

Doctor 531

Chapter 531: I Do Not Acknowledge!

"Fang Bai!"

Shen Huanian gritted his teeth as he glared at the television screen, where Fang Bai was privately chatting and laughing with Xia Chenyu. His heart filled with hatred and jealousy, he violently smashed the wine glass in his hand onto the floor.

Suddenly, a crimson stain spread across the golden-yellow carpet, looking almost like fresh blood.

The beautiful lady who was massaging him turned pale with fright, shrinking to one side, too scared to make a sound.

"President Shen, did Fang Bai offend you?"

Li Dongyang looked at Shen Huanian with curiosity.

In Li Dongyang's memory, Shen Huanian was gentle and elegant, a well-cultured gentleman from one of the Prominent Clans. The fact that he had lost his composure like this indicated that there must be some deep grudge between him and Fang Bai.

"If your most beloved woman was stolen by him, wouldn't you hate him?"

Shen Huanian's eyes were bloodshot, his face twisted into a fearsome visage as he spat out the words with loathing.

"Hate!"

Li Dongyang swirled the wine in his glass, gulped down the red wine in one go, and then threw his glass onto the floor as well, declaring loudly, "I like Xia Chenyu, pursued her for a long time, but in the end, she was snatched away by Fang Bai... I fucking hate him to death!"

After a pause, he turned his head to look at the television screen and pointed at Fang Bai, "I'm just wondering, what's that guy doing at the Beauty Company meeting? What did Xia Chenyu want with him?"

"This Fang Bai, I've been paying attention to him for a long time. You mustn't underestimate him!"

The bloodshots in Shen Huanian's eyes gradually disappeared and he calmed down, his gaze coldly fixed on the television screen as he said, "Not only is he highly skilled in medicine, but he is also a Martial Artist, and he very likely has a background with the Ancient Medicine Sect. So, I advise you not to compete with him for my sister; if a conflict arises, you might be at a disadvantage!"

Li Dongyang curled his lip, his face bearing a disdainful sneer as he coldly laughed, "So what about the Ancient Medicine Sect? Our Donghai Li Family isn't to be trifled with either!"

Shen Huanian sighed and said, "With this Fang Bai around, I can't get Tang Wenrou, and you can't get Xia Chenyu... This guy is our nemesis! I don't know why, but every time I see him show up, I feel a little uneasy, worried that there might be a problem with the plans we've carefully crafted..."

Li Dongyang laughed heartily, "President Shen, when did you start getting so superstitious? Don't worry, there won't be any issues!"

"I hope so..."

At ten o'clock in the morning, Zhao Xiaomeng's crisp and sweet voice rang out in the multi-purpose conference room:

"Friends, first of all, on behalf of President Xia and all the staff at Beauty Company, I welcome your presence. Due to some well-known reasons, we have called this explanatory meeting... if friends have any questions, you may ask our President Xia and our Vice President Fang Bai..."

After Zhao Xiaomeng spoke some official-sounding formalities, she briefly introduced Xia Chenyu and Fang Bai's identities.

Xia Chenyu was the president of Beauty Company; many people present knew her, but few were familiar with Fang Bai, the "Vice President" of Beauty Company.

However, at this time, everyone's focus was on Xia Chenyu, and not many were paying attention to Fang Bai.

"Friends from the press and consumers of Beauty Company, if you have any questions, you can ask me or President Fang now. We will withhold nothing and tell you everything..."

Xia Chenyu moved the microphone closer to herself, leaned slightly forward, and scanned the crowd below the stage with a smile as she spoke.

Her charm was innate, and with a myriad of seductive graces, a frown or a smile from her could captivate souls; many men in the audience felt their spirits soar at the mere sight of her.

Fang Bai sat quietly beside Xia Chenyu, with a serene smile on his face that made him seem like a sunny, handsome boy-next-door. Only when his gaze swept over the dozen or so "victims" of Beauty Company's products did a sharp glint flash in his eyes.

The dozen or so "victims" felt a chill run down their spines when Fang Bai's gaze passed over them, feeling as if his eyes could penetrate to the bottom of their hearts, which was quite terrifying.

"All right, now for your questions... Since there may be a lot of friends who want to ask questions, please stand up when I point to you," Xia Chenyu said with a smile.

No sooner had her words fallen than hands shot up below the stage, including those of various reporters and the "victims."

"This friend here."

Xia Chenyu pointed to a female reporter in the third row.

The reporter stood up excitedly and asked loudly, "President Xia, the inspection report issued by the relevant authorities yesterday mentioned that your company's products contain dangerously high levels of lead and mercury. Do you acknowledge these test results?"

Xia Chenyu shook her head and said earnestly, "I do not acknowledge it! Our products do not have any problems!"

As her voice fell, there was a stir in the crowd, and the emotions of the "victims" became especially agitated. Some stood up and began tearfully accusing Beauty Company's products of harming them, and others uttered foul words, creating chaos at the scene.

Zhao Xiaomeng, with a cold expression, repeatedly called for silence over a dozen times before the audience calmed down again. After shouting out for a while, the "victims" seemed somewhat tired and took their seats.

Yet Xia Chenyu remained unflustered and continued to wear her captivating smile as she said, "Friends, we held this press conference to solve problems, not to argue. So, please stay calm, okay? If you have any questions, you can put them forward, and we will provide you with satisfactory answers."

"President Xia, why do you not acknowledge that inspection report? That came from Zhongzhou City's authoritative inspection department!"

The same female reporter continued with her question.

Xia Chenyu replied, "Because I suspect that certain staff members from the Zhongzhou City inspection department have taken bribes from those behind the scenes, deliberately issuing unjust and biased inspection results."

Her statement once again caused a commotion in the crowd, with many people wondering if Xia Chenyu could not provide substantial evidence to support her claims, she would be offending the relevant authorities.

"Then may I ask, President Xia, do you have evidence to prove there has been misconduct by the relevant department? And who exactly are you referring to when you speak of those behind the scenes?" the reporter asked with shining eyes and an eager expression.

With one question, she touched on the potential misconduct of Zhongzhou City's inspection department and the hidden culprits behind the scenes—a story with significant news value.

Chapter 532: The Tables Turn

The conference room was silent, with everyone's eyes on Xia Chenyu, waiting for her to respond.

Those unfamiliar with Xia Chenyu might think she spoke without restraint, talking nonsense.

But those who knew Xia Chenyu understood that she would never speak without evidence.

Perhaps Xia Chenyu's next words would be astonishing, sparking a sensation.

"Of course there will be evidence! As for the mastermind behind the scenes, I will reveal it to you all... Please wait and see! Now, let me introduce a few friends to everyone..."

Xia Chenyu smiled, turned her head to the side, and looked toward the entrance on the east side of the conference room. Then, she gently clapped her hands three times.

As her clapping ended, a woman and two men entered through the eastern entrance of the conference room, one after another, and stood at the base of the stage.

These three individuals were around their forties in age, and by their attire, they didn't seem to be employees of the Beauty Company but rather public officials from a certain department.

The trio's faces were pale, their expressions dim, heads hanging low, as if reluctant to meet others' eyes.

The nearly one thousand people in the meeting room gazed at the three curiously, murmuring among themselves, wondering what Xia Chenyu meant by having them appear.

Could it be that Xia Chenyu's so-called evidence was related to these three people?

Clang—

Within the lavish European-style villa in Zhongzhou City, Li Dongyang's face immediately stiffened with the smile freezing on his lips as he saw the three individuals appearing on the television. His hand loosened, and the glass of red wine he had just filled dropped, spilling all over him.

"President Li, what's wrong?"

Seeing Li Dongyang staring wide-eyed and speechless, Shen Huanian, sitting opposite him, asked with a frown.

"Why are they there... how could they be at the Beauty Company..."

Li Dongyang pointed at the three on the television, his voice trembling as he spoke, his previously calm and collected demeanor completely replaced by panic.

"You know those three people?"

Seeing Li Dongyang's troubled expression, Shen Huanian's frown deepened, a sense of foreboding also brewing within him.

"They're from the Zhongzhou Health Inspection Bureau. The batch of products that the Beauty Company sent for inspection was in their charge..."

Li Dongyang muttered to himself, dropping onto the sofa with sweat already beading on his forehead.

Shen Huanian's heart skipped a beat. He knew that the Health Inspection Bureau's staff would not appear in the Beauty Company's conference room for no reason. Could it be that Li Dongyang hadn't secured them well, and they were preparing to turn on him?

"Didn't you say you had already bribed them heavily? What is this then?"

Shen Huanian asked with a dark face, coldly interrogating.

Li Dongyang replied, "How would I know? I gave each of them a million. Moreover, I have evidence of their corruption. If they turn, not only will they lose their jobs, but they might also be imprisoned..."

"That's good..."

Shen Huanian breathed a sigh of relief and said, "If those three don't want their reputations completely ruined, they probably won't dare to talk nonsense. But it's strange... Why would they show up at an event like this?"

"Who knows! Let's just watch and see..."

Li Dongyang's eyes were glued to the TV screen, not blinking once, his heart hanging in suspense.

"Perhaps you don't recognize these three friends, so now, let me introduce them to you!"

In the multi-functional conference room on the third floor of the Beauty Company, Xia Chenyu's smile seemed to grow broader as she stretched out her slender fingers, pointing to the three people standing in front of the podium, introducing them one by one: "These three friends all come from Zhongzhou Health Inspection Bureau. The one in the middle is Mr. Zhu Guowei, on the left is Mr. Niu Dezhi, and on the right is Miss Ma Li..."

Some people in the conference room heard the words "Zhongzhou Health Inspection Bureau" and immediately thought of the product inspection report issued by this institution for the Beauty Company yesterday.

The report concluded that the lead and mercury levels in Beauty Company's products were seriously exceeded, a verdict that nearly dealt a fatal blow to the company and became a reason for the public to criticize the Beauty Company vehemently.

But what were the people from Zhongzhou Health Inspection Bureau doing here at this time? Could it be that there was some change in yesterday's inspection conclusion?

Xia Chenyu cleared her throat and said, "That's right, just as some friends are thinking, our friends from the Health Inspection Bureau are here today to make a new statement regarding yesterday's inspection conclusion... Mr. Zhu, Mr. Niu, Miss Ma, please."

Xia Chenyu said this while looking toward the three people standing in front of the podium—Zhu Guowei and the others.

Zhu Guowei and the others trembled visibly when Xia Chenyu mentioned their names, then they looked up to the stage, and when they met Fang Bai's smiling eyes, they felt a chill in their hearts, as if they had seen a demon.

"Friends, my name is Zhu Guowei, and I am currently the director of the cosmetic inspection department of the Zhongzhou Health Inspection Bureau..."

Zhu Guowei hesitated for a moment, and then, as if he had made a great decision, he raised his head to face the thousands sitting in the room, saying with a heavy heart, "Yesterday, due to errors in our work, my colleagues Niu Dezhi, Ma Li, and I made a wrong conclusion after inspecting the products submitted by the Beauty Company. We would like to offer our sincere apologies to the Beauty Company, all of Beauty Company's customers, and the entire Huaxia nation!"

As Zhu Guowei spoke, he, along with Niu Dezhi and Ma Li, bowed deeply first to the thousands in front of them and then to Xia Chenyu and the others on the stage. When they straightened up, their expressions were filled with sorrow, their eyes reddened, a clear sign of remorse.

"Director Zhu, since your conclusions were wrong, does that mean that the Beauty Company's products don't have quality issues?"

The female reporter who asked Xia Chenyu shouted out loud.

Zhu Guowei nodded vigorously, saying assertively, "Yes! After our re-inspection, we have overturned the previous conclusion. We hereby announce: Beauty Company's products have no quality issues, fully

meet national standards, and consumers can use them with confidence! This is our new inspection report..."

As he spoke, he took out a new inspection report on Beauty Company's products and showed it to the journalists present.

The television camera also focused on his hands holding the inspection report, broadcasting it live to the nation.

Zhu Guowei's public admission of error and the overturning of the previous day's inspection conclusion restored Beauty Company's reputation. This news was explosive enough to cause a huge stir on the scene, and also triggered outrage among viewers watching the live broadcast at home, who scorned the dereliction of duty by Zhu Guowei and his colleagues.

Posts condemning Zhu Guowei and his colleagues and supporting Beauty Company quickly appeared online, followed by countless comments.

An interesting phenomenon was that many netizens praised the president of the Beauty Company, Xia Chenyu, saying that she had a beauty that could launch a thousand ships, and with such a beautiful appearance, she clearly was kind-hearted, and her company could not possibly be unethical.

Other netizens remarked that those celebrities who generally preen and pride themselves on their beauty paled in comparison to President Xia of the Beauty Company. In the whole of Huaxia, only "National Sweetheart" Ye Wumei could possibly rival President Xia.

Chapter 533: Submission

Xia Chenyu had always been low-key in her actions, orchestrating everything from behind the scenes and letting her subordinates take the spotlight.

This meeting marked Xia Chenyu's first appearance on a nationally televised broadcast, instantly captivating countless viewers with her elegance and beauty, far overshadowing any concern over the quality incident of Beauty Company's products on the internet.

Meanwhile, consumers who loved Beauty Company's products but were worried about potential side effects felt elated.

To them, Beauty Company's products had significant effects, superior in treating acne and whitening to other brands; as long as there were no quality issues with Beauty Company's products, they would continue to support them as always.

"Damn it!"

In a villa within Zhongzhou, Li Dongyang and Shen Huanian, who had been closely watching the live broadcast, were unable to contain their fury when they saw Zhu Guowei, whom they had paid a hefty sum to buy over, "betray" them, smashing their cups almost simultaneously.

The two had long schemed and spent a considerable amount of money intending to take down Beauty Company and ensure Xia Chenyu had no chance to recover, with Zhu Guowei's group playing a crucial role in their plan.

Zhu Guowei and his group's "betrayal" immediately sent the two men into a state of unrest.

"Li Dongyang, this is all your brilliant doing!"

Shen Huanian turned his head and glared at Li Dongyang, directing his anger at him.

The task of bribing Zhu Guowei and his group had been eagerly undertaken by Li Dongyang, who, until recently, had confidently guaranteed that there would be no issues with them. Yet, in the blink of an eye, issues had arisen.

Not only did they collectively betray them, providing Beauty Company with a qualified inspection report, but they even started promoting Beauty Company on site, something they found intolerable.

"That bastard Zhu Guowei, I'm going to expose his corruption and affairs! Let him spend the rest of his life in prison!"

Li Dongyang roared in fury.

Shen Huanian replied with a cold laugh, "What use is saying this now? Zhu Guowei and his group have already sided with Beauty Company, bringing down Beauty Company completely is impossible now!"

He paused before adding, "We better hope that none of those dozen 'victims' on site pose any problems! Otherwise... not only will our efforts be in vain, but Beauty Company will also benefit from this misfortune, emerging as the big winner of this incident!"

"That... surely won't happen, right?"

With the betrayal of Zhu Guowei and his group already shaking his confidence, Li Dongyang, upon hearing Shen Huanian's words and thinking of the cascading consequences, couldn't help but shudder.

Zhu Guowei and his group's betrayal was a minor issue, but if those dozen 'victims' also turned against them, it would be a serious problem. Although it wouldn't directly expose Li Dongyang and Shen Huanian as the masterminds, it would definitely result in their plan backfiring miserably.

If it came to that, their plot wouldn't just fail to harm Beauty Company; it would be as if they paid to give Beauty Company a nationwide promotion.

"Sigh..."

With things at this point, Shen Huanian also felt a sense of discouragement, let out a sigh, and looked at the television screen with a vacant gaze.

When the spirited Xia Chenyu appeared on the TV screen and whispered with a smile to Fang Bai beside her, his eyes suddenly sharpened like knives, clenching his fists tightly.

In the spacious meeting room on the third floor of Beauty Company, Zhu Guowei, Niu Dezhi, and Ma Li, facing over a thousand people below the stage, embarrassingly reviewed their own work mistakes one after another, then vigorously commended the quality of Beauty Company's products and assured they were safe to purchase and use.

After they had completed their "mission", the three of them breathed a sigh of relief as if a great burden had been lifted, then looked pitifully towards the stage.

If someone observed closely, they would have noticed that Zhu Guowei and his two associates were not looking at Xia Chenyu, but at Fang Bai, with a hint of fear in their eyes.

In the eyes of Zhu Guowei and his associates, it was that young man with the harmless smile who had appeared before them like a specter the night before, and had used some means to torture them to the point of unbearable pain, instilling a fear so deep in their hearts that they had no choice but to comply with his commands and attend today's meeting to make the statements they had.

For the three of them, offending the shadowy figure who gave them money was at worst losing a job or spending a few years in prison, but offending that young man could cost them their lives.

When choosing the lesser of two evils, their lives were the most precious. Thus, they chose to submit to the young man.

"Just now, Director Zhu and the others have spoken and presented the latest test report. I'm sure everyone here has heard and seen it. The facts prove that our Beauty Company's products have no quality issues and are reliable and safe to use..."

Xia Chenyu's gaze swept over the dozen or so "victims" sitting in the front row below the stage and said with a smile, "These friends claim to have experienced allergic reactions, poisoning, and other side effects after using our products. I would like to ask, we have nearly ten billion in annual sales, with tens of millions of users, why have only you had problems? Are all of your skins so uniquely different?"

"Ms. Xia, are you not going to apologize and compensate us victims? If you dare do this, we will not let your company get away with it!"

A middle-aged woman with a face full of acne stood up from her seat, pointing to her face and shouting loudly, "Look at my face; it was fine before, but since I used your company's product, it has turned into this! Everyone, look, this is a photo of me before..."

The woman pulled out an enlarged photo, raised it high with one hand, turned around to face the thousands behind her, and pointed to the woman in the photo, saying, "Everyone, look, this was me before. Look at this skin, how smooth and fair... Now? Look at my face, what's the difference between this and disfigurement? Beauty Company is harming people!"

People looked at the woman's photo and, between the eyebrows, it did bear some resemblance to her, but it still felt as if it was not the same person.

"That's right! Beauty Company has harmed me!"

No sooner had the acne-ridden woman finished speaking when another young woman stood up, her voice full of tears and sobs, "Ever since I used Beauty Company's products, many red patches have appeared on my face, making it more and more ugly. Now my husband doesn't want me, and my child cries at the sight of me... Wuu wuu wuu... my life is so miserable!"

The woman's crying became louder, and in her "heartbreaking" state, she nearly fainted, thankfully supported by several relatives who helped her sit down in a chair,

Following the two women, several other women stood up and, in front of nearly a thousand people on the scene, tearfully accused Beauty Group.

The audience was stunned, feeling that the women were overacting, and moreover, each of the women was either old or unattractive, leading people to suspect the acne and red patches were natural.

Clap—

Clap—

Clap—

When the women had each finished their performances, applause suddenly erupted from the audience.

However, only one person was clapping.

That person was Fang Bai.

His clapping immediately drew the attention of everyone in the venue.

Chapter 534: The Truth

Fang Bai attracted the attention of everyone in the conference room to himself, then stopped clapping and slowly stood up, descended from the chairperson's stage, and stood in front of those dozen or so "victims."

"Big sister, your name is Ma Yunfeng, right?"

Fang Bai pointed at a middle-aged woman who had been shouting the loudest, and asked with an "amicable" expression.

Knowing that Fang Bai was the "Vice President" of Beauty Company, the middle-aged woman certainly didn't show him any kindness, rolled her eyes, and said gruffly, "What's it to you?"

Fang Bai replied cheerfully, "Nothing much, I just wanted to ask, big sister, how much of a benefit did you receive from others to slander our Beauty Company so vigorously?"

"You... You're talking nonsense! You're slandering me! Beauty Company doesn't apologize or compensate, and you still want to bite back at me? Do you have no conscience?"

The middle-aged woman's complexion changed slightly, and then she stood up, her left hand on her hip, her right hand pointing at Fang Bai as she started to yell loudly, her shrewish demeanor completely revealed.

Fang Bai brushed away the middle-aged woman's finger that was almost touching his nose and sighed, "Big sister, speaking of conscience, do you dare to touch your heart and say that those pimples on your face really appeared after you used our Beauty Company's products?"

"How could I not dare? It was after I used your..."

"Big sister, the eyes are the windows to the soul, I can see whether you are lying or not from your eyes. Do you dare to look into my eyes and talk?"

Fang Bai said with a smile.

"Why wouldn't I dare? My conscience is clear, I have no guilt, I..."

The middle-aged woman widened her small eyes and locked eyes with Fang Bai, then suddenly, she seemed to fall into an endless abyss, losing herself.

"Very good! Big sister, now from your eyes, I see something called sincerity! Now your words must be truthful and believable! So, I would like to ask you, big sister, did those pimples on your face really appear after you used our Beauty Company's products?"

Fang Bai, wearing a smile, stared into the middle-aged woman's eyes and asked.

Someone behind the middle-aged woman "snickered," thinking that Fang Bai had already asked this question just a moment ago, and now asking again, she would surely give the same answer, otherwise wouldn't she look like a fool?

If someone were standing right in front of the middle-aged woman, they could see that her gaze was vacant, her face expressionless, indeed somewhat resembling a fool.

"No."

The middle-aged woman's response surprised most of the people present. She said, word by word, "I originally had a lot of pimples on my face, and they multiplied after I started using inferior cosmetic products from a small factory..."

"Ma Yunfeng, what nonsense are you spouting? Aren't the pimples on your face because you used Beauty Company's products?"

A younger woman standing beside Ma Yunfeng rose to her feet and spoke urgently.

Fang Bai's gaze swept coldly over the young woman as he commanded sternly, "Big sister, I didn't address you, please take your seat!"

The young woman, looking rebellious, was just about to argue when she met Fang Bai's penetrating gaze that seemed to reach into the depths of her heart. Her entire body shuddered, and then Fang Bai's voice thundered in her ears, reverberating so loudly that her ears rang and her head spun.

Stumbling, she fell back into her seat, her complexion turned pale, she broke out in a cold sweat, and gasped for air, too frightened to make another sound.

"Big sister, why did you use inferior cosmetic products from a small factory? Didn't you buy lots of products from Beauty Company?"

Fang Bai continued to ask the middle-aged woman with a pleasant demeanor.

The middle-aged woman said, "I started off using Beauty Company's products, and after a while, the acne on my face almost disappeared... Later, a few people approached me and asked me to switch to those inferior cosmetics from small factories, and as a result, many pimples reappeared on my face..."

Seeing the shocked and incredulous expressions on the faces of everyone present, Fang Bai's smile deepened as he asked with a smile, "Why did those people want you to use inferior cosmetics?"

The middle-aged woman replied, "Because they gave me a lot of money. They also said if I would come forward to accuse Beauty Company and claim that my acne was caused by using their products, they would give me even more money..."

As soon as the middle-aged woman finished speaking, there was an uproar at the scene.

If what the middle-aged woman said was true, then this quality incident involving Beauty Company's products was a farce that someone had orchestrated to smear and frame Beauty Company.

"Ma Yunfeng, you've gone mad!"

"The acne on your face appeared only after you used Beauty Company's products!"

"This is the side effect of using products from Beauty Company!"

The dozen or so "victims" who had come with the middle-aged woman stood up one after another, pointing at the middle-aged woman and chastising her harshly, some with shifty eyes clearly betraying their guilt.

"All of you, shut up!"

Fang Bai let out a light shout again and his gaze swept over the dozen or so "victims," snorting, "When it's time for your questioning, you'll get your chance to speak!"

In his voice was the True Essence Sonic Wave, targeted only at those dozen or so "victims," without affecting the other people present. As his eyes moved over them, a breath was silently released.

These "victims" were all ordinary people, how could they withstand Fang Bai's Sonic Wave Strike and the pressure of his presence? Their eardrums rang, they felt dizzy, and as if weighed down by a thousand heavy objects, they slumped in their seats, went pale, sweated profusely, and trembled as if extremely frightened.

"I believe this is what the older sister truly meant to say! Please take a seat, older sister!"

After asking a few simple questions and achieving the effect he desired, Fang Bai shifted his gaze away from the middle-aged woman and approached a younger woman sitting next to her, who had a few red patches on her face.

The middle-aged woman herself had no idea what she had just revealed. After sitting down and seeing her companions glaring at her with anger, as if they wanted to devour her, she couldn't help but look puzzled.

The young woman with red patches on her face became somewhat nervous when Fang Bai stood in front of her.

"May I ask you a few questions, older sister?"

Fang Bai looked at the young woman in front of him, asking gently with a smile.

"No need to ask, my allergic reaction is because of using Beauty Company's products! I demand an apology and compensation from Beauty Company!"

The young woman looked at the ground and spoke shrilly.

Fang Bai said with a laugh, "Hehe, older sister, you say these things without even daring to raise your head, let alone look me in the eyes, which proves you feel guilty!"

"How am I guilty? How dare I not look into your eyes..."

The young woman mustered her courage and suddenly looked up at Fang Bai, but as soon as her gaze met his eyes, she instantly fell under the spell of Fang Bai's "Soul Capturing Heart Refining Technique." Her mind clouded, her spirit came under Fang Bai's control, and her thoughts were led only by him.

Chapter 535: Video Exposed

In the following ten or so minutes, Fang Bai asked the same question to seven or eight "victims" present at the scene.

Surprisingly, those "victims" who had been condemning Beauty Company with tears and sobs now admitted, when responding to Fang Bai's questions, that they had intentionally used inferior cosmetics after being paid and instructed by someone else to tarnish the reputation of Beauty Group.

What made everyone at the scene laugh and cry even more was that, after those "victims" sat down having answered Fang Bai's questions, they denied everything they had just said and continued to attack and slander Beauty Group.

The contradictory responses of the "victims" caused a stir among the audience on-site, and it made them realize that the incident was not as simple as it seemed on the surface.

Meanwhile, citizens watching the live broadcast on TV started to doubt the incident, with a considerable number shifting their belief toward the idea that Beauty Company had been maliciously framed.

"Those people are contradicting themselves and their eyes are shifty—it's clear there's something wrong!"

In Yanjing, Old Master Lu of the Lu Family, Lu Shengguo, pointed at the "victims" on the TV screen, indignantly saying.

However, when he saw Fang Bai smiling, he immediately cheered up, and with a twist of his beard, said, "Seeing Brother Fang so calm and confident, I knew he must have a trick up his sleeve... I'm very much looking forward to it. I wonder how Brother Fang intends to uncover the mastermind behind this!"

In a luxurious villa in a certain manor in Zhongzhou City, Li Dongyang and Shen Huanian stood in front of the TV, both with indescribably ugly expressions.

Zhu Guowei and two others from the municipal health inspection bureau had just turned on them, which already infuriated them, and now the flip-flopping of the dozen or so "victims" drove them to an even greater rage.

"I'm not afraid of opponents who are gods, but teammates who are pigs... Li Dongyang, I've been screwed over by you, the pig! It seems I'll need to think twice before collaborating with you again in the future!"

Shen Huanian sneered at Li Dongyang with a face full of mockery.

Li Dongyang's face turned red and white by turns—he himself couldn't understand why those "victims" had suddenly changed their tune.

"There's something fishy about this... Could it be that Beauty Company has spent more money to buy them over?"

Li Dongyang muttered to himself.

"Didn't you have someone keeping an eye on them all the time? Would you not know if someone approached them?"

Shen Huanian sneered.

"Well... even the tightest net has a hole. It's hard to guarantee there won't be any problems..."

"Just a problem?"

Shen Huanian suddenly erupted, shouting furiously, "Every goddamn one of the dozen people has a problem, and you call that just a little issue? Li Dongyang, if we didn't go way back, I would suspect you're in cahoots with Beauty Company to betray me!"

"Your mother's fart!"

Li Dongyang also jumped up, his eyes wide with anger as he retorted, "We're in the same boat right now! Me screwing you over is the same as screwing myself over. Do you think I'm an idiot?"

"Ha, what's the difference between you and an idiot?"

"Your mother's the idiot! Your whole family are idiots!"

The two men glared at each other with reddened faces, shouting loudly, as Secretary Wang watched on the side, dumbfounded, not daring to take a breath.

Just then, a familiar scene appeared on the television screen. Secretary Wang's eyes widened as she looked closely, suddenly trembling as if she had been electrocuted.

"President Shen, President Li, stop arguing! Look at the television... quickly, look at the television..."

Secretary Wang pointed at the television screen, her voice trembling with alarm.

Upon hearing this, Shen Huanian and Li Dongyang turned their gaze to the television. Then both of their pupils constricted, their faces paled, and their expressions conveyed sheer terror, as if they had seen something inconceivable.

At this very moment, on the large display to the left of the podium in the multifunctional conference room on the third floor of Beauty Company, a video was being played, and many experienced individuals could tell at a glance that it was secretly recorded.

The scene in the video was a luxurious living room in a villa of a courtyard, with two men and one woman.

The two men were both young and exuded an aura of wealth, clearly the sons of prominent families. They held glasses of red wine, whispering among themselves at times and speaking loudly at others.

A voluptuous beauty stood to the side, her role was to pour wine for the two men.

The equipment used to secretly record this video was obviously very advanced, not only were the faces of the two men crystal clear, but their conversation was also audible.

The topic of the two men revolved around how to deal with Beauty Company and how to strike at Xia Chenyu, filled with sinister conspiratorial tones.

Thousands of people in the conference room watched and listened intently, some already recognizing the two men on the screen, their expressions turning peculiar to the extreme.

This segment only showed the conversation of the two men in the villa before the scene switched to another setting.

Only two people were in this new scene, one was the portly "President Li" from the first video, and the other was Ma Yunfeng, the middle-aged woman who had been the loudest in the conference just moments before.

The audience could see that President Li, with a pleasant demeanor, sat beside Ma Yunfeng, placing stacks of thick cash into her hands. He then instructed Ma Yunfeng to "perform enthusiastically" in front of the media the next day, along with the other dozen "victims," to smear Beauty Company and force them to apologize and make reparations.

"This... this..."

Ma Yunfeng, sitting in the front row at the podium, looked as if she had seen a ghost. Her face changed color, she grew restless, and sweat began to pour from her forehead. She pointed to the video, stuttering, unable to utter a word for a long time.

She had thought that her transaction with President Li was utterly secret, not realizing it had been secretly recorded and now broadcasted nationwide. With that, her reputation was utterly ruined.

The video on the display kept changing scenes, with each lasting a few minutes, and each one featuring President Li with one of the "victims" The content of their dialogues was similar to that with Ma Yunfeng.

When the final scene finished playing, and people looked at those "victims" in the first row below the podium, they no longer held the same pride as before; some were pale, some flushed, and others hung their heads, too ashamed to meet anyone's eye.

These dozen or so "victims" knew that with their shady dealings with President Li exposed, they would face overwhelming public outrage. Realizing that although they had made a substantial sum from this affair, they would become social pariahs, regret filled their hearts.

"It's over! Everything's over!"

In a villa of a courtyard in Zhongzhou City, after seeing the segments of video in the live broadcast, Li Dongyang collapsed onto the sofa, looking utterly devastated.

Chapter 536: Who did it?

Shen Huanian's expression was not much better than Li Dongyang's.

The scandal targeting Beauty Group was planned by both him and Li Dongyang. They thought they were safe behind the scenes and even if the plan failed, it wouldn't involve them. However, to Shen Huanian's utter disbelief, the secret conversation that took place in this villa was secretly filmed and now broadcasted live to the entire nation.

Shen Huanian always cared about his reputation and image, but after this incident, he could foresee that both he and Li Dongyang would become a laughingstock in the industry and many would keep a distance from them.

This was nothing short of a heavy blow to Shen Huanian.

What troubled Shen Huanian the most was that, with the exposure of his involvement in plotting against Beauty Group, given Xia Chenyu's character, a complete and irrevocable break with the Shen Family was likely.

Soon, another concern crossed Shen Huanian's mind.

The estate he lived in was guarded by plenty of bodyguards and equipped with world-class security monitoring systems. Not even a fly could get in without notice. Who could have taken that video of his conversation with Li Dongyang?

Could there be a mole?

With this thought, Shen Huanian suddenly turned his head to look at his Secretary Wang.

Shen Huanian was known for his amorous pursuits, and Secretary Wang was his little lover in Zhongzhou. The estate in Zhongzhou, managed by Secretary Wang, was where he stayed whenever he visited.

Secretary Wang had been with Shen Huanian for three or four years and had gained his absolute trust. Shen Huanian would not hide anything from her whenever he discussed business with friends there.

Last evening, when Shen Huanian was discussing the actions against Beauty Group with Li Dongyang, only Secretary Wang, an outsider, was present.

Despite his reluctance to believe Secretary Wang would betray him, she remained the prime suspect regarding the stolen video.

Thinking about all the secrets she held over the years, some of which must never see the light, if she truly betrayed him and leaked those secrets, he could indeed end up utterly disgraced.

This thought made Shen Huanian shudder.

"President Shen... President Shen..."

Seeing Shen Huanian suddenly staring at her with a fierce glare, Secretary Wang trembled in fear.

Shen Huanian strode to her, grabbed her hair, forced her to kneel with a push, and then pointed back at the TV screen, demanding sharply, "Did you take that video? You betrayed me and sold the video to Xia Chenyu, didn't you?"

Secretary Wang's hair was pulled, agonizing pain made her cry, "It's not me, President Shen, I didn't betray you... I didn't take the video... You have to believe me, President Shen..."

Shen Huanian roared, "Last night, other than Li Dongyang and me, you were the only one here. How can I trust you? Who else could have taken that video if not you?"

"It really wasn't me, President Shen! If I betrayed you, may lightning strike me down; I won't live a good life! You have to believe me, President Shen..."

Secretary Wang clung to Shen Huanian's legs, wailing loudly and desperately defending herself.

Secretary Wang knew Shen Huanian well. Despite his seemingly refined demeanor, he was heartless and ruthless. If she couldn't clear her name in this situation, being expelled would be the least of her concerns, she might even lose her life.

"President Shen, I also don't think Secretary Wang did it!"

As Shen Huanian seethed with fury, Li Dongyang stayed calm and spoke up, "Secretary Wang has been with you since last night, inseparable. Even if she did take the video, she wouldn't have had the chance to send it out. Moreover, Secretary Wang is smart; she knows the consequences of crossing the Shen Family. So she would not dare, and she would not sell you out for a bit of profit from Xia Chenyu's side."

Shen Huanian thought it over and realized that there was some sense to it, his expression softened slightly with a hum, and he let go of his hand.

Secretary Wang looked gratefully at Li Dongyang, thinking though this man was not great in bed, he was quite loyal. Next time she had the chance, she would definitely show her skills to win his favor.

When Li Dongyang noticed the glance from Secretary Wang, warmth flooded his heart. He thought to himself that she was good in bed, especially with her mouth, curling and sucking, truly enthralling. Having rescued her this time, she should be even more eager to please him in the future, shouldn't she?

"I have a surveillance system installed inside and out of this estate; it's nearly impossible for ordinary people to get in! Who else could it be if not an insider secretly filming?"

Shen Huanian's suspicion toward Secretary Wang had not completely faded.

Li Dongyang frowned and said, "I think the one who shot the video, even if not from Beauty Company, must at least have connections with Beauty Company..."

After carefully thinking, his eyes suddenly brightened as he looked at the television screen, "Could it be him?"

"Who?"

Shen Huanian's eyes emitted a chilly gleam. This incident had dealt him a severe blow; he was prepared to pay any price to corner whoever was responsible.

"Fang Bai!"

Li Dongyang pointed at Fang Bai on the TV screen, the more he thought about it, the more he felt it might be possible, "Fang Bai appeared by Xia Chenyu's side today, don't you find that peculiar? And you said earlier, Fang Bai practices both martial arts and medicine, and might even have Ancient Medicine Sect connections. It's not impossible for him to infiltrate and secretly film, right?"

"Fang Bai..."

Shen Huanian thought about it and then shook his head, "It can't be him! The security surveillance system I've installed is world-class, and there are numerous bodyguards hidden throughout the estate. Even a Profound Level Martial Artist would find it difficult to infiltrate without detection. Fang Bai couldn't possibly be more capable than a Profound Level Martial Artist!"

Li Dongyang's gaze was fixed on Fang Bai on the television screen, "Even if it's not him, it might be a master he hired for the job! Anyway, I find him the most suspicious! Look at his expression, doesn't it look smug?"

"I'll investigate this matter thoroughly afterward. If it really is him... I'll make sure he doesn't die a peaceful death!"

Shen Huanian clenched his fists and said bitterly.

Li Dongyang sighed, "At this point, any anger is pointless. We should quickly think of a plan and how to deal with the upcoming situation. Ah, what I fear the most now is Beauty Group seizing this incident to counterattack. If we can't respond in time, we might suffer heavy losses! By then, both you and I might lose any voice in our respective families!"

Both were outstanding members of the younger generation in their families, with high expectations set by their families and even being groomed as successors. If they caused substantial losses to the family due to issues with Beauty Company, they could indeed be abandoned by their families and lose all their privileges.

And without privileges, they would lose wealth and status, a situation neither Li Dongyang nor Shen Huanian could accept.

"I'll head back to Anxi immediately, and you, go back to Donghai. We'll take separate actions and contact each other by phone later!"

Shen Huanian said with a grave voice.

"Okay!"

Knowing that the situation was grim, Li Dongyang immediately stood up to return to Donghai.

Li Dongyang and Shen Huanian, though young, had been battling in the business world for years. They knew that Beauty Group might have already planned their countermeasures before holding this press conference. If the two of them couldn't come up with a timely and effective response, they might indeed find themselves in a hopeless predicament.

Chapter 537: Xia Chenyu's Counterattack

"Ladies, after watching these videos, do you have anything to say?"

In the multifunctional conference room on the third floor of Beauty Company, Fang Bai's clear voice rang in everyone's ears after a series of videos had finished playing.

With Fang Bai's words, the gazes of nearly a thousand people in the conference room also shifted toward those dozen or so "victims."

Not long ago, these "victims" had been performing dramatically and accusing Beauty Company of various wrongs with all their might. Yet now, like deflated balloons, they slumped in their seats, heads drooping, silent, a sight so ridiculous it was laughable.

"No one's speaking... Heh, it seems you have no objections to the authenticity of the videos that were just played. Well then, let's settle another score now!"

Fang Bai's gaze swept over the "victims," his smile gradually fading, replaced by a cold, merciless expression.

"You people, for the sake of personal gain, have accused, slandered, framed, and smeared our Beauty Company, causing us losses that are difficult to estimate... I just did the math, and due to your actions, you've brought over three billion in various losses to 'Beauty Group.' You will compensate for this money!"

Fang Bai spoke deliberately, each word echoing in the ears of the dozen or so "victims" like thunder, making their blood surge and bodies tremble.

The videos that had just been played had already broken down the psychological defenses of the "victims," leaving them panicked and distraught. On hearing that they had to compensate such a huge sum, they immediately became agitated.

"It's not my fault! It was Boss Li who told me to do this!"

A middle-aged woman lifted her head and cried out with a pale face.

"Right, it's all Boss Li's fault, we are victims too!"

"If we have to pay, it should be Boss Li who pays!"

"Boss Li has ruined us!"

"Damn Boss Li!"

"We've been duped!"

...

The dozen or so "victims" raised their voices once more, even more violently than before.

Only this time, they were not trying to smear Beauty Company, but were denouncing that Boss Li who had been behind the scenes, manipulating them.

"Enough! Sit down, all of you!"

Fang Bai shouted to silence the "victims" and made them sit back down before returning to his seat. He then leaned over to Xia Chenyu and whispered, "My part is done, it's your turn to speak."

Xia Chenyu smiled and nodded, stood up, and walked to stand in front of the display screen to the left of the podium.

The display kept replaying the secret videos, but when Xia Chenyu stood in front of the screen, the video froze on the image of Shen Huanian and Li Dongyang in conversation.

In the image, the two held glasses of red wine, exchanged smiles and looked self-satisfied.

"These two individuals might already be recognized by some friends here, but others may not know them. Allow me to introduce them!"

Xia Chenyu pointed at Li Dongyang on the screen and said to the nearly thousand people in the conference room, "This pot-bellied man dressed in a suit is named Li Dongyang, the current Vice President of the 'Heavenly Daughter' Group. His brother, Li Donghai, is the President of 'Heavenly Daughter' Group. And their father, named Li Chongshan, is the current Family Head of the Donghai Li Family."

The moment Xia Chenyu finished speaking, the room filled with whispers.

'Heavenly Daughter' Group is an old brand in Huaxia's beauty industry, ranking second in annual sales within the industry, slightly behind the top-ranked Belle Group and slightly ahead of the newly rising Beauty Company.

In recent times, to compete with Belle Group and Beauty Company for market share, 'Heavenly Daughter' Group had invested massive resources into advertising, making the brand almost universally known to the nearly thousand present. However, they had never imagined that the Li Dongyang in the image would be the Vice President of the company.

Behind Li Dongyang, the Donghai Li Family is even more renowned in Huaxia, a prominent clan with businesses spread across the country, a veritable behemoth in the Huaxia business community.

Knowing the identity and background of Li Dongyang, those present became even more convinced that the product quality incident at Beauty Company was a deliberate setup.

Business rivalry breeds enmity. The miraculous rise of 'Beauty Company' in the past year had certainly touched the interests of 'Heavenly Daughter' Group and other peers in the beauty industry, leading to various forms of suppression and underhanded tactics.

The majority in the room despised and disdained the stabbing-in-the-back behavior of 'Heavenly Daughter' Group. They believed that if a beauty enterprise wanted to win credibility and consumer trust, it should focus more on product quality and engage in fair competition. Resorting to such despicable methods to suppress rivals showed a loss of basic morals and principles.

An unethical and unprincipled enterprise's products, how could their quality be anything but concerning and pessimistic?

At that moment, some in attendance who were using 'Heavenly Daughter' Group's beauty products internally made up their minds to switch to Beauty Company's products in the future.

"As the Vice President of an established brand beauty company, President Li's malicious attacks and smearing of our Beauty Company are truly disheartening, revealing his intentions and purpose clearly! Huaxia is a society ruled by law, and for this incident, our Beauty Company will seek justice through legal means!"

Xia Chenyu's stunning face showed a trace of Evil Qi, and her tone was resolute and firm.

Everyone knew from Xia Chenyu's words that Beauty Company was officially taking the fight back to Li Dongyang and his 'Heavenly Daughter' Group.

"This man, named Shen Huanian, is the son of the current Family Head of the Anxi Shen Family, Shen Dongyang."

After introducing Li Dongyang, Xia Chenyu pointed to Shen Huanian, her eyes gleaming with a chilling light, and continued, "If the friends present are not familiar with Shen Huanian or the Anxi Shen Family, then you must know about one of their industries—the Belle Group, right?"

Her gaze swept over the faces of the audience, and seeing their understanding looks, she nodded and said, "That's right. The Belle Group has been a leading force in the Huaxia beauty industry for many years, consistently topping sales. Some friends might be wondering why such a powerful Belle Group would frame and smear our 'Beauty Company,' right?"

Xia Chenyu's proud expression emerged again as she spoke loudly, "Because our 'Beauty Company's' products have gained the trust of consumers, our sales and market share are growing. Afraid of being surpassed and outcompeted by us, the Belle Group got anxious. That led to the Belle Group and 'Heavenly Daughter' Group joining hands in this incident to harm and smear us!"

Chapter 538: The Advertisement is Here

Xia Chenyu's speech, marked by its rises and falls, caused another stir in the conference room, where the majority expressed contempt and disdain for the actions of Belle Group and Heavenly Daughter Group.

As for the reporters present, many had been bribed by Li Dongyang and Shen Huanian. No matter what Xia Chenyu said, having received their benefits, they would surely continue to speak well of Belle Group and Heavenly Daughter Group upon their return.

Of course, Beauty Group had also invited quite a few reporters to the conference. After witnessing the leaked video on site and hearing Xia Chenyu's speech, they were already brewing their drafts, ready to denounce Belle Group and Heavenly Daughter Group and offer support to Beauty Company afterwards.

Xia Chenyu continued, "Belle Group and Heavenly Daughter Group have the backing of prominent clans, substantial wealth, and immense power. Perhaps, infuriated by their failure to frame and slander Beauty Company this time, they might resort to even more despicable means, more malicious methods to come after us! But... we are fearless!"

Xia Chenyu's volume suddenly rose, and she declared resolutely, "We believe that as long as we put our hearts into our products, we can gain more support from consumers, secure a larger market share, and thus deliver a fierce counterblow to those unscrupulous enterprises that smear and suppress us!"

As Xia Chenyu's voice fell, applause thundered throughout the venue.

"Alright, let's move on from the shadowy clashes and scheming and talk about something joyful!"

With the applause having died down, the evil Qi vanished from Xia Chenyu's face, replaced by an enchanting smile that could captivate souls.

"You can all come down now!"

Xia Chenyu beckoned to ten beautiful ladies standing behind the podium.

Upon hearing her, the nearly thousand people in the conference room began to focus once again on the ten beautiful ladies.

The ten beautiful ladies had been standing behind the podium since the conference started, and many people had been curious about why Beauty Company had arranged for them to be there; it seemed Xia Chenyu was about to reveal the answer now.

The ten stunning ladies walked up to Xia Chenyu and lined up in a row.

Each one of them was in the bloom of youth, vibrant and youthful, with fair and tender skin, and slender figures that were dazzlingly beautiful. To observe them was to experience the pleasure of beauty.

Although their looks and temperament were somewhat overshadowed by Xia Chenyu standing beside them, in the eyes of some picky men present, they were still worth an eight out of ten.

The men in the audience gazed with shining eyes, craning their necks to see, thinking to themselves that they would gladly give up a few years of life to have such beauties as girlfriends or lovers.

The women in the audience were also sizing up the ten beauties, with more focus on why their skin was so fair and their figures so exquisite; it was truly envy-inducing.

"At this moment, I believe that both men and women in the audience must be wondering why these ten ladies possess such smooth skin and such graceful figures..."

As if guessing the thoughts of everyone present, Xia Chenyu said with a smile, "Some might say these ten beauties are naturally gorgeous... Yes, I won't deny that plays a part! But I can tell you, their skin wasn't always this fair, their figures weren't always this fine..."

Xia Chenyu said this, then turned her head to point at the large display screen to the left side of the podium and continued, "Here are some photos. These are makeup-free pictures of the ten beauties taken six months ago. Everyone can look and see the big difference between how they are now and how they were before..."

As she spoke, a woman's photo quickly appeared on the large display screen.

Although the woman in the photo could be called beautiful, her skin was slightly dark and her figure slightly plump. To some of the men present, she was at most a seven out of ten.

"Huh? The woman in the photo looks a bit like this beauty here!"

A young man in the audience pointed at the beautiful lady next to Xia Chenyu and said aloud.

Following his gesture, the crowd looked at the beautiful lady, and then compared her with the woman in the photograph, finding that the two indeed looked very similar. However, the woman before them now had whiter skin and a better figure, making her appear much more attractive.

"That's right, the woman in the photo is the beauty standing beside me now, Shen Xiaoling."

Xia Chenyu patted Shen Xiaoling on the shoulder, then continued, "Let's move on to the next one..."

The bare-faced photos on the display screen kept changing. The audience carefully compared each one and realized that the women in the photos were indeed the ten beautiful ladies in front of them, each having undergone significant changes—better skin and figures.

Many reporters at the scene were skilled photographers. They could tell that those bare-faced photos had not undergone any processing and were authentic.

With a smile, Xia Chenyu said, "In just half a year, their skin has become fairer, and their figures more graceful. I'm sure our friends here are eager to know how this happened, right? Well, I have the answer!"

"Oh come on, President Xia, stop beating around the bush! Tell us already!"

"Yeah, President Xia, if you have a secret, share it with us!"

"I wish my skin could be as white as those beautiful ladies!"

"My boyfriend says I'm a bit chubby. I've been trying to lose weight for a year without any success. It's so frustrating!"

...

The desire for beauty is innate in everyone.

Especially for women, the pursuit of beauty is relentless and without regret.

To become fairer, they are willing to apply various cosmetics to their faces.

To get slim, they're ready to eat just a paltry amount three times a day, not minding even if it means fasting.

The women at the event, both young and old, became excited when they heard that Xia Chenyu had a way to make their skin whiter and their figures better just like the ten beautiful ladies in front of them, and they started to inquire.

"It's actually quite simple! Our company has recently developed two new products, and after using them for half a year, you can significantly change the way you look!"

Amidst laughter from the audience realizing "it's just an advertisement," Xia Chenyu clapped her hands. Immediately two beautiful ladies walked out from the eastern side of the meeting room, swaying gracefully towards Xia Chenyu.

Each of the two beautiful ladies was carrying a tray in their hands, on which lay two new products from the Beauty Company.

"This is the upgraded version of the Snow Skin Beautifying Cream, with even better effects than before; this is our Body Sculpting Cream, which we are preparing to launch soon, effective for slimming down and giving you a slender figure!"

Xia Chenyu picked up the two new products from the tray with a smile and introduced them, then pointed at the ten beautiful ladies lined up and said, "These ten beauties have been trying our new products since half a year ago, and that's the result... Friends, if you purchase our new products and don't see a noticeable effect after half a year, Beauty Group will compensate you double!"

Chapter 539: The Reaction of the Shen Family

"President Xia, you're so beautiful, is it because you also use your own company's products?"

Someone asked teasingly on the spot.

Xia Chenyu giggled a few times before nodding, "Of course. As the president of Beauty Company, I've always used our own products. I can confidently tell my friends, among similar beauty products, there isn't any brand that offers a better effect than ours! If friends don't believe it, you can purchase our products and try them for a while. Good or not, you'll know after one try!"

"President Xia, I believe you! I've always been using your company's products, and they really work well! I'll definitely buy it once your new product is out!"

A woman sitting in the back row said loudly.

"My daughter also uses your company's products, and the acne on her face has decreased a lot! I believe you!"

Another middle-aged woman said.

"My wife used your products, and now the freckles on her face are almost gone! Your products are trustworthy!"

A man said.

...

There were quite a few users of Beauty Company's products among the audience, and upon hearing this, they expressed their position one after another.

Xia Chenyu glanced at Fang Bai, who was sitting dignified on the stage, and as their gazes met, they exchanged knowing smiles.

The storm had finally been smoothly navigated.

Now, it was our turn to counterattack!

The live broadcast of this meeting held in the third-floor conference room of Beauty Company had tens of millions of viewers on that day, and through their sharing, it became known to hundreds of millions of Huaxia citizens.

Whether it was the citizens or the various major Huaxia media, almost unanimously sided with Beauty Company, giving them support while fiercely criticizing the despicable actions of Belle Group and Heavenly Daughter Group.

The Huaxia Ministry of Health also promptly responded, sharply criticizing the Belle Group and Heavenly Daughter Group for their unfair competitive behavior and ordering them to publicly apologize and compensate Beauty Company.

This incident led to a major damage to the image of Belle Group and Heavenly Daughter Group, which in turn affected their product sales to plummet significantly.

Beauty Company, on the other hand, became the big winner, not only did their two newly launched products sell out, but the sales of several other products also surged significantly, rapidly increasing their market share, and their monthly sales figures swiftly surpassed Belle Group and Heavenly Daughter Group.

Interestingly, after Xia Chenyu made a public appearance at this meeting, the media and the internet exploded with topics about her. Her exceptional grace bewitched countless men, and countless women began to emulate her dress, demeanor, and behavior.

Because of this, Fang Bai jokingly said to Xia Chenyu that if they printed her image on Beauty Company's products, perhaps the sales would increase even more.

.....

Snap—

A loud slap harshly landed on Shen Huanian's fair and handsome face, sending his glasses flying and a trickle of blood seeping from the corner of his mouth.

His usual refined image was now completely gone, replaced by panic and disarray.

At this moment, Shen Huanian was kneeling straight on the ground, in front of him stood his parents and several key figures of the family, each looking at him with anger in their eyes.

The one who slapped Shen Huanian was his father, the current Family Head of the Anxi Shen Family, Shen Dongyang.

Shen Dongyang's mother, Yu Lan, saw her son being slapped with blood at the corner of his mouth; she felt heartache but did not dare to interject.

"Look what you've done!"

Shen Dongyang slapped his son, and, still not gratified, he bellowed angrily, "Do you realize how much damage you've caused the Shen Family by taking on the Beauty Company on your own?"

"Not to mention financial losses. The key point is the reputation damage to our Anxi Shen Family and the associated 'Belle Group.' Such intangible losses are vast! Huating, you've been so foolish! How are you to take on the familial responsibilities in the future?"

Shen Huanian's uncle, Shen Dongxing, said in a mocking tone.

"Yes, the Family Head entrusted you with the management of such an important asset as the 'Belle Group,' and you act so impulsively, how can we trust you?"

Even Shen Huanian's younger aunt, Shen Dongyue, voiced her dissatisfaction.

"Dongyang, you also bear responsibility for your lax parental discipline that led to Huating's actions!"

Shen Huanian's third uncle coughed a few times before sighing deeply.

Other members of the Shen family chimed in, most criticizing Shen Huanian.

Shen Dongyang had many siblings, with two uncles above him. Although the family outwardly appeared harmonious, they faced many underlying conflicts.

Especially Shen Dongyang's elder brother, Shen Dongxing, who had long harbored dissatisfaction for not securing the position of Family Head over his younger brother, saw this incident as a chance to seize upon a weakness.

Shen Dongyang's expression darkened. Although he was the Family Head, he had limited power within the family and could not rule unchallenged. Now that his son had made a significant mistake causing grave losses to the 'Belle Group,' he was speechless in the face of accusations from family members.

"From now on, the 'Belle Group' will be managed by Huating. You just stay at home and reflect on your actions! If you dare to run off again, I'll break your legs!"

Shen Dongyang said in anger, his heart bleeding.

Shen Huating was Shen Dongyang's elder brother, Shen Dongxing's, eldest son, a few years older than Shen Huanian. He had always coveted the management rights of the 'Belle Group,' but since he wasn't as capable as Shen Huanian, he only held a nominal position within it.

With his son Shen Huanian's mistake, Shen Dongyang knew that the management rights of the 'Belle Group' would slip away.

Even though Shen Dongyang was reluctant to hand over the management rights of such an important asset as the 'Belle Group,' what could he do at this point? Moreover, it seemed that most of the Shen family members supported his elder brother's son, Shen Huating, to manage the 'Belle Group.'

Looking at his son kneeling before him, Shen Dongyang, angry but not wanting to fight, lifted his hand as if to give him a few more slaps to satisfy his anger, but ultimately didn't have the heart to do it.

"This whole thing was ruined by those few videos. I suspect those videos were secretly filmed by Fang Bai! If it weren't for him, the Beauty Group would have been taken down by me and Li Dongyang, and maybe by now, it would have become our asset!"

The kneeling Shen Huanian suddenly said, hatred blazing in his eyes.

"Fang Bai... Fang Bai... Fang Bai..."

Shen Dongyang muttered the name, killing Qi churning within him.

Though Shen Dongyang had never met Fang Bai, he was by no means unfamiliar with him, even deeply etched in his memory.

A few months ago, Shen Dongyang's brother, who had held an important position in Zhongzhou City, was clanged into prison and had his whole life ruined.

And that had been Fang Bai's doing.

Shen Dongyang and his brother Shen Dongxing had been particularly close, always supporting each other. The imprisonment of Shen Dongxing cost Shen Dongyang a powerful ally and considerably weakened his influence within the family.

This time, his son's setback was again linked to Fang Bai. Suddenly, Shen Dongyang's hatred for Fang Bai cut to the bone.

Chapter 540: "National Sweetheart" arrives in Zhongzhou

The same incident unfolded within the Donghai Li Family.

Due to the quality issues of Beauty Company's products, the "Heavenly Daughter" Group under the Donghai Li Family suffered great losses, and Li Dongyang was not only stripped of his position as Vice President of the "Heavenly Daughter" Group but was also grounded by his parents, forbidden to leave the house for an entire year.

After punishing Li Dongyang, the Li Family also began to pay extra attention to Fang Bai.

Despite being suppressed by the "Belle Group" and the "Heavenly Daughter" Group, Beauty Company rose against the odds and successfully surpassed both groups to firmly hold the number one position in Huaxia's industry sales charts, becoming a miracle in the Huaxia business community.

However, many people were also worried for Beauty Company, Xia Chenyu, and Fang Bai. Although they successfully thwarted the conspiracies of the "Belle Group" and the "Heavenly Daughter" Group, they had also offended the powerful Shen Family and Li Family behind these two groups.

The Shen Family and Li Family, both formidable and influential noble clans of Huaxia, had suffered heavy losses in this incident and would hardly rest on their laurels.

Of course, both Xia Chenyu and Fang Bai were aware of this, but they didn't take it seriously.

In Fang Bai's words, whether it's a plot hatched in the shadows or in broad daylight, it would be crushed to pieces in the face of absolute power.

If the Shen Family and Li Family were to compete fairly and squarely, Beauty Company would meet the challenge head-on. But if the two families resorted to foul play and slander again, Beauty Company's counterattack would be even sharper and stronger.

Besides, after secret negotiations between Fang Bai, Xia Chenyu, and Su Yifei, Fang Bai facilitated a deal to sell a portion of Beauty Company's shares to the Yanjing Lu Family, thereby drawing them into Beauty Company's camp.

As a result, Beauty Company was now backed by two major families: the Su Family of Zhongzhou and the Lu Family of Yanjing. The Shen Family and the Li Family would now have to be wary of harming a rat for fear of breaking vases, carefully considering the consequences before making a move against Beauty Company.

For the Yanjing Lu Family, investing in Beauty Company, which conducted legitimate business and earned honest money, was a positive move supported by everyone, including Old Master Lu, Lu Shengguo.

Moreover, Old Master Lu saw the collaboration with Beauty Company not only as a new source of income for the family but also as an opportunity to foster a good relationship with Fang Bai, a rare talent of the times—why not embrace it?

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From the beginning of the lunar month, posters started popping up in the streets and alleys of Zhongzhou City. According to the information on the posters, the "National Sweetheart" Ye Wumei was scheduled to land in Zhongzhou on the sixteenth day of the first month to hold a large-scale concert at the Zhongzhou Gymnasium.

As soon as the news broke, the city was abuzz.

Ye Wumei's fans spanned the global Chinese community, but her concerts were rare. Her arrival in Zhongzhou thrilled the local fans, with thousands organizing themselves to welcome her at the airport on the day of her arrival.

However, no one expected that on the evening of the fourteenth day of the lunar month, Ye Wumei arrived in Zhongzhou City, accompanied by a host of bodyguards and assistants, and checked into the "Four Seasons Spring Hotel" owned by the Su Family.

Due to tight security measures, only a very few people knew about Ye Wumei's arrival in Zhongzhou.

From the moment she set foot in Zhongzhou, Ye Wumei was in a state of excitement. After a brief rest at the hotel, she took her four personal female bodyguards in a van and quietly left for Fang Bai's house, claiming to visit her master.

The four female bodyguards accompanying Ye Wumei were Ye Lin, Ye Li, Ye Feng, and Ye Huang. All four had met Fang Bai before, knew of Fang Bai's capabilities, and were acutely aware of the relationship between Ye Wumei and Fang Bai—one that was partly mentor-student and partly friendly with a tinge of ambiguous affection.

Before leaving Lingnan, the family head, Ye Xing, had explicitly instructed the four to protect their mistress throughout the trip. However, he specifically mentioned that if the mistress decided to see Fang Bai upon reaching Zhongzhou, they should not meddle too much and simply allow her to proceed.

Ye Feng and the others knew very well that the family head had agreed to let Miss Ye associate with Fang Bai, and perhaps Fang Bai might become the Ye Family's son-in-law in the future.

Miss Ye was very fond of Fang Bai, and since Fang Bai practiced both medicine and martial arts with great strength and limitless prospects, as members of the Ye Family, Ye Feng and the others were pleased to see it happen.

Ye Wumei wanted to give Fang Bai a surprise, so she didn't inform him in advance about her visit to Zhongzhou City.

Although Ye Wumei had never been to Fang Bai's home in Zhongzhou City before, "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" was very famous in Zhongzhou, and the Fang Family was currently living in a large courtyard behind the clinic, so it was easy to find their place.

Less than half an hour after the business van left the "Four Seasons Spring Hotel," it stopped in front of the entrance to the Fang Family's courtyard.

Ye Wumei gestured to Ye Feng and the other three to wait in the car while she, carrying a few gifts, went up to knock on the door.

A moment later, the courtyard door opened, and a handsome young man appeared before Ye Wumei.

"Miss Ye? Why are you here?"

"Ghost Hand? What are you doing here?"

Ye Wumei and the young man were both startled when they saw each other, then asked simultaneously.

"I came here with my master before the New Year and have been helping out at my master's traditional Chinese medicine clinic. Miss Ye, you're here to see my master, aren't you?"

The young man was Ghost Hand, and upon opening the door and seeing Ye Wumei, he knew she was there for his master.

"I have a concert at Zhongzhou Gymnasium the day after tomorrow, and I came early to get accustomed to the environment! Also, I've encountered some issues in my cultivation recently and wanted to come to consult Fang Bai about them."

While Ye Wumei really wanted to see Fang Bai, she was too shy to say it directly, so she came up with this reason, planning to use it whenever someone asked.

When Fang Bai lived in that quadrangle in Yanjing, Ye Wumei had visited him more than once. Ghost Hand could certainly see the subtle relationship between the stunning "National Sweetheart" and his master.

Hearing that Ye Wumei had come to consult his master about cultivation issues, Ghost Hand found it amusing, but he wouldn't expose Ye Wumei's true intentions and stepped aside, saying, "Please come in, Miss Ye. My master and his family are watching TV inside the house!"

"Mhm."

Ye Wumei nodded, entered the courtyard, and looking at the closed door nearby, she started to feel nervous despite being used to grand scenes.

"Ye Wumei, Ye Wumei, it's not like you're climbing a mountain of swords or descending into a sea of flames, what's there to be nervous about? Fang Bai said before, his parents are both kind and amiable... Okay, don't be nervous... don't be nervous..."

Gathering her courage, Ye Wumei slowly approached the door, just about to knock when suddenly the door "creaked" open from the inside.

"Fang Bai?"

Seeing Fang Bai with a smile on his face appearing before her, Ye Wumei couldn't help but exclaim with joy.