

Toxic Ex 191

Chapter 191: The Fear of Public Opinion

Ouyang Hao was eager to return to the country, but he did not expect the sudden volcanic eruption in Bali, which led to the cancellation of all flights. Anxious and desperate, he wanted to use a private jet but was threatened by Xiao Mu, forcing him to give up.

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Although Lin Yixun was not clear about the details of what happened at the airport, she could guess most of it.

Soon, her guesses were confirmed. It turned out that someone had posted a photo of Ouyang Hao and her online, causing a huge uproar.

In no time, she was labeled as the third party intruding on the relationship between Ouyang Hao and Li Yun'er. Fans of Li Yun'er and Ouyang Hao began to attack her, even hurling insults at her.

Lin Yixun stopped reading the news on her phone and did not look at the comments from netizens to avoid aggravating herself. She thought that such scandals usually come fiercely but die down quickly and would soon be forgotten like a few months ago.

However, what she didn't expect was that instead of dying down over time, the incident fermented and became more and more intense.

Soon, some inquisitive netizens dug up Lin Yixun's past, starting with the incident where she supposedly injured Cheng Ying on purpose. Then, even more personal details about her background were exposed.

Quickly, the media revealed her identity as the daughter of the former mayor of A City; naturally, this brought up all kinds of controversies from four years ago. For instance, Lin Yixun using her family's power to interfere between the Leng's president and Cheng Ying, forcing the president to marry her through despicable means; Lin Yixun's father abusing his power and being reported by upright citizens, resulting in him landing in prison; Lin Yixun being kicked out by the Leng's president...

Every few hours, more bits of Lin Yixun's past were exposed, each piece of news testing her endurance.

The situation was widely spread and naturally reached the hospital as well. Every time Lin Yixun went out to fetch water and passed by the nurse's station, she could hear the nurses discussing her behind her back.

"Look, that's Lin Yixun?"

"She is Lin Yixun, indeed. She has changed a lot. If it weren't for carefully comparing photos, she would be hard to recognize."

"Her appearance may have changed greatly, but her personality hasn't. She still likes to snatch other people's men, robbing Cheng Ying's boyfriend four years ago. Now, four years later, she overestimates herself and tries to take Li Yun'er's boyfriend."

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Though their voices were low, Lin Yixun heard them clearly. She didn't stop, nor did she quicken her pace. She walked forward expressionlessly, step by step.

Gossip is dreadful, but she couldn't silence people. The only thing she could do was endure it over and over again. Lin Yixun thought bitterly, what she had learned over these years was nothing but the word "endure."

Walking into the tea room, Lin Yixun closed her eyes tightly and took a deep breath. Other people's words were not weapons; why should she care so much?

But is that really the case?

Lin Yixun touched her chest, wondering why there was a faint pain in that spot.

The gossip was so widespread that even the aunt in the same ward looked at her differently. Every time she wanted to say something, she swallowed her words.

Eventually, that day, the aunt took advantage of the moment when Lin's mother went to the restroom and cautiously asked Lin Yixun, "Xiao Xun, are the rumors spread by the little nurses true?"

Lin Yixun was momentarily stunned, then looked up, "Auntie, do you believe their words?"

The aunt smiled awkwardly and said softly, "Naturally, I don't believe them."

Lin Yixun gave her a deep glance and a silent, bitter smile. Whether she truly didn't believe it or pretended not to believe it, only she herself would know. When everyone starts saying it, it would be hard not to believe it.

Nevertheless, Lin Yixun didn't care much about how others viewed her anymore. What worried her now was whether those nasty rumors would reach Lin's mother's ears.

By then...

Chapter 192: No One Is Allowed to Intervene in This Matter

Lin Yixun's involvement in the "mistress" scandal naturally reached Leng Yixiu's ears.

"President Leng, should we send someone to negotiate with the media?" Assistant Chen tentatively asked.

Unexpectedly, the man's handsome face did not show the slightest ripple, he just curled his lips and said coldly, "No one is allowed to interfere in this matter."

"But if this matter blows up too much, it might be very unfavorable for Miss Lin."

After all, this matter involved Lin Yixun, and the big boss's attitude towards his ex-wife was so subtle. Gossip can be terrifying; if it drags out some bad things, it would be troublesome.

The man gave him a cold glance, "Is my meaning still not clear enough? Do I need to repeat what I just said?"

"No... no need." Assistant Chen was so frightened by the man's icy gaze that he immediately fell silent. How could he dare to ask the big boss to repeat himself? If he annoyed him, he might be sent packing.

However, he really couldn't figure out what the big boss's intentions towards Miss Lin were.

If he had no interest in Miss Leng, why did he rush to Bali Island the moment he heard that Miss Lin had gone there with Ouyang Hao? But if he did care about Miss Leng, why was he now standing by while Miss Lin faced such a big problem?

Assistant Chen racked his brains but still couldn't make sense of his boss's thoughts. Forget it, it's their business. Why should a mere employee try to guess?

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These days, Lin Yixun had been living in constant fear, dreading that any little slip would let the rumors about her reach Lin's mother's ears.

Fortunately, the TV in the ward was broken, and although the nurses gossiped about her behind her back, they didn't confront her, which gave Lin Yixun some relief.

She just hoped this storm would pass quickly, but things didn't go as she wished.

During her stay in the hospital, she kept receiving harassing phone calls filled with vile language, calling her a slut, a seductress, a bitch... Even with her strong mental resilience, Lin Yixun found it hard to handle such relentless verbal attacks.

Her insomnia worsened. Every night, to fall asleep, she had to increase the dosage of her sleeping pills. But even when she slept, it was an endless nightmare.

Past events were cruelly torn open, and the efforts she had buried came flooding out like a torrent. In her dreams, scenes constantly changed: Leng Yixiu's indifferent eyes, Cheng Ying's victorious and smug smile, and thousands upon thousands of crazed fans, chasing her like zombies, wishing to strip her to the bone.

Nervous during the day, plagued by nightmares at night. Lin's mother saw Lin Yixun's face growing thinner, and paler day by day, and became very worried.

"Xiao Xun, are you feeling unwell?" Lin's mother held Lin Yixun's hand, touching her small face, "Look at you, you've lost so much weight since we came back."

"Mom, I'm fine, it's just that I haven't been sleeping well lately. Besides, isn't it popular to be a producer now? It's good to be a bit thinner."

"Nonsense! Don't you learn from those girls outside, always dieting to lose weight. Mom prefers you to have more meat on your bones."

"Mom, you see I haven't been dieting. Maybe it's because I take after you and naturally have a slim physique."

Chapter 193: Hao, I'm Afraid I Can't Help You

"That's true, Mom was quite slim when she was young too." Lin's mother thought for a moment, then smiled and lovingly pinched Lin Yixun's petite face. "But not as slim as you. You haven't been sleeping well these days. You should go home and rest at night. The bed in the hospital is too narrow and uncomfortable to sleep on."

"Mom, I'm fine."

"I told you to go home and rest, so go home and rest. You've been staying in the hospital these days, and Mom finds you an eyesore."

Lin Yixun understood her mother's personality; once she made a decision, it wasn't easy to change her mind. Knowing she couldn't win against her, Lin Yixun agreed.

These days, there were always reporters and fervent fans lurking outside the hospital, so Lin Yixun could only leave after dark. Under the cover of nightshade, she stealthily got on the bus.

On the bus, Lin Yixun finally let out a long sigh of relief. Just then, her phone in her pocket suddenly started vibrating. At the sound, Lin Yixun's nerves immediately tensed. She had received too many harassing calls recently, so now, whenever she heard her phone ring, she would react with alarm.

In the end, she still took out her phone and saw a familiar number on the screen. The call was from Ouyang Hao. He had called her countless times in the past few days, but each time, Lin Yixun didn't have the courage to answer. Facing Ouyang Hao was even more difficult for her than hearing the malicious words of the crazed fans.

She stared blankly at those digits for a long time, with no change in her expression, though her heart was in turmoil. Ultimately, she hung up the call, a bitter smile tugging at her lips.

Ouyang Hao's world never belonged to her. Since that was the case, why should she keep clinging to him?

Meanwhile, on the other end of the line, Ouyang Hao was like an ant on a hot pan, anxious and distressed.

"Lin Yixun, why won't you answer my calls!" He kicked the chair beside him in frustration and scratched his head in annoyance.

These days, their scandal had occupied almost every entertainment section of the local websites and newspapers. Naturally, he also learned about Lin Yixun's past from those reports.

He knew Lin Yixun's past wasn't simple, and Mu Chen had reminded him more than once, but he never imagined that Lin Yixun was the daughter of A City's former mayor and Leng Yixiu's ex-wife.

Back then, he had heard about the mayor's daughter's story during casual conversations and had dismissed it with a laugh, even thinking that the mayor's daughter brought it upon herself.

But now, knowing that the mayor's daughter was Lin Yixun, it felt like a needle was constantly pricking his heart, causing a deep pain.

Back then, the media and public opinion largely sided with Leng Yixiu and Cheng Ying, but Ouyang Hao knew very well that in that grand scandal, Lin Yixun was the biggest victim.

Her disgraceful past was exposed to the public, the wounds she had painstakingly healed were brutally torn open again. Alone in the country, she faced baseless slander and insults. How could she bear it all by herself?

Ouyang Hao's thoughts whirled, and he called Mu Chen. Mu Chen, knowing Ouyang Hao well, immediately understood his intention when he received the call.

He didn't beat around the bush and went straight to the point, "Hao, if you're calling me to ask for help in settling these media issues domestically, I'm telling you upfront, I can't do it."

"Why not?" One should know, Mu Chen's connections and influence in the entertainment industry were among the best in the country.

"I can handle most of the media for you, but there are dozens of media outlets that even if your brother stepped in personally, it would still be difficult."

"Which dozen?"

"I can't list them all for you one by one, but I know those dozen media outlets are all under the Leng Group."

Chapter 194: Lin Yixun, What Have You Done Exactly

"Leng's?" Ouyang Hao squinted his eyes and fell silent.

Leng Yixiu had always disdained Lin Yixun. Ouyang Hao knew this ever since Yixun was thrown into the swimming pool by Leng Yixiu's bodyguards. He understood it as protecting his family, especially since Cheng Ying was involved at that time.

But this time, Ouyang Hao couldn't understand Leng Yixiu's actions. Despite how much he disliked Lin Yixun, she was still his ex-wife. Lin Yixun was deeply embroiled in scandal rumors, which would undoubtedly tarnish Leng Yixiu's reputation. Not only did he fail to stop the rumors from spreading, but he also allowed his company's media to relentlessly pursue Lin Yixun.

Why would he do this?

Ouyang Hao was utterly baffled, while Leng Yixiu had his own plans. He knew very well that with Lin Yixun's character, she would never willingly return to him.

But what if she was driven into a corner?

By the floor-to-ceiling windows, the man held up a goblet, his deep-set eyes looking down at the city lights beneath his feet. The red liquid in the glass glimmered wickedly under the lights.

"Lin Yixun, come back to me sooner, and you will suffer less."

...

Lin Yixun silently leaned against the bus window. The lights and shadows outside shifted as the bus approached her neighborhood. As expected, she saw several reporters waiting at the entrance.

Lin Yixun had to bypass the main gate and walk to the back entrance, thankful there were no reporters there. As she prepared to go upstairs, she suddenly remembered receiving a text message this morning about an unclaimed package.

Lin Yixun couldn't help but marvel at the efficiency of the courier service. She had placed the order only yesterday, and the package arrived today. While others' lives become increasingly convenient and better, her life seemed to be a chaotic mess, deteriorating more each day.

Thinking about this, Lin Yixun felt a pang of sorrow.

Returning to her small apartment, Lin Yixun turned on the light, found a fruit knife on the coffee table, and slowly sliced open the package. Her mother had been complaining about cold feet, and even with the air conditioning on day and night at the hospital, she still felt cold. So Lin Yixun bought her an electric heating pad online.

Cutting away the outer tape, Lin Yixun slowly opened the box, only to be surprised by an exquisitely wrapped gift box inside.

Is the online vendor so considerate nowadays? Even a heating pad comes wrapped like this?

Lin Yixun reached out, slowly lifting the lid of the gift box. As her eyes fell upon the contents, she was seized by horror. Her hand shook violently, fingers loosening, and she stumbled back a few steps.

The gift box dropped heavily to the floor, a corpse of a plush animal rolling out—it was a black cat. Its insides had been gutted, and as the box overturned, intestines spilled out.

The pungent smell of blood mixed with the stench of decay assaulted her senses. Lin Yixun covered her mouth and ran to the bathroom, retching uncontrollably at the sink.

She didn't know how long it had been, but Lin Yixun finally recovered. She slowly raised her head, meeting her own tear-streaked face in the mirror.

"Lin Yixun, what did you do wrong?" Lin Yixun asked herself weakly. What mistake had she made again to suffer so many accusations?

She quickly raised her hand, trying to wipe away the tears. Yet, no matter how much she wiped, she couldn't dry them. She took a deep breath, attempting to force the tears back, but no matter how hard she tried, they kept spilling over.

Chapter 195: Everyone's Plaything? Modified:

Even with just her toes, Lin Yixun could guess who sent the package. She always knew that many young people like to chase after celebrities, but this was the first time she truly experienced what it meant to be crazy.

However, things were far from over. The next morning, another major news story about her stirred up a storm.

A few days ago, the media had already exposed her working at Nightshade, but it was just an exclusive without any concrete evidence. This time, the other party seemed determined to destroy her, not only vividly revealing her job at Nightshade but also providing video and photo evidence.

The video posted online was of a "seductive dance." The dancer in the video, every move she made was to the extreme of allure, to the extreme of enchantment.

Of course, Lin Yixun recognized who the dancer in the video was. She tremblingly turned off the video, scrolled down the webpage, and below were countless shocking and unbearable photos.

In the photos, she was pinned down by a man, the large area of skin on her chest exposed, her bra clearly visible beneath. Her face was covered by her hair, making it impossible to see her expression, yet this only solidified her "promiscuous" reputation.

Lin Yixun turned off her phone and painfully closed her eyes.

In fact, from the moment she stepped into Nightshade, she had already considered the various situations she might face in the future, but she didn't expect things to develop more seriously than she had imagined.

This video and these photos nearly confirmed her guilt. Even she almost believed that the woman in the video was nothing more than a promiscuous prostitute, let alone others?

She didn't have time to think about the origin of these photos and videos, nor did she have the energy to investigate how they were posted online and exposed by the media. Her only fear now was whether her mother would see the news.

If her mother saw these things, then...

The consequences, Lin Yixun didn't dare to think about it. She hurriedly picked up her phone and called her mother. The phone rang for a long time, but no one answered.

Lin Yixun's fear grew with each ring of the phone, but fortunately, the call was eventually answered, and her mother's familiar voice came through.

"Hello, Xiao Xun. Look, I was just about to call you, and your call came through."

On the other end, Lin's mother's voice was as calm as ever, without the slightest hint of unusualness. Lin Yixun felt a sense of relief; it seemed that her mother had not seen the news.

"By the way, Xiao Xun, just rest at home this morning. You don't need to come over."

"How can that be?" Lin Yixun was worried about leaving her mother alone in the hospital. "Mom, I'll go to the market to buy some groceries and bring them to you later."

"I eat quite well at the hospital. Why go to the trouble of cooking yourself?"

"It's no trouble, and besides, I haven't cooked in a long time. If I don't practice, I'll get rusty."

After hanging up the phone, Lin Yixun immediately went downstairs. She wanted to buy groceries and prepare food for the hospital as soon as possible to prevent any mishaps along the way.

When she passed by the garbage bin in the corridor, her steps paused slightly, then she took a deep breath and continued forward.

She didn't know what awaited her in the future, but whatever it was, she had to be strong. Her father was still in prison, and now it was just her and her mother depending on each other. If she couldn't withstand the pressure, what would her mother do?

After mentally preparing herself, Lin Yixun turned to head towards the back door, planning to leave the neighborhood and go to the market. But as soon as she stepped out of the neighborhood gate, she was surrounded by a group of reporters holding cameras and camcorders.