

King Hall 221

Chapter 221: Am I That Petty?

It was a little after seven in the evening.

Mu Jinyu and Gu Xiyan walked out of the Shangri-La Hotel, hand in hand, deeply affectionate and inseparable like glue.

Mu Jinyu was unaware that someone had secretly photographed them, angering Chen Xuyang to no end.

If he had known, he probably would have thought it served him right!

When they returned home with Gu Xiyan, Xiaorou was already there.

"You're back? Is everything okay with Qiaoxia's family?"

Wen Rou asked with a smile upon seeing the two return.

"It's fine, just a small issue."

Mu Jinyu replied.

As he and Gu Xiyan entered the house, they automatically distanced themselves, no longer as intimate.

"Oh." Wen Rou responded, then seeing Gu Xiyan come in afterward, noticed her gait was a bit strange, and her expression somewhat peculiar, displaying a mix of embarrassment and guilt.

"Xiyan, what's wrong with you?"

Curious, Wen Rou couldn't help but ask upon seeing Gu Xiyan's state.

"Nothing... It's nothing." Gu Xiyan waved her hand dismissively.

Then, seeing Wen Rou staring at her with those strange eyes, she felt inexplicably guilty and hurriedly limped further inside, saying, "I'm not feeling too well, I'm going to rest in my room."

As she spoke, she glared at Mu Jinyu without leaving a trace.

After Gu Xiyan retreated to her room, Mu Jinyu and Wen Rou exchanged glances.

Mu Jinyu also felt somewhat guilty and awkwardly smiled at Wen Rou, saying, "Wen Rou, have you had dinner?"

"Yes," Wen Rou nodded and replied in a low voice.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu knew Wen Rou must have guessed something about his relationship with Gu Xiyan, and he felt a twinge of unease inside.

Wen Rou looked at Mu Jinyu with hesitation then finally pursed her lips and said, "Little Mu, are you and Xiyan... are you together now?"

Hearing this, Mu Jinyu took a deep breath, nodded, and said, "Yes, that's right."

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's answer, Wen Rou's heart trembled, and her already pale complexion grew even more distressed.

Her face ashen, her little hands fiddled anxiously, and she bit her lip nearly to the point of drawing blood.

Mu Jinyu wasn't sure how to speak to Wen Rou, his head aching with the problem.

The two stood in silence in the living room for a long while.

Eventually, Wen Rou managed to compose herself, suppressing the heart-wrenching pain, and with a pale face, she looked up and forced a smile at Mu Jinyu, whispering, "That's really good news. I've always thought Sister Xiyan and you were a great match. I wish you both eternal happiness..."

Her heart in turmoil, she spoke somewhat incoherently and after taking a deep breath, made up her mind and said through clenched teeth, "It's not very appropriate for me to stay here anymore. I'll move out right away, so I won't be in the way..."

Having said that, Wen Rou turned around, ready to retreat to her room to pack up her things and leave hastily, so as not to disturb the newly united couple.

As Wen Rou turned, her emotions were weighed down with heaviness and sadness.

She suddenly remembered how Mu Jinyu, in a joking tone, had said to her, "Why don't you be my girlfriend?"

And now she suddenly wanted to say yes.

Unfortunately, due to my reserve and shyness, I did not respond back then and chose to flee instead.

Following that, I recalled the day I got hurt, Mu Jinyu carried me home on his back, walked me to my room, tucked me in, and then quietly kissed me goodnight before leaving...

At that moment, I could have let him stay, but regretfully, I still didn't make the brave choice.

Later, I thought about the time when Gu Xiyan had just moved in, I felt a sense of crisis in my heart but didn't dare to pursue Mu Jinyu actively due to my inferiority complex, thinking to myself that if they were to be together, it might not be so bad...

Now, as they are truly together, I feel so much regret!

It was me first no matter if it was the declaration of love or living together; it was all me first. Why did it end up like this...

Wen Rou's mind was a mess, not knowing exactly what she was thinking, and tears unbiddenly fell from her eyes. Original content can be found at Novel-Fire.net

'Thank goodness, my back is turned to Little Mu, and he won't see me in this embarrassing state,' Wen Rou bitterly smiled to herself.

"Drip!"

As Wen Rou was thinking about returning to her room and stealthily wiping away her tears so Gu Xiyan wouldn't see and become unhappy, at that moment, she suddenly felt someone grasp her wrist.

"Don't go!"

Mu Jinyu, as Wen Rou turned to face him, reached out to grab her wrist and spoke with a tone full of apology.

Seeing Wen Rou's lack of reaction, Mu Jinyu also felt very uncomfortable, realizing he was indeed a bastard for hurting Wen Rou again.

But as things had come to this, he couldn't possibly let Wen Rou go, as he would regret it later!

With a slight pull, he yanked Wen Rou towards him, and as Mu Jinyu looked at her face, which had been turned away from him, he saw she was already in tears, causing his heart to ache unbearably.

"Wen Rou, you..."

Mu Jinyu started to say something but found himself at a loss for words, feeling choked up and extremely uncomfortable.

"Little Mu, I'm sorry for making a fool of myself. I'm okay, I..."

Coming back to her senses, Wen Rou, seeing that Mu Jinyu had witnessed her embarrassing moment, felt incredibly ashamed. She twisted her wrist free of his grasp and began to frantically wipe away the tears on her face.

However, the more she thought about it, the more aggrieved she felt, and the tears flowed more abundantly, unable to be wiped away completely.

Mu Jinyu was distressed, guilty, and self-reproaching, and finally, with a heavy sigh, he tightly embraced Wen Rou and whispered, "I'm sorry for making you suffer, although it sounds irresponsible, I really don't want you to go, I'm too greedy, won't you please stay?"

Mu Jinyu's words were somewhat jumbled because he also didn't know how to keep Wen Rou with him.

He had thought that Wen Rou, once in his embrace, would pound on him with her fists, struggling in his arms, wanting to break free.

Or she might have other kinds of reactions, but he didn't expect that once he held Wen Rou, she wouldn't have such a violent response but instead wrapped her arms around his waist and held on tight, unwilling to let go.

When Wen Rou was embraced by Mu Jinyu, her body couldn't help but tremble slightly, then reflexively, she hugged Mu Jinyu tighter, resting her little head on his chest, murmuring in a low voice:

"Little Mu, I don't want to leave either, I feel so regretful now for not having the courage to accept you back then. But since you are with Sister Xixian now, I can't stay any longer, lest I ruin your relationship. Although Sister Xixian never says it, I know she cares a lot about you..."

As Wen Rou spoke, she took a deep breath, then gently pushed Mu Jinyu away, her eyes brimming with tears as she looked at him, her expression forlorn, "I don't dare to stay out of greed and continue living with you, in case I make Sister Xixian upset, and then lose even the right to look at you from afar."

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu gave a wry smile, just as he was about to speak.

A slightly displeased female voice then sounded from nearby:

"Hey, Xiaorou, what do you mean by this? Am I as petty as you describe?"

Chapter 222 - Eating Breakfast

A familiar voice sounded, and Wen Rou's face changed. She struggled to turn her stiff neck and looked back.

Sure enough, Gu Xiyan had silently opened the door at some point and was standing at the entrance, with a look that seemed to be both smiling and not smiling as she watched them.

The sentence just now was evidently spoken by her.

Upon seeing Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou's face instantly went pale as if she were a mistress caught in the act by the rightful partner.

She gestured helplessly at Gu Xiyan and stammered softly, "Sister Xiyan, I'm sorry, I... I won't disrupt your relationship, I'll leave right now..."

"Fool, it's because your Sister Xiyan doesn't care about these things that she talked to you like that."

Mu Jinyu saw how pitiable Wen Rou looked and couldn't help but remind her helplessly.

"Ah?" Wen Rou heard Mu Jinyu's words and felt a bit confused.

Gu Xiyan doesn't mind?

Then, she carefully thought about what Gu Xiyan had just said, "Xiaorou, what do you mean? Am I as petty as you say?"

So her meaning was... she wasn't that petty? She would allow her to stay and cohabit with them?

Or perhaps...

She was willing to share Mu Jinyu with her?!

As Wen Rou thought about these things, her pale face couldn't help but gain a flush of red once more.

Mu Jinyu, looking at the changes in Wen Rou's expression and recalling the words she had whispered while resting on his chest, couldn't help but smile bitterly, cursing himself for being such a scoundrel, wondering what virtues or abilities he had to gain the favor of these wonderful women.

He had originally thought that Wen Rou would not accept being with him and Gu Xiyan together.

But from Wen Rou's words just now, it seemed she didn't care about these things.

This was a bit strange.

After all, Gu Xiyan had grown up in a large family, and she was quite open-minded about men having more than one woman outside, choosing to turn a blind eye to avoid troubles for herself.

Xu Qingya probably felt the same way as Gu Xiyan, rather open-minded towards such matters.

But Wen Rou didn't grow up in that type of family environment; normally, she would not be able to accept such a situation. However, in reality, she seemed to be accepting and felt that she could only be satisfied just by standing by and watching him from afar...

Perhaps this had to do with the fact that her parents had separated when she was young, and she had never felt secure?!

However, this was also good, as the problem that had given him such a headache, not knowing how to solve it, seemed to resolve itself so neatly.

While Mu Jinyu felt relieved, he also silently reminded himself that he must never let down Wen Rou and the others in the future.

While various thoughts churned through Mu Jinyu's mind.

Gu Xiyan walked over from the entrance with slow steps, glaring fiercely at Mu Jinyu and said softly, "Who told you I didn't mind?"

Having said that, she lifted her foot and stomped hard on Mu Jinyu's foot.

"Hiss!"

Gu Xiyan's stomp didn't cause much pain to Mu Jinyu, but it caused her own foot to hurt.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu could only give Gu Xiyan an apologetic smile.

"Hmph." Gu Xiyan glared at Mu Jinyu again and then took Wen Rou's hand and said softly, "Come on, Sister, let's ignore him. We'll go to our room and talk!"

After that, Gu Xiyan pulled Wen Rou towards their room, limping as they went.

Wen Rou was a bit at a loss, following Gu Xiyan for a few steps, then turned back to look at Mu Jinyu with eyes full of panic.

Mu Jinyu nodded at her to reassure her and to take it easy.

Upon seeing this, Wen Rou mustered the courage, turned her head back again, and entered the room with Gu Xiyan.

"Bang!"

The door was shut.

What private conversations the two women had in the room, Mu Jinyu didn't know.

Mu Jinyu did not attempt to eavesdrop, he slowly sat on the sofa and brewed himself a cup of tea.

Things really turned out to be rather surprising.

However...

He turned his head towards the tightly closed bedroom door and gave a bitter smile.

He had thought revealing the truth to them and facing up to the situation would lead to a happy life, but now it seemed he would still have to sleep alone.

It looks like another lonely, sleepless night awaits!

Mu Jinyu chuckled and shook his head, then finished his tea and got up to return to his own room.

Time to sleep in the dark.

He didn't know how much time had passed when he, half-asleep, suddenly felt someone lift the thin blanket and slip in beside him, wrapping an arm around him.

Mu Jinyu, still in a daze, thought that it must be Gu Xiyan.

Without much thought, sympathizing with Gu Xiyan's state, he just turned and embraced her as well, continuing to sleep.

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The next day.

Wen Rou woke up early, tightly hugging Mu Jinyu's arm, laying her head to the side to gaze at his profile with a joyful smile on her lips.

Reflecting on last night's conversation with Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou hadn't expected that Gu Xiyan would be able to accept her sharing Mu Jinyu with her.

At first, she was quite shocked, but soon after, naturally, she was happy.

She had thought that if she could stay by Mu Jinyu's side, even if she spent her whole life as his maid, just being able to see him often was satisfaction enough for her.

But she was afraid she wouldn't be able to contain her feelings and might end up ruining their relationship, so she thought about leaving sadly.

However, now she could not only stay but be by Mu Jinyu's side, although with Gu Xiyan. What was there to be dissatisfied about?

After all, wasn't this how they had been living together all along?

And it wasn't like she was unaccustomed to it.

After finishing their talk, Gu Xiyan had even encouraged her to come and keep Mu Jinyu company.

But Wen Rou, being shy and timid, didn't dare to go over, fearing it was a test from Gu Xiyan.

Gu Xiyan knew her thoughts and then told Wen Rou that she genuinely couldn't go to accompany Mu Jinyu, or else she wouldn't have asked her to go.

Thinking about Gu Xiyan's recent inconvenience and guessing the reason, Wen Rou grew even more fearful.

In the end, Wen Rou lingered and hesitated for a long time, figuring that Mu Jinyu must be asleep by now, before she finally went to join him.

Though she was scared last night, there was also a sense of anticipation in her heart.

Unexpectedly, Mu Jinyu did not do anything; he just held her, and they quietly slept together.

Just like the first time they met.

Their night passed without incident, and while Wen Rou was relieved, she also felt a hint of disappointment. Then she figured that Mu Jinyu must have thought it was Sister Xiyan who came over, right?

So, out of pity, he hadn't done anything?

Wen Rou lay in Mu Jinyu's arms, lightly nuzzling his chest with her head, feeling a sense of serenity and joy.

She didn't dwell on it too much; just being able to enjoy Mu Jinyu's long-missed warm embrace made her very content.

"Hmm?"

Mu Jinyu had gone to bed early and was about to wake up when he felt Wen Rou's movement and slowly opened his eyes. Turning to look at her, he felt a bit perplexed.

Odd, wasn't it supposed to be Gu Xiyan who, having felt very clingy yesterday, came over last night?

How did it turn into Wen Rou?

Seeing Mu Jinyu awake, Wen Rou gave him a shy smile and said, "Little Mu, you're up? Are you hungry? I'll go make breakfast for you."

"Yeah, I'm hungry, I want breakfast," Mu Jinyu replied, leaning down.

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Chapter 223 - Jade Bee Dew

A week later.

The various beauty and makeup products sold out by Xu Xiaojiao began to hit the market one after another.

Among them, the fastest to act was naturally the Face of Jade Group, controlled by the Gu Family.

This skincare product, which made people feel noticeably younger as soon as they used it, caused a sensation upon its release. When it was discovered that long-term use could make one look at least three years younger, all women went crazy for it.

The "Jade Bee Dew" skincare water, named by the Face of Jade Group, was immediately sold out by people who had lined up in anticipation.

Even though a bottle of "Jade Bee Dew" was priced at six thousand six hundred and sixty-six, which was very expensive—equivalent to one, or even two or three months' salary for some women—

the beautifying effects were so good that they all felt it was worth it after trying it themselves.

Compared to their other options, they only had to save money, not go for ASPs, nor buy substandard makeup products. Purchasing "Jade Bee Dew" was far more cost-effective.

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Jinyu Company, president's office.

Mu Jinyu had not been out playing today and had been called over by Gu Xiyan.

"What's the matter? It's just a trivial medicine, why be tense? Just wait a few days until our new product launch, and it will wipe out our competition and sweep across the country!"

Mu Jinyu was half-lying on the sofa, his head resting on Wen Rou's thigh, laughing at the worried Xu Qingya and Gu Xiyan across from him.

Gu Xiyan frowned and said, "This morning I already had someone line up to buy a bottle of 'Jade Bee Dew'. Old Chen has just analyzed it, and the ingredients they used are of very poor quality..."

"Isn't that quite normal?"

Mu Jinyu laughed nonchalantly, "They were able to mass-produce that 'Jade Bee Dew' in just over ten days. It's clear that after they got the secret formula, they did not continue to research and solve the unresolved issues in the formula.

Having seen that formula myself, it demands very high-quality ingredients. There's no way they could have gathered enough of them in such a short time, so they obviously opted for lower quality!"

As he spoke, Mu Jinyu got up from the sofa, shook his head slightly and sighed, "In this case, the already unstable 'Jade Bee Dew' is likely to have even more problems.

It's like a ticking time bomb. The more people buy it now, the more side effects will surface later.

Skin rebounding, acne outbreaks, ulcerations—all sorts of issues will emerge, and they'll have a tough time handling it."

Mu Jinyu speculated that originally the Gu family would not have been so desperate to buy the formula and produce it within about ten days.

They probably would have studied it further, resolving some of the hidden issues and reducing the side effects to a certain level, before entering a price war with them.

But because Xu Xiaojiao was so ruthless, the formula ended up being sold to many people, and they had no other choice but to minimize losses by producing and selling it as soon as possible, grabbing as much money as they could.

As for the hidden dangers of that "Jade Bee Dew", they might not have taken them too seriously.

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Gu Xiyao furrowed her brows even more, pursed her lips, and after a light sigh, said,

"You're right, that's exactly what Old Chen said. After analyzing the specific components of 'Jade Bee Dew', he mentioned that the poor quality of the ingredients exposed most of the problems he had originally addressed, and there might even be other unknown issues.

I was worried, so I called you over to see if this 'Jade Bee Dew' might cause serious issues."

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu glanced at Gu Xiyao and knew that although she had cut ties with the Gu Family, she was still their daughter and couldn't just watch indifferently as the Gu Family headed irreversibly down a path of destruction.

After all, if the hidden dangers of "Jade Bee Dew" were to rebound extensively, the bankruptcy and closure of the Gu Family would still be a fortunate event, and if there were significant issues, they might also face criminal liabilities.

"Alright, bring the items here and let me see."

Mu Jinyu sighed softly and said to Gu Xiyan.

"Okay." Gu Xiyan looked at Mu Jinyu gratefully, then handed him the detailed analytic report of "Jade Bee Dew."

"We don't need this," Mu Jinyu waved his hand and said, "I don't really understand this stuff. Just give me the finished 'Jade Bee Dew' instead, I can smell it."

"Oh, okay..." After hearing his words, Gu Xiyan didn't question their authenticity and quickly called her secretary to fetch a bottle of the "Jade Bee Dew" that they had just purchased that morning from the R&D department.

Upon receiving the "Jade Bee Dew," Mu Jinyu opened the lid, leaned in to sniff the bottle, and his expression suddenly changed.

Then, he looked up at Gu Xiyan with a grave expression and said,

"Considering they are your maternal family, you better tell them to stop!

This damned thing has some beautifying effects in the early stage, but with excessive usage and substandard medicinal materials, the more customers use it, the greater the irritation and damage to the skin will become!

Eventually, their entire face will start to rot!"

Mu Jinyu spoke in a terrifying manner. After hearing the consequences, Gu Xiyan was so frightened that she quickly took out her phone to call Gu Zhengxin.

Xu Qingya stood by, listening to Mu Jinyu's warning. She looked at Gu Xiyan and a hint of envy appeared on her face.

She had long been aware of the relationship between Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, and Mu Jinyu.

If not for that, in such business competition, who would warn their rival?!

Especially since Face of Jade Group had acquired their beauty secret formula from a traitor on their side, messing with the formula to make quick money and doom Jinyu Company. As mortal enemies, they should be pleased to see such a scenario unfold, just waiting for their bomb to explode!

But because of Gu Xiyan's relationship with the Gu family members, Mu Jinyu ultimately gave up on revenge and had Gu Xiyan warn her competitors!

The phone call made by Gu Xiyan was quickly answered.

She began to persuade her grandfather to give up on "Jade Bee Dew" now as it wasn't too late, otherwise there would be serious trouble...

But would Gu Zhengxin easily believe her "alarmist talk"?

He just assumed Gu Xiyan was unwilling to see their beauty secret formula leaked and unable to make money, which resulted in substantial losses, so she was trying to deceive him to back off so she could release her "Jade Bee Dew" and then make money.

Therefore, the grandfather and granddaughter hardly exchanged a few words before they started arguing and eventually hung up the phone.

"Beep beep beep..."

Listening to the busy tone from the phone, Gu Xiyan weakly lowered her arms, put away her phone, and then looked at Mu Jinyu dejectedly, saying, "They don't believe my words!"

"What should we do?" Gu Xiyan's eyes showed a hint of panic, fearing that the Gu Family might run into trouble because of this.

Mu Jinyu saw this, frowned, thought for a moment, sighed softly, and said,

"Well then, we should also speed up our process to release the Beauty Pill sooner.

This way, if their 'Jade Bee Dew' has poor effects, not many people will buy it, and the consequences shouldn't be too severe."

Chapter 224: Support

"Dudu dudu..."

At the Gu Family Villa, Gu Zhengxin hung up the phone, a cold smile curling his lips. He mocked, "Little girl, with your little cunning, you thought you could outsmart your grandfather? Ridiculous!"

"Hm? Dad, did Xiyan call you? What did she say?"

Gu Tianyun, Gu Zhengxin's eldest son, couldn't help but ask after hearing Gu Zhengxin's words.

"Do you even need to ask?" Gu Tiange, the third youngest of the family, interjected, "It must be Xiyan, seeing how our 'Jade Bee Dew' is selling out fast and we're about to count money till our hands cramp, she got jealous and wanted us to step back so she could earn some money too!"

As he spoke, Gu Tiange turned his head to look at Gu Tianhe, who was sitting by the side with a somewhat awkward expression, and said with a light smile, "Second brother, that's all your daughter amounts to, still talking about starting from scratch, but in the end, she still had to cave in."

Listening to Gu Tiange's mockery, Gu Tianhe and his wife felt very embarrassed, and they lowered their heads without daring to speak, feeling somewhat resentful towards Xiyan in their hearts.

Gu Zhengxin waved his hand, signaling Gu Tiange to be quiet. He then glanced around at everyone, pausing a bit longer on Gu Shiqian's face before he finally spoke:

"The third child's words are quite right. That girl, Xiyan, though she has no intention of returning to the Gu Family, lied to me saying something about a 'hidden danger' in 'Jade Bee Dew,' like a ticking time bomb that could ruin our family, and urged me to pull back. Do you find that believable!"

Such words dropped like water into hot oil, instantly setting the Gu family members aboil.

"Not believable, that stinky girl, really can't see us succeed!"

"Exactly, just when we're finally making some profitable business, she actually wants to sabotage us!"

"Pull back? Then should she pay back the money we spent on this beauty recipe?"

"Exactly, we shouldn't listen to her. On the contrary, we should increase our efforts, especially since Xu Xiaojiao, that wretched woman, wouldn't have sold the recipe to just us. If we wait even a bit longer, we might not even break even!"

"..."

Aside from Gu Tianhe and his wife, who remained silent, the rest of the Gu family members eagerly voiced their opinions.

All of them disregarded Xiyan's words, convinced Xiyan was just envious of them.

Seeing this, Gu Zhengxin waved his hand, signaling them to quiet down.

Then he said, "Hmm, that's what I thought too, so I'm going to ignore her!"

After speaking, Gu Zhengxin looked towards Gu Shiqian. His face, previously clouded by Xiyang's words, now cleared up, his smile beaming as he began to speak:

"Today, I must commend Shiqian here!"

Without her, our Gu family wouldn't have acquired the recipe for 'Jade Bee Dew.'

Although we suffered heavy losses because of Xu Xiaojiao, overall, we won't be at a loss.

After all, our 'Jade Bee Dew' opened the market for such beauty products. Even if similar products appear later, given that we entered the market first, customer loyalty won't erode too much, and we'll still make a tidy sum..."

Sitting in her seat, Gu Shiqian listened to her grandfather's praise, a proud yet reserved smile hanging on her face.

She smirked internally, "Xiyang, oh Xiyang, what use is there in founding the Face of Jade Group? It's still becoming my company! What use is there in joining Jinyu Company? Isn't the company's core product for the next quarter still ending up in my hands?"

...

The situation at the Gu family was unknown to Mu Jinyu.

Gu Xiyang heard Mu Jinyu's words and immediately showed a look of gratitude.

She was aware that if it hadn't been for her, anyone else would have seen Mu Jinyu delay the release of the Beauty Pill, that could sweep all cosmetics and health products, just to enjoy the debacle a bit more and set up an even bigger stage for the farce.

But now, because of her, he hadn't done that and had to disrupt the original plans, releasing the Beauty Pill ahead of schedule.

Gu Xiyan turned to look at Xu Qingya, who seemed slightly troubled, and said, "I'm sorry, Sister Qingya, if this makes you uncomfortable, let's forget it. I will try to persuade them again later."

Although she did not want the Gu family to stir up too much trouble, Gu Xiyan was, after all, the president of Jinyu Company, and she had to consider the company's interests.

When Xu Qingya heard Gu Xiyan's words, she shook her head and smiled, "It's okay, although releasing the Beauty Pill now might be rushed, the pharmaceutical factory has been working overnight for the past few days. The reserve is still enough; there shouldn't be any chaos..."

"That sets my mind at ease," Gu Xiyan said with a sigh of relief, although apologetically saying to everyone, "I'm sorry for causing you trouble because of me."

"It's nothing," Mu Jinyu reassured Gu Xiyan for a few moments, then told Xu Qingya, "Let's set the price of the Beauty Pill at 9999 Yuan. Any more expensive and people won't be able to afford it."

Xu Qingya was slightly taken aback by his words, then nodded, "Alright."

A few days ago, Mu Jinyu had said to price it at eighteen thousand per pill, which was just right.

Now, suddenly changing to 9999, although he didn't elaborate, everyone present understood that Mu Jinyu wasn't worried about the high price deterring buyers.

Rather, he feared that if it was priced too high, some people would opt for the cheaper 'Jade Bee Dew,' and that would make the potential fallout for the Gu family even worse.

The current pricing of the Beauty Pill was only three thousand yuan higher than the Jade Bee Dew, but the effect was ten times stronger. No matter how you looked at it, the deal was much better. It was likely that few people would choose to buy 'Jade Bee Dew' but would grit their teeth, pay an extra three thousand three hundred yuan, and opt for the Beauty Pill instead.

With this strategy, their Beauty Pill, now priced for thinner profits but higher sales, wouldn't lose too much money. Perhaps, it could even bring in more profit while minimizing the negative consequences that Jade Bee Dew might have caused.

Gu Xiyan understood all these things, and as she looked at Mu Jinyu, her gaze was full of apologetic tenderness and endless love.

She decided that when she went home that evening, she would let loose and let Mu Jinyu enjoy himself.

...

Several days later.

The news of Jinyu Company releasing a new product had gone out but hadn't stirred up much attention.

Only a few people like Chen Xuyang, Xu Xiaojiao, and Gu Shiqian, who had always been paying attention to them, kept an eye on this.

When they learned of this news,

Chen Xuyang revealed a cold smirk and turned to Lin Xiaoru beside him, "Sweetheart, what do you think? How many people will show up at their launch tomorrow? Will any reporters be there?"

Chen Xuyang had completely given up on Gu Xiyan after realizing that day that she was a disgrace to herself, and he formally got together with Lin Xiaoru.

"Hehe, darling, don't worry," Lin Xiaoru said with a sweet smile to Chen Xuyang, "I've contacted people in the industry from Lin Pharmaceutical. Absolutely no reporters will attend their product launch tomorrow. No one will risk showing up to support them. Their event is destined to become a joke!"

As Lin Xiaoru said this with a smile, there was a cold gleam in her eyes when she mentioned Gu Xiyan and the others.

"Heh," Chen Xuyang chuckled coldly, proposing, "That's so pitiful. Then let's go give them some support tomorrow!?"

Lin Xiaoru certainly didn't think Chen Xuyang was reminiscing over old times, wanting to support Gu Xiyan. It was clear he wanted to go there to enjoy the debacle!

She then said with a smile, "Okay, we'll go and support them tomorrow."

Chapter 225: Reading a Joke

Apart from Chen Xuyang and his group showing support for Mu Jinyu and Gu Xiyan,

the Gu family members, upon learning this news, were also prepared to "show their support" for Gu Xiyan!

"Have you heard? That girl Xiyan is with the Jinyu Company; they're going to hold a product launch tomorrow. I really don't know what gave her the courage to keep competing with us!"

In the Gu Family Villa, Gu Tiange sat on the sofa with his legs crossed, holding a wine glass and sipping red wine, speaking with disdain.

His wife, Chen Jiaomeng, was also laughing so hard that she was shaking, saying, "Giggle, giggle. It's really amusing. The company's secret beauty formula was leaked who knows how many times by their former CEO, and in the end, the company got shut down by Lin Pharmaceutical. Yet they still dare to shamelessly carry on!"

Gu Tianyun's wife, Liu Xiaoyun, chimed in, "Exactly, the investment and research and development costs of their company are not even on the same level as ours. Making another copy of our 'Jade Bee Dew,' do they really think they can start a price war with us?!"

Gu Tianyun shook his head slightly, his face showing disappointment, and sighed, "Ah, I remember yesterday, Xiao Yan even called me, urging us to stop, or we would get into big trouble. Yet today, she

herself comes up with her own 'Jade Bee Dew.' It turns out her advising us to stop was just so their company could smoothly sell counterfeit 'Jade Bee Dew'!"

Gu Shiyu also sighed and said, "Ah, I never realized before that Xiao Yan could be such an ungrateful person, ready to sacrifice the interests of our Gu Family for an outsider's company!"

Gu Tiange and Lin Mengling, listening to their ridicule, had very ugly looks on their faces, but they didn't dare to say anything or speak up for their daughter.

Hearing their words, Gu Shiqian laughed and said, "Aunt, Mom, your words aren't right. What if they don't need to engage in a price war with us? What if they have acquired a new beauty formula that is ten times more effective than 'Jade Bee Dew?' So the fragrance of wine fears not the deep alleys, and they need not worry about being shut down by Lin Pharmaceutical!"

Liu Xiaoyun and Chen Jiaomeng, while applying "Jade Bee Dew," shook their heads with a chuckle and said, "How could that be possible? With prolonged use of our 'Jade Bee Dew,' one can look two to three years younger. If theirs is ten times stronger, then it would mean looking ten years younger. If that were true, wouldn't it be a miracle drug? If that's the case, we'd concede defeat!"

Gu Shiqian also laughed. She was just making a casual remark, and of course, she didn't believe that under such circumstances, Gu Xiyan and her team could find a better beauty formula and still manage to defeat them with a much lower price.

"Their press conference begins at twelve o'clock tomorrow, but since they've already been shut down by Lin Pharmaceutical, I guess not a single person will show up. As family, let's go and give Xiao Yan some support tomorrow!"

Gu Shiqian continued with a smile.

"This..." Chen Jiaomeng hesitated, saying, "Could this invite resentment from the Lin Family and lead to their retaliation?"

Gu Shiqian shook her head and laughed, "Mom, do you really think we're going to show our support?"

With that said by Gu Shiqian, Chen Jiaomeng understood.

So did the rest of the Gu family members.

...

The next day.

Noon, eleven-thirty.

Far East Building.

The product launch of the Jinyu Group was set up on the first layer of the building.

By this time, the building's main entrance was already covered with a layer of red carpet, and many flower baskets had been placed on both sides.

Just waiting for the journalists, media, influencers, colleagues from the beauty industry, and participating workers to arrive.

But...

With less than half an hour left before their new product launch, not a single person invited by Xu Qingya had arrived.

The women, including Gu Xiyan, who had been directing and arranging various matters at the venue, learned of this news and lost the heart to continue. They all walked out from the venue.

Gu Xiyan, looking at the nearly empty parking slots not far away, expressed some despondency and said, "So not a single one of them came. Is Lin Pharmaceutical really that powerful? Do these people all dare not offend them?"

"It's okay, since none of these reporters and media came, we still have our own official website and public account, which we can use for promotion," Xu Qingya comforted Gu Xiyan.

"But who pays attention to our official website and public account?" Gu Xiyan sighed.

Mu Jinyu also came out from the venue and said indifferently, "It doesn't matter if no one comes. Eventually, when we place the Beauty Pills in our specialty stores, there will be someone willing to take the plunge. Even if no one buys them at first because they find them expensive, we can gather some passersby and give away a few for free. That'll be enough to get things started!"

"That might be the only way..." Gu Xiyan said helplessly.

The method that Mu Jinyu mentioned was far less effective than being widely reported by the major media journalists and becoming an overnight sensation. They would need to first gather a group of loyal customers, and then allow time for the situation to slowly ferment, to truly unleash the power of the Beauty Pill.

Just as the women, including Gu Xiyan, were feeling utterly disappointed and preparing to return to the venue to inform the building manager to cancel the day's launch event,

they saw a Porsche make a turn, speed into the Far East Building Plaza, and then pull up in the parking slots near their entrance.

"Someone's coming."

Gu Xiyan and the others felt a surge of spirit upon seeing this, thinking that the painstaking planning and preparation of the past few days hadn't been a waste of time.

However...

When the car door opened, and a young couple, arm in arm, stepped out, Gu Xiyan's face suddenly soured.

This was because the newcomers were none other than Chen Xuyang and Lin Xiaoru.

Gu Xiyan's displeasure was not because her former suitor had given up on her to be with Lin Xiaoru, but because she realized that these two had come to mock her!

After all, Lin Xiaoru was the young miss of Lin Pharmaceutical, which had issued the ban against their Jinyu Company!

"Hey, it's already half past eleven, how come there's not a soul around?"

Chen Xuyang and Lin Xiaoru, walking arm in arm toward Gu Xiyan, looked around and couldn't help but chuckle, "Xiyan, it seems your product launch is a bit of a failure!"

"Is this amusing to you?" Gu Xiyan looked at Chen Xuyang with a frosty face and showed him little courtesy, "If you've come for a laugh, you've had your fun. You can leave now."

"Why should we leave?" Lin Xiaoru asked, a look of surprise crossing her face, and then, pulling an invitation from her bag, she said, "We've come to attend your launch. Why are you trying to drive us away?"

Mu Jinyu approached, her expression calm, and said, "You're from Lin Pharmaceutical, aren't you? Since you've already blacklisted us, why bother with the pretense? You might as well stay away from our launch. We've blacklisted you too. We won't be selling our products to you..."

Lin Xiaoru, hearing Mu Jinyu's words, was also taken aback for a moment, and then, as though she had heard a hilarious joke, began laughing so hard she clutched her stomach and doubled over.

"You're going to blacklist me? Withhold products from me? Hahaha... That's just hilarious. You're actually telling us that we can't attend your product launch? Let me guess, did you decide to cancel the launch since no one showed up? Hahaha..."

Chapter 226:

Gu Xiyan listened to Lin Xiaoru's triumphant laughter, her face frosty, anger bubbling up from nowhere.

She wanted to say something, but Mu Jinyu raised his hand and waved it, stopping her from speaking, and then said calmly, "The press conference will of course proceed as scheduled, sorry to disappoint you."

Lin Xiaoru lifted the invitation in her hand and sneered, "If the press conference is proceeding as scheduled, why won't you let us attend? Although Lin Pharmaceutical isn't partnering with you, we wouldn't stop you from buying our products. You don't let us buy your products, that's one thing, but to be so petty as to not even let us attend the conference, isn't that too much?"

Chen Xuyang stared coldly at Mu Jinyu, remembering how he had been tricked by him that day.

However, given Mu Jinyu's status, it wasn't easy for him to start a fight directly.

Hearing their conversation, Chen Xuyang sneered, "Yeah, we've come all this way to support you, and this is hardly fair of you."

After speaking, he lifted a gift box in his hand and said, "I heard you and Xiyan are together now, I even picked out a gift specifically for you!"

As Chen Xuyang spoke, fearing that Mu Jinyu would reject their gift and throw it away, he himself started to unwrap the gift box, revealing a copper Shancai Tongzi statue inside...

Shancai Tongzi, in some contexts, carries positive connotations, attracting wealth and bringing children.

But Chen Xuyang harbored a grudge against them, obviously not implying that; rather, it represented "losing wealth"!

He was hoping their company would go bankrupt soon!

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu's lips curled into a radiant smile as he took the Shancai Tongzi statue from Chen Xuyang and said with a laugh, "I appreciate the kind gesture, brother. Xiyan and I will try to have a healthy baby boy soon."

Gu Xiyan was still furious, but upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, a blush spread from her cheeks to her ears, and soon she couldn't take it anymore. She extended her little fist and gently punched Mu Jinyu.

Chen Xuyang, looking at Gu Xiyan's blushing beautiful bashful appearance, was momentarily stunned, then his look towards Mu Jinyu filled with even more frustration and resentment!

Of course, he was mostly bewildered.

Could this guy really not understand human speech?

How could he actually think he was offering blessings?!

This reaction from Mu Jinyu made Chen Xuyang feel like he was punching cotton, stifled with frustration.

Chen Xuyang was about to clarify to Mu Jinyu that he didn't mean it that way...

Suddenly, several cars arrived.

Then, these cars parked, the doors opened, and over ten people got out.

The newcomers were Gu family members.

Upon seeing her relatives from the Gu family, Gu Xiyan's expression froze, and the blush on her face quickly faded away.

Turning somewhat pale.

She knew that the Gu family members definitely weren't there to support her. She had contacted them several times in the past few days, asking them to let go of the "Jade Bee Dew," but each time they refused, and their attitude became more and more hostile.

Under such circumstances, how could they possibly come just to support her?!

They certainly were just like Chen Xuyang, there to see her embarrassment.

Gu Xiyuan truly didn't want to be the subject of their ridicule, especially since she had declared back then that she would make a success of herself starting from scratch, to make them regret their previous decisions!

But now, her new product launch, because of Lin Xiaoru, had turned into a huge failure, and naturally, she didn't want to face them like this!

Seeing Gu Xiyuan's face grow pale, Mu Jinyu remembered what she had told him that day, so he grabbed her hand, gently patted it a few times, and signaled to her not to worry, he was there for her.

The Gu family members got out of the car, glanced around the venue and the deserted parking lot, and except for Gu Xiyuan's parents, everyone's corner of the mouth curved upward in a sneer.

Then, they saw Gu Xiyuan and a few others and quickly walked over.

Gu Xiyuan's aunt, Liu Xiaoyun, spoke with a laugh, "Xiyuan, it seems like your launch event is lacking popularity, isn't it? Didn't I remember the time wrong—it was supposed to start at noon sharp, wasn't it?"

The third aunt, Chen Jiaomeng, said in a mocking tone, "Do we even need to say it? It's just a small, insignificant company that hardly anyone comes to. Now, with the Lin Pharmaceutical's ban, even fewer people would show up to support her, apart from us family members—who else would come?"

"Mom is right."

Gu Shiqian walked over, looking at Gu Xiyan whose face had turned somewhat pale, and mockingly said, "Sister, why bother working so hard out here? Wouldn't it be better to just come home early, accept Grandpa's arrangement, marry into a good family, and enjoy a comfortable life sooner?"

"Oh, Xuyang is here too!"

Gu Shiyu originally also planned to persuade Gu Xiyan to consider Chen Xuyang, but when she saw Chen Xuyang standing to the side and snuggling up with the imposing Lin Xiaoru, she immediately swallowed her words!

Lin Xiaoru was initially furious that Gu Xiyan's family dared to defy her ban and come to support Gu Xiyan, feeling as if she had been slapped in the face; she was just about to turn around and deal with them!

But hearing their subsequent remarks, she realized something was amiss—it seemed...

Gu Xiyan's family was here to ridicule Gu Xiyan as well!

"Haha..."

Lin Xiaoru couldn't help but burst into laughter, thinking about how much of a failure Gu Xiyan really was—ineffective in business, core product information being sold out, a career full of disappointments; and her love life... certainly wasn't successful, given that Mu Jinyu was clearly incompetent!

Moreover, she's faced betrayal from all sides; what a disastrous mess this woman's life was!

Lin Xiaoru turned her head, looking at Chen Xuyang's handsome profile, feeling like she was truly the winner in life, basking in success!

Gu Xiyan, listening to the Gu family members' sarcasm, was just about to speak.

Suddenly, quite a few more people arrived.

As soon as they got out of their cars,

Gu Xiyun realized that they too were all here to laugh at her and her companions.

She recognized most of these people; she guessed they had been closely following her and Mu Jinyu.

There was Zhang Qihuai, who had been disciplined by Mu Jinyu a few times because of her.

There was also Wang Huanhuan from Huanyue Group, the woman who had competed with her for a cooperation with Trotsky, only to fail because of a boxer brief incident caused by Mu Jinyu.

She remembered Mu Jinyu saying that Wang Huanhuan had followed him, trying to find evidence that he was a fraudster, and had later come forward saying his check was fake, which led Xu Tianzheng to bankrupt her company.

She was definitely here to enjoy the schadenfreude as well!

And there was Li Shuyue at the Face of Jade Exclusive Store, who tried to impersonate a rich lady lusting after his suit money, and was exposed by her.

This fatty, after being exposed by her, canceled the cooperation with their family and even made a scene crying!

Today, needless to say, she was here to mock as well!

The last person, Gu Xiyun also remembered, was the gentle Second Aunt, Wen Yan's mother.

She remembered after Wen Yan faced possible prison time, she had come to their house creating a scene and was disciplined by Mu Jinyu.

Needless to say, she too was here for the ridicule!

Chapter 227: Friends Come Again

Zhang Qiu huai, dressed in a suit and leather shoes, and looking like a mock-up of a human, walked over slowly with a look in his eyes that held a trace of resentment toward Mu Jinyu.

Glancing at Gu Xiyan, who stood close to Mu Jinyu, his anger in his eyes intensified.

Some time ago, he had gone looking for trouble with Mu Jinyu, but his own bodyguard ended up getting beaten up by the other side. He still thought about causing trouble for Mu Jinyu.

But he suddenly discovered...

So, he couldn't care less about causing trouble for Mu Jinyu anymore and went to various major hospitals for checks and treatment, starting from River City. When that didn't work, he went to Jiangnan Province, and then to the Capital City. After going around dozens of hospitals, he even made several trips abroad.

But...

A certain object seemed to have really become junk!

This drove him to despair. Then he began to suspect that it might have been Mu Jinyu's doing!

After learning that today was the launch of the new product by the company that Mu Jinyu and Gu Xiyan had set up, he, having just returned to River City, immediately came over to "support" Mu Jinyu's event!

"Heh heh... what karma! I heard you've been blacklisted by the Lin Family? Hahaha, this launch event of yours seems quite pitiful, huh! Barely anyone has shown up!"

Zhang Qiu huai walked over, sneering at Mu Jinyu, deciding to torment Mu Jinyu slowly.

Chen Xuyang and Lin Xiaoru saw this group of people show up, originally their expressions were somewhat gloomy, thinking they were there to support Mu Jinyu, and were about to turn back to deal with them.

But after hearing what Zhang Qiu huai said, they immediately understood that he also bore a grudge against Mu Jinyu and his group.

Turns out, they weren't here to support Mu Jinyu and his team, but to join in the mockery!

"This guy sure has a lot of enemies, hard to know how many people he's offended!"

Chen Xuyang, holding Lin Xiaoru, couldn't help but laugh and shake his head.

Wang Huanhuan, eyes filled with hatred, stared at Mu Jinyu and Gu Xiyan!

Her once thriving Huanyue Group had gone bankrupt and shut down after offending Xu Tianzheng at the bank that day.

Now, she was drowning in debt and had already given up.

Even if she knew that Mu Jinyu had the support of the Xu Family behind him, what did she have to fear? Besides, the people Mu Jinyu had now offended were the Lin Family of Jiangnan Province, a giant in the pharmaceutical industry who were not afraid of the Xu Family one bit!

If she could come over and kick Mu Jinyu while he was down, mock him, and if she could curry favor with the People of Lin Family, she might be able to escape her current predicament and rise again!

"Tsk tsk... Weren't you so proud a while back? Wasn't it just a word from you that shut my company down? Now that you've offended the Lin Family, even the Xu Family dares not come to support you, tsk tsk... truly pitiful!"

Wang Huanhuan scanned the crowd, and after confirming Lin Xiaoru's identity, she didn't hesitate to start mocking Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu, upon hearing Wang Huanhuan's mockery, showed no change in expression. After all, he had never taken this woman seriously from the beginning, nor would he care about an ant mocking an elephant.

Gu Xiyan, having once been arch-enemies with Wang Huanhuan, naturally couldn't stand the mocking after hearing what Wang Huanhuan said, and her complexion darkened. This text is hosted at Novel-Fire.net

She was about to say something.

Li Shuyue and her husband also came over together, her plump face full of mockery as she spoke, "Tsk tsk, General Gu really has quite the style these days, holding a launch event with so many people coming to support—this is really beyond what I could have imagined!"

Li Shuyue's husband was also full of smiles, bowing to Gu Xiyan and saying, "Thanks to General Gu for canceling our partnership back in the day. Otherwise, now that you've been blacklisted by Lin Pharmaceutical, we might have been implicated as well. Thank you for your foresight and for letting go!"

Gu Xiyan, listening to their words, felt utterly disgusted.

She was currently being ostracized by Lin Pharmaceutical, but she was a part of Jinyu Group, and their previous collaborations were with Face of Jade Group. No matter how she was ostracized by Lin Pharmaceutical, how could that possibly affect them?

Moreover, they were in the cloth business; what did they have to fear from the Lin Family?

Their words, they were purely meant to disgust her!

Thinking of Li Shuyue and her husband, when she had decided to cancel the cooperation with them, they had called her incessantly, practically begging her on their knees, pleading with her not to take it to heart.

Because of Mu Jinyu, although she would not resume any business cooperation with them, she did not kick them when they were down by getting others to gang up and drive their company into bankruptcy!

But now, seeing her seemingly in a run of bad luck, they couldn't wait to kick her while she was down!

It seemed that her decision not to cooperate with them back then was indeed the right one!

Li Shuyue watched as Gu Xiyan's face turned incredibly ugly due to her and her husband's sarcastic taunts, the cold smirk at the corner of her mouth becoming more pronounced. Then, she noticed Gu Shiqian was also here.

Immediately feigning surprise, she greeted, "Oh my, General Gu, you're here too! I'm truly grateful for your broad-mindedness in once again cooperating with Tianyi Textile. Not like some people, ah, who would forgo making money and give someone a piece of their mind over a trivial matter!"

"Oh, not at all," Gu Shiqian said with a glance of pride at Gu Xiyan and a humble smile, "Although I do have some flaws, I wouldn't mess around when it comes to serious matters; I know what is personal and what is business!"

Although the current Face of Jade Group under her control mainly focused on "Jade Bee Dew" beauty products, the Face of Jade Group's clothing business had been established for many years; she was somewhat reluctant to let go of it. Thus, shortly after taking over Face of Jade Group, she went to find Li Shuyue for a collaboration.

At the time, Gu Shiqian hadn't intended to use this move to disgust Gu Xiyan, but seeing Li Shuyue and her husband's performance now, she thought that her decision to cooperate with Li Shuyue again was absolutely right!

Gu Xiyan was so angry that she trembled all over, yet she had no way to deal with them!

Wen Rou's Second Aunt came over, her gaze venomous as she looked at Mu Jinyu and Wen Rou, saying, "Seeing you like this now, it's not in vain that I cursed you day and night, after Xiaoyan went in, to not die a good death!"

"Hiss!"

Chen Xuyang and Lin Xiaoru heard this and gasped, feeling that this aunt was really formidable!

They exchanged glances, their eyes brimming with amusement. Then, Chen Xuyang said to Mu Jinyu with a tsk tsk, "Tsk, tsk... President Mu, you really do have a lot of friends here to support you, each treating you rather generously!"

Mu Jinyu's expression was calm as she said indifferently, "Such 'friends,' I presume there should be more of them by your side. I hope you can still smile when my new product launches."

"Dead duck still being stubborn!" Chen Xuyang said with undisguised disdain.

At that moment.

Another car arrived.

Upon seeing this, Chen Xuyang said cheerfully, "Another friend of President Mu's has arrived; I wonder how this friend plans to show their support!"

At this moment, the car had already parked, and the door opened. Out stepped a young woman whose beauty was no less than that of Gu Xiyan or Xu Qingya.

However, perhaps in her haste, the woman hadn't changed her clothes and was still wearing a white lab coat.

But her figure and looks meant that the white lab coat did not conceal her graceful figure; it only added to her allure!

It was Shen Shuyao.

Lin Xiaoru's originally cheerful expression froze upon seeing Shen Shuyao!

Chapter 228: Is He Also Someone You Can Suppress?

Lin Xiaoru's Lin Pharmaceutical was the largest pharmaceutical and herbal medicine company in Jiangnan Province.

And Shen Shuyao's grandfather, Shen Changchun, was a well-known National Medical Sage in Jiangnan Province, as well as a full professor at the Jiangnan Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Naturally, he had quite a few collaborations with their Lin Pharmaceutical.

Thus, Lin Xiaoru was also acquainted with Shen Shuyao.

Some time ago, when she had her father block Jinyu Company, Shen Changchun had called her father, but at her persistent pleas, her father ultimately did not lift the ban on Jinyu Group!

However, despite this, Shen Shuyao also had her own strengths to stand up to Lin Xiaoru; she came to support Mu Jinyu, and Lin Xiaoru could do nothing about it!

After all, she did not rely on Lin Pharmaceutical to make a living.

As a result, when Shen Shuyao showed up, Lin Xiaoru's complexion became very ugly, extremely sullen!

After Shen Shuyao got out of the car and saw so many people standing at the entrance, she thought that Mu Jinyu's new product launch went rather smoothly, and his friends had not shunned him because of Lin Pharmaceutical's ban.

She slightly sighed in relief, then walked towards Mu Jinyu and greeted him, "Hi, it seems your launch is going pretty well, quite a few people came. I was worried this place might be deserted, so I rushed over. How many people are seated inside now?"

"Heh, how many more people came?!"

Before Mu Jinyu could speak, Lin Xiaoru couldn't hold back and sneered, "In this gathering of a few dozen people, the ones who truly sincerely support you, I'm afraid, are just you alone. After all, not everyone can withstand the blacklist of my Lin Family!"

Lin Xiaoru scoffed, "I guess at today's launch, the audience is just you, what a grand event indeed!"

When Shen Shuyao heard Lin Xiaoru's words, they sounded somewhat familiar. Then she looked to the side and saw Lin Xiaoru, her expression immediately darkened.

She instantly realized that this crowd might just be here to kick Mu Jinyu when he's down!

"Lin Family, such imposing airs!" Shen Shuyao shook her head slightly, her gaze teasing as she said, "I can tell you, in a few days, you will regret your decision to end your cooperation with Jinyu and ban him. Your willfulness will lead to the bankruptcy of Lin Pharmaceutical!"

Shen Shuyao had long known from her grandfather about the miraculous effects of the Beauty Pills and also understood the promising future of Jinyu Group. She had nothing but endless scorn for Lin Pharmaceutical, which refused to cooperate with Mu Jinyu and blocked his sales channels.

Such self-digging of one's grave!

"Ha, I'm really scared!"

Lin Xiaoru immediately feigned a fearful expression and started to sneer.

At that moment, several more cars arrived together.

A Maybach, a Bentley Mulsanne, and a Rolls-Royce, instead of stopping in the parking area, directly drove up beside Mu Jinyu and parked.

Then, under the astonished gazes of the crowd, the car door of the Maybach opened, and Wang Zhengbiao, dressed in a suit and sporting a thick gold chain around his neck, stepped out with an overbearing air and circled around to open the door for someone!

As the car door opened, Mei Yinxue, wearing a white dress, devoid of makeup and not wearing any jewelry, stretched out her long, snow-white, straight legs and exited the vehicle!

As soon as Mei Yinxue made her appearance, the aura of her presence, comparable to a queen, instantly made it hard for Xu Qingya, Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, Lin Qiaoxia, and Shen Shuyao to breathe.

Originally, standing together, they were the focus of the entire venue, like flowers in spring and chrysanthemums in autumn, each outstanding in their own way, dazzling to the onlookers. But the moment Mei Yinxue appeared, their beauty and elegance seemed to fade a bit.

It wasn't that Gu Xiyan and the others were inferior in looks or presence to Mei Yinxue.

Strictly speaking, their beauty was not less than that of Mei Yinxue!

The reason for this was due to age; relative to Mei Yinxue, they were simply too youthful, and having not experienced many big events or been through trials of blood and fire, how could they develop an aura like that of a queen?

Thus, the moment Mei Yinxue made her entrance, she immediately overshadowed everyone else!

Even for Gu Xiyan and the others.

Originally quite attractive, Gu Shiqian, Lin Xiaoru, and Wang Huanhuan became like mere weeds by the roadside under the dominance of Mei Yinxue.

Zhang Qiuhuai, Chen Xuyang, Li Shuyue's husband, and a few men from the Gu family watched Mei Yinxue getting out of the car with a fascinated look in their eyes.

This caused their female companions to pinch them hard several times, warning them, "Do you want to die? This is Mei Yinxue we're talking about!"

They then snapped back to reality, daring not to look anymore, fearing that if they upset Mei Yinxue even slightly, they would suffer the consequences!

After all, she was the most notorious blood-stained rose in both River City and Jiangnan Province!

Gu Xiyan felt immense pressure upon seeing Mei Yinxue's appearance; standing beside Mu Jinyu, she couldn't help but reach out her delicate hand and pinch Mu Jinyu hard several times!

"Who told you to invite her here!"

Gu Xiyan whispered.

Although she was aware of Mei Yinxue's existence and tacitly permitted Mu Jinyu's interactions with her, it didn't mean Gu Xiyan was willing to meet her; she preferred to keep her out of sight!

That way, it was easier to deceive herself!

Enduring the pain, Mu Jinyu smile bitterly and said, "I didn't notify her!"

Mu Jinyu wasn't lying, he truly hadn't notified Mei Yinxue; given the events of the past few days, he didn't know how to face Mei Yinxue. He had thought about contacting her for this product launch, but he feared that having several women confront each other might lead to uncontrollable situations.

After hesitating several times, he eventually decided not to call Mei Yinxue to attend today's conference!

Unexpectedly, Mei Yinxue showed up on her own.

Mei Yinxue got out of her car and walked toward Mu Jinyu, flanked by her Four Heavenly Kings, casting him a resentful glance.

Mu Jinyu's company was launching a new product and was targeted by Lin Pharmaceutical; aside from his enemies paying attention, naturally, his friends were too.

Mei Yinxue originally thought Mu Jinyu would ask for her help, but he didn't, which disappointed her!

Seeing Mei Yinxue's resentful glance made Mu Jinyu somewhat panicky, thinking she was about to cause trouble.

Indeed, Mei Yinxue did cause trouble, but not against him!

Mei Yinxue walked up to Mu Jinyu, glanced at Gu Xiyan, who was wary like a bristling mother cat, said nothing, didn't declare her sovereignty, but instead turned to look at Lin Xiaoru, whose face was extremely ugly!

"Heiress of Lin Pharmaceutical?" Mei Yinxue asked indifferently.

"Yes." Lin Xiaoru, not knowing what she was up to, nodded in response.

"The ban imposed by Jinyu Company, was it your doing?" Mei Yinxue asked again.

Lin Xiaoru, sensing something was off, felt uneasy, unsure of what to say.

"Slap!"

Seeing her reaction, Mei Yinxue's expression suddenly turned cold, like a plum blossom bracing against the snow, swiftly reached out her palm and slapped Lin Xiaoru's delicate cheek!

The sound of the slap was crisp and pleasing, shocking everyone present.

Whether it was Chen Xuyang or Wang Huanhuan, Gu Shiqian, and others, they were all so shocked that their eyes nearly popped out!

"And you think you can impose a ban on him too?!"

After slapping Lin Xiaoru, making her right cheek swell up, Mei Yinxue leisurely withdrew her hand and spoke disdainfully.

Chapter 229: One After Another

Mei Yinxue's slap was both swift and fierce, catching Lin Xiaoru completely off guard and leaving her stunned.

Her ears ringing, Lin Xiaoru couldn't even make out what Mei Yinxue said afterward.

Yet, even though she couldn't hear, the fury in her heart didn't diminish one bit because she missed Mei Yinxue's words!

Lin Xiaoru glared at Mei Yinxue, her eyes burning with flames of rage. She had never been slapped in the face in her whole life!

Not even by her parents.

But this woman, Mei Yinxue, had the audacity to smack her across the face in public!

And the searing pain suggested that her half-numb face wouldn't recover lightly.

Lin Xiaoru was absolutely furious!

"You dare to slap me?!"

Lin Xiaoru glared at Mei Yinxue, grinding her teeth as she spoke!

Mei Yinxue glanced at Lin Xiaoru disdainfully, not taking her seriously at all. After slapping her, she walked over to Mu Jinyu.

"I heard you were having some trouble here, so I called a few media reporters to come over and do a report on your new product!"

Mei Yinxue ignored Lin Xiaoru, saying to Mu Jinyu with a smile and a hint of grievance in her eyes.

Mei Yinxue didn't take Lin Pharmaceutical seriously. Although huge, and dominant in Jiangnan Province's medical field, even extending its reach to River City and holding its own against the Jiang and Xu Families, she didn't care about any of that.

After all, what kind of business had she done before washing her hands clean?

It was a business of licking blood off the edge of a knife!

Mei Yinxue wasn't playing the same game as them. Lin Pharmaceutical tried to develop in River City once, and when they tried to default on their debts to her and the Jiang Family, she forced them into a loss of several billion and made them retreat from River City with their tails between their legs!

It could be said that if it were in Jiangnan Province, Mei Yinxue certainly couldn't touch the Lin Family.

But in River City, other than the Jiang Family who owed her a debt of gratitude, the Du Family who were involved in political circles, and the last secretive ancient martial Chen Family, Mei Yinxue feared no one!

The ringing in Lin Xiaoru's ears finally started to subside, and she stared dead at Mei Yinxue, nearly driven mad with fury.

Never before had anyone dared to treat her like this, slapping her without any fear of the consequences and continuing to chat and laugh with others!

"You guys better go..."

Lin Xiaoru, utterly infuriated, was about to call her bodyguards to deal with Mei Yinxue. She wanted to utterly humiliate this woman, who had driven her to insane jealousy, in front of everyone!

However, when Chen Xuyang heard the beginning of Lin Xiaoru's sentence, he was terrified and quickly covered her mouth. Ignoring her struggles and anger, he whispered in her ear:

"Are you crazy? That's Mei Yinxue! What can your bodyguards do to her? If you lay a hand on her, we'll be bagged and drowned in the river tonight!"

"What? She's Mei Yinxue?!"

Chen Xuyang's warning felt like a bucket of cold water poured over Lin Xiaoru's head, instantly cooling her blood-boiled brain!

After learning of Mei Yinxue's identity, Lin Xiaoru dared not continue to order her bodyguards to confront Mei Yinxue.

It was like asking for death!

However, although Lin Xiaoru didn't dare target Mei Yinxue outright, being slapped for no reason—if she didn't respond at all—it would be as if the Lin Family was afraid of Mei Yinxue?!

"Fine, fine, fine, Mei Yinxue, you're really something. I've already said, whoever comes to support Jinyu Group today, my Lin Group will ban them outright. You're doing great!"

Lin Xiaoru suppressed her crazed thoughts and laughed angrily, "Starting today, all business of your Snow-hidden Group will be targeted by my Lin Group, and we'll see who laughs last!"

After dropping the fierce declaration, Lin Xiaoru looked around with a gloomy face and said coldly, "Who else today wants to slap Lin Xiaoru's face? Who wants to support Mu Jinyu, come out and let me see! Huh?"

Those she swept with her gaze, Wang Huanhuan, Li Shuyue, the Gu Family, Zhang Qihuai, Wen Rou's Second Aunt, all kept their heads down like cicadas in winter, not daring to make a sound, but they looked at Mu Jinyu with schadenfreude in their eyes, filled with spiteful pleasure!

But, as soon as Lin Xiaoru's words had fallen,

Someone immediately responded:

"Us!"

Lin Xiaoru, upon hearing the voice, felt like she was about to explode with rage. She had just made a fierce statement, and now someone had immediately jumped out to challenge her!

She whipped her head around, followed the sound, and stared wide-eyed at the newcomer while she shrieked hysterically:

"Who is it?!"

Her roar had barely subsided when Lin Xiaoru turned her head and, upon seeing the newcomers clearly, her expression became somewhat stupified.

She saw a large group of people escorting two elderly men in traditional attire, approaching at a leisurely pace. Although they seemed advanced in age, they emanated vitality and an imposing aura that seemed to come naturally to those long accustomed to a position of authority.

Lin Xiaoru instantly recognized the identity of the two elders.

The Xu Family's Head, Xu Tianzheng.

The Jiang Family's Head, Jiang Wangchuan!

The Four Great Families of River City, and now two of the major families had come to support Mu Jinyu!

This turned Lin Xiaoru's face extremely unpleasant!

Zhang Qihuai, Chen Xuyang, Wang Huanhuan, Li Shuyue, Gu Zhengxin, and Gu Shiqian too had expressions as unpalatable as if they had eaten dung after the appearance of the two elders!

In River City's business circles, aside from individuals like Wen Rou's Second Aunt who couldn't reach a certain level, who wouldn't recognize these two giants?!

Zhang Qihuai and Chen Xuyang felt a chill in their hearts, never expecting that Mu Jinyu's product launch would bring these two elders out to offer their support!

You should know that with their status, even for very good friends, whether it was a grand opening or any banquet, they generally wouldn't attend in person, preferring to send their eldest sons to present gifts on their behalf.

But today, a mere product launch of Jinyu Group had stirred them to action, summoning core members of the Xu Family and Jiang Family to come and throw their support behind Mu Jinyu!

This left them feeling incredulous, their minds in a daze!

The arrival of Mei Yinxue had already been tough for them to swallow; Xu Tianzheng and Jiang Wangchuan leading their family's core members to support Mu Jinyu was like a bucket of ice water poured over their heads, turning their heated hearts, which had been reveling in Mu Jinyu's misfortune, ice-cold!

"It's impossible! Why would they support this guy? What skills does he have that he could get the Xu Family and Jiang Family to curry favor with him?!"

Yes, curry favor. From the showing of Xu Tianzheng and Jiang Wangchuan, they could see they were ingratiating themselves with Mu Jinyu, which was beyond belief!

Wang Huanhuan felt a chill in her heart as well, knowing full well that Xu Tianzheng's attitude towards Mu Jinyu was quite unusual, but seeing Mei Yinxue and Jiang Wangchuan also coming to support him...

She suddenly felt that coming here today to watch Mu Jinyu's farce might have been the wrong decision!

Li Shuyue and Gu Shiqian, among others, were also trembling with fear!

The ban imposed by Lin Xiaoru on behalf of Lin Group was powerful against them, but it was nothing to the Xu Family and Jiang Family!

Lin Xiaoru was using her head to enforce a ban on them!

If the three of them joined forces, they might even turn around and ban Lin Pharmaceutical!

Just when everyone was petrified into silence, the arrival of a few more individuals nearly scared them enough to wet their pants!

Chapter 230: Heavy Impact!

Jiang Wangchuan and Xu Tian stood amidst a crowd, their expressions a mix of a smile and not, as they watched Lin Xiaoru and spoke:

"I've heard that the Lin family has been throwing their weight around lately, banning whoever they please. There were even rumors a few days ago about putting a ban on Younger Brother Mu's company. I was somewhat skeptical at first, so I brought some people along to check it out today. To my surprise, I really did see your people from the Lin family strutting about here!"

Lin Xiaoru's expression was awkward; she was about to muster the courage to say something fierce.

But then Jiang Wangchuan suddenly turned his head, laughing and said, "Nephew Du, what do you say?"

Nephew Du?

Who else could warrant such a title of "nephew" from someone like Jiang Wangchuan—and a Du at that?!

Three words immediately came to mind for Lin Xiaoru and the others.

Du Xiangcheng!

The Governor of Jiangnan Province, the eldest son of the Du Family, the second of the Four Great Families of River City, Du Xiangcheng!

Struggling to turn their necks, they looked back towards the parking lot behind them.

They saw at the parking space Jiang Wangchuan was looking at, a black Audi A6 had just parked. But that license plate was frighteningly impressive!

Next, the car door opened, and a man dressed like a secretary got out, walked around to the rear door, opened it, and stood beside it with a respectful expression!

Then, a middle-aged man in a suit and leather shoes, with a very serious expression, carrying a delicately adorable little girl, stepped out of the car.

Lin Xiaoru and Chen Xuyang watched the middle-aged man, their expressions stunned, as if turned to statues.

The newcomer really was the Governor of Jiangnan, Du Xiangcheng!

Why had he come?

He was so busy!

Why would he come here? He wasn't supposed to come!

Their minds were screaming hysterically, unable to accept this reality!

'No, Governor Du musn't have come for Mu Jinyu. He must be here to see Jiang Wangchuan, not to support Mu Jinyu!'

No sooner had this thought surfaced in Lin Xiaoru's mind.

Than she saw Du Xiaoya, who was being held by Du Xiangcheng, spot Mu Jinyu. Her eyes lit up, and she eagerly waved to Mu Jinyu, saying, "Big brother, big brother... Xiaoya came to play with you!"

Fuck!

Lin Xiaoru almost couldn't help but curse aloud!

The damn Governor of Jiangnan Province had actually come for that street rat Mu Jinyu!

How insane can this world get?

What in the world was happening?!

But Du Xiaoya didn't care about their feelings. After struggling in Du Xiangcheng's arms for a bit, she was put down, her face spoiled yet helpless.

Once free, Du Xiaoya immediately started hopping towards Mu Jinyu, cheering, "Big brother, big brother, Xiaoya missed you so much, did you miss Xiaoya?"

With swift speed, Du Xiaoya dashed towards Mu Jinyu.

Those who had been scoffing at Mu Jinyu didn't dare stand in Du Xiaoya's way. If they were to cause her to get hurt, could they still hope for a good life?

So, they quickly made way for Du Xiaoya to reach Mu Jinyu.

Running unimpeded, Du Xiaoya leaped up with arms outstretched and flung herself towards Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu's eyelids twitched at the sight, thinking this girl was far too daring. What if he hadn't caught her—wouldn't she have gotten a concussion?

In a panic, he hurried forward a few steps, spreading his arms slightly and then caught Du Xiaoya in his embrace!

"Whew..."

The couple, Du Xiangcheng, and his entourage of bodyguards, drivers, and secretaries sighed with relief upon seeing Du Xiaoya safely caught.

For them, Du Xiaoya was their treasure. Her sudden sprint and leap towards Mu Jinyu had given them quite a scare.

Actually, Du Xiaoya wasn't an unruly child, and she normally wouldn't dare to jump around and fling herself at others. The reason she did so was solely because she had witnessed Mu Jinyu's skills and knew her big brother would catch her safely, which is why she acted in such a manner.

"My little ancestor, please don't ever do that again, what if you had fallen?!"

Mu Jinyu scolded gently while holding Du Xiaoya in his arms.

"With big brother here, Xiaoya is not scared at all."

Du Xiaoya wrapped her little hands around Mu Jinyu's neck, speaking happily with her eyes curved into crescent moons.

"Big brother hasn't said whether he missed Xiaoya or not!" Du Xiaoya added another question.

Mu Jinyu, hugging her, smiled and replied, "Of course, I missed you."

Then, he looked at Du Xiangcheng and his group approaching, nodded slightly in greeting.

Watching this scene, Lin Xiaoru's heart felt as if it had dropped into a cold pool.

From Du Xiaoya's affectionate behavior towards Mu Jinyu, it was clear that his relationship with the Du Family was very good, and his indifferent attitude towards Du Xiangcheng showed that the two families were quite familiar with each other, likely meeting often, which explained the nonchalance.

However, Lin Xiaoru was mistaken; Mu Jinyu's indifference towards Du Xiangcheng was due to a lack of acquaintance, and his disinterest in ingratiating himself with others.

Yet she misinterpreted it as a sign of a close relationship between the two families!

Du Xiangcheng walked over at a measured pace, nodding slightly to Mu Jinyu, then greeted Jiang Wangchuan and Xu Tianzheng with a nod, "Uncle Jiang, Uncle Xu."

After the greetings, he then turned his gaze towards Lin Xiaoru, who looked fierce but apprehensive, as well as Zhang Qiuhuai, Wang Huanhuan, Li Shuyue, and the Gu family members, who were all pale with fright...

"You all seem to be doing well. I hope you will continue to abide by the law."

Du Xiangcheng said with a smile.

Upon hearing his words, the crowd tried to squeeze out a smile, but their expressions were uglier than if they were crying.

Although Du Xiangcheng's statement wasn't a threat, given his status, it was more intimidating than a direct threat!

If they weren't abiding by the law and had any dirty dealings in their businesses, wouldn't he be bound to investigate them thoroughly?

Considering his relationship with Mu Jinyu, none of the guests who came today to see Mu Jinyu's downfall could escape close scrutiny!

And were their businesses truly clean?

Lin Xiaoru's face was contorted with ugliness, as if she had eaten excrement, never having imagined that Mu Jinyu would know Du Xiangcheng and the Governor of Jiangnan!

That meant, among the Four Great Families of River City, three were already associated with Mu Jinyu?!

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She was out of her league trying to blacklist Mu Jinyu!

Even if her father, the helmsman of Lin Pharmaceutical, stepped in, it was unlikely he could compete with them.

And judging from Du Xiangcheng's recent words, it seemed inevitable that Lin Pharmaceutical, although not facing major trouble, would suffer significant damage this time.

It appeared she was going to be severely scolded by her parents when she got back!

Lin Xiaoru thought with some regret.

However, she was unaware that the greatest threat from Lin Pharmaceutical wasn't just Du Xiangcheng's rigorous investigation.

The bigger threat was the Beauty Pill, which had been rejected by Lin Pharmaceutical and refused cooperation.

But at that moment, she was still unaware of these facts, and only when she realized them later would she bitterly regret her actions.

"It's about time, and I doubt many more people will be arriving. Let's go inside!"

Mu Jinyu cared little for the grim faces of the crowd upon witnessing the support of the Three Great Families of River City, which looked as though they had swallowed something disgusting.

He checked the time and glanced at the reporters from various major media outlets brought by Jiang Wangchuan and others, as well as executives from various business circles, and then called out to everyone.