

Golden 46

Chapter Forty-Six: The Mountain Villa

Under the incandescent light of the private room, Xu Wei's face was deathly pale, devoid of any color. At this moment, Qin Xuanbing's beautiful face appeared terrifying to him, like a demon wielding a steel fork. Xu Wei knew that what had happened here today, if publicized, might only be a minor problem for Xu's Jewelry Company—a matter that could be resolved with some money and connections. But for him personally, it was a huge problem, potentially costing him his position as General Manager of the company's East China division.

Xu Wei didn't know why Qin Xuanbing was targeting him so much. As the saying goes, "Don't be too unreasonable, and leave some room for others." He didn't have any deep-seated hatred for her. On the contrary, he was amazed by her beauty when they first met and tried to curry favor with her. But he never expected her to be such a vicious woman. Thinking of this, Xu Wei's eyes were full of resentment when he looked at Qin Xuanbing.

Most people like Xu Wei, who are self-centered in everything, are used to shifting blame onto others. He doesn't even consider that if the designer he hired hadn't plagiarized Qin Xuanbing's design, Qin Xuanbing wouldn't have gone to such extremes.

In the international jewelry industry, borrowing design concepts from others is understandable and acceptable. However, this British woman named Carole Bonney simply copied one of Qin Xuanbing's jewelry pieces from last year without making any changes. Furthermore, the platinum and diamonds she used were of very low quality, which was the most unacceptable thing for Qin Xuanbing.

In addition, Qin Xuanbing had some emotions she couldn't explain. For some reason, when she saw Zhuang Rui, who was very knowledgeable but low-key, she felt inexplicably annoyed by Xu Wei, who was flamboyant and had deliberately provoked Zhuang Rui several times. She forgot that just a few days ago, she had felt the same way about Zhuang Rui.

As for Qin Xuanbing's initial request to appraise the jewelry Xu Wei was carrying, it was purely to see the jewelry design level of Xu's Jewelry Company and thus infer the market trend of jewelry in mainland China. Who knew that the fake would meet the real deal? It can only mean that Xu Wei didn't check the almanac before going out today and was having some bad luck.

“Ms. Qin, I personally have absolutely no knowledge of Carol Bonnie plagiarizing your work. I would also like to thank you for exposing that fraudster's true colors. I will report this matter to the company headquarters immediately upon returning and will stop the production and promotion of this jewelry. If you have any further requests, please feel free to make them here, and we will consider them carefully.”

To say that Xu Wei was able to become the general manager of Xu's Jewelry East China Branch shows that he has some quick wit. These few words he said were very skillful. He not only shirked all his responsibilities, but also proposed solutions to the problems, demonstrating sufficient sincerity.

"I have no demands, I just hope your company can conduct fair trade and do less of the things that deceive consumers. As for Carol Bonney, he probably won't be in the jewelry industry anymore.

Qin Xuanbing replied calmly. From Xu Wei's company's business practices, she could already make a general judgment about the mainland jewelry market. It is understandable for businessmen to value profit, but abandoning morality for profit is a very short-sighted behavior. She believed that these companies would suffer the consequences for this in the future.

As for the British man who plagiarized her work, Qin Xuanbing didn't take it to heart at all. After this matter got out, she believed that no company would hire that person again, especially in the overseas jewelry industry, where it is almost impossible to stand without integrity. Often, a small reputation crisis is enough to bring down a big brand. In this regard, some domestic companies have not paid attention to protecting their brands while building them.

“Mr. Lü, what do you think...”

When Xu Wei heard that Qin Xuanbing refused to offer any terms, he felt uneasy. He looked at Old Master Lü, hoping he could smooth things over. Little did he know, Qin Xuanbing had no intention of pursuing the matter further. For her and Lei Lei, the more chaotic the mainland jewelry market was, the greater their opportunities for development after entering it.

Old Master Lü had been keeping a sullen face and hadn't said a word. Xu Wei was the one he brought along, and not only did he bring out inferior jewelry, but he also plagiarized other people's work, putting on such a good show of the real deal beating the fake. He had long lost face. If it weren't for the fact that Xu Wei was introduced by an old friend, he would have already reprimanded him.

Hearing that Xu Wei seemed to be asking for help, he couldn't help but sneer and said, "When you get back, you'd better keep a close eye on the product quality. Otherwise, if you enter the Pengcheng market, I, this old man, will lose face."

Old Master Lü's words were very blunt, meaning that Xu Wei should no longer try to enter the Pengcheng market through his connections with his inferior and counterfeit jewelry. Xu Wei's face turned red and white in turns, feeling extremely embarrassed.

"Let's go eat now, as a way of making amends to Miss Qin..."

Xu Wei made a final effort. If Qin Xuanbing would not pursue the matter of plagiarism, his room for maneuver within the company would greatly increase. As for passing off inferior goods as superior ones, that was a common phenomenon in the industry. As long as he put some effort into the media, consumers would never understand the intricacies of the matter.

"No need..."

Qin Xuanbing immediately refused Xu Wei's invitation, even though he should have been the one to treat her to the meal.

"Mr. Xu must have a lot to deal with right now, so let's postpone this meal and make it up to him next time.

Song Jun, the host, spoke up. He was extremely displeased with Xu Wei. Almost everyone who collects things has been fooled and paid the price, so they all deeply resent those who manufacture counterfeit goods. Song Jun and others also looked down on Xu Wei's company for selling inferior goods as superior ones.

Upon hearing Song Jun's words, Xu Wei had no face to stay any longer. He uttered a few perfunctory words and took his leave. However, the cold glint in Xu Wei's eyes after he left the private room showed that he already harbored resentment towards everyone in the room.

After Xu Wei left the private room, the atmosphere in the room immediately became relaxed. Liu Chuan said to Zhuang Rui with a grin, "Damn it, I can't stand that pretty boy. Now it's all good, the world is

peaceful. By the way, I say, Mu Tou, that pretty boy has been picking on you. Miss Qin just stood up for you. So, did you treat us to lunch at Tiandu?"

"Da Chuan is right."

"That's right, Xiao Zhuang, the money you've made from this one manuscript is more than I've made in decades. You must treat us to lunch."

Everyone started to egg Zhuang Rui on, clamoring for him to treat them to a meal.

"Okay, it's my treat today. Let's go to the Tiandu Hotel. I've never been to a five-star hotel before. We'll each have a bowl of porridge and plenty of dried radish..."

Seeing that he couldn't defy the crowd's anger, and feeling the check in his pocket, Zhuang Rui was full of confidence and readily agreed. However, what he said next surprised everyone, and then they burst into laughter.

The group, sharpening their knives, headed straight for the Tiandu Hotel. At lunchtime, no one tried to save Zhuang Rui any money, picking the most expensive dishes from the menu. Even Lei Lei and Qin Xuanbing, using the excuse of needing beauty treatments, each ordered a bowl of shark fin and bird's nest soup. Zhuang Rui was sweating bullets watching this. If it weren't for the salary card with over 20,000 yuan and the cash check with over 3 million yuan in his pocket, he probably would have run away to pee before even ordering the food.

After finishing the meal, Zhuang Rui realized that the millions of yuan in cash he had in his pocket was not as large as he had imagined. He discovered that the 20,000 yuan salary he had earned from a year of hard work was wiped out by this one meal. By that logic, the 3 million yuan was only enough to eat for a few months.

However, the meal was not without its merits. Zhuang Rui clearly sensed that Qin Xuanbing's attitude towards him had improved considerably. She praised his knowledge of antiques several times during the meal. Although Zhuang Rui believed he had never had any romantic feelings for this beautiful woman, he still felt a little flattered to have her favor. He no longer seemed so unwilling to spend the 20,000 yuan.

"What are you grinning about, kid? Are you thinking about that ice queen? They're leaving for Nanjing tomorrow. How about I arrange it again tonight and give you two a chance?" Liu Chuan said to Zhuang Rui with a smile as he drove him home.

"Just drive carefully. We're going to Tibet the day after tomorrow, haven't you packed everything?"

Zhuang Rui didn't want to discuss this issue with Liu Chuan, because he knew that after a few words, Liu Chuan would mock him about being a virgin.

"Hehe, don't worry, I'll pick you up tomorrow morning. We'll go buy some necessities for going out. Oh, and I'll give you a surprise then." Liu Chuan stepped on the brakes, bringing the car to a smooth stop downstairs at Zhuang Rui's house, and said to Zhuang Rui with a mysterious look on his face.

"Hey kid, is this what you call morning?"

Zhuang Rui glanced at his watch and was immediately furious. He had gotten up at around 8 o'clock to wait for Liu Chuan, but he hadn't seen him at all. He couldn't get through on the phone either, and it kept saying that the other party was out of service area. It was almost noon before the guy finally showed up.

"Hey buddy, don't be angry. I'm just taking those two ladies to the airport first. We can take care of our business this afternoon. It won't take up much time."

Liu Chuan bowed and greeted everyone as soon as he entered, which made Zhuang Rui unable to vent his anger. Actually, Liu Chuan had been on the phone with Lei Lei yesterday, and his phone was dead and he forgot to charge it. When he went to drop off Lei Lei and Qin Xuanbing this morning, he remembered that he had arranged to meet Zhuang Rui in the morning. However, when faced with the choice between male friends and female friends, Liu Chuan thought for a second and still chose the latter.

"Da Chuan, Xiao Rui, let's talk after we finish eating..."

When Zhuang's mother saw the two boys playing around at the door again, she called out to them.

"Da Chuan, you and Xiao Rui are going to Tibet. Be careful on the road. It's several thousand kilometers. Rest when you're tired. Don't drive when you're fatigued."

After dinner, while clearing away the dishes, Mrs. Zhuang gave her two sons some instructions. Zhuang Rui had told her about the trip to Tibet yesterday. Although Mrs. Zhuang always trusted her sons, as the saying goes, "a mother worries when her son travels a thousand miles," she couldn't help but feel a little worried about driving to such a far place.

"Godmother, it's alright. I drove to Yunnan last year, which is even farther than Tibet. Don't worry about it. When we come back, we'll bring you some Tian Shan snow lotus and saffron. We guarantee it will make you look twenty years younger."

While bantering with Zhuang's mother, Liu Chuan pulled Zhuang Rui downstairs. He had been deeply influenced by his mother and godmother's teachings since childhood, and hearing these words gave him a headache.

After getting in the car, Liu Chuan drove towards the outskirts of the city. Zhuang Rui saw that he was driving towards Yunwu Mountain Villa. Sure enough, after about ten minutes, Liu Chuan drove the car to the gate of Yunwu Mountain Villa.

Yunwu Villa is located at the confluence of Yunlong Lake and Yunlong Mountain. It is a high-end residential area with only 32 stacked villas, with a total construction area of more than 60,000 square meters. The surrounding environment is extremely beautiful, adjacent to tourist attractions such as Yunlong Mountain, Yunlong Lake, and Xiaonan Lake. With clear waters and green mountains, picturesque scenery, numerous cultural relics and historical sites, and extremely rich tourism resources, it has been a treasure land in the hearts of countless literati, scholars and wealthy gentry since ancient times.

In addition, the government's strict restrictions on land use in scenic tourist areas near Yunlong Lake in recent years have made land resources in this area extremely scarce. As a result, Yunwu Villa has become somewhat mysterious in people's minds, and the identities of the owners of these 32 villas have become a selling point in people's daily conversations.

Zhuang Rui had heard people say in casual conversation that even the cheapest villa here costs tens of millions of RMB, yet many people still flock to it, seeing it as a symbol of status. Zhuang Rui was astonished when he heard this. Although he had heard of it for a long time, this was Zhuang Rui's first time visiting.

Security at the resort was extremely tight. After checking Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan's ID cards, the security guard at the gate spoke with the resident Liu Chuan was going to via walkie-talkie before allowing them to pass. However, their car was left in the parking lot outside, and a security guard drove a golf cart to take them inside.

Upon entering the resort, Zhuang Rui discovered that most of the trees planted there were southern species. Although it was winter and the treetops in the city were almost bare, the resort was a completely different world from the outside. Even the lawns were cold-resistant green varieties. Everywhere he looked, there was lush greenery and vitality, which made him feel relaxed and happy without even realizing it.

The villas in the resort are all unique. Although the exteriors of the villas are generally the same, they are all distinctive in the details and have some changes. Some people have transformed the gate of their villas to resemble Western architecture, while others have built artificial hills and pavilions at the gate of their villas, which are full of the beauty of classical Chinese architecture.

Zhuang Rui even saw that in the front yard of one villa, there was a huge vegetable garden covered with plastic film, like a rural greenhouse. Zhuang Rui couldn't help but be speechless. These rich people really have unique hobbies.

The electric scooter stopped in front of a villa. Liu Chuan jumped off and, without ringing the doorbell, started banging on the door, seemingly quite familiar with the owner.

"You little brat, why didn't you ring the doorbell? Why did you kick the door? You want a beating?"

The door opened with a click, and a person came out to greet them. Zhuang Rui looked up and was taken aback. Hey, it was someone he knew...