning in Gu Shiyin's words.

All that peace and tranquility is just her usual persona.

The second phrase "protect originality" is what she meticulously wanted people to notice.

She never personally engages in tearing apart those insignificant small-timers.

This is the dignity and decency of a platinum grandmaster.

She just drops a hint, naturally, others will do the tearing for her. Even if the other side can't take it and jumps off a building, that has nothing to do with her.

So those two "peace and tranquility" posts, seemingly plain, are actually laying quite potent and sinister traps.

Gu Shiyin brewed a cup of green tea and took a sip while looking at the computer.

Hmm, she just needed to start this battle; there's no need to manage the rest. After all, her fan base is explosively large.

No surprise, that minor artist's work wouldn't survive the night.

She had better figure out how to re-establish her connection with Yin Hu, after all, she needed a confidant by Bao Gucheng's side to get things done conveniently.

After thinking it over, she sent a document over: "Brother Hu, the 'Five Animals Play' collection you wanted earlier, I found it and scanned a copy for you. It was exclusively passed down to me, the last disciple of the old boxer. Please don't spread it, I'm showing it only to you. Absolutely!"

Yin Hu liked studying martial arts; it was through her strong martial skills that she got to know him and won him over back then.

This woman, just a pretty face isn't enough; she needed real skills as well.

Not to mention her skills were... countless.

Gu Shiyin smiled slightly.

The title "Boss of Ma Jia" is not something just anyone can hold.

She's flourishing in various industries now, overwhelmed with different roles. She just needed that last "Mrs. Bo" role to wrap it all up perfectly.

Hmm, where is Bao Gucheng carrying out his secret mission now?

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At this very moment.

On a magnificent warship by the sea.

The "very busy, lots of secret missions" Bao Gucheng was holding Zuzi's hand, walking up the gangway.

"Well, this big fish has an unusual shape."

Zuzi's red lips curled slightly in evaluation.

The cool sea breeze lifted her waterfall-like thick hair, making it dance and veil her eyes, making her look extraordinarily pure and cute.

Bao Gucheng stood beside her, momentarily dazzled by her smile, involuntarily curling his lips: "Yeah, a newly built big fish, taking you out to sea to have a look."

Zuzi was surprised: "Xiao Cheng'er's seaside restaurant, turns out to be riding the big fish over the sea?"

Bao Gucheng's gaze was deep: "You can also spend the night on the big fish."

Chapter 474: The Man's Sweet Expectation: Spending the Night on a Giant Fish!

Before boarding the yacht.

Bao Gucheng told Wei Yang to drive the car away: "You can go back and rest, we don't need you here."

"Mr. Bo, but who will operate the yacht?"

"There's an automatic navigation system."

"Hmm, but someone still needs to cook for you and Miss Xi... actually, I can cook quite well, Mr. Bo. I'm willing to serve you."

"No need, I can handle it."

"Mr. Bo, but..."

"If you're really that idle, you can go back and help Yin Hu clean the toilets."

"Oh, I'll leave right away!"

Watching his verbose subordinate finally walk away wisely, Bao Gucheng couldn't help but sigh. The honest Wei Yang really wasn't as sharp-minded as that brat Chen Long.

Earlier, when changing clothes, he had only said, "Cancel all business and personal arrangements for tonight."

Chen Long immediately understood and replied, "Yes, sir, you're staying on the boat tonight and not coming back, right? Don't worry, I'll keep an eye on the crew."

See, that's the difference!

Among these subordinates, the first one to get the girl was probably Chen Long alone.

At this moment.

Facing Zuzi's question, Bao Gucheng honestly expressed his thoughts: "We can spend the night on the big fish."

Zuzi's eyes were clear, innocent and she nodded genuinely at him: "Uh-huh, I brought wine, was just thinking of having a drink with Xiao Cheng'er, spending the night on this big fish sounds great."

Bao Gucheng's Adam's apple rolled a bit.

He liked this little woman's directness and simplicity.

He was even more looking forward to the upcoming night.

"There are ingredients in the fridge, I'll make some snacks to go with the wine." The man led her to the cabin, settled her on a comfortable sofa, opposite a 360-degree floor-to-ceiling glass window with an unobstructed view of the ocean.

The automatic navigation system started, and the yacht cruised on the sea.

The man busied himself in the kitchen.

Zuzi leaned back on a divan-like sofa, feeling like she was in a fairyland... just two words, comfortable!
Four words, a heavenly life!

"Ding dong—!"

A text message came through.

Zuzi lazily swiped open the message on her smart watch and saw Gu Qiusha's anxious message: "Zuzi dear, I think I've offended a platinum-level god on the website. Her fans are terrifying, they've rated my comic almost to zero and said if I continue the series, they'll doxx me! Do you think I should release episode four tonight?"

"Release it, why not?"

"But..."

"Is she accusing you of plagiarizing her?"

"Yeah!"

"Do you feel like you copied her?"

"Of course not! We developed this storyline together, with the ideas you gave me. If there's any plagiarism, it'd be from your brainchild, right?"

"Then there's nothing to fear."

"Right, I got confused by her fans and was worried they'd reveal my real name, causing trouble for you guys. Really, as a mother who hasn't touched serialized comics for twenty years, I never expected the kids online to be this scary now."

"Don't worry Xiao Sha, you won't be found out."

Zuzi smiled slightly and subtly made a gesture in the air.

Gu Qiusha nodded: "Okay, a clear conscience fears no accusation, I'll release episode four now!"

"Uh-huh, Ancestor is also looking forward to episode four."

The scene of stripping the rival a million years ago is so funny to think about.

I wonder what kind of interesting scenes Xiao Sha will draw.

Zuzi opened Penguin Reading and checked the comment section while waiting for Gu Qiusha to release the update.

Tsk tsk, it's really an eyesore!

These kids hold too much hostility.

Chapter 475: Demanding a Public Apology to the Great God!

"Plagiarist dog, get out of Penguin Reading!"

"Don't you know that Fu Xi and Nuwa are original creations of our Shen Ying? Who allowed you to use the names Fu Xi and Nuwa in your comic book?"

"Seeing that our Shen Ying has become popular, you want to ride on the coattails of that popularity. How can you, with your mere tens of thousands of followers, have the nerve to show such a disgrace?"

"What kind of author is this, so uncultured? Not only copying our great works, but even the pen name? Our Shen Ying is called Shen Ying and she comes up with Qianshan? This plagiarist is shameless!"

The comment section of 'Long Immortal Road' is a mess, full of negative comments.

Occasionally, a couple of defending voices are quickly drowned in unreasonable rebuttals—

[I am a Little Grass Fish]: "Why can't Fu Xi and Nuwa be written about? Have these four characters been monopolized by you?"

[Shen Ying's Brain-dead Fan No. 1]: "Our big author published it first, so it's her exclusive! Anything published after that is plagiarism!"

[The Moon is Brighter in My Hometown]: "Have some common sense, okay? Those are ancient myths, not your original creations. We have our own different perspectives and expressions based on mythological settings, it's entirely a different story, OK?"

[Shen Ying's Brain-dead Fan No. 2]: "The setup of Fu Xi being Nuwa's brother is an original idea from our big author, and Nuwa being able to fly and perform spells is also from our big author! Anything published after that is plagiarism!"

[Little Fairy of the Long Immortal Road]: "Our Qianshan has painstakingly created each stroke herself, where would she have time to read your novels?"

[Shen Ying's Brain-dead Fan No. 3]: "Our big author is famous nationwide, you flops are just plagiarists!"

[Meeting You is the Luckiest Thing in My Life]: "My Qianshan's pen name has its own specific meaning, who would bother to copy you?"

[Shen Ying's Brain-dead Fan No. 4]: "Our big author has tens of millions of fans, your few fans make you plagiarists!"

Although Gu Qiusha's fans are trying hard to fight back, the brain-dead fans eventually don't care, just overriding the screen with "plagiarist dog" over and over.

And the four most active fans of Gu Qiusha are soon drowned and disappeared among the screen-filling comments.

On Weibo hot search.

The same scenes almost replicate like a viral outbreak.

The "demand update" hot search that just soared to number 10 is soon pushed away by the "beat the plagiarist dog" hot search generated by Shen Ying's brain-dead fans.

In both the authors' community and the eyes of the public, plagiarism is a very serious accusation.

So people often take the anti-plagiarism side with preconceived notions, with no time to discern the details carefully.

Moreover, some fans who just started following Gu Qiusha tonight were left bewildered, hesitant to make any quick judgment.

Thus, Shen Ying's brain-dead fans quickly take over the Weibo territory as well.

Then they pressure Penguin Reading: "Severely punish the plagiarist Qianshan!"

As the issue becomes too big to ignore, Penguin Reading's CEO, Ma Qie, has no choice but to make a statement: "Our commitment to supporting original works remains unchanged!"

Meanwhile, he urgently calls Qianshan.

Zuzi is waiting for the fourth episode, refreshing for ages, and suddenly finds the reading page blank. Is this... did they take down her Xiao Sha?

Zuzi is even displeased.

At this moment, Ma Qie's call comes through: "Are you Qianshan?"

Gu Qiusha's alias must remain hidden; the call automatically routes to Zuzi.

Zuzi's tone is icy: "Did you block Xiao Sha's comic?"

Ma Qie: "Xiao Shan? How dare you plagiarize the work of a platinum author, do you realize how much trouble you've caused me? If it weren't for the sake of my brother, Director Ma, I wouldn't have given you the chance to sign a contract at all! As expected, newcomers are unreliable, hurry up and publicly apologize to the great author!"

Chapter 476: Gentleman Mr. Bo's love for beauty; the little Ancestor with a snap of the fingers, as if turning the clouds over the rain

Shen Ying is a platinum-level author on the website, and as the CEO, Ma Qie naturally prioritizes protecting the top authors, forcing the transparent Gu Qiusha to apologize.

Zuzi wasn't in a hurry, leisurely saying, "If it weren't for the sake of your brother, Director Ma, our paintings wouldn't be serialized for you. Are you sure you want to go against the Ancestor?"

Funny enough, even though Zuzi spoke in a calm tone, Ma Qie felt a sudden jolt over the phone.

It felt like a mountain was pressing down on him, an indescribable pressure!

"I, I can't possibly be unjust and speak for the plagiarist, right? I have to be fair and just!" Ma Qie stammered after a long pause.

Damn it, when did he, the unequivocal CEO, ever get pushed to this point by a small artist?

Where did this small artist get such confidence?

Zuzi's lips slightly curved up, lazy in demeanor: "Alright then, the Ancestor will show you what fairness and justice are. If you dare to act rashly, don't regret it later."

Ma Qie hesitated for a moment.

On one side was pressure from Shen Ying's fans, and on the other was the formidable aura of Zuzi standing her ground. He gritted his teeth and decided... to stay on the fence for another two minutes.

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Bao Gucheng had prepared four dishes and a soup, placed them on the table, and was ready to call the little woman on the sofa to eat.

He found her lounging on the sofa, having great fun playing with her smartwatch.

What a child she is...

So obsessed with toys.

He thought.

But the next second.

The man's gaze skimmed over the hem of Zuzi's long dress...

And found that because she was lounging so comfortably on the sofa, the hem had unknowingly lifted a bit, revealing her rare, jade-like legs.

Truly an epitome of fair skin and delicate bones, soft and ethereal!

Bao Gucheng's Adam's apple bobbed.

The gesture to call her to dinner paused.

His gaze swiftly diverted momentarily, lowered, and then calmly returned.

He stood silently by the dining table, quietly placing the soup back into the simmering pot, staring intently at the rare and splendid view before him.

Hmm, as a gentleman, he shouldn't interrupt someone while they're on a call.

He was, after all, a very polite man.

Zuzi lounged casually on the sofa, treating it as if it were The Queen Mother of the West's peach branch, playfully swinging her little feet while scrolling through Weibo.

"Hmm, drowning our four little cuties' speeches, right? Hehe..."

With a light touch of her slender fingers, she tapped on Weibo.

In a flick of her fingers, it was like turning clouds into rain!

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At this moment.

Gu Shiyin, in her boudoir, opened a bottle of champagne to celebrate.

Yin Hu had just messaged her back. Although it was delayed and not as passionate as before, he still showed respect and admiration: "Miss Gu, is this collector's edition of 'Five Animal Frolics' really for me? Can I practice with it?"

"Of course. It's scanned especially for you. If there's anything you don't understand, feel free to ask me."

"Thank... thank you, Miss Gu."

"You're welcome. I'll treat you to a meal sometime."

"No... no thanks, Mr. Bo punished me to clean the bathroom, I can't leave my post..."

"Ah, it's all my fault."

"It's my own issue, Miss Gu."

She took a sip of champagne, a silent smile playing on her lips.

To win over a man, catering to his interests is crucial.

No one knew she also had an alias as a psychological analyst, having thoroughly studied the minds of both men and women.

It's just a pity that Bao Gucheng was too busy tonight. Otherwise, celebrating with champagne and subtly lamenting about that little transparent Qianshan plagiarizing her work would surely evoke his protective instincts and pity.

Oh right, that obscure little artist should have already been blacklisted by Penguin Reading by now, right?

Chapter 477: This Isn't a Slap in the Face, This is... Riding the Face!

Gu Shiyin was quite interested as she opened Penguin Reading.

She discovered that Qianshan's "Long Immortal Road" was still prominently displayed on the homepage's "Hottest New Episode" recommendation, not banned at all.

"What is Ma Qie doing? So slow! Is it because the fans' combat power is too weak?"

She grumbled discontentedly and then went to check Weibo.

Seeing the screen full of "Plagiarist dogs get out of Penguin" made her feel a bit better.

Who knew that in the next second...

Weibo was turned upside down!

Where the screen-flooding "Plagiarist dogs get out of Penguin" had just been, it disappeared completely.

Instead, the previously suppressed voices of Gu Qiusha's fans emerged—

[I'm a Little Guppy]: "Want to compare who published earlier? Sorry, Qianshan already drew the Fairy Painting of Nuwa Empress twenty years ago, let me open your eyes! (Fairy Painting.jpg)"

[Meeting You is the Greatest Luck of My Life]: "Want to compare pen name meanings? I'm willing to wave goodbye to the past, wear simple clothes, skim across in a light boat, and return to the rivers and lakes! Qianshan's pen name meaning has nothing to do with you!"

[The Moon is Brighter in My Hometown]: "Saying Qianshan's two characters copied Shen Ying? Why not say the ancient poem 'Light Garments Slanting at the Door' from hundreds of years ago also crossed time to plagiarize from you? Ancient poems, songs, and the Xinhua Dictionary all copied from you, really impressive, your bragging can reach the sky!"

[Long Immortal Fairy]: "Saying our comic character settings copied your novel? Obviously, you haven't even looked at our comic content. In 'Long Immortal Road,' Fu Xi and Nuwa are mortal enemies, who resembles your clichéd brother-sister duo? You can't even guess our unique artist's magical imagination!"

[Meeting You is the Greatest Luck of My Life]: "No more words, if you keep blabbing, see you in court! Starting with millions in compensation for defamation, and at least ten years in prison! (Intellectual Property Law cover.jpg)"

The resounding and powerful counterattack from the four-person team finally made it to the homepage, visible to all netizens.

Supportive statements from Qianshan's fans closely followed, with no idiotic fans of Shen Ying able to block them anymore.

Gu Shiyin gripped the champagne glass tightly, almost crushing it!

Just then Gu Pinting's flustered call came: "Aunt, what's going on, is Weibo down? Why can't I post anything from my side account, every post sinks immediately? Did that woman Qianshan bribe Weibo's higher-ups for fullscreen pinning? How is she so impressive!"

Gu Shiyin bit her lip, unable to answer Gu Pinting's question.

At this moment.

Everyone in Gu Pinting's crew was so tense they stopped filming.

Qianshan's hype was overwhelming, making them feel on edge.

Because many passersby, intrigued by Weibo's trending hot topics, went to Qianshan's artwork to take a look, accidentally, more and more people fell into the trap.

Watching as Gu Qiusha's manga fans grew from hundreds of thousands to millions and quickly increased several times over, breaking five million, and in the blink of an eye approaching ten million.

This happened in less than half an hour.

Meanwhile, Shen Ying took a full three years to become a platinum god with ten million followers.

This kind of white-hot manga rising star, who is still part of their mortal enemy's crew, is a terrifying threat. They're already being crushed from the script level, how can they continue filming this series?

"Aunt, you need to get Shen Ying to think of a solution."

"She can't just stay serene and indifferent anymore!"

"The opposing crew isn't just slapping us in the face, they're practically riding on our faces already!"

Chapter 478: Kneel Down to the Little Ancestor at Once!

Gu Shiyin felt a bone stuck in her throat.

How could she have any peace and quiet? She couldn't wait to crush her opponent with one move. The peace and quiet was just an image crafted for her fans!

But the problem was Gu Pinting didn't know Shen Ying was her username, so she had to gently agree: "Okay, I will notify them. Don't worry too much."

"Aunt, I can't not be anxious. That Qianshan's fan count already hit nine million nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand... Wait, it broke ten million! She's getting so popular that our TV show is doomed. She's using us to climb up, it's shameless!"

Gu Shiyin suppressed a mouthful of old blood: "Got it."

Gaining ten million followers overnight, she cursed the other side, accusing them of all being zombie followers!

After calming Gu Pinting, Gu Shiyin immediately called Ma Qie: "Mr. Ma, isn't this a bit unfair to me? I'm a platinum author, and now a little nobody is trying to freeload off my success. Which side are you on? Are you trying to push me out of Penguin with my next book or what?"

Ma Qie had just finished watching the shocking turnaround of the Weibo battle.

Two minutes.

In just two minutes, he personally witnessed Shen Ying's brainless fans getting beaten so badly they couldn't even lift their heads. The entire page was filled with Qianshan fans' righteous rebuttals.

It was really... exhilarating.

Cough cough, no, he's the boss, he needs to be fair and just, or the money will slip away. This overnight gain of ten million followers is definitely the prelude to skyrocketing popularity, absolutely can't let Qianshan go!

"I can't talk to you right now, I have things to do, wait a bit."

For the first time, he ruthlessly hung up on Shen Ying.

Gu Shiyin: "...". Her wrist almost crushed the phone!

Ma Qie hung up and immediately dialed Qianshan.

The call connected to Zuzi's side.

"Xiao Ma, have you thought it through and come to see your Ancestor?"

Zuzi leisurely picked a peach blossom petal from the fruit plate, lingering it by her lips, catching Bao Gucheng at the dining table, his Adam's apple moving slightly.

Then Zuzi heard a "thud—!" from the other end of the call.

Ma Qie actually knelt down to her to show his sincerity:

"My dear Ancestor! Xiao Ma apologizes to you, Xiao Ma was muddled just now, I beg your forgiveness, Xiao Ma will open a VIP channel for you to upgrade to platinum; you can publish new artworks without review, you can post as you like!"

Zuzi smiled sweetly: "No more ban?"

Ma Qie: "Gosh, we're family, no need for separate talks. You're the master, we're the platform, we're all in the same boat."

Zuzi: "Heard enough flattery like that, the Ancestor wants to see some real action."

Ma Qie pounded his chest to promise: "Don't worry, dear Ancestor. Banner promotion, bookshelf push, splash screen ad, I'll have them all arranged for you! You just focus on your art, leave the promotion and exposure to Xiao Ma!"

Zuzi: "Mm-hmm. Go ahead."

Ma Qie: "Cough cough, dear Ancestor, there's one more request that's not quite polite..."

Zuzi: "What, you want my fans to go easy?"

Ma Qie: "No, no, no! I mean, your fans are truly righteous, please keep them united, don't let them disband!"

Zuzi chuckled softly.

Seen people adapt to circumstances before, but never seen anyone adapt so smoothly and seamlessly.

To maintain Qianshan's viral status online, actually taking the initiative to request Qianshan's battle continues, splendid indeed.

Just don't know if Shen Ying learns of Ma Qie's request, will she spit out three liters of blood.

Chapter 479: The gift personally given by the little ancestor; the little ancestor's favor is spread evenly!

After Ma Qie apologized profusely to "Qianshan," he finally felt relieved and turned to instruct the staff to schedule rankings and recommendations for Qianshan.

After being busy for a while, he finally remembered the "Shen Ying" he had left hanging on the side.

In the business world, new big authors need to be catered to, but the old big authors cannot be neglected either.

He quickly called back to reassure her: "Miss Shen Ying, let's not fuss over this matter anymore. You see, the opposing fans have a point too. Continuing to fight won't benefit you, right? As a senior in the author's circle, how about you laugh it off and bury the hatchet?"

In Gu Shiyin's bedroom, a wine glass shattered on the floor.

On the phone, her tone remained gentle and stable, revealing little emotion: "Who will compensate for my losses? My fans also need an explanation."

Ma Qie: "Don't worry, I'll arrange for a pop-up recommendation for you tomorrow from the operations department. It has a huge exposure, and you can earn tens of thousands in just one day!"

Gu Shiyin reluctantly agreed: "Okay."

After hanging up the phone, a thick layer of icy frost rose on her face!

Did they think a pop-up recommendation worth a few ten thousand could placate her?

Was she such an easy person to deal with?

She wanted the money, but even more, she wanted that obscure little illustrator to vanish from the scene completely.

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"Ahem. Zuzi, are you ready to eat?"

Bao Gucheng watched Zuzi happily playing with her watch and answering a call, seemingly having made someone's life difficult again, making them obediently comply.

Although he could use this opportunity to savor the sight of those stunning legs for as long as possible.

He felt an impulse to cover her with a small blanket, afraid she might catch a cold.

Zuzi saw that Gu Qishu finally released the fourth episode, millions of fans surged from Weibo into Penguin Reading, crashing the Penguin Reading APP for the third time. Only then did a smile appear on her lips as she turned her watch and stood up to respond: "Mm-hmm."

She approached the dining table.

Instead of eating, she gazed intensely at Bao Gucheng: "Xiao Cheng, was it nice just now?"

Bao Gucheng averted his eyes slightly uneasily, looking sincere and determined: "...Nice."

Those legs were enough to haunt a man's dreams.

He wished he could hide them, never letting another man besides him see them.

Zuzi chuckled: "Since you like them so much, let me give it to you in advance."

Saying that.

She pulled out a thin brocade bag from behind her.

"Here, a gift for you. Don't say I only give gifts to the little fish and little crow and forget Xiao Cheng Er."

The Ancestor is fair, bestowing favors evenly.

Bao Gucheng: "...So, what you asked earlier, is this gift nice?"

Zuzi blinked her big eyes: "Weren't you just observing what gift the Ancestor prepared for you?"

Watching so attentively and intensely, weren't you curious about what nice thing you were going to receive?

Bao Gucheng's Adam's apple bobbed, his face a picture of restraint: "Mm."

"Then open it and have a look."

"Alright."

The man accepted the thin brocade bag.

He slowly and carefully untied the silk ribbon, the silk's texture gave a sense of fear that even the slightest heavy touch might ruin it, feeling as if it needed to be cherished in the palm of your hand.

Although he wasn't looking at this "gift" earlier, he truly felt a bit of anticipation at this moment, wondering what such a thin piece could be.

Was it a handkerchief from ancient times used to convey yearning? Or perhaps a fan surface to express affection?

However.

When the fabric inside the brocade bag unfolded.

Every guess Bao Gucheng had fell apart.

It was a—

Chapter 480: Cheng Er, the Young Bride's First Time Cooking

It was a pair of plain silk boxer shorts.

For men. Wide and roomy.

Bao Gucheng couldn't help but twitch the corner of his lips vigorously; he never expected that her gift would turn out to be boxer shorts.

"What, doesn't Xiao Cheng like them?" Zuzi asked, seeing the man's blank expression.

Bao Gucheng's Adam's apple rolled heavily, his voice low and powerful, "No. I like them very much."

He had never received such a "unique" gift before.

Not as reserved as a handkerchief or a fan, but it perfectly matched her straightforward and bold personality, making one's heart race.

And he suddenly realized that the fabric of these boxer shorts was exactly the same as the white dress she was wearing, which was the legendary "Heavenly Silkworm Silk," soft, ethereal, and so delicate it felt like nothing at all; it must be extremely comfortable to wear.

"Did Miss Zuzi sew this by hand?"

"Mhm, I spent three days sewing it."

She really wasn't skilled at crafts; she wished she had learned a thing or two from a weaver back then, so she wouldn't have to struggle so much now.

The main challenge was understanding how to sew the opening on men's boxer shorts, which took quite a bit of effort.

Bao Gucheng clutched the boxer shorts in his hand, "This gift, I'll wear it for a lifetime."

Zuzi smiled brilliantly, "Mm-hmm, a lifetime isn't long; as long as you like it, it's good."

His "lifetime" probably lasts until this year's birthday; this Heavenly Silkworm Silk is resilient and durable, no problem at all.

Bao Gucheng carefully put away his precious gift, and for a moment, he felt that Xi Rubao's expensive Moonstone and the tourmaline beads on a crow's claw were all fleeting clouds.

None could compare to the deep sentiment and profound meaning of this thin piece of fabric!

He refilled her bowl with hot soup, "Jade White Jade Soup, give it a try. There's also Stuffed Jade Snail, Stewed Sea Cucumber, Dual-Colored Roasted Cake, Assorted Vegetables, not sure if they suit your taste."

Zuzi looked at the refreshing and aromatic soup and small dishes, and couldn't help but feel that the gene she once modeled for a man was indeed pretty good; nowadays, even the men she encounters know how to cook.

Xi Chansha could brew a slow-cooked soup, and Bao Gucheng mastering an entire table of dishes was even more impressive.

At least she couldn't do it.

Her ancestor only knew how to drink!

"Xiao Cheng, when did you learn to cook? It must have been tough managing while marching and fighting?"

"It wasn't too bad. Just, a talent I suppose."

The man quietly turned his back and closed the "Culinary Expert Guide" app page on his phone.

Having been away leading special teams for years, he used to go to places that were tough and had challenging conditions.

Once, when he was capturing a treasonous escapee in the Amazon Jungle, he had to hide for a whole month without food supplies, finishing even the compressed biscuits, at the end of his resources.

It was during that time he learned to cook.

However — back then, his "cooking" involved grilling locusts, worms, bird eggs...and even, roasting crocodile.

Which didn't help at all with today's meal.

Zuzi took a sip, softly praising, "Not bad."

Then she took out her bottle of wine, "The vintage brought back from Qingcheng would be wasted if not drunk; Xiao Cheng, let's drink till we're merry tonight."

She raised her glass and sipped, occasionally taking a bite of the food.

Bao Gucheng joined her in drinking a few glasses and picked up a piece of sea cucumber; as soon as he tasted it, he couldn't help but want to spit it out, but for the sake of courtesy, he forced himself to swallow — he had added too much salt.

Sea cucumber was salty to start with, and his inexperience showed in not getting the right amount.

But looking at Zuzi still eating unconcernedly, taking small bites, he felt a slight pang of embarrassment — like a novice wife cooking for the first time, being forgiven and praised "tasty" by her partner, with that unspeakable awkwardness!

Yet why was there also a slight sense of joy in the back of his throat?