

FMH Marriage 1201

Chapter 1201: Refreshing!

“What did you say?” Ning Xueluo’s expression changed to a dubious one.

If it was not Chang Li’s arrangement, could he really be Ning Xi’s man? This was impossible! Otherwise, who was this random guy?

Somewhere nearby, when Su Xun saw Su Yan’s item being snatched away, he felt refreshed. He glanced over and laughed, “Haha, he really thought Imperial is ruled by the Su family. However rich you are, there’s someone richer. Imperial has the most number of discreet wealthy men around! Stop thinking that you’re the richest person around!”

“You...” Ning Xueluo stopped arguing with him. She then gave Su Yan an imploring look. “Bro Yan...”

She had already expected to get the crown and even already released news that she would surely make it hers. Everyone also knew that Su Yan would give this crown to her during their wedding, yet it was now snatched away right before their eyes. How embarrassing!

Of course, she hoped that Su Yan would not give up and would snatch it back!

Su Yan did not want to back off as well, but after he saw Ning Xueluo’s expression, he looked worse for wear. It was \$ 100 million, nearly double his offer. He definitely could not continue because he could not gather that amount of money anyway.

Ning Xueluo understood as well. She leaned closer to Su Yan and whispered, “Maybe I can chip in a little as well?”

Su Yan frowned. “I would never take your money. Moreover, for the auction this time, they will sign the contract immediately after the deal is validated!”

What did that mean? It simply meant that paying \$ 100 million was a simple task for the person, and fighting with him would just make Su Yan look worse!

Ning Xueluo clenched her fists hard until her fingernails broke through her skin. “Damn it...”

Who was that? What was his purpose?

He had just ruined her plans...

Today was her first step towards building momentum for Su Yan and her wedding, and this had to happen...

On the stage, the auctioneer continued as no one replied, “Is no one going to offer higher? Okay, then...\$ 100 million, once! \$ 100 million, twice! \$ 100 million, thrice!”

Thud! After the hammer slammed down, the deal was complete.

Su Yan was quiet the whole time. He had nothing to say about that price.

Another person who looked just as terrible as him was Sun Zhanpeng.

“Congratulations to Mr. Eight for getting this crown! Now, let’s invite him to the stage to retrieve his item!” The auctioneer invited excitedly.

Everyone looked at the red carpet.

Who exactly was this number eight?

A person with such an absurdly wealthy background, yet he had raised the price dollar by dollar earlier. His suspicious behavior was so unpredictable that it really made people curious...

In the corner, Xiao Tao shook Ning Xi’s shoulder repeatedly out of excitement. “Oh my god! \$ 100 million! \$ 100 million! This was amazingly shocking! I don’t know who this is, but it’s refreshing! I’m happy as long as Ning Xueluo doesn’t get it! I’ve mistaken the man just now! But still, he’s really weird. Why did he raise dollar by dollar to buy your cheap bracelet?”

Chapter 1202: What A Beast

“Maybe he just really liked the bracelet? Hehe... Sis Xi, it was I who picked out the jade bracelet for you! I never knew my taste was this good, hahaha...”

Xiao Tao kept on talking and talking while Ning Xi remained silent as she felt uneasy.

The way this number eight acted seemed eerily familiar. Moreover, she thought that she saw a familiar silhouette earlier.

As everyone focused on the stage, a big and buff man who resembled a bodyguard went up to the stage. He mumbled quietly to the host, then swiftly signed the contract, paid for it, and left.

\$ 100 million! \$ 100 million...and he had signed it off just like that...

There was something unusual. When the guy left, he did not take the crown with him.

“What’s happening? Doesn’t he want the crown?” The crowd was disconcerted.

The auctioneer carefully took the crown in his hands and looked at the audience, his eyes bright as he said with utmost excitement, “Everyone, I’ve just received a request from our guest, Mr. Eight! The crown he bought at such a high price is a gift to someone among us today! Mr. Eight is a true fan of this lady!”

“What? A gift?!”

“Wow! A live gift presentation! What a beast! He spent \$ 100 million to buy a gift for a girl!”

“A true fan? Seems like a female celebrity! That’s some fan right there!”

“Whose fan is it!? He’s powerful!”

“I’m betting \$ 100 that it must be Ning Xueluo’s fan. Her fans are usually very powerful!”

...

Xiao Tao tried to peer as she mumbled to herself, “Please don’t be Ning Xueluo’s fan! Please! No! Please! If he’s Ning Xueluo’s fan, I’ll kill myself right now!”

Ning Xi was speechless.

At this moment, a buzz flooded the room. A few other famous celebrities and actresses including Ning Xueluo were the topic of discussion...

For suspense, the auctioneer waited until the time was right, then he announced, “The crown ‘Queen’ is gifted to...Ning Xi! Ms. Ning Xi, just now Mr. Eight also bought your jade bracelet. He’s truly a big fan of yours!”

The auctioneer was trying to heat up the atmosphere, but the crowd gave no response as their jaws went slack.

What!? Was the auctioneer kidding?

Are you sure he is a real fan and not a hater?

Xiao Tao’s eyes almost popped out.

At the same time, Ning Xi’s phone beeped as she received a new message: [My dear, do you like the present?]

Sender: Carrot Yun

When she saw the nickname “Carrot Yun” that she had changed herself appear on her screen, Ning Xi pinched the juncture between her eyebrows and her veins popped out on her head. Her expression was changing rapidly as well like she was going through a manic episode.

[Not! At! All!!!!]

She knew it...this familiar...crazy behaviour...

As expected, it was that guy!

Chapter 1203: Little Junior Sister Was Extra Touched, Wasn’t She?

“Oh... Oh my God! Sis Xi! Sis Xi, did you hear that?! That \$ 100 million crown...is actually for you! It’s a gift for you! Number eight is actually your fan! I almost thought it was your hater!” Based on the way Xiao Tao was, even if she did not die from hitting her head on a pole in her frenzied state, she was still about to die from excitement.

However, when she watched everyone else’s reactions, Xiao Tao was actually considered quite calm.

“Please, we would like to welcome Ms. Ning to come on stage.”

When they heard the host's words, the entire crowd exploded.

"It's actually Ning Xi..."

"How did this happen? Shouldn't the Ms. Ning he's referring to be Xueluo?"

"Is there some kind of confusion?"

...

"Please Ning Xi, Ms. Ning!" The host had probably picked up on the discussion in the crowd and had especially emphasized Ning Xi's name again.

Finally, no one was questioning it.

"The base price of this crown was \$ 30 million, but now at the transacted price of \$ 100 million, it means that this auctioned item has raised \$ 70 million in charity funds for us. Ms. Ning, you are undoubtedly the guest who has raised the most for us at this auction, and we really thank you for your contribution to charity. We sincerely wish you all the best in your acting career."

On the stage, the host was cordially praising Ning Xi, while Ning Xueluo looked beyond miserable and was completely uninterested in the host's words. She was, instead, drowned by hatred and jealousy.

She would never have thought that the person to steal this crown away from her would be Ning Xi.

Ning Xueluo was so bitter that she was shaking, and when she looked at Su Yan beside her, her expression was one of incredible sadness and misery. "Bro Yan, why? Why does Sis have to treat me like this? She knows that I like this crown. She knows what this crown means to me. Why must she steal everything that belongs to me?"

Su Yan did not expect that it would turn out like this either and he pinched between his brows in exhaustion. "Xueluo, Xiao Xi didn't mean to..."

"Didn't mean to? Would there be so many unintentional coincidences? For the last celebration banquet when you proposed to me, she already used all sorts of ways to steal my limelight, and now it's like this! She just can't afford to see me live well! I've been patient with her, yet she has humiliated me again and again. Bro Yan, I really can't stand it anymore..."

"Xueluo, even if Xiao Xi is capable, there's no way she could pull this off. It's probably just a fan that truly likes her. Don't be sad. Later on, I'll prepare something even better for you!"

"Bro Yan, why do you keep making excuses for her!? Are you also going to be stolen away by her? Are you starting to regret getting together with me?"

“Don’t talk nonsense.”

...

Inside a black-colored car, a silver-haired and pretty flirtatious-looking man just got in. Feng Xiaoxiao excitedly rubbed her hands together to ask, “How did it go? My trick isn’t bad, is it? A hero saving a damsel is a trick that works every time! Little Junior Sister was extra touched, wasn’t she?”

Once she said that, the man’s cold eyes shot her a look.

Feng Xiaoxiao felt goosebumps rise and she weakly coughed to ask, “W-what’s wrong?”

The man casually slid his black-colored phone across the seat. Feng Xiaoxiao quickly caught it and then looked at the phone, and she saw the conversation...

[My dear, do you like the present?]

[Not! At! All!!!!!!]

Feng Xiaoxiao was dumbfounded. “This...this is illogical!”

Chapter 1204: An Incompetent EQ

“How could this be? Little Junior Sister isn’t such an unreasonable person!” Feng Xiaoxiao repeatedly read the text messages and was further stupefied.

The man squinted his eyes and his lazy voice revealed traces of danger. “Are you trying to say... that I’m unreasonable?”

Feng Xiao Xiao coughed lightly and quickly waved to deny. “No, no, no! I wouldn’t! But this result is actually way too different than what I expected! Boss, did you really do as I told you to? Logically, Little Junior Sister hates that trash and bitch duo the most in China. You’ve helped her savagely slap them on the face in public. Even if Little Junior Sister doesn’t appreciate the kindness, she shouldn’t be scolding you either!”

Feng Xiaoxiao thought it was weird, then she looked to Tang Ye, who was beside the silver-haired man and asked, “First Senior Brother, how was the situation like? Could you tell me? It’s best to be more specific!”

Tang Ye’s glasses reflected the light from his laptop. When he heard her, he just typed a few words on the laptop and passed it to her. Feng Xiaoxiao quickly leaned closer to the laptop and saw the screen playing the live stream of the charity banquet...

The live stream was recorded by the organizers and there was a high amount of traffic. It was currently in the top spot of live streams, making it clear that some shocking thing must have happened at the charity banquet.

Feng Xiaoxiao was a busybody and excitedly clicked on it to watch. Sadly, the more she watched, the worse her expression became. All the way till the end, her face cringed as it was a spectacle too horrible to even endure...

With a resounding bam, Feng Xiaoxiao slammed the laptop shut as she looked at the two men with quivering hands and was green in the face. “You...you two...”

Moments later, the irate Feng Xiaoxiao who was about to explode finally forced herself to find the strength to speak, “My dearest Boss! Please allow my humble self to ask you sincerely, why did you increase your bid a dollar at a time before that? How does your brain even work?”

“I was happy to. Is there a problem?” The silver-haired man shot her a look from the side.

Feng Xiaoxiao clasped her chest dramatically and almost spit blood out. She could not communicate properly with this person, so she then turned to Tang Ye and raved bitterly, “First Senior Brother! You know the Boss’s EQ! Why did you just watch and not stop him?!”

Tang Ye opened his laptop and started to work on his complicated financial forms again. He did not even look up to say, “Why should I stop him?”

Feng Xiaoxiao was speechless.

Lord! Someone, please save her!

She was about to die from infuriation by this bunch of scoundrels with negative EQ!

She really should not have had any high hopes of them.

Feng Xiaoxiao looked like she was struggling to breathe as she said weakly, “Boss, since you’ve hired me to be your advisor... No, wait, your love advisor, then you should strictly follow the way I taught you to and not add any tricks for yourself! What’s the difference between your earlier actions compared to a hater? Little Junior Sister probably thought you were hired by Ning Xueluo to mess around!”

“It’s too troublesome.” The silver-haired man started to look irritated.

Feng Xiaoxiao was afraid of angering this guy, so she quickly softened her tone, “Hey, my dear Boss, if you want to keep a hold on Little Junior Sister’s heart, then it’s inevitable for things to be a little troublesome...”

Actually, money was the ultimate blame for this guy’s low EQ because to him, only one trick was needed to treat women — throw money, throw money, and throw more money. Besides, he was uninterested in man-woman matters. His brain worked in weird ways too, so naturally, he would never want to study such tricky matters of the heart.

Chapter 1205: Someone Is Stealing Your Wife!

She was initially hoping that First Senior Brother could advise the Boss by having him stay beside him, yet the two were like Tweedledee and Tweedledum. Unreliable!

The only people she was close to and had a normal functioning brain in the organization was Little Junior Sister and Second Senior Brother, but now that they were both gone, they had left her lonely and every day she got infuriated.

If not for the fact that she was seriously lonely, she would not have compromised to help that guy go after Little Junior Sister. If he could really get Little Junior Sister back, then that would definitely be a huge delight!

Sadly, now that she had tried this once, she would much rather move to the countryside to farm than teach this guy to court women anymore.

One hundred million dollars had floated away just like that...

...

In the CEO's office in the Lu Corporation.

"Second Master!"

"Second Master, you're here!"

"Hi, Second Master!"

...

"Where's my brother?"

"The CEO is in his office!"

Lu Jingli did not have time to attend to the others. He flew like a tornado past the employees and ran straight to the CEO's office.

He pushed open the door, and then...bam! Lu Jingli's hands were gripping his brother's work desk in desperation.

"My God, my God, my God! Bro! Why are you still in the office? Don't work anymore!"

Lu Tingxiao looked up from his mountain of documents and massaged his temples. "Did something happen?"

"Of course, something happened! Something huge has happened! There's some guy who's trying to pick up your wife!" Lu Jingli was beyond fury. The expression he wore was even angrier than having his own wife stolen, even though he did not have one.

Lu Tingxiao paid attention now and he cast a questioning look at his brother.

Lu Jingli quickly moved closer and used Lu Tingxiao's computer to search. He opened up a live stream and exclaimed, "Bro! Look, one hundred million, one hundred million! Yeah, a true fan sounds nice and all, but they're obviously coveting after your wife! Although, I don't know why this guy started by intentionally making fun of Xiao Xi Xi. Could it be to leave a stronger impression on her? Hmm, it must be! This is so cunning! Bro, you must not lose! Look, I've already helped you choose the present. Every one of them can definitely surpass that crown..."

Lu Jingli prattled on and had even started clicking on his iPad to show Lu Tingxiao the presents he found. There was a crown, a ring, and even a sports car. There was variety, and everything one could think of was listed!

It looked like he was confident of winning this round!

For a couple of seconds, Lu Tingxiao's eyes fell on the corner where the raised number eight card was. One could not read his expression...

"Bro, bro? Bro, did you hear what I say? The enemy has come in full force. We cannot be weak! Look at all these presents and tell me which one is suitable. I'll get them for you immediately!" Lu Jingli said impatiently.

"No need," responded Lu Tingxiao.

"How can there be no need?! It's too much of a need, I tell you! Even though you and Xiao Xi Xi are doing good now, there's still a need to protect this relationship! Things like gifts are still very important!" Lu Jingli said with a serious expression, then he frowned and mumbled, "Also...this number eight might be a little prank. Even I couldn't find out who he is and where he's from. How could I not know someone in Imperial with such wealth? But I can confirm that he's a crazy admirer of Xiao Xi Xi, otherwise, he wouldn't have spent like that. The thing is I'm not sure what his relationship is to Xiao Xi Xi. Maybe it's someone she knows..."

Lu Tingxiao leaned back in his chair and said with a cool expression and calm tone, "He's just an ex-boyfriend."

Lu Jingli was speechless.

Chapter 1206: Preparing A Gift

"What?!" Lu Jingli's eyes flew wide open. "Ex...ex-boyfriend? This guy is Xiao Xi Xi's ex-boyfriend? How do you know?"

Lu Tingxiao did not say anything and just returned to his documents.

For him to use \$ 100 million this easily and to display that erratic behavior...

He did not even need to investigate to know who it was.

Ning Xi had once said that that man had only been in a relationship with her for a day.

Even if Ning Xi once liked him or was even in love with him, it was all in the past...

Lu Jingli was impressed at how calm his brother was. "Right, both number eight and Su Yan are just her exes. No matter what they do, you're still the current one! Hehehe..."

After he looked through the last document, Lu Tingxiao picked up his coat and was about to leave.

"Er, Bro, where are you going?" Lu Jingli asked.

"To prepare a gift."

“Huh? You’re going to give Xiao Xi Xi a gift? What are you giving? You don’t need me to pick for you?” Lu Jingli was a little disappointed, but at the same time he was also curious, could his brother have something better for Xiao Xi Xi?

...

On the other hand, after the dinner ended, Ning Xi let Xiao Tao go home first, then she sent Annie a text message and asked her out for a meeting.

Although \$ 70 million for the crown went to charity, \$ 30 million was not a measly amount either. It was a gift from someone, so it would be inappropriate for her to donate it right away on stage, hence she had taken it with her. Now, she could only ask Annie to return it back.

She knew this money was worth near to nothing to a certain someone. She also knew he would never take back something he gave, but she had her own principles. She already had the devil, so of course, she would not take anything given by another man.

Although that person was not considered a man or even a human by her...

Before she met Annie, she purposely went back and took the huge diamond with her as well as the gift for Annie she had prepared beforehand.

...

Inside a guest room within a restaurant.

“Bro Xi!” Annie was really thrilled to see Ning Xi.

“This is for you.” Ning Xi gave her a pink plastic bag.

Annie saw the cute cartoon-shaped biscuits inside the bag and her eyes brightened. “Wow! How cute! Are these for me? Where did you get them?”

“I made them myself. I hope you’ll like it.”

“What? Bro Xi, you made them yourself? I really like them! Thank you so much!” Annie hugged them protectively. She did not expect Bro Xi to be able to make something this cute, so she was pleasantly surprised.

“I should be thanking you. Your prescription for my grandfather the last time was really effective,” Ning Xi said.

“It’s nothing, really. Bro Xi, you came looking for me... Is there something else you wanted to see me about?” Annie asked.

Ning Xi glanced at her. “Do you know what happened today?”

Annie was hesitant to speak up but did anyway, “Actually, I’m not too sure myself. I just know that Boss, Bro Ye, and Sis Xiao Xiao went out together. They seemed like they were going to look for you... Did you guys meet?”

Ning Xi's mouth twitched. Even First Senior Brother and Third Senior Sister had been there? What were they trying to do?

Ning Xi scowled. "Actually, I have a favor to ask of you. There are two things I'd like to return to Satan! Knowing him, he probably wouldn't want it, so just put them back in his room quietly for me. I wanted to go in person, but well, I really don't feel like going to where you guys are staying at again..."

Chapter 1207: Why Are You Suddenly Here?

As Annie stared at what Ning Xi just passed to her, she seemed like she had a lot to say, but she probably felt it was futile to say anything else, so she just replied shortly, "Alright! Bro Xi, I'll return this for you..."

"Thanks."

...

Inside a creepy villa in the outskirts, as promised, Annie went back and quietly opened a door to a certain room.

The Boss should still be out now...

The house was quiet and there was no light. She carefully walked towards the cupboard and wanted to put the item inside...

The moment she opened the cupboard, the candle on the wall lit up, and there was a voice beside her ear, "My little bait, what are you looking for?"

"Argh!" Annie looked back in shock and saw the man lying on the bed, her face turning pale right away. "Nope, nothing! I'm not looking for anything! I-I just..."

"Your hand." The man used an extremely cold voice.

Annie could not do anything else, so to prove her innocence, she took out the diamond and the crown from the bag.

The man understood instantly the moment he saw those items, and the atmosphere turned chilly all of a sudden. "The other one."

Annie then put the things in her right hand onto the bed as well, the cute cookies clearly seen through the transparent plastic bag.

"Leave what's in your right hand, throw what's in your left."

He meant for her to leave the biscuits there, and throw the others away?

"B-but...the biscuits are for me..." Annie looked reluctantly at her boss.

The man glared at her coldly, then Annie quickly left her biscuits and ran away.

How could he do this? Bro Xi made those cookies for me...

...

At Peachwood, after Ning Xi asked Annie to return the items, she felt relieved. It had been a long day and she was hammered. She changed into her slippers after she entered the house, leaving her bag aside. She started undressing as she walked into her room...

She took off her coat, then her stockings. She proceeded to take off her bra and jump onto her soft bed...

But when she jumped on it, she was dumbfounded.

It did not feel quite right!

It was hard...and warm... What was this? It feels like muscles, full of power... Did the blanket just gain some kind of human characteristic?

Ning Xi quickly rolled off the bed and clumsily turned on the light.

Suddenly, the room was bright as day.

She then saw...the devil lying on the bed, wearing a pair of silver-framed glasses. He was reading a book with his pajamas on and his hair was still a little wet. He had probably just come out of the shower. However, his pajamas were all messy now because of her, his chest bare...

This was the direct opposite of his usual cold look... How seductive...

Ning Xi put her hand on her chest and tried to calm her thumping heart down. "Lu...Lu Tingxiao, why are you here?"

He made space for her and patted the bed. "Come over."

Ning Xi gulped as she quickly went over and looked at her man. "Baby, what's happening? Why are you suddenly here?"

Warming the bed and sleeping with her?

He raised his eyebrows. "You don't like it?"

Chapter 1208: Only You, I Only Like You

Ning Xi shook her head vigorously. "Of course, I do..."

How could she not like it? It was just that her heart might not be able to take it.

He seemed satisfied with her reply. He kissed the girl's forehead gently, then her lips. His gentle kisses seemed like a tiny dip in the water, but it was packed with the torrent of a strong wave...

Ning Xi put her hand on her sensitive collarbone while she realized that the man's emotions were inconsistent with how he usually behaved.

Hmm, could the devil have known about what had happened today?

She just told him that she was attending a charity dinner. Furthermore, Lu Tingxiao was too busy to know everything about her. Still, there was the busybody Lu Jingli beside him, so...the possibility of him knowing was very likely!

“Who do you like more?” The man asked.

Ning Xi’s heart skipped a beat.

Of course, he would know! Lu Jingli, you busybody!

Damn it! She would get her payback later. What was important now was to comfort the wife...

Ning Xi turned around and straddled him. “What do you mean more? There’s no more to it. There’s only you, I only like you...”

The man’s dangerous stare turned into a passionate gaze as his hands placed themselves firmly around her hips...

“That busybody, what did he tell you again? I’ve already asked someone to return the gift back to the so-called fan. The bracelet doesn’t really mean anything to me as well. Xiao Tao just bought it for me. I’m someone with a family and I will only accept things from my sweetheart!”

Ning Xi suddenly realized why he was there and laughed, “So, you’re here to give me a present today? If I knew this would happen, I should’ve found a few more fans to make you more jealous!”

“Are you sure you can take it?” The man asked her suggestively.

Ning Xi’s heart skipped a beat again. “I’m just saying...”

“When’s your movie screening?” The man asked her.

Ning Xi was a little dumbfounded.

In her mind, the question sounded like “When are you going to marry me?”.

After a while, Ning Xi returned to her senses and she replied, “I just spoke to Director Chen on the phone yesterday. He said it’ll be released next week! Let’s go watch together, alright?”

She was really sad when she did not get to watch “The World” with the devil, but now that she had acted in this other movie with him, it was much more meaningful!

Lu Tingxiao nodded. “Mmm.”

“Oh, the movie that was snatched away by Liang Biqin will be released tomorrow. The marketing these few days has been especially intense. Everyone is talking about how awesome the script is, how good the production is, the special effects, and how prestigious all the involved actors are... I’m going to have a look tomorrow. I want to see how good it is! But for me to contribute to her movie, it makes me feel frustrated!” Ning Xi mumbled.

Lu Tingxiao took his laptop and after some clicking around, a movie started playing. It was Liang Biqin's "I Only Like You".

Ning Xi was surprised. "Wow! Boss, you're awesome! You even got the original cut? And it looks super-HD..."

Chapter 1209: Didn't You Want To Do Business In Bed? I'll Satisfy Your Wish!

The movie had not even been released yet, but Lu Tingxiao had already gotten a copy of it. Clearly, he had done it all for her.

Ning Xi was moved as she sighed, "Such a lovely person beside me, yet here we are, watching Liang Biqin's movie... This is too much of a waste..."

"Then, what would you like to watch?"

Ning Xi suddenly thought of something and smiled sneakily as she stroked her chin. "We should watch some romantic action movie or something like that... Wouldn't that be better for the mood?"

The man looked down at her and said, "Do you really think that with you by my side, I'd still need to watch such movies?"

Ning Xi was speechless.

Devil, your pick-up lines are increasing in depth...

She realized that every time she teased him now, the favor would be returned.

She coughed, "Let's just watch the movie!"

After close to two hours into the movie, Ning Xi had finished it without fast-forwarding any parts. To be honest, Ning Xi thought that it was not as bad as she had imagined.

Even though this movie Liang Biqin had acted in did not have a script as epic as Chen Mian's, the storyline was still quite strong and it had quite an original theme too. Otherwise, Ning Xi would not have taken interest in it back then.

After all, with the script and all that money thrown in, the effects were commendable. Apart from noticing the obvious traces of the stunt doubles and Liang Biqin's slightly awkward acting through her professional lens, there was not too much damage done.

Supported by the huge amount of money used for promoting the movie, and with all the big shots involved in it, they would definitely profit at the box office! Then again, that was inferred based on the perspective of the mass audience. Of course, if she were to honestly speak her personal perspective and standards, this was trash. The actors' acting was not mindful throughout; even the experienced actors were obviously not in the zone. They were practically fooling around, and it made her mad to see their quality of acting.

However, movies were shot like that nowadays. Even if there was poor quality, it would still rack up ticket sales based on marketing and the celebrity effect. This also created the phenomenon whereby directors and investors cared more about the popularity of actors rather than their talent.

“Boss, what do you think about Liang Biqin’s movie?” Ning Xi asked Lu Tingxiao’s opinion, cocking her head sideways.

However, when she heard no reply, she looked up and met his eyes...

Uhh, had he been not watching the movie all this while and been staring at her instead?

Okay, the devil’s reaction seemed to have summed up his views about this movie. It was not interesting at all to him...

“Mmm, Big Boss, when Chen Mian called me yesterday, he even asked if you and I have been... Um, by you, I mean Ke Mingyu... He asked me if I’ve been in contact with you! It sounded like he wanted to introduce an agent to you!” Ning Xi muttered.

“I’ll arrange it later on,” said Lu Tingxiao.

When Ning Xi heard his reply, her eyes instantly lit up. “You...you want to get an agent? Does this mean that you won’t disappear right after finishing this movie and that I’ll still have a chance to act with you in the future?”

Lu Tingxiao looked at her glassy-eyed. “Didn’t you want to do business in bed? Your wish is my command.”

Damn it! The devil’s taunting is so dirty!

Ning Xi threw herself on him and wailed, “My God! Previously, when I told Jiang Muye that I wanted to keep you as a mistress, he mocked me by saying that I would need to wait for my next life! Who would have thought that I’d get this chance in this lifetime?! My darling, I love you so much!”

Chapter 1210: I’ll Give You This Number

At night, in a private room in one of Imperial’s fancy hotels.

The room was all brouhaha and everyone exchanged toasts with each other. It was very lively.

The director of “I Only Like You”, Zheng Kangde, the producer, Wu Kai, the main actors like Liang Biqin, and the other creative staff were all present. At the main seat was a shrewd-looking middle-aged man dressed in a Giorgio Armani tuxedo. He was the manager of The People’s Cinema, Cui Zhihao.

Among the cinema box office ranking in Imperial, The People’s Cinema came in first place by raking in \$ 3.8 billion. When it came to a movie, the cinema manager was said to have the ultimate control of its number of shows on the premiere day.

To have settled Cui Zhihao was the equivalent of having guaranteed the success of half the box office.

In the industry, in order to get more screenings, accompanying them for meals and drinks were basic obligations. Blatant bribes like rebates and extra red packets were also a norm in the industry, and Imperial's number one cinema was no exception.

At the dinner table, Director Zheng Kangde eagerly offered a toast to Cui Zhihao. "Come on, Manager Cui, I will drink to you once more. We're counting on you to look after our movie!" Zheng Kangde said as he hinted at Liang Biqin before she quickly walked over to serve Cui Zhihao herself, while keeping her chest indistinctively close in contact with Cui Zhihao's arm.

Another actress was not ready to be outdone by Liang Biqin, so she flattered Cui Zhihao, "I've always heard that movies which Manager Cui takes interest in will definitely be a hit!"

Zheng Kangde quickly echoed, "Manager Cui is our industry trendsetter!"

Cui Zhihao was smiling from ear to ear with Liang Biqin on his left, and a beautiful second female lead on his right as he chuckled, "No, Director Zheng, your theme is fresh and it will attract all the younger audience. It's the driving factor in the current box office sales. Don't even mention the famous actors involved; with such strong marketing, you don't even need to tell me what to do. I will definitely prioritize it!"

"Manager Cui, you lavish us with too much praise. Whatever movies the audience watches are all decided by you. As great as our movie could be, we won't be able to escape your support!" When Zheng Kangde saw that the atmosphere was about right, he closed in and showed Cui Zhihao five fingers.

"As long as you support us fully, Manager Cui, I can make the decision on our end and give you this number!"

When Cui Zhihao saw the number Zheng Kangde's fingers revealed, his eyes instantly shone. This meant that he wanted to give him a 50% commission on the ticket sales!

Usually, if a movie distributor wanted to "collaborate" with a cinema, the cinema would suitably increase the number of screenings, but the pre-requisite was to get some sort of commission from the sales, which was also the so-called "red packet." These grey profits would mostly fall into the hands of the cinema manager.

Within the industry, the usual commission rate was 30%, so Zheng Kangde was being rather generous.

Based on Zheng Kangde's investment, the big shots, and the promotion of this movie, at least \$ 300 million at the box office was guaranteed. Based on the 50% commission, he could get more than \$ 10 million!

When he thought of this, Cui Zhihao instantly grinned. "Don't worry, Director Zheng, I can provide you with this number for the frequency of the movie screenings!"

Chi Zhihao then splayed out his five fingers at Zheng Kangde.

That was half of the total screenings!

Zheng Kangde instantly looked satisfied and gratified. "Manager Cui, you're frank indeed!"

In the current market, if the movie could occupy over 30% of the screenings, it would mean that there would be 50,000 shows in a day — definitely the standard for a blockbuster movie. The Hollywood blockbuster that exploded in popularity recently also only took up 50% of the allotted screenings.