

Concubine 301

Chapter 301 Fine, You Win

When Su Ji came downstairs after her shower, Si Jingchuan was packing his bag.

Su Ji looked at him while drying her hair, “you’re not staying for a meal?”

...

Photos were very sensitive to female celebrities. Si Jingchuan felt that it was better not to tell his boss about it before he figured out the truth.

His boss had a bad temper.

He stuffed the “cuttlefish juice” into his bag, “ah, yes, I suddenly have something to do.”

“Boss, Aunt Xu, I’m going now!”

Su Ji narrowed her eyes as she watched him leave in a hurry.

**

After Si Jingchuan left the Xu family’s residence, he asked the driver to send him to his destination.

The address that Zhou Xuefang sent was of a hotel.

Si Jingchuan knew what she wanted

She was just using those photos to her advantage because she knew that he cared about his boss.

He had to go anyway!

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Half an hour later, Si Jingchuan arrived at the hotel room Zhou Xuefang specified. He was wearing a pair of sunglasses, a face mask, and a cap.

The door opened after a knock. Zhou Xuefang peeked out of the door, as if she was afraid that she would be photographed, “there are no reporters following you, right?”

Si Jingchuan pushed the door open and entered the room, “where are the photos?”

Zhou Xuefang was smarter than Tang Yimo. She was dressed very conservatively and there was not even a glass of wine in the room.

She didn’t need to do those things. It was enough for her to just get him to her room to look at the photos.

At the same time, she also left a way out for herself.

Zhou Xuefang held onto the door and said, “there, they’re all on the bed.”

Si Jingchuan entered the room and she closed the door with a click.

Si Jingchuan ran straight to the photos, which were taken in the village.

It was taken on the day Su Ji and Xu Ni were discussing business!

The camera was aimed at the window. Through the gap of the window, he could clearly see the two people inside.

Su Ji and Xu Ni.

Every photo was taken at exactly the right angle to show their intimacy.

Si Jingchuan looked through the photos one by one. At the bottom, there were a few photos of Su Ji sending Xu Ni out.

“....”

Although he knew that his boss and Xu Ni were innocent, if these photos were leaked, it would be hard for her to explain what they were doing in that room.

Who would believe it if they said they were practicing?

Xu Ni pretended to be cold and aloof, but when he was with his boss, he had no sense of boundaries!

If he had known earlier, he would have followed them to the village that day!

Why did he suffer from car sickness!

The sound of a car engine could be heard from downstairs. Si Jingchuan opened the curtain and looked down. What entered his sight was a car that looked like it belonged to a paparazzi.

When the car stopped, four people carrying cameras got out of it, which confirmed his guess.

At this point, Si Jingchuan had figured out what Zhou Xuefang was up to.

Si Jingchuan turned around and looked at the woman who was leaning against the door frame obediently, waiting for his reaction.

He smirked unkindly, his words full of disdain, “do you really want to shoot a kissing scene with me in the finale so badly?”

Zhou Xuefang’s expression immediately turned innocent, “what are you saying? I spent a lot of money to buy these photos for Su Ji and I asked you to come here today to discuss it with you. A hotel is more private, and if someone else sees it...”

Si Jingchuan snorted and interrupted her, “what are you going to say about the reporters outside?”

Zhou Xuefang immediately peeked downstairs, “are there reporters? I didn’t see them when I came.”

“You’re so good at pretending,” Si Jingchuan was even a little impressed by her, “since you said that you’re doing all this for Su Ji and that your purpose is very simple, why don’t you just give these photos to her? Or her manager? Why do you want to talk to me?”

“....”

Zhou Xuefang was at a loss for words.

Si Jingchuan sneered, "let me tell you why. It's because you can't have a scandal with her!"

Zhou Xuefang's expression didn't change, but her hands clenched into fists.

Si Jingchuan wasn't afraid. For his boss' sake, he was willing to accept the fact that he was trapped.

He sat by the bed and slowly looked at the photos.

"So you bought it at a high price," he sneered. "Then can you tell me who you bought them from?"

Zhou Xuefang did not care about his sarcastic remarks. She told him the story that she had come up with a long time ago, "it's an extra from the production team. She was desperate because she is poor. If this kind of thing gets blown up, her career will be over. So I watch her delete the backup on her phone. Don't worry, no one will know about these photos in the future."

"Fine. If I see these photos again," Si Jingchuan took all the photos and slowly looked up at her, exuding an overwhelming sense of oppression, "you should have heard of what the Si family have done."

Zhou Xuefang swallowed her saliva.

At this moment, both of them knew who had taken these photos.

By chance, Zhou Xuefang managed to take photos of Su Ji and Xu Ni in a room.

However, she did not post the photo on the internet immediately.

Now that Blue Whale was supporting Su Ji, she wouldn't dare to mess with her. Su Qianrou and Tang Yimo had already tested the waters for her.

Moreover, she only had ambiguous photos of Su Ji and Xu Ni. Although she knew that Su Ji was not a decent person, there was no evidence of her having any relationship with other men for the time being. Hence, she could not destroy Su Ji this way.

Both of them were single. Once Su Ji and Xu Ni directly admitted their relationship, they might even become more popular. By then, Blue Whale would do everything to find the source of these photos.

Zhou Xuefang had already thought of all these, so she chose to use these photos in a different way.

She used this opportunity to threaten Si Jingchuan and create a scandal to help her gain publicity.

Now, the netizens were divided into two groups. One group supported her, while the other supported Su Ji.

However, if there were rumors of her and the male lead falling in love because of the series, guess who the netizens would support?

Zhou Xuefang calmed herself down and smiled, "don't worry, if the paparazzi really took a picture of us, I won't explain anything for the sake of Su Ji. They could say anything they want, only the finale would be affected by this..."

Her words were amazing.

There were several levels of hints.

1. If the paparazzi took photos of them, please acknowledge the scandal. Otherwise, the fact that they came to the hotel because of Su Ji and Xu Ni's photos would be leaked.
2. She stirred up the scandal just to get a part in the finale, so he didn't have to worry about being bound by the scandal after the finale.

Every sentence was a hint, even if he recorded it, he couldn't use it against her.

Si Jingchuan gritted his teeth, "fine, you win."

Chapter 302 What a Complicated Situation

Si Jingchuan hated Zhou Xuefang and didn't want to be in the same scene as her.

However, his chastity was nothing compared to his boss'.

...

His boss was more important.

However, he must teach Xu Ni a lesson when he had time!

When Si Jingchuan left the hotel, the corridor looked calm as if nothing had happened. However, explosive news hit the headlines that very night.

#Shocking news! Si Jingchuan and Zhou Xuefang went to the same hotel together!#

#Suspected to be a real couple in The Billion Stars!#

In the photos taken by the paparazzi, Si Jingchuan and Zhou Xuefang were both covered up tightly. They were about ten minutes apart from each other as they left the same hotel room.

Si Jingchuan had covered himself up tightly, but he was so popular that his die-hard fans could recognize him just by looking at his ears.

Zhou Xuefang had covered herself up quite well too, but when she turned around at the corner of the stairs, her face was exposed. She had to do this. Otherwise, with her popularity, no one would be able to recognize her.

For a moment, the internet was almost paralyzed.

Si Jingchuan's fans couldn't accept Zhou Xuefang. They all claimed that they absolutely believed that their idol was innocent and were waiting for a clarification online!

Meanwhile, Zhou Xuefang's fans could not wait to hype this up.

["Wow! Her first love is Si Jingchuan? So dreamy!"]

["Look at his eyes, he absolutely loves her!"]

[Zhou Xuefang! You actually got the man I've been dreaming of!!"]

There were a lot of fans waiting for them to say something on Weibo, but an hour passed and neither of them posted anything.

This was a little intriguing.

It was obvious that Si Jingchuan had no other choice. On the other hand, Zhou Xuefang's silence was also a silent affirmation.

There were even people who went to ask Sonya because she and Zhou Xuefang had just participated in "Tonight's Warmth" and they seemed to have a good relationship.

The reporters asked her if she knew about the matter and what she thought about it.

Sonya replied, "I've worked with both of them before. I like them very much."

She didn't seem to answer the question, but at the same time, she did.

Fu Xiaofeng was as anxious as an ant on a hot pan. When did he ever have any scandals? Besides, even if there was, it shouldn't have been with Zhou Xuefang.

However, Si Jingchuan refused to answer any of his calls.

At 10 o'clock that night, Si Jingchuan's manager still could not contact him. They immediately issued a statement to clarify that the two met at the hotel for business.

Half an hour later, Sky Entertainment also reposted the clarification.

However, because the two involved did not say anything, the netizens thought they were just trying to cover it up.

Su Ji only found out about this the next morning.

Pei Huai was drinking tea at her house.

Su Ji was furious when she saw the news. She looked at the few photos secretly taken at the hotel. When she thought of Si Jingchuan's panicked look when he left yesterday, she stood up and called him.

When she stood up, Aunt Wu happened to be mopping the floor with her back facing her. The two of them almost bumped into each other. Pei Huai had the foresight to hold down the mop pole behind Aunt Wu. Aunt Wu only reacted when she turned around. She nodded apologetically and went to another place to mop.

As expected, Si Jingchuan didn't answer Su Ji's first call. He had always been a coward.

She opened WeChat, and sent him a voice message, "you don't want to pick up? I'll go to Zhou Xuefang."

Within three seconds, Si Jingchuan called her.

He was smiling to cover up his trembling, "boss...so you saw the rumors about me?"

"What happened?" Su Ji immediately asked.

"Um..." Si Jingchuan hadn't thought of a good excuse. He simply said, "actually, Zhou Xuefang is okay..."

Su Ji said, "come here. I'll wash your eyes."

Pei Huai glanced at her and took out his phone to read the latest news.

Nine out of ten headlines were related to Si Jingchuan. He randomly clicked on one.

On the other end of the line, Si Jingchuan also felt that it was too disgusting and couldn't continue. He said, "if I say that I was studying the script with her at the hotel, do you believe that?"

"Who are you trying to fool?" Su Ji was tough, "tell me the truth."

Si Jingchuan: "..."

Su Ji replied, "or I'll give Zhou Xuefang a call..."

"Hey, don't!" Si Jingchuan hurriedly stopped her.

Su Ji knew that he was lying when she heard silence on the other end. She said, "come to my house and look me in the eyes when you tell me what happened."

Pei Huai looked at her again.

Over the phone, Si Jingchuan was immediately thrown into a state of discomposure by her few words. He was indeed quite annoyed by the news last night. He was also wondering if he had agreed to Zhou Xuefang's request a little too hastily.

But at this time, he did not dare to go to the boss' house by himself, thinking of the other person to blame for this incident...

"Okay. But Xu Ni must be there too! He's also involved!"

"?"

Su Ji paused for a second, "alright, I'll call him and ask him to come."

Pei Huai looked at her for the third time.

His time alone with his girlfriend...

An hour later, Pei Huai and Su Ji sat on one side of the table, while Si Jingchuan and Xu Ni on the other.

Xu Ni arrived first, followed by Si Jingchuan, who had put in a lot of effort to avoid the paparazzi.

Si Jingchuan was afraid that he wouldn't be able to explain it clearly, so he took the photos with him.

However, he only realized that CEO Pei was there when he arrived.

The courage that he had mustered up with great difficulty was suppressed again.

What a complicated situation!

Su Ji saw that he was trying to take something out with one hand, but he couldn't. She was angry when she saw him dawdling.

She slammed the table and was about to grab his collar. Pei Huai was one step ahead of her and said, "take them out. Don't let her do it."

If Su Ji really wanted to, Si Jingchuan would not be able to stop her. Xu Ni, who was beside him, asked him, "what does your relationship with Zhou Xuefang have to do with me? Why am I involved?"

Si Jingchuan was being attacked from both sides. He hurriedly said, "I'll show you..."

A minute later, Su Ji and Xu Ni's photo appeared on the table.

Si Jingchuan looked at Pei Huai. Su Ji and Xu Ni also realized that it was them after looking at the photo for a few seconds. They also looked at Pei Huai.

Pei Huai, who was on his phone, felt their gazes. He looked up and narrowed them slightly. Then, he looked at the photos on the table...

The next second, he took all the photos and looked at them one by one. His face darkened.

Su Ji coughed and changed the topic. She looked at Si Jingchuan and asked, "so, she used these photos to threaten you?"

Xu Ni echoed, "so, she threatened you with these photos?"

However, Si Jingchuan answered too slowly. Before he could continue, Pei Huai followed up with a question, "can someone explain to me how these photos came about?"

Chapter 303 A Clown

Regarding this matter, Su Ji and Xu Ni actually had a very reasonable explanation.

However, this was related to Xu Ni's privacy, so Su Ji was not in a position to say it now.

...

Of course, Xu Ni knew that nothing would happen between him and Su Ji, but he didn't want to say it until the last moment.

Even his grandmother and father didn't know about this. Only his mother and an aunt who had raised him knew.

After a moment of silence.

Su Ji leaned back in her chair and avoided looking at Pei Huai "it's on the day when I video-called you. We were talking about business."

Pei Huai's observation skills were very good, but he wasn't interested in Xu Ni's secrets.

Pei Huai looked at the photos, his thoughts were unreadable, "seems like a big business."

Xu Ni placed his hands on his knees, "it's true CEO Pei. It's super big. There are only ten cigarettes in a pack, and she's selling it for fifty thousand!"

He seemed to be complaining, and Pei Huai played along. He sounded rather shocked, “fifty thousand?”

Xu Ni nodded hard.

Then Pei Huai said, “just fifty thousand?”

Xu Ni: “...”

Pei Huai was amused. Even if he added two more zeros, Su Ji wouldn’t be that friendly to him.

The atmosphere was tense.

Si Jingchuan looked at the three people opposite him. He wanted to say a few words on behalf of his boss. However, when he detected CEO Pei’s murderous aura, he coughed and did not say a word.

“20,” Pei Huai said a few seconds later.

Su Ji raised her eyes and looked at him, “what do you mean?”

Pei Huai looked calm on the outside, and he seemed to have reached a conclusion in his heart, “still young and likes to mess around. It’s normal.”

When he spoke to Su Ji, his tone was still as gentle as ever. The people around him heaved a sigh of relief.

However, Pei Huai immediately changed his tone, “but I hope the others will be more careful in the future.”

When he said this while holding one of the photos, who the “others” were were very obvious.

Xu Ni blinked his eyes, “I’m only 18. I’m even younger!”

Pei Huai sipped his tea unhurriedly, “but you’re a man.”

Xu Ni: “...”

Anyway, Su Ji would never let Si Jingchuan suffer because of her.

She said, “you should post a statement to clarify things now before everyone ships you and Zhou Xuefang.”

“Yeah,” Xu Ni added, “you fell for a few photos, how stupid.”

Si Jingchuan was silent for a few seconds. “but the photos of you and Xu Ni will be leaked. Even if they can’t see the photos, they will know that the two of you were in the same room. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have gone to the hotel to retrieve them...”

Su Ji replied, “we didn’t do anything. I can explain it.”

Si Jingchuan didn’t believe that she could.

He entered the entertainment industry earlier than his boss and knew how things were.

Once this kind of thing became public, there was no way to explain it clearly.

However, Xu Ni also felt that it could be explained. There was no need to tie himself to Zhou Xuefang because of this. He could reveal his secret and everything would be clear.

Pei Huai already had a solution in his heart. He would take this opportunity to disclose his relationship with Su Ji. The spearhead would be shifted immediately, and he would be less worried.

Although the three of them had their own opinions, they all had the same goal. Everyone looked at Si Jingchuan and said, "clarify it. You don't have to worry about anything else."

Si Jingchuan advised them to think again.

Su Ji said, "if the scandal between you and Zhou Xuefang is confirmed, you will be stained in my mind."

Things were serious!

Si Jingchuan took out his phone, "I'll post it!"

**

Zhou Xiuefang's scandal exploded last night. She finally experienced the feeling of not having to spend any money to be trending.

Today, she received an impromptu job. However, the pay was good.

They didn't have any other requests. They just asked her to talk about the interesting things that happened on set with Si Jingchuan.

This was a smart move.

She didn't need to admit or deny their relationship. Anything related to Si Jingchuan would definitely be the hottest topic right now.

Obviously, she was already acting as Si Jingchuan's girlfriend.

In the dressing room, a makeup artist and two assistants surrounded Zhou Xuefang.

After she was done with the eyeshadow, the two assistants whispered to each other in a low voice.

"Did you see the news?"

"Yes!"

"It just came out yesterday, and she's here for an interview today. It seems like it's true!"

"I didn't pay much attention to her before. She's quite pretty and her eyes are so big."

"Nonsense. How can Si Jingchuan's girlfriend be ugly?"

Zhou Xuefang heard most of it and her lips curled up into a faint smile.

She had not had any scandals before.

It was worth it to be in one with Si Jingchuan.

If she had not been forced into a corner, she would not have used this method.

She was a very virtuous person and ordinary people wouldn't like her.

Chen Jing came to pick her up when her hair and makeup were all done.

She held her arms and treated her like she was her boss.

On the way to the recording studio, Chen Jing did not forget to report to her that she had uploaded the clip of Si Jingchuan looking at her during a scene to the internet. With a scandal behind it, the clip that she uploaded this time received a great response.

Zhou Xuefang expressed her satisfaction.

When she arrived at the studio, the host greeted her warmly. As it was just an interview, there was no need for rehearsals.

The filming location was also very simple. There were two sofas under the lights, one for the host and one for her.

Although this talk show couldn't be compared to "Tonight's Warmth" it received a lot of views on many online platforms.

Zhou Xuefang, with her exquisite makeup, took her seat.

During the interview, the topic was basically about Si Jingchuan. She answered the questions with ease.

She was the best at making ambiguous statements.

["Oh my God! Didn't she just confirm it?"]

["OMG! Is Si Jingchuan really in a relationship with Zhou Xuefang?"]

["She's so sweet! I love how low-profile and quiet she is!"]

["Do we have to start calling her Mrs. Si now, do we?"]

["If Si Jingchuan likes her, we the fans must accept it. What else can we do?"]

["We should at least wait for his official announcement, right?"]

["It's really unnecessary. If it's not true, would she dare to accept the interview so brazenly? If it's not true, how can Si Jingchuan not refute the rumors?"]

The fans were all waiting to see their responses. The ratings were bound to be good, and the chat was extremely enthusiastic.

However, at 5:15 in the afternoon, just as Zhou Xuefang's interview was coming to an end, the situation suddenly took a turn.

["Wait! Si Jingchuan just updated his Weibo!"]

In the next second, the number of viewers plummeted.

Si Jingchuan denied it.

Meanwhile, Zhou Xuefang, who had no idea what was going on, was still staring at the camera with her starry eyes...

Chapter 304 The CEO is Unpredictable

Si Jingchuan had explained the entire situation clearly in his statement.

This included the number of WeChat messages Zhou Xuefang had sent him, and how he only allowed her to send him the time and place after she mentioned his best friend.

...

He checked the time when he arrived and left the hotel.

There were also two screenshots below. They were the WeChat conversation between Zhou Xuefang and him. There was nothing more solid than this.

In the records, he had blurred out his boss' name.

Even though they knew that Zhou Xuefang would never let Su Ji stay out of it.

At the end of the statement, Si Jingchuan wrote:

["Those photos are actually a misunderstanding. I'm just afraid that the media will make an issue out of it. Please don't try to find out who my friend is."]

["Lastly, Zhou Xuefang and I are purely colleagues. We don't even meet in private."]

["Thank you for your attention."]

He didn't want to state the purpose of going to the hotel, but in the end, he felt that it was not possible. If he did not tell the truth, Zhou Xuefang would add more oil to the fire and it would be hard to explain later. So, he could hide Su Ji's name, but it had to be the truth.

Then, Pei Huai made him add "only Zhou Xuefang and I have these photos. They will not appear on the internet again."

Si Jingchuan thought that was good.

This way, even if Zhou Xuefang wanted to do something bad, she would not dare to post those photos on the internet.

After all, he said that only the two of them had the photos. If they were to appear on the internet, it must be her.

She would be in a worse state than the person in the photo.

Si Jingchuan slammed the table on the spot and couldn't help but sigh at Pei Huai, "indeed, the older the ginger, the spicier it gets!"

After that, Pei Huai didn't say a word to him for the entire night.

Si Jingchuan was confused.

The CEO was indeed unpredictable.

The fans almost burst into tears of joy after seeing the clarification. When they went back to Zhou Xuefang's live show, the host asked her, "does Si Jingchuan take care of you on set?"

Zhou Xuefang smiled, seemingly a little shy.

Chen Jing had already seen Si Jingchuan's statement. She frantically gestured to her from below the stage.

However, Zhou Xuefang did not understand what she meant. She chuckled, "he's very good to me."

She thought that after she said this, the audience would go crazy. However, she didn't expect that...

["He has already clarified the matter. Why is she still pretending?"]

["Isn't it shameless to ride on his popularity? I seriously suspect that she's trying to blackmail Si Jingchuan with those photos!"]

["Ditto!"]

["Don't talk nonsense. She's not that kind of person. Besides, she didn't say anything in the interview today. When did she admit to the relationship?"]

["This is worse than admitting it, okay? Didn't you see the WeChat message she sent to Si Jingchuan? What a pretentious b*tch!"]

["Si Jingchuan's fans, please don't be so mean. She is doing this for the sake of their mutual friend. Shouldn't you be more concerned about who the friend in the photo is? I suspect it's Su Ji. She's the closest to him!"]

Some tried to stir up drama, but the power of Si Jingchuan's fans was strong. The interview lasted for another seven to eight minutes. There were too many comments scolding Zhou Xuefang, and the show was stopped in advance.

Zhou Xuefang was dumbfounded, "what's going on? Why did it end so quickly?"

Chen Jing quickly pulled her to the side and showed her the comments.

When she saw Si Jingchuan's clarification post, she felt as if she had been struck by lightning and her blood froze.

Then, she quickly looked up at the staff around her. Everyone was looking at her with a different expression.

Zhou Xuefang never expected Si Jingchuan to clarify the matter on Weibo in less than a day.

She thought he was very close to his boss!

As his post was shared like crazy, the netizens' opinions completely shifted. Zhou Xuefang's live interview also went viral.

She was ridiculed by the entire internet and was confirmed to be a pretentious b*tch who used Si Jingchuan to secure her position.

Another media outlet interviewed Sonya, but she was calm in the video, "I've already said that I don't know about their private affairs."

That night, Zhou Xuefang's Weibo account was flooded by Si Jingchuan's fans.

At three in the morning, she turned off commenting.

However, there was still a hot topic that followed closely after their ridiculous scandal that lasted only one day.

#Who exactly is Si Jingchuan's friend#

**

The next day, early in the morning.

There was a paparazzi car parked below Zhou Xuefang's apartment.

The paparazzi who was sitting in the driver's seat patted the bespectacled man in the passenger's seat and changed the gear, "hey, wake up, wake up, Zhou Xuefang is coming downstairs!"

The bespectacled man slammed his head into the front passenger seat as if he was possessed, "downstairs? Who? Where am I? What time is it?"

Before he could react, his body moved backward due to inertia, and the driver had already stepped on the gas to catch up.

Only then did he come to his senses. He hurriedly put on his glasses and squinted his eyes.

Zhou Xuefang had just gotten into a taxi.

Although she was wearing sunglasses and a mask, she was still wearing the same clothes she had worn when she came back yesterday, so the paparazzi could easily recognize her.

The paparazzi followed her for two reasons. One was to take photos of her and Si Jingchuan. More importantly, they wanted to take photos of the friend that Zhou Xuefang and Si Jingchuan were trying to help, "who was it?"

The bespectacled man called his colleague, "is there any news from Si Jingchuan?"

"N, his mother just came out to bring us water and told us not to wait. She said that he won't come out at all," the colleague yawned, and it sounded like he had changed his sitting position, "his mother is really hot. She's even prettier than many female celebrities. Hey, why don't you come here..."

The bespectacled man had no time to listen to his nonsense. He lowered his body and stared at Zhou Xuefang's car as he said to the other end of the phone, "I'll send you the location. Come here and follow Zhou Xuefang!"

After hanging up, he reminded the driver to be careful and not be discovered by Zhou Xuefang.

“Don’t be so long-winded, do you not trust me?”

The two people in the car followed her. They could not be too far away, but they also did not dare to be too close.

Little did they know, Zhou Xuefang was baiting them..

She glanced at the car behind her and turned back, her sunglasses reflecting a strange light.

Since Si Jingchuan didn’t want to get on her good side, he couldn’t blame her for doing this.

As she had said before, she had a Plan B...

If one move didn’t work, she still had another.

In any case, she had to get a part in the finale!

She said to the taxi driver and smiled, “go to Blue Whale. Take the main road.”

Chapter 305 Unexpected News for the Paparazzi (1)

After Zhou Xuefang turned off commenting, the netizens had nowhere else to go. They turned their attention to the “friend” who was mentioned in the screenshot.

What kind of photo could make Si Jingchuan go to the hotel to retrieve them?

...

It made them really curious!

After driving for half an hour, it became clear where Zhou Xuefang was headed.

The bespectacled man was excited, “she seems to be going to Blue Whale? That friend is from the blue whale? Someone from The Billions Stars? That’ll be exciting!”

“What if it’s just a meeting at Blue Whale?”

The spectacled man said, “I don’t think she’ll go to the meeting alone. She’ll usually bring a manager or assistant with her. It’s obvious that she’s meeting a friend.”

“That makes sense.”

The bespectacled man called his colleague again, “are you nearby? I have a feeling that there will be news!”

**

Su Ji had been called to Blue Whale early in the morning to sign a contract for the electric vehicle.

It was almost the new year, but there were still many people in the company as usual.

In the lounge, Su Ji was lazily leaning against the water dispenser, drinking water.

Pei Xi made a cup of latte with coffee art. It was extremely ugly, but it was artistic, because it was a logo of a luxury brand.

She was indeed the daughter of the Pei family.

“Have you seen the news in the past two days?” She looked up at Su Ji.

From her relaxed expression, one could tell that she was still unaware that it was actually related to Su Ji.

Su Ji also replied casually, “I did.”

Then, she took a sip of water and yawned.

“Zhou Xuefang’s image has been destroyed quite badly. When I looked at TikTok today, it was all about the pretentious smiles she made in yesterday’s interview.”

She lifted her chin at Su Ji, “as long as nothing happens, the part in the finale is basically yours.”

Su Ji took another sip of water and did not say anything this time.

Pei Xi took her silence as a yes and casually asked, “oh right, do you know who are the people in the photos?”

Su Ji straightened her body slightly, “actually...”

Before she could finish, she saw Xu Ni coming over with a cup of coffee.

Her attention was diverted, “you’re here today too? What’s the matter?”

“Oh, nothing, I came for fun. Xu Ni took a disposable cup and then said, “I don’t want to stay at home.”

“Doesn’t your grandma dote on you?” Su Ji teased.

Xu Ni didn’t know if she knew about him, so he just glanced at her.

Pei Xi quite liked Xu Ni. She was a person who was obsessed with looks. “Xu Ni, work hard for the future. As long as there are no scandals, you have a bright future.”

Xu Ni looked at Su Ji and also remained silent.

Xu Ni took the coffee and drank it by the door.

When she heard the sound of the elevator, she glanced over casually, “your boyfriend is here.”

Su Ji took a step to the side of the door, and Pei Huai’s figure had already appeared in her line of sight.

Pei Huai was heading to the room they were in. He heard some sounds and turned to see Su Ji.

He was very calm.

The man raised his eyebrows and put a hand into his pocket. He stood tall and straight, “have you had breakfast?”

“Yes,” Su Ji replied.

Pei Huai’s gaze swept past Xu Ni and he nodded at Pei Xi. Then, he looked back at Su Ji, “signing a contract?”

Su Ji replied, "I'm done."

Pei Huai smiled, "sure, I'll take you home then."

Su Ji put down her cup, bade farewell to the others, and left with him.

Xu Ni was a little confused, "so CEO Pei is here to pick her up?"

"Yeah, he's taking over my job," Pei Xi ran her fingers through her hair. "He's picking her up every day. People who don't know him might think that he's picking up his child."

Xu Ni chuckled. He was a little jealous.

After a while, he finished the rest of his coffee, "I'm leaving too."

Pei Xi nodded. She still had to stay here to deal with work.

When Xu Ni went to the elevator, Su Ji and Pei Huai were already there. Su Ji had just returned to the meeting room to get her backpack, but she had forgotten to zip it. When she picked it up, everything fell to the ground.

With both hands in his pockets, Xu Ni slowed down his pace and stopped behind them.

The two of them did not notice him.

Because he wasn't noticed, Xu Ni stared at them.

He had never had the chance to experience what it felt like to be in a relationship. His friends were all fresh graduates, and it was rare for them to have stable relationships.

Chapter 306 Unexpected News for the Paparazzi (2)

He was a little curious.

Su Ji was already quite tall, but Pei Huai was even taller than her.

...

Su Ji's backpack was already in Pei Huai's hands.

The two of them didn't say a word as they waited for the elevator. They just stood there quietly, but there was an inexplicable flirtatious tension between them, isolating him.

Even if they accidentally made eye contact, Xu Ni's neck went numb.

The elevator stopped on the third floor for a long time. Someone must be moving things.

Su Ji took out a piece of candy and unwrapped the wrapper. There was no trash can around her, so she stuffed the candy into her mouth and stuffed the wrapper into Pei Huai's hands.

Pei Huai took a look at the candy wrapper, then very naturally put it into the pocket of his spotless and expensive trousers.

Xu Ni sniffed. The air was filled with the sweet smell of lychee.

He suddenly felt an itch in his heart.

He thought it was his smoking addiction.

“Ding!”

The elevator arrived.

When she turned around in the elevator, Su Ji saw Xu Ni. She brushed her hair and took out a piece of candy from her pocket. She tilted her forehead and asked him silently if he wanted it.

Xu Ni said no, as he had no one to take the wrapper from him.

The three of them walked out of the building and headed out. Pei Huai’s car was parked outside today.

They didn’t talk much along the way, but the atmosphere was surprisingly harmonious.

Until an anxious voice broke the silence.

“Su Ji, did the news affect you?”

Looking in the direction of the voice, a person wearing sunglasses and a mask suddenly appeared in front of Su Ji.

After recognizing who the person was, Su Ji and Xu Ni looked at each other calmly.

She’s here.

Sure enough, not long after, four or five paparazzi came out.

One of them was rather polite and greeted Pei Huai first, “excuse me, CEO Pei. I’d like to interview one of your artists.”

Zhou Xuefang was flustered, “when did you guys start following me?”

But the more she panicked, the more excited the paparazzi became.

They were about to get a big exclusive headline.

“Su Ji, what did Zhou Xuefang mean by that? Are you really the one who was photographed?”

“Can you tell us what the photos are? Were you with your boyfriend?”

“How did it leak? Did you lose your phone? Can you tell us how bad they were?”

At this moment, Zhou Xuefang was still pretending.

Su Ji did not even bother to look at her.

Coincidentally, Xu Ni was also there. The two of them exchanged looks and gave a quick and direct explanation.

“We were in the photos. Nothing happened. We were in the same room. After filming in the village, the two of us were talking on the bed at night. We got excited and put our arms around each other and were photographed.”

They told them everything that was important so that Zhou Xifang couldn't play any tricks.

As expected, Zhou Xuefang's expression became a little awkward when she heard this.

She didn't expect them to admit it so readily.

The paparazzi looked at each other, and a second later, the camera was all focused on Su Ji and Xu Ni.

"Then may I ask if you're dating?"

"Is this an official announcement?"

"The relationship between an older woman and younger man is really popular now!"

In response, Su Ji denied it without hesitation, "no."

Zhou Xuefang heaved a sigh of relief.

As long as they didn't admit to their relationship, how can they explain it?

The paparazzi began to ask.

"Then...what were you guys doing in the room?"

"Aren't you afraid of rumors?"

"Even if you're just talking, you don't have to be so close to each other, right?"

"Since you're not together, why are you two alone on the bed at night with arms around each other?"

After the paparazzi finished asking, they waited for the answer.

After three seconds of silence, Pei Huai walked to Su Ji's side and prepared to make an official announcement. Xu Ni decided to go all out and lay his cards on the table.

However, just a second before the two of them spoke, Su Ji suddenly took a step forward and put her hand in her pocket. At the same time, she asked the paparazzi, "is the camera ready? Is this a livestream? Does the number of viewers exceed six figures?"

The paparazzi couldn't help but take a step back. He didn't know what was going on, so he answered honestly.

"Y-yes...it's a livestream. There are 630,000 people watching!"

At this time, the netizens who had been holding their breaths behind the camera and didn't dare to make a sound, gasped in unison.

"630,000," Su Ji thought.

It wasn't a lot, but it was still okay.

Then, she faced the camera and said clearly, "we were talking about business at that time. The reason we had our arms around each other was that the deal was successful.

Zhou Xuefang was dumbfounded.

Xu Ni narrowed his eyes.

Pei Huai knew what she was trying to do.

“Business? What business? Don’t try to fool us with this answer,” the paparazzi was caught off guard and was very confused by this answer.

This answer was not explosive at all!

They didn’t think it would blow up, but Su Ji had been waiting for this opportunity for a long time.

Then, she took out the pack of cigarettes she had prepared in her pocket and lit it up in front of the camera, in front of the 630,000 netizens!

“Everyone should know that I’m quite skilled in medicine. I’ve recently developed a new type of herbal cigarette. I’ve mixed a total of 101 types of herbs that are beneficial to the body. There’s no trace of tobacco at all. Not only is it not bad for the body, it can also help people quit smoking. This was the business I was talking about with Xu Ni. He was also smoking this in the bar last time!”

Everyone around them was silent. The livestream had suddenly become an advertising platform.

With Su Ji’s eloquence, the paparazzi were attracted to her new product before they realized.

“No harm to the body? It can even help people quit smoking? How much is that?”

Su Ji said firmly, “as it’s handmade by me, it’s more expensive. If the sales volume is good, I’ll consider reducing the price and mass-producing it in the future!”

Didn’t they want to film her?

Then film this to their heart’s content!

Chapter 307 Su Ji Retaliated

There was no better advertising platform than the paparazzi’s livestream.

[“101 types of herbs? Really?”]

...

[“I suspect that she entered the entertainment industry to do business!!!”]

[“I don’t want to believe it either, but she said it could cure smokers!”]

[Chronic smoker: “I want to buy it regardless of how much it costs!”]

The fans who were originally watching the drama were completely brainwashed. Under Su Ji’s passionate promotion, they had forgotten what they were doing.

They were being targeted for a product!

The screen was filled with questions related to the magical herbal cigarettes, and the only thing missing on the screen was a “paid sponsorship” label.

Pei Huai and Xu Ni's methods were pointless. Su Ji took out a pack of cigarettes and instantly turned the tables.

The paparazzis aimed their cameras at the pack of cigarettes and even did a 180-degree shot.

It made the pack of cigarettes look especially grand.

Pei Huai pressed his fingers against his temple for a while and whispered to Su Ji, "I'll wait for you in the car."

He was no longer needed here.

The car door slammed shut with a loud bang. Zhou Xuefang felt as if she had just woken up from a dream.

"Su Ji, it's good that I didn't cause you any trouble. I'm really afraid that the netizens will misunderstand."

Xu Ni immediately rebuked her, "that wouldn't have happened if you didn't come here."

Zhou Xuefang was still smiling calmly, as if she didn't understand what he was trying to say.

The paparazzis were reminded and remembered their original intention of following her.

"So Xu Ni is helping you sell herbal cigarettes?"

"Those photos were taken because you were happy that the deal was closed, right?"

Logically speaking, no one would believe this answer, but Su Ji's cigarettes looked amazing. It was understandable that she was so proud that she could close a deal like this.

Su Ji put her hands back into her pocket, "that's what happened. Those photos are not interesting. They're not even as exciting as the fight scene in bed that I shot with Xu Ni."

As she spoke, she raised her eyebrows at Xu Ni.

Xu Ni smiled and shrugged his shoulders.

The two of them were making eye contact in front of the camera, which made people feel that there was nothing going on between the two of them.

Zhou Xuefang clasped her hands behind her back shyly, her fingers tightly clenched.

She had saved those photos, but now it seemed that it was useless to post them.

Since there was no more drama, the paparazzis were ready to pack up. They smiled and said, "so the friend that Zhou Xuefang wanted to help cover up for was Su Ji. Since it's all a misunderstanding, we'll be leaving. Sorry to disturb you..."

"Wait a minute," Su Ji called out to them.

At the same time, Zhou Xuefang, who was about to leave, turned around subconsciously.

Su Ji lifted her chin at her, "she is not my friend."

The paparazzis looked at each other, and the cameras were secretly raised again.

The audience who had yet to leave also raised their mobile phones in unison.

Zhou Xuefang quickly glanced at the camera and said firmly, "Su Ji, we used to be in the same group, whether you see me as a friend or not, in my heart, you are my friend. Otherwise, I wouldn't have bought the photos at such a high price for you."

["Best Pretentious B*tch Award goes to..."]

["I can tell that Su Ji really hates her."]

["The entertainment industry is too harsh towards female celebrities! Is speaking gently considered pretentious? Isn't she being generous?"]

["Zhou Xuefang helped her and she's not even grateful!"]

"If that's the case..." Su Ji slowly walked towards Zhou Xuefang and stopped one step in front of her. "Zhou Xuefang, tell me, who gave you the photos?"

["What does she mean?"]

["I suddenly have a bold guess!"]

["No way? Could it be that those photos were taken by Zhou Xuefang?"]

["Spreading rumors is illegal."]

Zhou Xuefang's expression froze for a moment, but she quickly regained her composure, "I've already spoken to Si Jingchuan about this. The person who took the photos is from a poor family. Besides, she's just an extra. There are cameras everywhere, so I don't want to expose her..."

["She's so kind! Su Ji's aggressiveness is too much!"]

["Are Zhou Xuefang's fans all like this? If you've been framed, don't you want to know who did it?"]

However, Su Ji was not as easy to fool as Si Jingchuan. She smiled and said, "it's fine if you don't tell me the name. I'll ask you a few other questions. Answer quickly. If you're slow, you'll look like you're making it up."

Zhou Xuefang: "..."

Su Ji asked, "male or female?"

Zhou Xuefang paused for a second, "female."

Su Ji asked, "tall, short, fat, or thin?"

Zhou Xuefang clenched her fists, "she's quite tall and skinny."

She was afraid that Su Ji would ask more, but Su Ji stopped after asking the first two questions. Instead, she began to guide her, "she has a ponytail?"

Zhou Xuefang nodded subconsciously.

Su Ji asked, "she wears very red lipstick."

Zhou Xuefang nodded again.

Su Ji narrowed her eyes, "I know who it is..."

However, Zhou Xuefang denied it subconsciously, "it's not her!"

"Zhou Xuefang, I haven't even said who it is. How do you know it's not her?" Su Ji asked.

Zhou Xuefang swallowed hard, "b-because I promised her..."

Su Ji had a smile on her face. When she said the last sentence, Zhou Xuefang's face turned pale.

"Zhou Xuefang, it's a scene in a village that day. Director Han had strictly said that extras were not allowed to put on makeup, so there was no extra who had lipstick on..."

Zhou Xuefang's body trembled, and her expression cracked.

Xu Ni put his hands in his pockets and enjoyed the show.

Zhou Xuefang's pale lips trembled, "I just remembered it wrong! Those photos weren't leaked, so what could you do even if you knew who it was? Why do you have to make things difficult for me?"

After putting on an act, she pretended to be sad and ran away.

The chat was silent for a moment.

But the audience didn't seem to believe her.

["F * ck? It was it really Zhou Xuefang who took the photos??"]

["Did you see how guilty she was?"]

["Stop embarrassing yourself. Your idol's image has collapsed."]

["If Si Jingchuan chooses her in the final ending, I'll send knife blades to the crew!"]

**

In a total of two days and one morning, Zhou Xuefang had experienced falling from heaven to hell.

Both Plan A and Plan B failed.

For the remaining days of the week, Sky Entertainment had been trying to suppress the negative news about Zhou Xuefang.

Feng Meng (the boss of Sky Entertainment) was furious. "Su Ji not only ran away after she became famous, but she also wanted to destroy all the artists of Sky Entertainment."

Several of Zhou Xuefang's videos were posted online.

Fortunately, Ji Xi and Sonya were present in that episode of "Tonight's Warmth", or it would have been destroyed by her.

The only positive thing that had anything to do with Zhou Xuefang was the way Gu Shen looked at her in one scene.

There were even Zhou Xuefang's fans who said, "don't bully a girl at whom Si Jingchuan smiled at!"

However, on Saturday, the crew released the behind-the-scenes footage of the making of The Billion Stars.

Some sharp-eyed netizens soon discovered that one of the behind-the-scenes highlights was the scene where Si Jingchuan smiled affectionately at Zhou Xuefang.

His eyes were so bright that the netizens were very focused on the scene.

Without any editing, his eyes, which were perfectly captured, seemed to be even more moving.

After the director shouted "cut", Si Jingchuan smiled at the person in front of him in a relaxed manner.

Some netizens said that Si Jingchuan's smile was particularly gentle.

["How can he show Zhou Xuefang such a gentle smile?"]

The next second, the camera flashed and the person standing in front of him was actually Su Ji?

On the screen, Si Jingchuan touched Su Ji's shoulder and said, "did you see that, boss? That was my real skill."

Chapter 308 A Family of Four

The netizens became silent.

The affectionate gaze that Zhou Xuefang's agency had been promoting online for a long time was actually directed at Su Ji?

...

This scene was still trending on Sky Entertainment's official Weibo page, as a way to highlight Zhou Xuefang's amazing acting skills.

["What the hell??"]

["The look in Si Jingchuan's eyes has nothing to do with Zhou Xuefang!"]

Due to the popularity of The Billion Stars, Zhou Xuefang had accepted a lot of commercial appearances during the new year, as well as a few endorsement deals for food and women's clothing.

However, within a few days, those that had already started the project sent their lawyers' letters, while those that had not immediately terminated their contracts.

In the past, Su Qianrou was the only one who made a loss. But now, because of Zhou Xuefang, Sky Entertainment was making a loss.

Feng Meng did not even bother to look for Chen Jing. He called Zhou Xuefang personally and gave her a good scolding. He told her that she would bear all the loss and that the company would not fork out a single cent!

Not only that, but Zhou Xuefang was also banned from making public appearances and participating in all activities.

She was basically canceled.

Zhou Xuefang had lost her money, was in debt, and her reputation had been ruined. After three years, her efforts were in vain.

As for the ending of The Billion Stars...

She probably wouldn't even have a chance to appear on camera, let alone be the lead.

Han Junlei gave her a call and told her to play by the rules next time.

After hanging up the phone, he continued to edit the script.

Although the netizens hated Zhou Xuefang, it did not affect the show. She definitely could not appear in the last episode.

In this case, they had to put in more effort on the intimate scene between Gu Shen and Bai Yueguang!

He wanted to use the holidays to write a better ending.

The morning before Chinese New Year's Eve, Zhou Xuefang was sitting alone in her apartment without turning on the lights.

She still couldn't figure out what had happened in the past two days.

Everyone kept their distance from her, and the only comfort came from Sonya.

Sonya had sent her a WeChat message, "you can only go up from now on."

She thought that Sonya would definitely block her after what happened.

But she didn't.

Sonya wasn't wrong. It was all her fault for not being able to fight against Su Ji!

At this moment, she didn't realize that she, who was used to using others, was being used...

Her phone rang. It was her mother.

Her mother was a strong-headed person like her, but she was not as capable as her.

Zhou Xuefang was particularly annoyed when she nagged but couldn't help.

She didn't pick up the first call, but she called again a few minutes later.

Only then did Zhou Xuefang answer.

As soon as she picked it up, the person on the other end was indeed nagging non-stop, "I saw that you were polite and well-behaved. There was nothing wrong with you at all. People are really getting worse these days. What right do they have to scold you? I think that rude and overbearing girl should be the one to be blamed!"

Zhou Xuefang rolled her eyes, “mom, if there’s nothing else, I’m hanging up.”

“Wait! I’m not done yet.”

“Don’t worry, there are always small setbacks on the road to success. Didn’t your uncle say he could help you? Do you need me to give him a call?”

“Don’t even mention him,” Zhou Xuefang retorted, “he’s not my uncle. He’s Su Ji’s uncle. Besides, he can’t help much!”

“How about I find someone else for you? In the past, many people from our village went to big cities. Maybe they can help you?”

Zhou Xuefang couldn’t take it anymore, “mom, stop messing around! Please don’t tell those poor relatives about me! I won’t be able to get rid of them!”

Then, she hung up the phone.

**

Today was the day before Chinese New Year’s Eve. A City was decorated with lanterns and streamers, and the city was filled with a festive atmosphere.

In the morning, Xu Mingzhi brought Su Ji to the mall to buy new clothes and New Year’s goods.

Wen Man brought Si Jingbin along.

When they agreed to meet, they said that they would bring their children along.

Xu Mingzhi brought Su Ji. There was nothing wrong with that.

However, Wen Man was hesitating whether she should take care of her eldest son or her youngest son.

Later, when she asked them, the two of them refused to back down as they both wanted to go.

Wen Man was quite surprised, especially at her eldest son, “are you sure? We’re going shopping!”

Si Jingchuan said, “I’ll help you guys carry your things. If you bring Binbin, he’ll just be a burden...”

Wen Man was about to be convinced by him when her youngest son clutched his chest and fell onto the sofa, “mommy, I have been feeling unwell recently. I can ask Su Ji to check my pulse...”

Si Jingchuan: “...”

In the end, Binbin won.

In the shopping mall, Su Ji held Si Jingbin’s hand while Wen Man held Xu Mingzhi’s hand.

They felt like a family.

Su Ji was wearing a black mask and was recognized by her fans in the mall.

At first, she agreed to take photos and sign autographs. When she was signing, Binbin stood obediently to the side with a proud expression on his face.

However, there were too many people and Su Ji lost her patience. She bought a fisherman's hat and put it on.

Xu Mingzhi and Wen Man's purchasing power was amazing. They increased the GDP of the entire shopping mall by themselves.

The two of them hired two luggage carts and four macho men to help them carry the things they bought.

Su Ji and Si Jingbin did not have much desire to shop.

Su Ji was only here to accompany her mother. As for Binbin, he was here on a date!

When they reached the furniture store, Xu Mingzhi waved to her daughter, "come on, baby, let's choose a couplet."

Su Ji walked to the front.

A few minutes later, the mother and daughter had their first argument in this life.

Both of them looked at a couplet, but they had different opinions.

Xu Mingzhi turned to look at Wen Man, "which one do you think is better?"

Wen Man came over with Binbin in her arms.

The couplet that Xu Mingzhi was holding had the writing:

"Create a great career and prosper."

"Have ambitions to bring glory."

How extravagant.

Then, she looked at Su Ji's:

"Wealth thrives in the precious land."

"Fortune shines at home."

They had similar meanings, so it was difficult to choose.

...

The saleswoman stole a glance and wanted to give some advice, but then she realized that the two couplets they had chosen were the ones that had been in the store for several years and could not be sold.

As long as they bought one of them.

Since they were similar, the vote was purely based on feelings.

Si Jingbin pointed at Su Ji and said, "I like yours!"

Wen Man said, "although it is not bad..but I choose hers."

Su Ji lifted her chin, "2 to 2."

Xu Mingzhi frowned.

However, she soon found a loophole, "baby, your vote doesn't count. Binbin can't read at all."

Then, she looked at the salesperson happily, "wrap this up for me."

Su Ji glanced at Si Jingbin and remained silent for a few seconds. She did not want to be outdone, "wrap this up too." Then, she raised her eyebrows at Madam Xu, "I'll stick it on my door."

"Alright, do whatever you want."

The saleswoman quickly wrapped them up.

Getting rid of the old goods in one go!

How lucky!

The four of them shopped from morning to afternoon. Xu Mingzhi and Su Ji's stamina bars were still full, but Wen Man's body was weak and her face was pale.

Xu Mingzhi stood at the top of the stairs and looked around. She finally chose a restaurant that had an interesting name, "let's go to that restaurant for a meal and rest."

Su Ji and Wen Man looked at the restaurant.

The name of the store was "Wild Lily".

Chapter 309 Master Pei's Mother

Su Ji felt that something was not right, but she could not figure out what it was.

Si Jingbin only recognized the word "lily", so he agreed.

...

"You know me so well," Wen Man said, "lilies are my favorite."

Xu Mingzhi nodded, "let's go to that restaurant then."

Their shopping cart was parked outside, and the macho men helped them look after it.

The four of them entered the restaurant.

The restaurant had a theme to it, but Xu Mingzhi and the others could not tell what kind of theme it was. In short, the decoration was very artistic and elegant. There were beautiful girls at the front desk, but not a single man.

There was a bouquet of lilies in each vase on each table, and the vases were laced.

They looked pure and beautiful.

The price of the dishes was high, but to Madam Xu, it was as if they were free.

When the receptionist saw the four of them enter, she was stunned. She looked at Xu Mingzhi and Wen Man, then at Su Ji and Si Jingbin. She immediately said to the waitress behind, “a family of four, a family room!”

As soon as Su Ji and the rest were brought into the private room, two waitresses who looked like fangirls started to chatter, “the child is so cute, but why isn’t he mixed-race?”

“It’s acceptable now in this country.”

“He’s obviously from the upper class. When one has money, anything is possible.”

The atmosphere in the private room was very nice. The waitress even gave them an introduction. In order to protect the privacy of the customers, the dishes were served through the conveyor belt behind the curtains in the private room. The chefs would send the dishes directly to them. There would be no repeated interruptions by the servers.

Wen Man really liked this place. She said happily, “let’s come here more often in the future, shall we?”

Xu Mingzhi said, “if you like it, we can come here for every date.”

The waitress who was taking the order really liked this family of good-looking people.

After taking their orders, she left respectfully. Su Ji took off her hat and mask, leaned back in her chair, and exhaled in relief.

It was good to have her privacy here.

After walking for an entire day, Wen Man could finally sit down and have a sip of tea. She felt as if she had come back to life.

While waiting for the dishes to be served, they started chatting.

Si Jingbin, who was usually shy and quiet in kindergarten, was the first to speak.

He excitedly told Su Ji about what he learned recently, about the Great Migration of Continent F’s wildebeest, and the difference between the black Impala and the Longhorn Antelope.

Although he spoke in a childish voice, his words made sense.

Su Ji was now convinced that he would grow up to be very powerful.

While Pei Xingxing was reciting a complete collection of romantic phrases, he was watching a nature documentary.

Si Jingbin said, “daddy said that when I get better, he’ll take me to Continent F to see the real Great Migration.”

Su Ji told him that it would be soon.

Then, she took his pulse.

Wen Man had almost forgotten about that.

The results were good, and everyone at the table was relieved.

“By the way,” Wen Man suddenly thought of something, “aren’t you going to meet CEO Pei’s parents during the new year? When will it be?”

Xu Mingzhi rinsed the cups and the four sets of cutlery on the table. Finally, she poured the water. “On Chinese New Year’s Eve tomorrow night.”

“The two families are celebrating the New Year together?” Wen Man raised her eyebrows and smiled, “why do I feel like something good is about to happen to Su Ji?”

Hearing this, Xu Mingzhi suddenly became serious, “she’ll only be 21 after the new year. Is it appropriate to get married at this age?”

Wen Man’s mouth twitched, “that is indeed too young.”

What about the law that said a woman could get married at 20?

Su Ji was eating the side dishes. She threw a peanut into her mouth, and Si Jingbin ate another. She completely ignored them.

Xu Mingzhi looked at her for a while. Although she wouldn’t agree to her precious daughter getting married too early, she still had to be polite when meeting Pei Huai’s parents.

Many of the things she bought today were actually for them.

“Baby,” she helped her daughter tidy her hair and said earnestly, “be more reserved tomorrow.”

“In which aspect?” Su Ji asked while chewing on a peanut.

Xu Mingzhi thought for a while and said, “for example, don’t be too affectionate with Pei Huai in front of his parents. It’s better to be more reserved when you meet them for the first time.”

Wen Man picked up the teacup, “are they usually very affectionate?”

She smiled, “I can’t imagine it when I see CEO Pei’s cold face.”

Su Ji touched her neck, “my mom is just talking nonsense. We are not like that at all.”

Xu Mingzhi gave her a look, “no? Weren’t you the one who watched two hours of television in his arms when I wasn’t at home? Why? Is the sofa in our house too small? Do you have to sit together?”

Wen Man laughed so hard that she almost choked on her tea.

Si Jingbin, who hadn’t made a sound for a long time, was so jealous that his cheeks were bulging.

Su Ji’s ears turned red. She did not want to talk about this anymore. “Fine, when I shake hands with him in front of his parents, I’ll put on gloves too, okay?”

Xu Mingzhi rolled her eyes at her, “I’m doing this for your own good. I’ve never interacted with his mom before, and I don’t know what kind of personality she has. I think she’s most likely a conservative person. Where else can you find a parent as open-minded as I am?”

“Yes, yes,” Su Ji smiled, “you’re the most open-minded mother. 21 years old is too young for a woman to get married.”

“Tsk,” Xu Mingzhi narrowed her eyes.

Before she could throw a tantrum, the food arrived. Su Ji quickly took it out from the conveyor belt and put food in her bowl. Then, she put her arms around her neck and kissed her on the cheek, “my mom is the best.”

With her coaxing, Xu Mingzhi was so happy that she couldn’t stop smiling.

**

After that, they parted ways at the shopping mall. By the time Su Ji and Xu Mingzhi reached home, it was already 8 o’clock in the evening.

Xu Mingzhi had received a document from Wei Wei. “Baby, mom will be busy upstairs for a while. You should take a shower and rest early. You have to wake up early tomorrow. I’ve put the snacks on the table. You can take them back to your room to eat.”

Su Ji said lazily, “okay.”

Xu Mingzhi turned around and went upstairs.

Su Ji sat downstairs for a while. It was really tiring to walk around for a whole day.

Her mind was still filled with Xu Mingzhi’s instructions for her tomorrow.

Su Ji glanced at the two boxes of snacks on the table, and a hint of slyness flashed across her beautiful eyes.

She stretched her legs, took the bag of snacks, and stood up.

Aunt Wu asked in a low voice, “miss, are you going out?”

“Don’t tell my mom,” Su Ji said.

Since she couldn’t be lovey-dovey with him tomorrow, she would take the opportunity to visit him tonight.

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Next door, Uncle He opened the door for Su Ji and said with a smile, “Ms. Su, young master is in the study upstairs.”

Su Ji gave Uncle He a box of snacks, “is my dad here?”

“Thank you so much,” Uncle He took it with both hands. “It’s almost the new year. Mr. Su will be at the Su residence in the next two days.”

Su Ji nodded and went upstairs with the snacks.

The soft plastic bag made a rustling sound and swayed by her side.

Pei Huai was video-chatting with someone on his phone. Su Ji knocked on his door when he was no longer talking.

Seeing that it was her, Pei Huai glanced at the person in the video call. The person in the video call immediately understood and stopped talking.

Pei Huai's chair turned to Su Ji, his long legs slightly open, and he beckoned at her.

Su Ji walked over and sat on his lap very naturally. She did not look at the phone on the table at all.

Pei Huai smiled as he carried her and shifted in his seat. Su Ji sat horizontally on his lap. Her legs were bent and her feet were on the left side. Her back was against the armrest and it was uncomfortable. Pei Huai reached out and placed it between her back and the armrest.

Only then did Su Ji find a comfortable sitting position.

"You thought of visiting me today," he nodded at the bag of snacks in her arms, "and brought me snacks?"

"I guess so," Su Ji replied.

Pei Huai asked, "did you buy it especially for me?"

"No," Su Ji replied honestly, "I gave one to Uncle He."

A short burst of laughter suddenly rang out in the room. It was so short that Su Ji couldn't tell where it came from. She raised her head and looked around, but she didn't see anything. Pei Huai's expression was normal. Su Ji was really tired from shopping today and thought she had heard wrong.

"By the way, let me tell you something," she opened the box of snacks. It was a pastry. She stuffed one into Pei Huai's mouth and ate one herself.

Pei Huai wasn't hungry. He took it out and placed it on the table. He pulled her closer like he was holding a cat in his arms, "what's the matter?"

Su Ji replied, "when I come to your house tomorrow, stay away from me."

The crumbs of the pastry she ate fell on his suit, and she reached out to brush them away.

Pei Huai pulled away from her and frowned, "what do you mean?"

Su Ji replied, "my mom said that it's not good for us to be too close in front of your parents during our first meeting. She's afraid that your mom will be unhappy."

Hearing this, Pei Huai's brows relaxed. He glanced at the phone on the table and smiled, "maybe she'll be happy?"

"That can't be. Anyway, my mother said that no one is more open-minded than her among the rich and powerful."

Pei Huai chuckled and grabbed a tissue to wipe the residue on her face, "really, Madam Du is open-minded. Her biggest dream in life is to see me being affectionate with another girl."

His mother's surname was Du.

"?" Su Ji furrowed her eyebrows.

She didn't seem to believe it.

Pei Huai looked at the phone on the table, "see for yourself."

Su Ji didn't understand what he meant and looked over.

In the video call that was still connected, the great beauty, Du Meilan, who still retained her charm, was watching her son holding her future daughter-in-law and silencing herself for a long time before she dared to laugh out loud. Her laughter was so demonic!

Chapter 310 Happy New Year's Eve

Su Ji had never seen Su Meilan before. Today was the first time.

However, the woman looked sophisticated even when she was laughing, and her facial features were flawless, so Su Ji immediately realized who she was.

...

The next second, Su Ji kicked Pei Huai's leg.

Why didn't he tell her earlier that he was video-calling his mother!

Pei Huai hugged her. He endured the pain and raised his eyebrows, "Madam Du is watching."

Su Ji: "..."

"That's a good kick, Su Ji," Madam Du said. "I just said I was going to kick him, and you did it for me!"

Su Ji's gaze shifted from Pei Huai to Du Meilan. She spoke rather obediently, "nice to meet you, aunty."

"Nice to meet you," Du Meilan sighed softly as if talking to herself, "you are so beautiful."

The woman's eyes were curved, and she smiled very amiably. However, she actually had an imposing and sharp appearance. If she didn't smile, she would give off a very oppressive feeling.

However, her strong aura was different from Xu Mingzhi's.

Xu Mingzhi was more neutral and aggressive. Although she was feared as the boss, she became affectionate.

On the other hand, Du Meilan was gentle with a touch of toughness. She was the daughter of three generations of aristocrats. She was both capable and resourceful.

Even her smile was like a diamond.

This was Pei Huai's mother. Su Ji felt that she now had a better understanding of Pei Huai.

Su Ji was sitting upright, but she was still on Pei Huai's lap. It would be too obvious for her to get off at this time.

"Aunty, you're back?"

"I just arrived today," Du Meilan replied with a smile, "alright, you guys continue chatting. Su Ji, bring your mother here earlier tomorrow. I think I'll be able to get along with her."

“Alright,” Su Ji replied.

A few seconds later, the video call ended.

Su Ji propped herself up on the armrest and was about to get off when Pei Huai held her back and carried her back onto his lap.

“Where are you going?”

Su Ji turned her back to him, “home!”

Pei Huai hugged her tightly from behind, “just a little longer.”

“Are you satisfied with my mother?” He asked again after a while.

His words made Su Ji turn around and look at him, “if not, will you get a new one?”

Pei Huai seemed to really think about it for a few seconds, “it will be a little difficult.”

Su Ji suddenly thought of something and snorted, “how old is your mother? She looks almost the same age as my mom.”

But she had three children who were over 30.

Pei Huai pinched her chin and made her look at him, “she got married early and is exactly ten years older than your mother.”

Su Ji: “???”

She was a little shocked.

“Your dad is lucky,” Su Ji said.

He had found such a beautiful and outstanding wife.

Pei Huai did not answer her question. Instead, he told her a story.

“When Madam Du was born, my grandfather asked the most famous master to analyze her birth characters.”

“The master gave her the name ‘Du Meilan’, and said that she should find a husband with the surname Pei in the future, to have a happy life.”

Su Ji raised her eyebrows, “and she really did. Next time, I’ll ask the master to read my fortune too.”

Pei Huai’s lips curled up slightly, “when I was three years old, Madam Du she took Chief Wang to destroy the master’s house on the grounds of spreading feudal superstitions.”

Su Ji: “...”

**

The next day, New Year’s Eve.

Su Ji’s blanket was taken away by Xu Mingzhi and Aunt Wu at six in the morning.

Aunt Wu took all the blankets to be aired.

Su Ji lay on the bed for five minutes before she was woken up by the cold.

After she took a shower and changed her clothes, she went downstairs. Outside the door, Xu Mingzhi was holding a tub of glue and was about to stick the couplet on the door.

Su Ji said that she would help her and climbed up the stairs.

Xu Mingzhi helped her up.

Su Ji sat on the top of the ladder and measured the angle. She was about to stick it on when she saw the words written on the couplet.

She furrowed her brows and said, "mom, you took the wrong one. This is mine."

Xu Mingzhi smiled, "no, I thought about it and decided that this one is better!"

Su Ji smiled. With a "pa" sound, she stuck it in the middle of the door.

The more Xu Mingzhi looked at it, the more she liked it. She couldn't help but sigh, "baby, modern people really know how to celebrate the New Year. They set off fireworks, and their families are far away, but they can still video call each other. It's not like our time. The longer you live, the more you see!"

Su Ji smiled and came down from the ladder. The phone in her pocket vibrated. She took it out and saw that it was from Su Cunyi, but she didn't want to pick it up.

Xu Mingzhi did not let her put her phone back, "why aren't you picking up? After all, he's your father. You should wish him Happy New Year..."

She took a deep breath, "and get a red packet from him!"

A second later, Su Ji answered.

He could hear Su Qianrou and her brother's chirping and Zhang Guihua's laughter on the other end of the phone. Su Cunyi found a quiet place to answer the call and went straight to the point, "I transferred some money to your card."

Su Ji: "Thank..."

Before she could finish, Su Cunyi said, "don't reject it!"

Su Ji: "..."

"This is your red packet. You can use it to buy a small car or house," Su Cunyi paused for a second and covered his phone with his hand. "I'm making up for what I didn't give you before."

Su Ji did not respond to him. She looked at Xu Mingzhi and said to him before hanging up, "Happy New Year."

Su Cunyi smiled, "Happy New Year."

After cleaning up, Xu Mingzhi gave Aunt Wu and Wang Zhicheng two days off, gave them bonuses, and asked them to come back on the second day of the new year.

At noon, Xu Mingzhi made noodles for them. The mother and daughter ate together, and it was a heartwarming meal.

“There are too many seasonings invented by modern people. The taste of mom’s cooking has changed, right?”

Su Ji did not know how to answer, mainly because she could not remember. The last time Madam Xu cooked was thousands of years ago.

As soon as they finished eating, Pei Huai called, saying that he had already arrived at the Pei family’s house and asked them to come over at any time.

Su Ji hung up and said, “mom, Pei Huai says we can go over at any time.”

Xu Mingzhi put the dishes into the dishwasher and turned to look at the time, “it’s only noon. Aren’t we meeting in the evening?”

Su Ji said, “then let’s enjoy some time together first?”

Xu Mingzhi liked her suggestion, “sure, this sounds more interesting.”

Su Ji turned on the TV and asked Xu Mingzhi which channel she wanted to watch.

However, an hour later...

The television was on, and their phones were constantly beeping as New Year wishes kept coming in.

Su Ji and Xu Mingzhi had fallen asleep on the sofa.

After another half an hour, Su Ji and Xu Mingzhi’s heads touched, and they woke up together.

Both Wang Zhicheng and Aunt Wu were not in the house. The house was too quiet, and they were not chatty, so they fell asleep accidentally.

Xu Mingzhi squinted at the time, “it’s a waste to sleep on New Year’s eve.”

Su Ji yawned lazily, “why don’t we go to the Pei family?”

Xu Mingzhi said, “let’s go!”