

## Hidden 201

### Chapter 201: Goodnight, I Love You

Seeing that Ning Xi had come, Lu Tingxiao looked relieved. "Are you done?"

"Well, I've almost memorized the whole thing." Ning Xi nodded, carried Little Bun to the bed, and tucked him in.

Little Bun immediately stretched his hands to pick up the colorful fairy tale book which he had rejected, gesturing for her to read it.

"Continuing from where we stopped last night?" asked Ning Xi.

Little Bun's little hands gripped the edge of the quilt and he nodded sweetly.

"Well then, today let's read <A Polite Little White Rabbit>..." Ning Xi cleared her throat and began to recite the story, "On the hot summer day, the bird cried in the tree: 'Hot, hot!' The beautiful little white rabbit wearing a beautiful floral dress hummed a song while skipping over a bridge. It was on its way to pick mushrooms..."

While Ning Xi read the story, Lu Tingxiao sat in a chair next to her, tilting his forehead and listening quietly to her soft, sweet voice.

He seemed to understand why his son insisted on listening to such childish stories every night before bed.

What mattered was not the story, but who was reading it.

After less than five minutes of listening, Little Bun became sleepy-eyed, and Ning Xi patted his back. Very soon, the little boy was sleeping soundly.

"Sorry to trouble you," said Lu Tingxiao, thanking her.

"No trouble," replied Ning Xi with an expression of mixed emotions. "Lu Tingxiao, did you know? Actually, I used to really hate children!"

"Hate?"

Ning Xi nodded, but did not tell him the real reason. "I just thought kids were very annoying. I wanted to hide every time I saw one... I never thought that I would come to like Little Bun as much as I do. It's hard for me to express it, but I always feel some kind of special connection between us. It's probably fate, like in the stories!"

Lu Tingxiao looked at her deeply. "There are no impossibilities in this world, only what you have yet to experience."

Ning Xi was slightly stunned and vaguely replied, "Probably. It's late, I'm going to have a bath. Boss, you should also sleep early!"

"Alright." Lu Tingxiao nodded and suddenly leaned towards her.

Ning Xi was startled and reared back subconsciously. Lu Tingxiao came so close that he was nearly cheek to cheek with her, but he just moved past her, kissed Little Bun behind her, and quietly said, "Goodnight."

Later that night, while Ning Xi was half asleep, she felt like she had a dream. She dreamed that Lu Tingxiao was sitting on the edge of her bed, kissing her lips, and saying, "Goodnight, I love you..."

Well, another strange dream...

Why did it feel so real even though it was just a dream...

Meanwhile, at the Regal Riviera Hotel.

It was already late, but the lights were still bright in Ning Xueluo's apartment and the atmosphere was extremely oppressive.

Chang Li and Cui Caijing sat in a corner of the sofa, neither daring to make a sound.

Since it had come to this, was she going to blame them again?

Who could have expected Ning Xi to sign on with Glory World Entertainment right after being driven out of Starlight?

It would have been easy to deal with her if it were any other company. Those other companies would not have been able to promote the artiste who had been blacklisted by Starlight.

But this was Glory World!

In front of Glory World, Starlight Entertainment's ban was just a piece of worthless paper.

Chang Li wanted to comfort Ning Xueluo, to tell her that Ning Xi was so infamous, even Glory World wouldn't be able to do anything.

However, she really didn't have the confidence to say anything.

After all, this time, even Lu Tingxiao had come out...

## **Chapter 202: Lineup of A Lifetime**

Not only did they underestimate Ning Xi, but they had underestimated her to a ridiculous degree!

To them, the press conference being held by Glory World at nine o'clock tomorrow morning was like a timebomb. Anything could happen.

Starlight's press conference had only just ended, but Glory World's reaction was so fast that there could be no doubt it had been premeditated.

At present, even their water army was unable to reverse public opinion. What people everywhere were waiting for was tomorrow's press conference. All of the city's media correspondents would probably attend.

Irritated, Ning Xueluo paced through piles of smashed objects, looking like a caged beast. "What exactly is Glory World's press conference supposed to be about? You haven't heard anything?"

Chang Li shook her head. "We've tried all kinds of methods, but Ning Xi's matter is probably only known by some members of Glory World's senior management team. No one else heard anything about it until they read Lu Jingli's Weibo message. We can't learn anything at all!"

"What about Lin Zhizhi? Didn't she forward Ning Xi's Weibo message? She must be her agent! She must know something!"

Chang Li noticed Ning Xueluo's obviously chaotic appearance, and sighed. "Before, when Lin Zhizhi was also in charge of Leng Manyun, we fought and grabbed her role. How can we possibly learn anything from her?"

Ning Xueluo was infuriated. "This doesn't work, neither does that. Do we have to just sit and wait until morning?"

Chang Li would have liked to reply that there really was nothing they could do but sit and wait.

Ning Xueluo downed the rest of the wine on the table, and a sharp light flashed through her eyes. "That bumpkin! So what if she joins Glory World? So what if she has them backing her! Does she think she'll be able to rest easy after joining Glory World?"

Cui Caijing hurriedly seized the opportunity to approach and say something nice. "Yeah! Sister Xueluo, as long as she still has that stain, she'll be unable to lift her head before you all her life! Besides, there must be an inside story to her joining Glory World, we'll have plenty of chances to catch her doing wrong! With people like her, Glory World would also be incriminated by association sooner or later..."

...

The next morning, Pearl Hotel banquet hall.

All the reporters and media correspondents were ready and anxiously waiting for the main attraction to show up.

The entertainment industry hadn't had such big news for a long time.

They felt that any selling point today could become a headline.

In addition to the reporters on the scene, all the people who were following the matter with interest were sitting by a TV, waiting for the live telecast.

At nine o'clock, the people of Glory World took their seats one by one.

In the middle sat Ning Xi with Lin Zhizhi on her left and Lawyer Chen Jing on her right. The Director of the Public Relations Department, Liang Feixing, and Lu Jingli were also present.

Just the lineup alone had already stunned numerous reporters.

"God! My dog eyes! Ning Xi's agent is actually Lin Zhizhi! This is like covertly announcing that Leng Manyun's retirement is real! What does Glory World mean by arranging Lin Zhizhi to be Ning Xi's agent? Do they want her to be Leng Manyun's successor?"

"Why does the man on Ning Xi's right look familiar? Isn't he that lawyer, Chen Jing, who handled that big economic case some time ago?"

"Liang Feixing also appeared in person..."

"So what if it's Liang Feixing? The General Manager, Lu Jingli, is also sitting there, okay!"

"God! This lineup! How amazing! A lifetime series!"

"Yeah! Which press conference for an artiste has ever had this kind of turnout?"

...

### **Chapter 203: A Huge Plot Reversal**

The first to speak was Lu Jingli. "First, allow me to introduce you to the newest member of our Glory World, Ning Xi."

Ning Xi stood, bowed to the media and the cameras, then sat back down.

The photographers shot photos one after another.

Today, Ning Xi was wearing a black woman's suit with neutral makeup on, very suitable for formal occasions.

Lu Jingli continued, "Next, the questions regarding our Leng Manyun that many netizens have asked will be answered by her agent, Miss Lin Zhizhi, one by one."

If it had been before, anything about Leng Manyun would definitely be the focus of attention, but now it unexpectedly became a topic that everyone hoped would finish as soon as possible...

Luckily, Lin Zhizhi's style had always been very efficient. She used a few words to simply announce Leng Manyun's marriage and her intention of focusing on her family in the future, which affirmed people's guesses that Ning Xi was indeed being trained as Leng Manyun's successor.

At that moment, a reporter spoke up, asking, "We only want to know why Glory World wants to sign an artiste with no morals, and even set her up as Leng Manyun's successor! Isn't Glory World afraid that doing so will ruin you?"

He was echoed by other reporters.

"Aren't you ruining Glory World's good name, a single rotten apple can spoil the whole barrel!"

"Have all your senior managers been bewitched by witchcraft?"

"Glory World, I would like to see if you can explain this properly!"

...

Lu Jingli and Chen Jing eyed each other. "Now we will be hearing from Lawyer Chen. Please, keep quiet."

Lawyer Chen?

They had been wondering why a lawyer would be invited to this press conference, so they all curiously turned to Chen Jing.

Chen Jing used his mouse to click something on the laptop screen before him, then everyone heard a voice through the speakers —

[It wasn't Ning Xi! Ning Xi wasn't the one who bribed me! It was someone else who asked me to tamper with the prop! But I don't know who that person is! I received an anonymous email with all the instructions in it, and ten thousand yuan was deposited directly into my account. They said that I would receive another ten thousand after it was done!]

The voice paused and there was three seconds of silence, then the audience screamed.

Lu Jingli's eyes became cold. "Keep silent, please."

The reporters reined in their shock and breathed hard, staring.

Then, the big screen behind Chen Jing lit up to display two images. One was of the IP address which sent the anonymous email; it was unexpectedly at the Regal Riviera Hotel where Ning Xueluo was staying. The other image was of the anonymous account which had been cracked. It belonged to Ning Xueluo's assistant, Cui Caijing.

At that moment, the shouting could no longer be suppressed.

However, it wasn't over yet.

Chen Jing next displayed Ning Xueluo's certificate of injury and her doctor's diagnosis report, proving that at the time of the incident, Ning Xi had quickly pulled back her hand, withdrawing her strength almost immediately after realizing that something was amiss. As a result, Ning Xueluo had only sustained a very light skin injury and could have left the hospital that same day.

Despite this, Ning Xueluo had remained in the hospital for several days, pretending to be very weak due to her 'serious' injury and blood loss.

After displaying the evidence, Chen Jing brought out a lawyer's letter and said that he had filed a formal complaint against Ning Xueluo for slandering Ning Xi.

#### **Chapter 204: We Certainly Have A Special Relationship**

Compared to Lu Jingli, who had the distasteful hobby of keeping others guessing, Chen Jing's quick and efficient presentation of evidence took only three minutes, leaving everyone on site confused and disoriented. It was like atomic bombs had been set off one after the other.

Sitting beside him, Liang Feixing suddenly found that there was not much left for him to do, so he touched his nose and said, "Okay, let's move on to the question-and-answer session. You can ask anything you want!"

Reporters: "..."

What... what could they freaking ask!!!

The dramatic reversal had been like a tornado; they had no idea what to ask!

In fact, they had guessed from the start that Glory World might have been planning to clear Ning Xi's reputation, and they even considered the possibility that Zhang Qiang had been bribed to frame her.

But no one could have guessed that the person who had bribed Zhang Qiang was Ning Xueluo herself, or that this whole charade had been directed and acted out by Ning Xueluo from behind the scenes.

Had Ning Xueluo been fooling those reporters who prided themselves on being righteous, together with all the enthusiastic netizens who had denounced Ning Xi, all this time?

It was extremely difficult for them to accept this fact, but the irrefutable evidence was right in front of them and couldn't be denied.

Finally, after a long time, one hand was weakly raised from within the crowd.

Liang Feixing signaled for him to ask his questions.

The reporter who had raised his hand stood up and looked at Chen Jing. "I would like to ask the lawyer, how did you get this evidence? Is it legal? How can you prove its authenticity?"

Chen Jing glanced at the reporter and then spoke. "I am here, that is enough to prove its authenticity."

"Er..." The reporter was speechless, and unable to contradict him.

After all, Chen Jing's authority and professionalism were well-known, so his asking such a question was really just him embarrassing himself...

"The channels through which we acquired the evidence are also legal. The police have already been involved in this matter." Chen Jing's face as he said these words looked impartial and trustworthy. He didn't bat an eye.

All the reporters nodded and no longer doubted the validity and authenticity of the evidence.

Embarrassed, Ning Xi tucked her hair behind one ear. She really admired Big Lawyer Chen. Sitting beside him, she felt extremely guilty, okay?

What legal means? The oral confession had been extorted through torture, and the evidence had been obtained through Lu Tingxiao's hacking...

No wonder she'd felt a sense of déjà vu when she'd first met Chen. She finally understood that it was because Chen's work style was very similar to that of Lu Tingxiao's.

Sure enough, birds of a feather flock together.

One after another, the reporters then broke out of their shock and came to their senses before competing to ask questions.

Reporter: "I want to ask General Manager Lu, why are you spending so much time and energy helping Ning Xi? Do you have a special, private relationship with Ning Xi as the rumors say?"

Lu Jingli touched his chin and thought, they certainly had a special relationship. Ning Xi was his future sister-in-law!

"The relationship between Ning Xi and me is, to put it briefly, like Bo Le and a swift horse.

"As for why I am spending so much time and energy, it's because I believe in my eyes and ability to judge people. She is worth it.

"I will say this here today: in the future, you will realize that this is the greatest investment I have ever made, and Starlight will be sorry for losing Ning Xi!"

...

Bo Le was a famous Chinese horse tamer.

### **Chapter 205: Make More Money for the Boss**

Lu Jingli gave a flawless, perfect answer.

The journalists realized that they couldn't get what they wanted from Lu Jingli, so they moved on to Ning Xi.

Although Ning Xi was the star of today's press conference, Glory World was providing her with watertight protection. She didn't need to personally deal with anything.

Journalist: "Ning Xi, as far as anyone knows, you have a close relationship with Ning Xueluo. What is her motivation? Is there a misunderstanding between you two?"

Ning Xi: "This question, I think you are asking the wrong person."

Journalist: "The staff at your apartment said that you left it a few months ago, what do you have to say about that?"

Ning Xi: "Nothing. It's my freedom to live wherever I want."

Journalist: "So where have you been staying for all this time? Can you tell us?"

Ning Xi: "At a friend's place."

Journalist: "Does Jiang Muye know about your joining Glory World? It's said that you two have a good relationship as fellow cast members, is he involved in this incident?"

Ning Xi: "He knows; yes, we are ok; and no, he doesn't."

Journalist...

Ning Xi was really difficult to deal with, it was impossible to get any gossip out of her...

The journalists were helpless, so they had to give up on the sensitive questions and asked about something else: "To be able to join Glory World can be seen as a blessing in disguise, what are your thoughts on that?"

Ning Xi: "I plan to work hard and make more money for my boss, to thank him for his appreciation and prove him right."

The journalists assumed the boss she mentioned was Lu Jingli, only Lu Jingli knew that she was talking about his brother.

Tut Tut, his brother would be so happy to hear that!

"Ok, this is the end of today's press conference. If you have further questions you can make appointments for private interviews. From now on, Ning Xi's manager, Ms. Ling Zhizhi, will be responsible for her public issues." Liang Feixiang stood up and ended the conference.

The journalists couldn't get enough of it; Starlight's press conference had lasted three hours and accused Ning Xi in various ways, but Glory World had exposed such explosive news in only 30 minutes. Who had the upper ground was clear to see.

As the journalists were about to leave, Lu Jingli suddenly spoke up. "Wait."

What?

More news?

The journalists all turned around excitedly.

Lu Jingli smiled nicely, as always, and kindly reminded them, "Haven't you all forgotten something?"

Eh, forgot what?

The journalists looked at each other, confused.

Lu Jingli was still smiling, but there was no warmth in his eyes. "Ning Xi has been blamed by you all for so many days and was made to carry so many false accusations. None of you will say anything about that? That's not very polite, right?"

The journalists were all embarrassed and hurriedly competed to apologize to Ning Xi, all while hating Ning Xueluo on the inside.

Ning Xi raised her eyebrows and thought that this funny little corp was pretty good at scaring people when he got serious!

However, Lu Jingli returned to his usual self as soon as they were backstage and happily jumped up and down...

"Little Xi Xi, Little Xi Xi, my dearest Little Xi Xi... You have nothing scheduled for this afternoon, shall we eat at home tonight? I will buy materials, wash the vegetables, and clean up the dishes, all you need to do is cook!"

"..." At once, Ning Xi took back all of her previous thoughts and just wanted to kick this dummy's ass...

Did he know how easily his words could be misunderstood?

## **Chapter 206: The Truth Comes Out**

Liang Feixiang was so shocked that he didn't even notice his glass had fallen over and the water splashed everywhere...

He finally understood; no wonder the Big Boss himself had asked about Ning Xi so late at night. Ning Xi and Lu Jingli had that kind of relationship?

In her mind, Ning Xi beat Lu Jingli 100 times; outwardly, her smile was so stiff that her face looked paralyzed. "Young Master, I can't tonight, I made plans with friends. I'll have to take a rain check!"

Then, in a natural manner, she turned to Liang Feixing, Ling Zhizhi, and said, "Director Liang, Sister Ling, Lawyer Chen, if you're available, do join us! I once claimed to be a good cook and Young Master kept it in mind all this time. He is always asking me to cook for him to express my gratitude; I can't let him keep all the good stuff to himself! Thank you all so much for today! Thank you!"

After she finished, bowed deeply.

Just like that, Ning Xi was able to resolve all the embarrassing misunderstandings with just a few words.

Ling Zhizhi nodded in appreciation and thought that this artiste was good at crisis management. She had also done well in the press conference, she was indeed a good investment.

As for her relationship with Lu Jingli, it seemed easily to misunderstood, but there was obviously no chemistry between the two. They should just be very close friends.

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Regal Riveria Hotel, Ning Xueluo's apartment.

Su Yan brought nutritious food on his early morning visit. After some sweet talk, Su Yan looked at the time and turned on the TV.

On the screen, the Glory World Entertainment Press Conference had just started and Lu Jingli was introducing Ning Xi as a new member of the company.

Ning Xueluo hadn't slept at all, she had to put on a thick layer of makeup just to cover the dark circles under her eyes. She'd stayed awake to see the live broadcast, but didn't expect Su Yan's arrival.

She didn't know what would happen, so she didn't want to watch it with Su Yan.

Ning Xueluo clung to Su Yan's arm like a little girl. "Brother Yan, what's so good about watching TV, pay attention to me instead! Let's do something else?"

Su Yan patted her hand and continued to watch the screen attentively. "Xueluo, be quiet."

"Brother Yan, why do you care so much about Ning Xi?" Ning Xueluo pretended to be jealous of her.

"Don't you care? You don't want to know what the conference is about?"

"I..." Ning Xueluo choked. "Of course I care about Xiao Xi! I just don't like that you're giving her all your attention!"

"Ok, don't act like a child. Be quiet and watch with me." Su Yan was abnormally firm about it.

Ning Xueluo gnashed her teeth and could only sit there like she was sitting on needles, watching the broadcast.

Ling Zhizhi was explaining Leng Manyun's decision to retire from the entertainment industry, then a reporter stood up and asked why Glory World wanted to sign on Ning Xi.

Ning Xueluo's heart was in her throat, she wished the situation would descend into chaos and end poorly.

Unfortunately, this was a Glory World event. Even if the journalists wanted to make a scene, they wouldn't be able to voice more than a few complaints.

Ning Xueluo cautiously watched Su Yan's reaction, but realized that Su Yan's eyes never once left Ning Xi, even though Ning Xi didn't say a word throughout the whole process.

Ning Xueluo suddenly felt danger approaching; at the same time, the lawyer clicked his mouse and a familiar voice started to play...

It was Zhang Qiang's voice!!!

Ning Xueluo's heart sped up and she comforted herself non-stop. Even with Zhang Qiang's testimony, Ning Xi would only be able to prove herself innocent. Nobody would find out that she, Ning Xueluo, was the one behind everything.

What happened next, however... smashed her hopes one by one...

### **Chapter 207: How Can I Continue to Trust You?**

The remote control dropped on the floor, Ning Xueluo's whole face was colorless and twisted.

She'd thought the worst-case scenario would be Ning Xi successfully proving herself innocent; she wouldn't have expected in a million years that Ning Xi would be able to find concrete evidence to expose herself.

The sender of that anonymous email benefited from both sides? Blackmailed her for 8 million and then turned around and sold the evidence to Glory World right after?

On the TV, a reporter was asking Ning Xi: "Ning Xi, as far as anyone knows, you have a close relationship with Ning Xueluo. What is her motivation? Is there a misunderstanding between you two?"

Ning Xueluo's fingers quivered and she quickly turned off the TV, threw away the remote control, and then tightly grasped Su Yan. "Brother Yan, let me explain..."

Ning Xueluo felt Su Yan trembling all over after she hugged him, his tightened fists creaking, and his gentle face looked extremely pale and awful...

She had never seen Su Yan like this before!

Profound fear swallowed up Ning Xueluo's heart, she could only grasp Su Yan tighter and explain in a rush, "Brother Yan, it wasn't me... It truly wasn't me... I didn't know anything about it... I didn't expect that Cui Caijing would do such thing! Maybe she wanted to set me up because I called her names several times when I wasn't feeling well?"

Su Yan let her grasp him however she wanted, but he didn't move at all and his voice was without warmth as he spoke. "If Cui Caijing was framing you, then why would she ask Zhang Qiang to set up Ning Xi? What benefit could she get?"

Ning Xueluo's face froze and she spoke up again immediately, "She wanted someone to be a scapegoat! She followed me everywhere and knew that Ning Xi treated me horribly in private, so if she put the blame on Ning Xi, I wouldn't suspect her at all..."

"Even if I believe your far-fetched explanation, what about your injury?" Su Yan continued asking.

Ning Xueluo had managed to calm herself down a bit and explained as if she was the one who had suffered an injustice, "I said from the beginning that I was fine, daddy and mummy were just too worried about me and asked me to stay in the hospital all that time. Brother Yan, you know that I was mentally and physically exhausted at that time and felt horrible. How could they blackmail me like that!"

Deep sorrow flashed across Su Yan's numb face. "Xueluo... how can I continue to trust you?"

Ning Xueluo bawled her eyes out, grabbing his hand tightly and looking at him as if he was her only redemption. "Brother Yan! Trust me! Please trust me! People must be criticizing me everywhere out there, if you don't trust me, how will I be able to move on? The people who don't know me, I don't care about them, but don't you know me? You think I would do something like this to Xiao Xi? Brother Yan, please... please... don't abandon me..."

Su Yan looked sluggish and absentminded; he had no reaction.

Ning Xueluo stared at him nervously.

After half an hour, Su Yan finally took a deep breath and pushed her hand away, then staggered out the door.

Ning Xueluo panicked. "Brother Yan, where are you going?"

"Don't follow me, I need some peace and quiet."

"Bang," the door was shut.

In the room, Ning Xueluo, like a piece of rotten clay, crashed to the floor like she had just been struck by a huge disaster, then swiftly called Chang Li...

### **Chapter 208: When Did I Flirt?**

Su Yan tumbled downstairs and drove aimlessly on the busy streets.

All he could think about was that day when Ning Xi had covered Ning Xueluo's wound and called out for help, and how he had rudely pushed her away...

About how Ning Xi had been stubborn at the hospital, refusing to lower her head in front of the unfair accusations from Mr. and Mrs. Ning...

About all those hurtful and accusatory words he had sent to her, word by word, sentence by sentence...

After the incident, he hadn't considered for even a second to stand by Ning Xi's side and to listen to her explanation.

He'd said himself that he would treat her like his own little sister even though they were no longer in a relationship, but he had been hurting her all this time.

Xueluo had him, her loving parents, the company, and her fans...

What about Ning Xi? She had been blamed by the whole world and bore everyone's accusations, bore all the injustice, all by herself.

In the end, it was a complete stranger who had found her justice, not those who claimed to care for her...

Through the car window, he could see Ning Xi answering the reporters' questions on the shopping mall's big LED screen with a serious face: "I plan to work hard and make more money for my boss, to thank him for his appreciation and prove him right."

He knew that she wasn't saying those things for show. She was being sincere. That's how she was; those who showed her even just a bit of kindness, would in turn be treated with all her heart...

He'd thought that she was the one who had changed, but the truth was, it was him who was no longer the same.

Like crazy, the image of Ning Xi walking out of the hospital gate all by herself kept repeating in his head...

That helpless, lonely view of her back...

His heart hurt like it was being twisted by a knife...

...

At night, VIVI Bar.

This wasn't a big bar, not in a good location, either, but it was very tastefully decorated. All the industry people went there. It was private enough, so they could relax and have gatherings.

When Ning Xi arrived at the box, Jiang Muye was already there, sitting on the sofa with his legs crossed. There were a few empty wine bottles on the coffee table.

Ning Xi removed her mask and sunglasses. "Hey, hey, hey, started all by yourself?"

Jiang Muye made a disdainful sound. "Didn't you quit drinking? What's the point of waiting for you, I would be drinking by myself anyways!"

Ning Xi shrugged. "Ok, forget it, you go on! Ordered me some fresh juice yet?"

"Order my ass! How can you find fresh juice in a bar?" Jiang Muye stared at her impatiently.

Then Ning Xi pressed the service button.

A handsome young man came in and smiled. "Miss, what can I get you?"

Ning Xi took out a big bill, put it in his pocket, and winked. "Handsome, can you go buy me two bottles of juice?"

Stunned, the young man blushed and smiled. "At your service."

Jiang Muye opened his eyes so wide that his eyeballs looked like they were going to fall out. "Ning Xi! Stop it, why do you flirt with all the good looking guys?"

Ning Xi instantly gave him a kick. "Screw you! When did I flirt! A dirty mind makes for dirty vision!"

Jiang Muye dusted the dirt off his pants. "Don't talk about meaningless things! Get to the point!"

"You started the meaningless talk first!" Ning Xi gave him a contemptuous look and leaned on the back of the sofa, then let out a long sigh. She could no longer hide the exhaustion she had been suppressing all day, and released it all out from between her eyes...

### **Chapter 209: Repay You With Myself**

Jiang Muye had seen her like this before and asked awkwardly, "Why are you so tired today? Didn't the press conference go well?"

Everything was arranged perfectly by a certain someone...

"It's all your fault! I'm tired mentally!" Ning Xi was annoyed and quickly rolled up to look at him with a burning stare. "Let me ask you something, that day... that day Lu Tingxiao... really... kissed me?"

Jiang Muye tossed back a drink. "If I lied, I'll burn all my equipment and never play PC games ever again!"

Ning Xi nodded. "Ok, I trust you now." Such a deadly oath for him to make.

Jiang Muye tried not to scream. "You freaking tell me, how many times did I remind you! You never listened! Why haven't you died from stupidity! How long have we known each other and how long have you known Lu Tingxiao? Why don't you trust me?"

Looking at Jiang Muye's sad little face, Ning Xi sighed. "In fact, when I first met Lu Tingxiao, he said it."

"Said what?" Jiang Muye got nervous.

Ning Xi gestured with her palms. "Said he would marry me."

"Pff... cough, cough, cough... what did you say?" Jiang Muye almost choked to death on his drink and coughed severely.

Ning Xi patted his back hard. "I was more shocked than you are right now."

"Then?" Jiang Muye asked in a rush.

"Then I asked why! It was totally unscientific!"

"What did he say?"

"He said that I saved Little Treasure and that he wanted to repay me by giving himself to me!"

"WTF! Then what did you say?"

"I said that I saved Little Treasure and then Little Treasure saved me back, so let's call it even, no need to repay me with anything, and then I ran away!"

Jiang Muye quickly stood up and paced in circles crazily around the room. "I freaking want to strangle you. Lu Tingxiao wanted to take advantages from you from the beginning and even said it out straight, so why didn't you keep your distance?"

Ning Xi raised her eyebrows. "Come on, how can anyone reject anything in front of Little Treasure's innocent face? Plus, I always thought that Lu Tingxiao only said he wanted to marry me for Little Treasure's sake. I rejected him later and he didn't force me anymore, so what else could I do?"

"Why would it be for Little Treasure's sake? That's so fake! And you, you're such a pig!" Jiang Muye finally stopped walking in circles, looked at her, and said, "Let me put it this way, normally, in a hero-saves-beauty situation like this, if the beauty is not interested in the hero, she would say, 'thank you for helping me, I will work for you like a cow or a horse to repay you!' So here's the question, what if the beauty IS interested in the hero, what would she say? Ning Xiao Xi, please answer!"

"Hmm..." Ning Xi touched her jaw. "The beauty would say, 'I will repay you with myself'?"

"So, now you understand the meaning of 'repay you with myself'?! It means 'I freaking like you, I'm keen and interested'!" Jiang Muye impatiently shouted next to her ear.

Ning Xi picked her ears, which had gone numb from his loud screaming. "Sounds reasonable..."

Jiang Muye said, "This is the freaking truth!"

Ning Xi stood up and dusted off her butt, then grabbed Jiang Muye's shoulder, calmed him down, made him sit on the sofa, and said slowly, "Ok, since you asked me, let me also ask you something!"

Jiang Muye looked at her cautiously. "What do you want to ask?"

"I want to ask you, if you walked into a room and saw the person you like was drugged, wearing a transparent night gown, and lying on a king sized bed covered with rose petals, what would you do?"

### **Chapter 210: I Have a Crush on Him**

Jiang Muye fell into a daze for 3 seconds and his ears started to burn up soon after. He pushed her away. "Ning Xiao Xi, you have such a dirty mind!"

"Screw you! Stop pretending to be so innocent and seriously answer your big mama's question!"

"Why did you ask something like that?" Jiang Muye tried to avoid her eyes, not wanting her to know that what she'd just said had been too graphic and that the only feeling he had was...

"You answer me first!" Ning Xi rushed him.

Jiang Muye hesitated for a long while before finally saying in a blurry voice, "Of... of course I'd go along with it! All normal men would do it, ok? Unless the man didn't like her in the first place!"

Ning Xi looked at him with a half smile, having gotten her expected answer.

"Why are you looking at me like that? Am I wrong?" Jiang Muye felt uncomfortable with her expression.

"You're right."

"Now can you tell me why you asked me that?"

Ning Xi rested her jaw in her hand and said absentmindedly, "Do you know what Lu Tingxiao did when he met with this situation?"

Jiang Muye's expression changed immediately. "When Lu Tingxiao met with this situation? What do you mean?"

Ning Xi explained the causes and effects briefly. "... then Zhu Xiangcheng tied me up and left me on Lu Tingxiao's bed!"

"What... What did Lu Tingxiao do?" Jiang Muye's voice changed out of nervousness.

"He didn't do anything." Ning Xi recalled what happened that night. "He comforted me and talked to me to distract me. He didn't cross the line even a little for the whole night, just quietly kept me company through the most difficult and helpless night of my entire life."

Jiang Muye bit his lips hard after hearing that. He couldn't say a word.

Ning Xi stared at him. "Why do you think Lu Tingxiao didn't do anything? Is he not a normal guy? Does he not like me?"

Jiang Muye tightened his fists. "He likes you for sure!"

The way Lu Tingxiao had handled it didn't mean that he wasn't a real man, on the contrary, it proved that he was a man among men... If it had been himself, he couldn't promise that he would be able to do the same...

Ning Xi nodded. "I wasn't sure at first and didn't dare to confirm, but now I'm sure that he likes me, too. So, there is a third possibility."

That got Jiang Muye's attention instantly. "What is it?"

"It's not that I was stupid, it's that he is on a whole other level. I'm not surprised, nor do I regret having a crush on him at all..." After she spoke, settled compromises appeared in her foggy and cloudy eyes.

Jiang Muye's voice shook and he could barely finish a full sentence. "You have a crush on him?"

Ning Xi smiled. "Although I don't want to admit it, and have been avoiding it for so long, it's the truth."

Jiang Muye slammed his fist onto the coffee table, hard, and his red eyes exploded with jealousy. "Ning Xi! How much do you know about him? How much? You only see what's on the surface! You think Lu Tingxiao is really as gentle as he looks? Did you know that Jia Qingqing died in the wilderness? Do you know what happened to Chu Xiangcheng? Did you know that he used the aviation aircraft to make artificial rain, just to stop your kissing scene? And the incident at my house... he is the one behind everything!"

Ning Xi fell into a long silence, then said in a low voice, "But, Jiang Muye, he never did anything to hurt me. If I get scared of him because of all that, keep my distance from him, and resent him, it's not fair to him. You can think of me as someone who doesn't know right from wrong or that I'm naive about life-and-death matters, but I only know that he treats me well. Very well. Nobody has ever treated me as well as he does."