

## Hidden 541

### Chapter 541: No Girlfriend, But Has A Boyfriend

At that exact moment, only the clanking of plates and utensils was heard and everyone's breath was stuck in their throats...

Lu Jingli was shocked and threw up the alcohol he had drunk, the ointment in Zhuang Keer's grip fell onto the floor and was now in shattered pieces, Big Qiao's mouth was parted in a surprised "O", Small Qiao was totally in shock...

The other person who was even more shocked than Small Qiao was Ning Xi herself.

What the heck?!

What was the devil doing?!

Before Ning Xi's eyes could pop out, Lu Tingxiao slowly lifted his lips from hers but he still held by her waist as if declaring his dominance over her. He looked at the dumbfounded Small Qiao with his sharp eyes, then asked in a deep voice, "Are there any more problems?"

She had been asking Ning Xi why was she not picked. Now she shook her head from side to side vigorously like a bobblehead doll.

Bro Tang had not lied to her. Indeed, there was no girlfriend! But he had a boyfriend! And his boyfriend was Lu Tingxiao! Oh, my god!

Lu Jingli put his hands to his forehead, feeling sorry for the girl who seemed like her brain was getting fried.

Silly child, there are so many more guys in the world, yet you were trying to snatch the tiger's prey...

Ning Xi tried to break free of Lu Tingxiao's hold. She struggled and failed, trying very hard not to hit him.

"Lu Tingxiao...are you crazy? Do you know what you are doing?"

Lu Tingxiao had not a drop of regret, replying as a matter-of-factly, "I'm handling trouble."

Ning Xi was speechless and really wished that she could sink into the floor.

Even if he was trying to help her out of the situation, did he not realize that she was assuming a man's identity?

Kissing in public was enough of a shocker, what more that they seemed to be two guys going at it!

She was fine with it since no one knew her but it was different for his case. Did he think the earlier rumors were not exaggerative enough? It was still a rumor the last time but now he had made it a fact!

This man is simply too capricious for his own good!

Ning Xi huffed in anger, "Let go!"

Not only did he tighten her grip on her, upon he seeing the masked worry within the girl's incensed eyes, he even closed in on her and kissed her again...

Ning Xi was in shock as she felt the warmth on her lips again.

What was happening? Was the devil infected with some sort of virus?

Splash! Some unlucky guy was too shocked and lost his balance, accidentally falling into the pool...

Yet again, for the second time, jaws dropped as those present were stunned to see what was happening in front of them...

What was going on?!

They were privy to such a big secret tonight. Could they still leave the place alive?

But...

Even though they were both men, but...but it felt like they were actually a perfect match for each other.

One was wild and precocious, the other one was strong and dominant, their kiss making people blush and heart rates present race through the roof!

Wake up! Wake up! How could they have such creepy thoughts?!

#### **Chapter 542: Stealing Man From Bro Xiao**

Her chin was held firmly by his callused fingers, her lips starting to feel numb, Ning Xi was terrified.

She would not have flirted had she known that this would happen. The frightening devil did not care about her feelings at all!

She did not expect the devil would actually be jealous of a girl, and such intensely jealous too!

Lu Tingxiao took his own sweet time and tasted her lips as if he was carefully enjoying the nectar of the gods, but of course, he stopped right before Ning Xi was about to explode.

Ning Xi's heart was racing quickly as she clenched her teeth together and raised her arms...she wanted to rip her wig off her head...

Things had finally unraveled to that point and she could not let people misunderstood that he was gay, could she?

Lu Tingxiao knew exactly what she wanted to do, so he grabbed her hands and stopped her.

His eyes were focused on the person in front of him as if only she existed in this world. He told her quietly, "You don't have to. Isn't it better this way? No other woman will come near me the next time."

Ning Xi was astounded, her heartbeat almost at a roar now...

Damn it! The devil was being too much! That ultimate move of his! She almost wanted to kiss him back!

"I...I'll go to the washroom!" In the end, Ning Xi broke off the kiss, freeing herself of Lu Tingxiao's hands and went to the toilet hastily.

Lu Tingxiao's eyes shone, watching the girl's back as she fled the scene. He then looked at everyone present, his gentle gaze quickly freezing into an ice-cold stare...

Small Qiao was holding on to Big Qiao in extreme terror. "Ah! Sis! What have I done?! What have I done?! Bro Xiao is going to kill me! I just tried to steal his man!"

Big Qiao was in deep shock as well but she tried to comfort her, "Keep calm, nothing bad will happen to you. You didn't know anything, plus they didn't say anything, we're innocent!"

"No wonder he's so close to Bro Xiao and Bro Jingli. Even Little Treasure! I'm so stupid, why didn't I think of their relationship earlier?!"

The twins hid in the corner and tried to be invisible to the people around them. The fujoshis among the crowd were practically having a nosebleed and everyone was raving about what had just happened...

"It has been a rumor for so many years that CEO Lu liked guys. It's just that no one went public with it, so it isn't really a surprise, is it?"

"Right...but to see it with my own eyes..." The impact was too difficult to put into words!

Many others nodded in agreement, the impact was powerful!

Some people shrugged it off, "Our society is way ahead now. This is completely normal. I'm not discriminating against the two of them. Plus, they actually looked really good together! That Tang guy looked even prettier than some of the ladies here tonight and they don't look weird together!"

Many of them agreed, "That kid is so arrogant that no woman could possibly hold him down! He definitely needs someone like Bro Xiao to tame him!"

"Heh, that might not be the case. Bro Xiao was here just now and he was already flirting with everyone! First, it was the top socialite of Beijing, and then there were the twin sisters! In the end, Bro Xiao had to step in and publicize their relationship! Bro Xiao was totally under control!"

"Tsk, no wonder Bro Xiao likes him so much!"

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### **Chapter 543: Do You Really Have That Kind Of Relationship With Him?**

Standing in front of the washroom entrance, Ning Xi almost walked into the ladies toilet. She abruptly realized her mistake and rushed to the opposite door.

She calmed herself down after splashing some water onto her face but when she came out of the washroom, there was someone waiting for her in the corridor...Zhuang Keer.

When she was having fun with Big Qiao and Small Qiao's group, they gossiped a lot and Ning Xi had heard about Zhuang Keer and her relationship with Lu Tingxiao.

She did not really know how to face Zhuang Keer now, so she decided not to do anything first.

As expected, when Zhuang Keer saw that she was silent, she spoke up, "I know it might be inappropriate for me to ask this...but...is it true...that you and Lu Tingxiao...are really in a relationship?"

Ning Xi frowned. It seemed like she was here to confront the person who had stolen her crush.

While the Zhuang family of Imperial might not measure up to the Lu family in business, their background was not to be underestimated...even with the prestige of the Lu family, the Zhuangs were not people that they could mess with. In fact, they had various angles in which they were important.

In Lu Chongshan's eyes, the best candidate to be his daughter-in-law was Zhuang Keer because he wanted to use the Zhuang family as an insurance to help solidify the Lu family's power.

And the Zhuang family had a special relationship with Ning Xi...

The head of the Zhuang family, Zhuang Zongren, had one son and three daughters, and Ning Xi's mother, Zhuang Lingyu was his youngest daughter. When she was young, she insisted on marrying Ning Yaohua and was disowned by Zhuang Zongren. The estranged pair of father and daughter had not been in contact at all for the past 20 years. Aside from some of the elders who were involved, most people thought that Zhuang Zongren only had two daughters; not even the youngsters in the Zhuang family knew about this.

Ning Xi overheard about this fiasco during a conversation between Zhuang Lingyu and Ning Yaohua...

Ning Yaohua was involved in some sort of trouble and she hoped that Zhuang Lingyu could go home to ask for help but the latter refused and said something like she would never ever go back...

Zhuang Keer was Zhuang Zongren's granddaughter, so biologically speaking, they were cousins.

This was really complicated...

However, come to think of it, Ning Xi did not really mind. Since she did not acknowledge Zhuang Lingyu as her mother now, she would not care about some faraway grandfather or cousin.

"What if it's true? And what if it's not?" Ning Xi replied Zhuang Keer with a question instead.

"If it's not..." Zhuang Keer's voice shook. She really hoped that it was not true...but it was impossible...after all that they had done, she was just lying to herself...

At last, Zhuang Keer took a deep breath and returned to her calm expression. "If it's true, then I'll give up."

"Huh?" Ning Xi was surprised by her reply. It was unexpected, considering her prideful personality.

Zhuang Keer held her fist tight and looked at her with fiery eyes. "I was pretty confident about getting to Lu Tingxiao at first, but since it's come to you...I...I'll not fight with you for him..."

Zhuang Keer quickly excused herself before she could have an emotional breakdown.

Ning Xi looked at the stubbornly arrogant Zhuang Keer's silhouette leaving speechlessly...

Something was not right...did she get the wrong message?

Why did it feel like Zhuang Keer loved her instead of Lu Tingxiao?

#### **Chapter 544: Personal Property, No Trespassing. Do Not Even Look**

The party was still going on outside but apparently, everyone was not in the mood to have fun anymore.

Lu Jingli saw a few ladies leave quietly. All of them were originally here to get closer to Lu Tingxiao but they all gave up now.

"Bro, what a great idea! Not only did you expel the potential opponents, you even settled the women who were chasing after you! What a clever move!" Lu Jingli gushed to his brother, impressed.

At this moment, Lu Jingli did not realize that while it was true his brother had no more trouble, things were going south very soon...

An onlooking crowd welcomed Ning Xi with curious gazes after she came out of the bathroom. Apart from them, the little bun rushed towards her quickly.

His face clearly expressed a message: Little Treasure was angry!

Hugs!

And kisses!

To heal his broken heart and soul!

Aunty Xiao Xi had actually kissed father and moreover, it was twice! Twice!

Ning Xi instantly knew what the small kid was thinking, so she generously gave him two big kisses and held him tightly in her arms, then she walked towards Lu Tingxiao.

A waiter came over with two glasses of warm milk the moment Ning Xi sat down.

Lu Tingxiao handed a glass of milk to his son and the other glass to Ning Xi, then he lay on the sofa in a relaxed posture and put his hand on the back of the sofa where Ning Xi sat, exhibiting his dominance.

He was sending a message to the floor: Personal property, no trespassing. Don't even look.

His silent message was super effective; everyone backed off and chatted among their own groups while enjoying some drinks, not daring to stare at Ning Xi anymore.

The devil's kiss solved most of the problems that had cropped up earlier and Ning Xi was a lot more relaxed now.

But she was still worried. "Eh, Lu Tingxiao, is it really okay...to have them misunderstand you?"

Lu Tingxiao nodded, "Mmm, don't worry, the rumor will dissolve itself the day you become my wife."

Ning Xi was speechless. If that day did not come, he would be misunderstood as being gay his whole life!

Lu Jingli could not stand it anymore, "Guys, can you please be more considerate? I'm getting goosebumps!"

The little bun was falling asleep since his usual bedtime was around nine or 10 o'clock and the milk helped to induce his sleepiness.

Lu Tingxiao saw his son rub his eyes, so he brought the boy closer to him and tried to help him sleep more comfortably.

But the little boy did not compromise, quickly backing off and sticking to Ning Xi. He even grabbed onto Ning Xi's neck tightly as if telling his father, "I know what you're thinking, don't you dare separate me from Auntie Xiao Xi!"

The little boy had been on alert this whole time after his father had kissed Ning Xi. It seemed like the son-father alliance was disintegrating.

Lu Jingli gloated at his brother and almost laughed out loud.

No matter how perfect a plan was, there would always be a flaw. His brother could settle so many people, yet he forgot about his own son.

Ning Xi was worried about Little Treasure, so she picked him up and wanted to leave. "Second Master, please continue having fun without us. Little Treasure is getting tired, I'll take him back to rest! He's still growing right now, we shouldn't let him stay up too late!"

Lu Jingli was annoyed seeing Ning Xi's kind and motherly side. He could not believe that she was the same person who had caused all the trouble earlier...

#### **Chapter 545: As Flirty As Your Bro Tang?**

Ning Xi held Little Treasure in her arms as Lu Tingxiao took off his maroon coat and put it on Ning Xi. He then put his hand over her shoulder and they walked out together...

Tsk, they looked like an actual family together...

Although Lu Tingxiao had warned the crowd, everyone still stared at them in surprise when they saw the maternal side of the guy named Tang. It did not add up to his flirtatious side at all! Their sharp stares softened just by looking at Ning Xi in such a position...

Oh no! Stop looking! What if they were not straight?! After all, he was the person who turned Lu Tingxiao gay!

The guys were trying to calm themselves down while the girls' hearts had been stolen away long ago. Even though they knew that he liked men, they still could not help but fall for him!

He looked even more charming while holding the child...how gentle...

Small Qiao tucked herself into her sister's arms, feeling really sad. "I'm feel so blue...the two men that I liked the most! They got together! I actually experienced two breakups in one night!"

Big Qiao was not sure how to console her sister. "Uh..." Well, technically, she was not wrong...it was really two breakups...

Small Qiao put her hand on her chest dramatically as she said, "Hot guys are already so scarce, yet the both of them got together! Two top-notch men just went to waste! My heart hurts!"

Big Qiao tried to comfort her, "Don't worry, there's still Bro Jingli here!"

Small Qiao did not look impressed. "No! Lu Jingli is too flirtatious! He's not my type! I don't want him, no matter how handsome he looks!"

Lu Jingli had just passed by Small Qiao and almost stumbled after he overheard what she had said.

What the heck! I'm flirtatious? Fine, I admit that I'm flirtatious! But am I as flirtatious as your Bro Tang?

Your Bro Tang had had his hands over both men and women...you foolish girls!

Lu Jingli sent the three of them off to the entrance, feeling sorry for himself, but he still supported his brother. "It's really late already, it'd be troublesome to go back to your place. Why don't you just stay at my brother's place for a night?"

Ah, how selfless was he! If there was an award for the best younger brother, he would win, hands down!

Ning Xi thought about it. The little bun's dad stayed just right beside here and it was troublesome to bring the little bun all the way back to her apartment...

"Sure, I'm okay with it," Ning Xi replied.

They started walking towards Lu Tingxiao's place. When they were reaching the entrance, the little bun stirred a little in Ning Xi's arms. He went mad when he saw the familiar building!

He grabbed on Ning Xi's clothes and shook his head. He really did not want to go in!

No, no, no! Not going to leave Auntie Xiao Xi!

Apparently, the little bun thought that Ning Xi was going to send him back home.

Ning Xi comforted him gently, "Little Treasure, I'm not leaving you here. I'm staying here with you for the night, we'll leave together back to my place tomorrow morning, alright?"

The little bun was still half asleep, unsure if he had heard what Ning Xi said but he kept shaking his head and was almost on the verge of crying. He just desperately did not want to go in, reacting as if it was the devil's den.

Ning Xi looked at Lu Tingxiao helplessly. "What should we do?"

Lu Tingxiao sighed, "It's alright, I'll send you back."

Son...please don't betray me...

I'll not kiss her in front of you next time, okay?

#### **Chapter 546: It's Brother Who Kissed A Guy, Not Me**

On the next morning.

While Lu Jingli was still dreaming about successfully getting some pretty ladies, suddenly, his room door was flung open violently. Bam!

What happened?! Who was that?

Damn it, he sleeps naked! Was someone going to rape him?

Lu Jingli's first reaction was to cover himself up with a blanket, then he saw something much worse than a nightmare. Both his parents were standing by his bed looking enraged as if they were going to beat him up any second like they did when he had poked a beehive for fun.

Lu Jingli was terrified and any sense of sleepiness vanished altogether. "Uh...Father, Mother...what are you doing here this early?"

"You bastard! I'm going to kill you!" Yan Ruyi started attacking him without explaining a thing, Lu Chongshan joining in with his walking stick as well.

Lu Jingli rolled across the bed to evade his parents' attack. "Wow! What are you guys doing?! Don't aim for my face! Am I really your son? Ah, don't grab my blanket, I'm naked...can we talk after I put on some clothes?"

"I'll give you two minutes, come out quickly!" Yan Ruyi went out with her husband and closed the door. The two of them waited in the living room angrily.

Lu Jingli quickly dressed up, then opened the window...

He would be a fool to go out there obediently!

It must have been something terrible for them to bother him this early in the morning!

Too bad for him, Lu Chongshan expected his little trick and caught him red-handed. "Bastard, I knew you were going to run away! Come here!"

In the end, Lu Jingli could not escape his fate.

Lu Jingli sat on the sofa while scratching his head with a scowl. "So, what happened?"

"How dare you ask us what happened? You tell us what happened last night! Don't tell me that you don't know!" Lu Chongshan glared stormily at his son.

Lu Jingli shrugged innocently. "What happened last night? I organized a party."

"Don't play dumb! Someone told me...told me...that your brother kissed a man in front of everyone! This...this is ridiculous! Absolutely ridiculous!" Lu Chongshan fumed.

"What...so...that's it?"

"What's with that attitude?! This is a serious matter!"

Lu Jingli pleaded innocently, "Please, Father and Mother, it was Brother who kissed a man and not me. He stays just right beside me, so why don't you go and bother him instead of beating me up? This is so unfair!"

Lu Chongshan's face darkened. "You dare say that it wasn't your idea? Who else can it be other than you? Of course, I'm going to beat you up!"

Lu Jingli complained unhappily, "What the heck?! Why is it my idea now?! It was Brother's own will and action! I was shocked as well, I'm a victim too!"

Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi hesitated when they saw Lu Jingli's genuine expression.

Lu Jingli then continued, "And why would you think that it's fake? It might be possible that my brother really likes men."

Lu Chongshan's rage surged again. "Nonsense! I'm going to kill you if you keep spouting crap! Your brother already has a son, do you think he would like a man now? And he practically turned into putty being charmed by that woman before. This must be part of his plans!"

#### **Chapter 547: Even Of Different Species**

Lu Jingli calmly raised his eyebrows. "That might not be the case...anyhow, it wasn't my idea, I don't know anything about it.

"We already knew that he was not sure about his sexual orientation before. What happened five years ago was a set up by me and he almost became estranged with everyone here. And now Ning Xi has appeared and thank goodness that she is a woman. Yet, the both of you are getting in their way and forcing Brother to marry someone he doesn't like.

"With such a difficult love life, who'd have known if he has suffered from some emotional trauma? Then, he might get fed up and end up liking men instead! Come to think of it, it is possible!"

Lu Jingli's words really terrified both Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi.

This was the one thing that worried them the most. Even though it might just be a plot of their son's, they still had to make sure of it.

Lu Chongshan looked really unwell and in the end, he spoke up, "Help me send a word to your brother. If he wants to marry that woman, he can go ahead."

Lu Jingli was exhilarated but only for a moment as he knew that his father would have something else to say.

True enough, he continued, "As long as he agrees to these requirements."

"What requirements?"

"First and foremost, she needs to quit the entertainment industry. Secondly, cover up her background. We will find a suitable identity for her to assume. Thirdly, before she comes into our family, she will need to undergo some finishing education regarding manners and appropriate behavior..."

Lu Jingli picked his ears as if he thought he misheard and interrupted, "Father, I don't have to go and tell Brother anymore. I'll reply you on his behalf!"

"What are you trying to say?" Lu Chongshan asked with a deep, threatening voice.

"Father, you're not being sincere. You might as well not let them marry at all!"

Lu Chongshan was astonished. "What do you mean?"

He had spent a whole night coming up with this idea. He could never accept that woman but he could still compromise, so he tried his best to think of a way to have an ideal outcome. How was that not sincere?

Lu Jingli sighed, "Father, let me tell you, the woman Brother likes is a wolf. What you're trying to do is to bring the wolf from the forest into a zoo and trap it inside a cage. You're going to paint it white, remove its teeth and claws, put it on a leash...and hand it to my brother then say, here you go, your favorite wolf cub is here! How do you think Brother would feel? You're not doing this for his sake, you're destroying what he loves!"

Yan Ruyi frowned and flared her nostrils. "Jingli, your analogy isn't appropriate. We're just trying to make the girl a better person in order to become Tingxiao's wife and Little Treasure's mother!"

"Fine, then I'll use another example. Do you remember when I was still a child, I really liked a bunny? In the end, it died of sickness and I was sad to the point that I had no appetite for a few days and you guys brought me another bunny that looked similar to make me happy. Do you remember how I reacted?"

Yan Ruyi nodded. "You didn't want it, you asked me to send it away."

"Yes, even if it was the same, I knew that it was not the one I liked from before, yet now you're turning a wolf into a puppy. Heck, they are even of different species! There are a lot of people who are suitable for my brother but so what if he and Little Treasure don't like them?"

#### **Chapter 548: Advanced Love Rival Repellant**

When he reached the office in the afternoon, Lu Jingli reported what had happened to his brother. Of course, he exaggerated how he used his extraordinary talking skills to convince their parents and to turn the tables.

"Although it wasn't settled in the end, it's still a good sign. Father and Mother weren't even considering her before but at least they are trying now! Bro, I think your plan can continue, just a few more times and they might really just agree to anything." Lu Jingli had a smug look on his face.

Lu Tingxiao dared not remind his brother that if their parents were to give up on him, the Lu family still had another son. If it came to that point, it would be the second son who would be forced to marry.

As the brothers were talking, someone knocked on the office door.

Little Treasure walked in and the one who followed behind him was not Ning Xi but was Gong Shangze.

Lu Tingxiao frowned a little. "Where's Ning Xi?"

For some reason, Gong Shangze always freaked out when he saw this man, so he replied carefully, "CEO Lu, Sis Xi mentioned she had something urgent, so she didn't come up. She asked me to inform you that she'll be back in around two hours to get Little Treasure."

"An urgent matter?" Lu Tingxiao scanned his calendar and realized that it was Ning Xi's grandfather's birthday. She had probably gone back home.

Lu Tingxiao was worried, not feeling at ease to have Ning Xi go back alone but since it was just a short two hours, there should not be any issue. She probably just went back to wish her grandfather...

Lu Jingli was suddenly revived as he looked at Gong Shangze. "Eh, did something happen when I wasn't here? Who are you? Why are you so close to Xiao Xi Xi?"

Gong Shangze guessed that this man was probably the owner of Glory World Entertainment, Ning Xi's superior Lu Jingli, so he respectfully replied, "Hello, I'm..."

After Lu Jingli finished hearing Gong Shangze's introduction, he said to his brother, "Damn, Bro, you're really generous, letting a pretty boy go near Sister-in-law. Aren't you worried that she'd eat him up?"

Lu Tingxiao glanced at the nervous Lu Jingli and replied with just three words, "There's Little Treasure."

Lu Jingli was speechless...

Ha...his brother...what a move...

No wonder he did not take Little Treasure back home to create more chances to meet Ning Xi. Instead, he sent Little Treasure to stay with her. That way, he would have a top spy and an advanced love rival repellent right beside her!

Utilizing his son to the fullest, Little Treasure and Ning Xi probably felt grateful for him...

At the Ning family residence.

Today was the 70th birthday of the Ning family elder, Ning Zhiyuan, and a huge number of guests were invited to celebrate.

Ning International was doing exceptionally well in the hands of the eldest son Ning Yaohua and they were going to be affiliated with the Su family through their children's marriage, so the number of people attending was extraordinary.

Despite being extremely busy, the maids and waiters looked happy. The Master was powerful and they took pride in their job as well. No matter where they went, telling people that they worked for the Ning family would attract envy.

#### **Chapter 549: Clear-Cut Description Of Their Relationship**

In the banquet hall, the decoration looked glamorous. All the guests and relatives were wishing the elder and greeting him with auspicious words.

Without a doubt, everyone was focused on the current head, Ning Yaohua and his family.

The guests attending were all powerful people from the city. Aside from Ning Yaohua's business partner, there was also Ning Xueluo's powerful friends within the industry. All the other relatives were jealous of them but still fawned over them for the sake of their benefit.

"Lingyu, you're so blessed, your husband is so capable and so is your daughter!"

"I'm really envious of your daughter. Not only is she pretty, she's getting more and more popular! Apart from her acting career, she has even started a company of her own!"

"I know, right? Her brand is even famous overseas, many friends of mine were asking me to make a reservation for them for the latest items!"

...

Ning Xueluo felt a little shy from all the compliments. "Uncle, Aunt, you all are exaggerating, I was just fooling around with my free time."

"She's not just capable, she's got a good personality and she's humble as well. Nothing like the one I have at home, always getting me into trouble! Madam Ning, how did you manage to have such a wonderful daughter, give us some tips!" a bunch of people started asking Zhuang Lingyu.

Zhuang Lingyu looked at her daughter proudly and smiled. "I don't really have much experience actually, Ning Xueluo never really needed me to worry about her."

"Oh, how envious!"

Among the waves of praises, a small voice piped up, "Speaking of which...I really don't know what the elder was thinking, he already has such a fabulous granddaughter, yet he still insisted on adopting a little girl from his hometown and put her under your care. Then, she caused so much trouble...was he trying to just spice up his life?"

Zhuang Lingyu's mouth tightened into an unnatural smile and she said, "He pitied her and was just trying to be kind...we as the younger generation could only follow his will."

She was totally carving out a clear-cut description of her relationship with Ning Xi.

Until today, no one knew that Ning Xi and Ning Xueluo had exchanged their identity. Everyone still thought that Ning Xi was just an adopted child from the elder's hometown.

At first, when the elder took Ning Xi back, he was going to publicize her identity since she was his real grandchild and Ning Yaohua and Zhuang Lingyu had agreed.

But...no thanks to Ning Xueluo's provocation, Ning Xi had embarrassed her family on several occasions, making Ning Yaohua and Zhuang Lingyu really unhappy.

On the day they were going to announce Ning Xi's actual identity, Ning Xi had worn a counterfeit version of a branded dress and was found out, bringing unspeakable humiliation to her family.

The both of them instantly changed their mind, deciding not to announce Ning Xi's identity and they had been delaying the matter. Five years ago, after Ning Xi did something else that insulted the family name, they totally gave up on coming clean about her identity and sent her overseas instead...

"You're really kind for sending her overseas to study as well, but it has been five years, isn't it? She should have graduated, hasn't she? I wonder what she's doing now? Is she working in Ning International?" a distant relative asked.

### **Chapter 550: Real Child, Fake Lady**

Ning Yaohua had two daughters: one real child and one fake lady.

Ning Xueluo was lucky and got married into the Su family, so no one could not take advantage of her anymore, not that they dared to. Although Ning Xi had a lower status, she still held the title of an adopted daughter. Any man who married her would somehow benefit from the union.

Everyone started asking about Ning Xi following the relative's inquiry.

"I heard that she's been playing some minor roles here and there."

"What? Just some minor roles? She rejected a proper job to go and do something like that?"

"She probably wanted to try her luck after seeing how successful Xueluo became!"

"Isn't that...overestimating herself? Does she think that just anyone can be a star? Aren't you doing something about it, Lingyu?"

Zhuang Lingyu's happy expression soon faded upon hearing all those comments.

Ning Xueluo held Zhuang Lingyu's hands and said kindly, "Father and Mother have always wanted her to work in the company and have even made the necessary arrangements but...Sister just doesn't want it, Uncle and Aunties. Well, as you all know, she's adopted but we should respect her own decisions!"

Some bystanders nodded. "Ah, how could the blame be put on Lingyu? Lingyu took care of her and even sent her overseas for education, that's already more than enough!"

"What can I say? This girl from that small little town doesn't know how to be grateful, there's no way to teach her! How could you compare her with Xueluo?"

"You're right! Lingyu and Yaohua have already done their best!"

Zhuang Lingyu let out a sigh of relief, glad that no one knew that the embarrassing girl was her own biological daughter.

Her daughter, her pride of joy was only Xueluo!

With the excuse of adopted parents not being able to do much, no matter what kind of embarrassing incident Ning Xi was involved in, it would not be related to her, Zhuang Lingyu!

...

Outside of the Ning residence gate.

Ning Xi looked from afar. If she was to enter from the main gate, she would need an invitation card. However, no one bothered to tell her about the celebrations today, not to mention, there was no invitation card for her whatsoever.

After giving it some thought, she gave her cousin sister, Ning Tianxin, a call.

"Sis Xin!"

The voice on the other side of the phone sounded excited. "Xiao Xi, where are you? I was just about to call you. It's grandfather's birthday today, are you coming back?"

"I'm already at the entrance, do you mind coming out and passing my present to grandfather?" Ning Xi asked.

"You're already here? Even if you don't want to see anyone else, you're already here, so why not meet up with Grandfather? Grandfather talked to me about you last night and asked when you were coming back, I comforted him that you'll be here today but..." Ning Tianxin's sentence trailed off.

Ning Xi felt troubled by her cousin's words.

In the end, Ning Tianxin sighed, "Why don't we do it this way? You come to the back door, I'll find a chance to bring Grandfather there. You greet him yourself and give the present to him personally!"

"You're the best, thank you, Sis Xin!" Ning Xi expressed gratefully.

Success! Ning Xi let out a sigh of relief and walked towards the back door with the jade beaded bracelet she had bought last time.

Her eyes reddened when she saw Ning Tianxin helping a white-haired old man approach her.