

Hidden 961

Chapter 961: Spirit is On Fire!

Qiao Weilan had predicted that it would take half a month to a month's time, yet the reality was that it took less than that.

First, it was the Imperial socialite Miss Wang's birthday banquet and her outfits were always very fashionable within the socialites's circle as she liked trying new and unique brands.

On the day of her birthday banquet, she wore a vintage Oriental dress which reminded one of a hot cloud of volcanic ash, complementing her in a brilliant and moving way, mesmerizingly outshining the other beauties that night.

The moment the banquet ended, many had already walked up to ask her about the brand of her outfit.

They found out that it had been given by a good friend in the fashion industry and was designed by the Golden Award-winning mysterious designer, ZX. In fact, it had yet to be released in the market and was the latest design from the brand. Even Qin Shengyue was all fondness and praise for the outfit.

Spirit started to a hot topic within the circle, and those who were presented with outfits but had not planned to wear them all took them out to flaunt...

A few days later, a dame from the socialite circle had wine accidentally spilled on her dress during a certain banquet. She did not immediately have a change of clothes and coincidentally the dress that Qiao Weilan had given her was in the car. The dame was loyal to well-known international brands, so she did not like wearing just any random brands, but she changed into it as she had no other choice.

That night, after the dame had changed into the peacock blue Qipao, it received endless praises from all the female guests. They all spoke about the delicateness of the dress and how it complemented her aura so well as if it was tailored for her. Many of the middle-aged ladies her age had walked over to ask about the brand of her clothing and whose design it was.

After that, there was another incident that caused quite a commotion.

The Old General Zhuang Zongren had collaborated with Zhuang Liaoyuan and his granddaughter, Zhuang Keer, to receive very important guests from many countries and this event was even streamed live on the national news.

That day, the Old General's granddaughter, Zhuang Keer, had worn a composed yet vivacious gown. Most importantly, this gown had perfectly combined fashion with Chinese elements, attracting the praises of being international friendly. Everyone admired the charm of the Chinese influence on the dress...

Soon, Spirit was suddenly on fire!

From the socialite circle to the dames, everyone talked about it and it even got the country's support and funding in the form of the advocacy of local brands.

Even though a few million dollars was not considered a lot, this meant that Spirit would have opportunities to represent the country in even more important occasions in the future.

"Oh my God, oh my God! Boss! We're on fire! Fire! Spirit is on fire! Our phones are exploding with calls! And the orders! All the orders...!" Han Momo was so excited, then she hopped over to Qiao Weilan and sincerely bowed. "Director Qiao, you're amazing. I apologize for doubting you before this! You're really so amazing!"

Qiao Weilan looked at Ning Xi who was busy looking through some customer details and said, "The truth is the effect I had predicted was only to open up a pathway for our market. The fact that it has progressed to this point wasn't within my expectations, especially with Miss Zhuang..."

She thought that the friend Ning Xi had mentioned she wanted to give the clothes to was just a normal socialite, but who would have known that it was actually Old General Zhuang's daughter, the number one socialite of Imperial, Zhuang Keer?

What shocked her even more was that she never would have thought that Zhuang Keer would wear their clothes at such an occasion.

Usually the outfits worn at those occasions would be controlled by personal stylists; one could not just wear anything they liked unless it was someone with a really, really special relationship that allowed Zhuang Keer to persuade the stylist to let her wear the outfit.

Of course, their outfit quality and design could definitely pass the test and was outstanding enough for the stylists to agree with.

Chapter 962: The Story Behind It All

When she heard what Qiao Weilan said, Ning Xi looked up from her documents and exclaimed, "To be honest, I was surprised myself...we really owe Keer a huge one this time! When I'm done with all this, I must treat her to a feast!"

"Boss, Boss! We have so many orders flowing in. Do we have to start rushing the production for the new items? I'm worried that we don't have enough manpower. We only have 10 craftsmen to cater to the bespoke orders..."

Ning Xi nodded at Qiao Weilan and said, "Director Qian, you should already have a plan in mind, don't you?"

Since Qiao Weilan had dared to suggest that risky idea to just give the clothes away, she should definitely have something in mind already.

Qiao Weilan said briskly, "My plan is to temporarily reject all of the orders. If anyone asks, we'll just have to answer that we've run out of stock and that high-quality bespoke pieces must all be pre-ordered three months in advance. The customers who successfully pre-order will be serviced personally by our team who'll tailor outfit styles based on their image and aura."

"Ah! Reject all of them?! All?" Han Momo widened her eyes in shock.

However, she was not as impulsive this time. Instead, she contemplated Qiao Weilan's reasoning.

"Director Qiao, are you trying to create the idea that the rarer something is, the greater it is in value?"

Qiao Weilan nodded. "That's right. To the customers, something that's too easily attainable will be just as easy to ditch aside. The harder it is to purchase would only make them treasure and covet it more. If

we give in to every request, they'll lose interest very quickly and even feel like they aren't special if everyone else wears the same piece too. This is why History got overdone in the socialite circle so quickly. They fell short of the market peak just for momentary profit."

Ning Xi snapped her fingers. "Okay, let's do that then! Coincidentally, we need to renovate our office and hire new staff and all that..."

Qiao Weilan paused, then continued, "Additionally, I have another piece of good news and the time is quite ripe now. I've shortlisted quite a few retailers with good potential, so we can begin our physical flagship stores."

"Whoa! Hurray!" Han Momo tugged at Gong Shangze's arm and cheered excitedly.

Ning Xi felt moved with a myriad of emotions bubbling within her. Finally...finally, we made it...

"Shangze, are you okay? After the flagship store opens, we'll definitely need huge amounts of ready-made designs," Ning Xi asked in concern.

Gong Shangze revealed a radiant smile and took out a huge stack of drafts from the drawer. "I've long prepared for this day to come!"

Ning Xi looked at the design drafts with sparkling eyes. Just a skim of them and she knew that they were products from the essence of the peak of his inspiration. "Oh wow! So much effort! All of my partners are so reliable! I feel so secure!"

"Boss, you're the one that makes us feel most secure! You always do things that we thought were impossible!" Han Momo said with shining eyes as she voiced out Gong Shangze's thoughts.

"Okay, okay, enough brown nosing. I'll definitely increase your salaries next month! With bonus thrown in!"

"Boss, I love you!"

"Okay, get to work now, let me answer this call!"

The phone rang and Ning Xi walked to the balcony to get it.

"Congrats, Boss Ning!" greeted Qin Shengyue's voice.

Ning Xi laughed, "Don't call me Boss, I can't accept this, Boss Qin!"

"Don't be humble, you've progressed so much in such a short time that even I have to praise you. What's even more unexpected is that you've made my trump card submit to you so soon! Hmph, it looks like after this one year, I won't be able to retrieve my trump card, huh?" Qin Shengyue teased.

Ning Xi's raised her brows. "Hey, this is probably just my personal charm doing its trick!"

"You punk!" Qin Shengyue laughed, then said faintly, "But now, can you tell me the story behind your mysterious designer, ZX?"

Chapter 963: Teacher Lu's Words of Wisdom

Ning Xi fell silent, then asked, "I wonder...if Boss Qin knows History's predecessor?"

"History's predecessor...you mean Neon? It was an indie brand with rather great potential. I noticed it right from the start. David's designs are too ingenious, so Neon was just waiting for an opportunity, then after they were noticed and Ning Xueluo invested in it, it had risen instantly."

Ning Xi's expression was cold. "ZX is the real founder of Neon."

"What?" On the other end of the phone, Qin Shengyue's tone was beyond shocked. She obviously did not expect this turn of events. She finally understood why she had that weird feeling when she compared Spirit and History before this. Now, all of her puzzled thoughts were answered.

So, that's why...I guessed correctly that David was the real copycat. No, even worse than that, he's a straight up thief!

Even though this result was surprising, it was still within reason.

"No wonder...now it makes sense...but why don't you guys expose this?" Qin Shengyue asked, puzzled.

Ning Xi nonchalantly replied, "Hmph, in such a situation where we have no evidence, who would believe the words of the weaker one? But that doesn't matter anymore. One day, I want to introduce my designer with a proper title to the world!"

At the balcony entrance, Gong Shangze had wanted to look for Ning Xi. Just as he pushed the door open, he heard Ning Xi saying this on the balcony, totally catching him off guard, and his eyes instantly reddened. His heart felt as if it had been hit by a truck...

The young man tightened his grip on the design drafts and took a deep breath before slowly backing out.

"Pfft, you're a big talker!" Qin Shengyue chortled although she felt like this was actually not bragging. "Then, I'll wish you luck! Remember to treat me to a meal!"

"Definitely!"

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In the following period of time, many socialities and wealthy young men who wanted to please girls had called Spirit almost every day to inquire about how to place orders, some even personally dropping by.

However, it did not matter how powerful or famous they were, or how much money they offered, all of them had left empty-handed. Spirit's answer to everyone was that they were out of stock and people needed to pre-order.

To order a set of Spirit's high-quality pieces was not easy.

Even so, the pre-order bills still continued to pile up without signs of slowing down. It had formed a queue of up to six months and counting.

Among the socialites, especially among the aristocrats, there were not only those with great wealth. Some of them were business-minded as well. They proposed to put Spirit's ready-made wear on retail shelves, so that they could expand their businesses too.

In just one month, Spirit had rode on their wave of irresistible force and opened up a flagship store in Imperial and soon expanded to three different branches.

Their business in other provinces was also expanding. If all went well, they could start planning to enter the international market next year...

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At night, at Platinum Palace, Ning Xi had specially cooked a feast and opened a bottle of red wine to celebrate.

"Congratulations!" said Lu Tingxiao as he raised his glass to the girl.

As she looked at the god-like man opposite her, Ning Xi clinked her glass to his and drank up. "Thank you!"

The little bun who was watching them did not want to be outdone and picked up his glass of milk too.

Ning Xi laughed and clinked her glass with his cup too, then she leaned on her chin and sighed, "Ahhh, it feels so surreal now that things are going so smoothly all of a sudden!"

"You have taken sturdy steps and made your way here. You've prepared well, so there's no reason for worry," advised Lu Tingxiao.

As she watched Lu Tingxiao educate her like he was a life coach, Ning Xi held back a giggle and nodded as seriously as she could. "Mmm! Teacher Lu's words of wisdom!"

Chapter 964: One Step Closer To Making Big Boss My Wife

After dinner, Ning Xi suddenly remembered something very important and quickly looked at her baby Little Treasure. "Oh, Little Treasure, there's something I need your help with! Can you help Mommy write some calligraphy?"

He could certainly help Mommy, so Little Treasure nodded happily.

In the study room, Ning Xi had prepared a calligraphy brush, some ink, and paper, then she started to grind the block of ink.

Because Little Treasure could not reach the top of the desk, Lu Tingxiao had lifted him atop a stool.

Little Treasure tilted his head, asking his Mommy what she wanted him to write.

Ning Xi thought about it, then said, "Help me write... 'How can the goldfish be a person of no particular talent? It transforms into a dragon with trials and hardships; the dragon can cry to the ninth heavens and call for change, and the tables will turn and opportunities will abound!'"

Little Treasure nodded, then picked up the brush and started to write.

Throughout this period of time, Little Treasure had not fallen behind in his training. The healthier he was, the more stable and energetically he could control the brush. It glided through the paper like a swimming dragon, complemented by these words that were penetratingly powerful...

"My baby is becoming more and more amazing!" praised Ning Xi.

Lu Tingxiao looked at her and asked, "Are you presenting this to someone?"

Ning Xi was suddenly shocked. "Big Boss, how did you know?"

"To who?" Lu Tingxiao asked.

"Mmm, I want to give it to Gong Shangze. What do you think? Don't these words suit him very well?" Ning Xi beamed with happiness but she did not get Lu Tingxiao's answer. She turned to look and indeed, someone was jealous again.

"Pfft, you jealous?" Ning Xi propped up her arms and leaned her head over to peer at him.

Lu Tingxiao looked at her with a poker face. "Where's mine?"

When she saw Lu Tingxiao's child-like manner of asking for a present, Ning Xi found him extremely adorable and could not help but lean over and kiss him. "Will this do?"

He gave a dissatisfied look, showing that it was barely satisfactory but just as he was about to continue, a public service announcement suddenly slid in between them.

Little Treasure held up a piece of paper with the announcement with a serious face. On the paper, he had written a few words in huge fonts: [Baby is angry!]

Lu Tingxiao was speechless.

Ning Xi was dying of laughter. She quickly kissed the little bun on his cheek to compensate. "I'm sorry! Baby, please don't be angry!"

The little bun was satisfied, then he picked up his personal stamp and continued to work.

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Late at night, the moon was clear and bright while the night was cold.

Because Ning Xi had had a few drinks, she stayed over at his bungalow.

In the dead of the night, Lu Tingxiao felt something amiss, so he pulled away from his blanket and got up.

He pushed through the door to Ning Xi's room lightly and found no one inside; neither was she in Little Treasure's room.

As he anxiously wondered where she could be, the moonlight shone through the window and he saw a shadow in the garden.

Lu Tingxiao reflexively took the blanket from his bed and rushed downstairs.

The night breeze caressed his skin while the leaves on the trees rustled gently. Under the moon light, Lu Tingxiao saw from afar that the girl sat on a swing with a can of beer in her hand.

"It's late. Why aren't you asleep?" Lu Tingxiao rushed over and put the blanket over her, then touched her hands to see if they were cold.

"Big Boss!" When she saw who it was, Ning Xi immediately clung to him like a koala, her head nuzzled in the space of his neck. "I'm happy! So happy that I can't sleep!"

"Are you that happy?" Lu Tingxiao stroked the girl's head.

Ning Xi nodded, then said with a serious expression, "Of course I'm happy! I'm one step closer to the day that I can take the Big Boss as my wife!"

Lu Tingxiao was obviously stunned when he heard this. He cleared his throat and said with a calm demeanor, "Mmm, you should be happy about it."

Chapter 965: Big Boss You're So Corrupted!

Nevertheless, she seemed calm, the instant sparkle in her eyes giving away the good mood of the owner.

"Nonetheless, as happy as you are, you still have to sleep, so let's go back now." Lu Tingxiao took away the beer can in her hand.

Ning Xi opened her arms and playfully said, "Carry me!"

Lu Tingxiao naturally complied.

Even after Lu Tingxiao had carefully carried her back to bed, Ning Xi still did not want to let go. "Accompany me!"

Lu Tingxiao hesitated for a moment before complying in the end.

Ning Xi lay on the bed restfully before she opened her eyes again and looked bright-eyed at the man who laid beside her. "Big Boss, I'm drunk!"

"Mmm."

Ning Xi rolled and leaned on his chest, then poked him with a finger and asked curiously, "It's such a golden opportunity, wouldn't you like to take advantage of me?"

Lu Tingxiao held the crazy girl's little hand and said without any expression, "You still have work tomorrow."

Ning Xi was confused. "Mmm, must work have an inevitable connection with you taking advantage of me?"

Lu Tingxiao continued calmly, "If I take advantage of you, you won't be able to work tomorrow. Maybe you wouldn't even be able to the day after, and the day after that."

What he implied was that she would not be able to leave the bed for a few days...

"Big Boss, you're so corrupted!" Ning Xi instantly looked at him accusingly, then scoffed to expose him, "Was it because of what you said before about...how you have a principle of not condoning pre-material sex?"

Lu Tingxiao replied, "Have I said that before?"

Ning Xi was speechless.

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The next day, after work, Ning Xi went straight to the studio and presented Little Treasure's calligraphy work to Gong Shangze.

"Thank you, Boss!" Gong Shangze was touched, a mix of emotions stirred within him just by looking at the words.

"Haha, no need to thank me, there's no way I could've written this. I asked someone to write it for me! It's a very amazing master who wrote it, so keep it safe. It'll definitely appreciate in price in the future!" Ning Xi teased.

Gong Shangze appreciated it deeply and looked at it for a long time before hanging it at the most obvious spot.

When Qiao Weilan saw Ning Xi come over, she quickly walked over in her high heels to report about her work. "Boss, to ensure the interest of our retailers, we can only open up five branches at most in Imperial. We currently have three, so now we're down to two. These are some of the suitable areas that I've just picked out."

"Okay, let me take a look." Ning Xi put down her bag and took the documents from Qiao Weilan's desk.

Before she could go through anything, she caught sight of another stack of information on Qiao Weilan's desk from the corner of her eye.

"Those are some of the retail applications that I've filtered out," Qiao Weilan explained.

Ning Xi picked up the first proposal on the top and was surprised to see a familiar name on it. "Lu Xinyan?"

"Yes, cousin to the CEO of the Lu Corporation, Lu Tingxiao. Have you heard of her too?" Qiao Weilan asked.

"I've heard a little about her," Ning Xi nodded slightly, then asked, "What's wrong? Does she not fit our criteria?"

"Based on identity alone, Lu Tingxiao's cousin would be more than enough, but...based on what I've learned, Lu Xinyan aspires to be an entrepreneur but she's not really business-minded. Every one of her businesses all suffered huge losses.

"We're in the most important phase, so we must be careful in choosing retailers. As much as Lu Xinyan has great support backing her up, there's no way we can let our brand be played around by her. It could affect our brand, or worse, affect our market presence."

Chapter 966: We Meet Again

Qiao Weilan was worried that Ning Xi was overconfident about Lu Xinyan's identity, so she explained to her why she did not prioritize her as a candidate.

Ning Xi smiled mysteriously. "What a coincidence, I didn't want to work with this person before too."

"Boss, Boss! The branch is running dry. We need to reallocate some stock from the main store!" Han Momo ran to her, panting with one hand holding her phone.

"How many do we roughly need?" Ning Xi asked.

Han Momo handed over the form in her hand and said, "52 in total!"

In comparison to Spirit's bespoke line's vintage magnificence and outstanding design, Spirit's ready-made line was not that far off in terms of quality. From the design to the materials, they had all gone through tight quality checks and they had strictly limited the number of garments in the same design to avoid their clothes being too common, hence their sales numbers were pretty good.

"So many..." Ning Xi looked at the form and noticed that most of them were the more expensive designs which came up to a considerable amount. Most of the current employees were newly hired but she could not simply let anyone do it. "I got it, coincidentally I'm free now, I'll personally reallocate the main store's stock!"

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Spirit's main store had opened in central Imperial's largest premium outlet.

Not too long ago, Ning Xi had met up with Zhuang Keer to shop here the last time. She had even sighed in sorrow when she dropped by History's flagship store.

Who would have thought that today, her own shop too could sit in this golden triangle?

Ning Xi had called the main store first, informing them that she would be over to transfer the stock personally and had them get the stock ready beforehand. Then, she got her chauffeur and made her way to the premium outlet.

When she reached the premium outlet, Ning Xi was walking towards the store when she unexpectedly bumped into some familiar faces in the elevator.

Inside the lift, Guan Ziyao was intimately holding onto the arm of a noble and elegant woman. She was smiling as she spoke to her. An adorable and lovable girl beside the woman was also chatting away happily.

It was Guan Ziyao, Yan Ruyi, and Lu Xinyan...

Upon realizing who it was in the elevator, Ning Xi had already stepped in and the door automatically closed behind her.

At the same time, when all three of them saw Ning Xi in the lift, they were stunned and it became awkward.

"Miss Ning, what a coincidence, we meet again!" The first person to speak was Guan Ziyao.

Guan Ziyao wore a composed champagne Prada dress, which was one of their latest designs. Her outfit was easily worth a few hundred thousand dollars; a Louis Vuitton bag hung on her arm and flawless pearls decorated her neck and wrist while her posture was calm and graceful as if she did not bear any hostility and grudges against the person before her.

After Yan Ruyi's temporary shock, she evaluated Ning Xi and did not say anything.

"Miss Guan, Miss Lu, Madam Lu." Ning Xi only nodded slightly and considered her greetings courteous enough, then she stood quietly aside without any intention of making small talk.

"How unlucky! We were shopping so happily. How did we bump into this woman...?" Lu Xinyan gently took Yan Ruyi's arm and looked clearly upset.

When she heard Lu Xinyan mumbling, Ning Xi subconsciously took a second look at her. When she had a clear look of the outfit on her, a slight surprise flashed across her eyes.

The floral and bird patterned dress in the style of calligraphy ink on Lu Xinyan was clearly from Spirit's bespoke line. Ning Xi had seen it in Gong Shangze's design drafts and she had a memorable impression of it.

However, this naturally was not one of those that Qiao Weilan had given out because Lu Xinyan was not on the name list. She had probably pre-ordered it when the studio released the news of being out of stock.

Chapter 967: A Really Awesome Store

When she noticed Ning Xi's gaze on her, Lu Xinyan was suddenly delighted and told Yan Ruyi, "Aunty, I'll bring you to a really awesome store later. It just opened recently and you'll definitely like the style of clothes they have!"

Yan Ruyi laughed mirthfully. "How could I possibly wear clothes that you young ladies fancy?"

"No! They also have many styles that suit you, especially with your charisma! Besides, when you stand beside me and Sis Ziyao, you look completely like our sister!"

"Oh, you! How could you spew such nonsense?!" Yan Ruyi was secretly pleased to hear her compliment. No woman would truly brush off their appearance; it did not matter how old they were.

However, Lu Xinyan was not exaggerating. Compared to women her age, Yan Ruyi had indeed aged fairly well.

"Aunty, Xinyan is not spewing nonsense. Whenever I shop with you, there've been quite a few times that friends we bump into have asked me privately about when I have another elder sister!" Guan Ziyao smiled as she said this.

As Yan Ruyi was being showered with compliments by the two girls beside her, she smiled broadly in amusement.

Guan Ziyao seemed to have said those words to amuse Yan Ruyi but the truth was that she was also intending to let Ning Xi hear her. "Quite a few times" implied that Guan Ziyao was very close to Yan Ruyi and that they always came out to shop together...

"But aren't most of the new brands not very reliable?" Guan Ziyao asked worriedly.

Lu Xinyan quickly replied, "Sis Ziyao, don't worry! Do you still remember the peacock blue qipao that Madam Fong wore at the dinner banquet? Didn't you think it was pretty too, Aunty? That qipao is the

brand I'm talking about. A few days ago, when Miss Zhuang was receiving international guests with General Zhuang, she wore this brand too!

"Sadly, you can't buy the bespoke ones anymore. You'll need to pre-order at least three months in advance. Nevertheless, I've gone to visit the boutique and the ready-made ones are not bad too. They're completely fine to wear casually and they've got a lot of styles in the main store!"

"Really?" Yan Ruyi started to take interest in this amazing brand. She did have a good impression of the gown Madam Fong wore because it was indeed very pretty and she liked the style. If it was worn by the Zhuangs to receive such prominent guests, it should be quite a top-notch brand.

"Yeah! Aunty, trust my insights! Look, do you think this outfit looks nice on me?"

"Not bad, it's very pretty."

"Exactly, this was one of their pieces that I managed to snag before they were out of stock!"

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The elevator slowly ascended and in between conversations, they arrived at their floor.

Ning Xi was on her way to Spirit's flagship store while Lu Xinyan, Guan Ziyao, and Yan Ruyi coincidentally wanted to check out Spirit's clothes too, thus all four of them had left the elevator at the same time.

When Lu Xinyan saw that Ning Xi had walked out at the same time as them, she looked unhappy but she did not say anything. She only scoffed and pulled Yan Ruyi away.

Ning Xi did not want to get involved with them. Plus, it was even more awkward to walk together, so she had intentionally slowed down her pace behind them until she was quite a distance away.

As they walked, her phone rang. The flagship storekeeper had called to say that they had begun the reallocation of stock and asked her to wait for a while until they completed.

Chapter 968: Followed All The Way To The Store

At the same time, the three of them including Lu Xinyan reached the store.

The decoration in Spirit was unlike History's that had been designed in a vintage style to the tee. Ning Xi had noticed during her observation the last time that that sort of vintage theme was a little too heavy and gloomy.

Thus, Spirit's main color palette was on the nude side. It used elements of Chinese aesthetics and at the same time, combined it with modern minimalism. Altogether it looked very fresh, simple and elegant.

Apart from that, the store had also put in extra effort in the rest area. They provided a comfortable waiting area for the men who accompanied their girlfriends and wives to shop and in another corner was a special play area for children. It was very people friendly.

After Yan Ruyi walked in, her eyes skimmed the area and when she saw that there were a few children playing with wooden blocks in the play area, her gaze instantly softened; her first impression of this store was a good one.

To actually think of things like these, one could tell that the boss was a detailed and gentle person. Usually, stores would not waste space on things like these.

"Miss Lu, you're here!" When they saw the customers who had walked in, the shop assistants greeted them and served them tea.

The last time Lu Xinyan had come, she had snagged up quite a few pieces. Furthermore, she was wearing one of Spirit's rare bespoke pieces on her, so the shop assistants remembered her quite well.

They noticed two other people beside Lu Xinyan. One was in her twenties and the other was slightly older. They both had extraordinary charisma, especially the older lady. They surmised that she must be someone important. The shop assistants naturally did not dare neglect them and were even more eagerly attentive towards them.

"Is the store manager not here?" Lu Xinyan looked around and asked.

"The store manager is currently in the storeroom sorting out some stock. Is there anything we can help you with, Ms. Lu?" the shop assistant inquired passionately.

"Do you have these few outfits in your store?" Lu Xinyan turned on her phone, clicked on her photo album and showed the shop assistant the few outfits she wanted.

The shop assistant took a look and quickly replied, "Yes, these are selling like hot cakes. All of the other branches are out of stock, only our flagship store has some. However, one of the two just arrived today and we haven't had the time to hang them out. Initially, we were preparing to put up the new arrivals tomorrow, but if you'd like to have them, I can go and get them for you from the storeroom now, Miss Lu."

"Sure!" When she knew that there was stock, Lu Xinyan was overjoyed.

"Okay, then please have some tea and wait for a moment," said the shop assistant before she went to the storeroom for the outfits.

Not too long after the shop assistant had left, Ning Xi walked in.

The store manager and one of the shop assistants had gone to the storeroom, and the other one was busily assisting a few other customers, so they did not notice Ning Xi's arrival.

Instead, it was Lu Xinyan who saw Ning Xi the moment she walked in.

Ning Xi had not only got off on the same floor as them, she had even walked into the same store! Lu Xinyan tried to keep a cool expression but could not hold it in any longer. "What's wrong with this person!? She's everywhere! And she actually followed us all the way into this store! There's no need to do this even if she wants to worm into a relationship! Doesn't she know that she's really annoying?"

Lu Xinyan's voice was loud enough for Ning Xi to hear.

Guan Ziyao nudged Lu Xinyan. "Xinyan! She's just here to look at the clothes..."

"Look at what clothes? She obviously heard our conversation in the lift and followed us here. Do you think she's stupid?" Lu Xinyan bitterly tugged at Yan Ruyi's arm. "Aunty, don't bother about people like her!"

Yan Ruyi frowned. Even though she did not say anything, she could not help but feel uncomfortable that Ning Xi was stalking her.

Chapter 969: Now I've Seen It All

When she saw Lu Xinyan's irritated expression, Ning Xi asked plainly, "Do you own this store, Miss Lu?"
Did people have to get her permission to enter?

Lu Xintan was stunned and when she realized what she meant, her temper raged. "You! So what if I do or not!? Dare you say that you didn't intentionally follow us in because you want to get close to Aunty?"

Ning Xi wanted to say something but in the end, she just shook her head and laughed. She walked straight to sit at the rest area, closing her eyes while she waited for the store manager to prepare the stock.

Last night, she had been headstrong and drank till late at night, then she had a shoot for the entire day. The moment she finished shooting, she had gone to the studio, then rushed here without stopping to rest. She was already beyond exhausted, so there was no need for her to waste more energy on others.

"Look at her! She has nothing to say! She doesn't even want to buy any clothes. She's just sitting there. Obviously, she's just here to prove her presence only!"

Guan Ziyao shook her head. "You...have you ever seen anyone prove her presence like that? She's probably just waiting for someone!"

"I've never seen it before but now I've really seen it all..." Lu Xinyan muttered.

Yan Ruyi obviously did not want to be tangled in this, so she pat Lu Xinyan on the shoulder and said, "Let's look at the clothes!"

Seeing that Yan Ruyi was not at ease, Lu Xinyan finally shut up.

However, once she thought about Ning Xi's words, she felt very angry. So what if she did not own the store? She was about to open a retail store but they had the nerve to reply her saying that her qualifications did not suit their request. How unimaginable!

Simply based on the identity of Lu Tingxiao's cousin, no one would not give her face. It was just a newly started brand, yet they had unexpectedly rejected her.

However, she really did like this brand's designs very much. In fact, she felt that this time, she was certain that she did not make an error of judgement; she would definitely not make losses again, so she still had not given up hope...

"Oh, Aunty, come over and see this. I think it suits you well, I've noticed it since the last time I came over to shop. It's a good thing it hasn't been sold! Even though this outfit is lovely, it chooses its wearers and I think only you can dominate it, Aunty!"

It was an ornate qipao with embroidered crab-apple flowers which was not overly extravagant. In fact, Yan Ruyi felt that this piece was stunning. "It is not bad!"

"Isn't it? Aunty, I'll give this to you! You don't even need to try it on for me to know that you'll look very good in this!" Lu Xinyan immediately had another shop assistant pack the outfit for her.

"You punk, you wouldn't have something you need my help for, do you?" Yan Ruyi laughed as she caressed the gown. She did like it very much.

Lu Xinyan playfully shook Yan Ruyi's arm and meekly said, "Aunty, you're so smart. Actually...your niece does have a small favor to ask of you!"

"I knew it! That's why you're so eager in currying my favor, what is it now?" Yan Ruyi mocked.

"Well...actually, I want to open up a retail store for Spirit but they rejected my application, replying that my qualifications are not suitable. I have money and resources, how am I not suitable?"

"Why do you want to put another fashion brand on your retail shelf...?" Yan Ruyi felt a headache coming on when she heard this. "Xinyan, just listen to your father and be an obedient lady, or go to Tingxiao's company and have him arrange a stable position for you. Isn't that much better?"

"I don't want that, I like to go into business! Aunty, can you help me to beg Cousin? As long as he says a word, he can definitely solve everything!" Lu Xinyan was begging like a spoiled child.

Yan Ruyi looked helplessly at her. "Xinyan, it's not that Aunty doesn't want to help you, but I can't say much to your cousin. How about you look for him yourself?"

They had so many relatives from the lines of descendants that continue to branch out and if everyone looked for Tingxiao for every little thing, he would die from being so buay. Thus, usually for such requests, she would reject whenever she could and not trouble her son, even if it was for Lu Xinyan.

Lu Xinyan's head drooped when she heard this. Her lingering fears showed on her face. "I don't dare to look for him myself. He's been charmed by that woman. The last time I accidentally offended her too, so maybe that woman's already said some things to Cousin and he now hates me...Sis Ziyao, how about you talk to my cousin for me?"

Chapter 970: Money Is Not A Problem

Since Yan Ruyi had also rejected her suggestion and obviously did not want to trouble Lu Tingxiao, Guan Ziyao would obviously not go against Yan Ruyi's wishes and help Lu Xinyan herself.

Compared to Lu Xinyan, Yan Ruyi came first.

Thus, Guan Ziyao had tactfully advised, "Xinyan, your cousin is so busy recently, it's best if you don't trouble him for this kind of thing."

When she heard Guan Ziyao's answer, Yan Ruyi's expression clearly showed that she was satisfied.

However, Lu Xinyan would obviously be unhappy now.

Guan Ziyao thought about it and continued, "It's not that there isn't any other way...even though I'm not familiar with China, I can get my friends to ask if they can have a word with the people in charge at Spirit."

"That'd be great! Sis Ziyao, you're brilliant!" Lu Xinyan immediately cheered up.

"Oh, you! Wait, I'll call right now to help you ask, but don't have too high hopes, it might not work!"

"If you're calling, Sis Ziyao, then it'll definitely work!"

Guan Ziyao walked to a corner facing a display shelf and flipped through her contacts, stopping to click on Mo Lingtian's number.

Among all her friends in China, Mo Lingtian had the best connections.

"Hello, Lingtian..."

"Hello! Ziyao! Long time no hear!" Mo Lingtian's overjoyed voice greeted from the other end of the phone. After all, it was rare for Guan Ziyao to call him.

"Lingtian, I have something that I need your help with. I wonder if you don't mind..."

"Of course! Nothing is a problem when it comes to you! What is it? Tell me, I guarantee to get it done properly for you!"

"Well, it's not really my problem...it's Xinyan, who wants to retail a brand called 'Spirit', but she didn't get through their shortlisting process. I've just returned to China and don't know many people, so I wonder if you could help me put me through to the right people?"

"Ah...it's Xinyan..." Mo Lingtian's tone lowered quite a bit.

Lu Xinyan was someone from the Lus, so there was no doubt for who and why Guan Ziyao was so helpful to Lu Xinyan.

"If you can't, then..."

Mo Lingtian cut her off and said, "It's not that I can't. Wait for me, I'll help you ask around now."

"Thank you then!" Guan Ziyao was grateful. "If you manage to get a connection, just tell them that money is not a problem!"

"Okay, I know, don't need to thank me!"

After Mo Lingtian hung up, the nonchalant expression on him was instantly replaced by loneliness, bitterness lingering on his face.

How could he have the heart to reject her requests, even if he knew that she was doing it for another man?

After calming down, Mo Lingtian immediately got someone to ask about Spirit. This studio was rather mysterious. The designer used an anonymous name to promote his clothing under the code name ZX and no one knew who the owner behind it was. In the end, he still had to use some of his private means to investigate.

After all, the Mo family was best at searching for information, so it was quite easy to investigate this little thing.

Once he found out the truth, he was entirely dumbfounded!

Pfft!

Spirit's owner is actually that little bunny???

From his investigation, Spirit studio had advanced gradually. It was an unexpected champion in the fashion industry and now, with its momentum, it was about to take over the internationally acclaimed History!

He did not understand this little bunny the more he observed her...

Because he was entrusted this task by Guan Ziyao, Mo Lingtian did not dare to delay any further. Once he figured it out, he immediately called Ning Xi.

An Asian expression of "It's been a while".