

Toxic Ex 466

Chapter 466: Mom! Mom!

The little girl was wearing a pink tulle dress, her hair was styled into little pigtails, her face was round, her eyes were big and round like black grapes, and her little lips were pink and tender. She looked like a little porcelain doll, making people want to pounce and take a bite. Of course, Shi Yi only thought about it. If she really went up and bit her, the poor little thing would probably cry even harder.

She slowly walked up to the little girl, bent down, and softly asked, "Little one, what's wrong? Why are you crying?"

Hearing the voice, the little girl's crying suddenly stopped. She looked up with her twinkling eyes at Shi Yi, and the next moment, did something Shi Yi could never have imagined.

"Mommy!"

Her legs were hugged tightly by short, tiny arms. Shi Yi was a bit stunned and only after a while did she realize the little girl was calling her.

She felt a bit bewildered, looking down at the little one, "Sweetie, I'm not your mommy. But I can help you find her. Do you know where your home is? Or can you tell me your parents' phone numbers?"

Shi Yi thought that a three or four-year-old might know something, but the little girl just clung to her legs, continuously calling, "Mommy, Mommy, Mommy..."

"..."

Shi Yi felt a bit awkward, not expecting to be mistaken for a mommy by a little girl just after returning to the country. Though she would love to have such a cute and well-behaved daughter, this little one wasn't hers, and she couldn't just take her away.

Just as Shi Yi was in a predicament, a middle-aged woman in her fifties hurriedly walked towards her, "Oh my, my little darling, I finally found you."

The middle-aged woman tightly hugged the little girl, excitedly kissed her cheek, then carefully checked her over. Seeing that the girl was unharmed, she looked up at Shi Yi, who had been standing not far away.

The woman gave Shi Yi an apologetic smile, "Miss, I'm sorry to have disturbed you."

"No, not at all. She is very cute," Shi Yi smiled lightly, then suddenly remembered that there had been many child abductions recently. Although this middle-aged woman seemed kind, it couldn't be completely ruled out that she was not a trafficker.

To be safe, Shi Yi knelt down in front of the little girl and asked softly, "Sweetie, do you know this aunty?"

The little girl looked at Shi Yi, then at the middle-aged woman beside her, and nodded heavily.

Shi Yi was finally relieved and gave an apologetic smile, "Sorry, just now I..."

"It's okay, Miss. If I were you, I would also make sure before handing her over," the middle-aged woman paused and asked, "Was she calling you 'mommy' just now?"

"...." Shi Yi was a bit embarrassed and nodded, then explained, "Children's perception isn't fully developed, it's normal for them to sometimes mistake people."

Upon hearing this, the middle-aged woman did not show the slightest relief, but rather a deep sadness. She sighed deeply and muttered, "It's all my fault, all my fault. If I hadn't left back then... "

Halfway through her sentence, she abruptly stopped. It wasn't appropriate to talk about such things in front of a stranger.

She gathered herself, took the little girl's hand, and said to Shi Yi, "It seems you have business to attend to, so we won't bother you anymore. Xiao Yi Xun, quickly say goodbye to the pretty aunty."

The little girl's big round eyes looked intently at Shi Yi, filled with reluctance, but she obediently waved her hand at Shi Yi.

Watching them walk away, Shi Yi couldn't help but smile. What a cute little girl. She wondered what her parents were like, but they probably wouldn't be too different.

The little girl and the middle-aged woman were led to the roadside, where they stayed for about a minute, then Shi Yi saw a black SUV pull up in front of them. A tall man got out of the car.

Due to the nightshade, Shi Yi couldn't see the man's face clearly, but from his impressive presence, he probably looked quite good.

The little girl, upon seeing the man, happily flew into his arms like a joyful bird. The man seemed very happy too, lifting the little girl high and touching his forehead to hers affectionately.

From their intimate interaction, Shi Yi could easily tell that the man was likely the little girl's father. Shi Yi couldn't help but smile, thinking of the saying that daughters are their fathers' little lovers. It indeed seemed to hold some truth.

...

"Sir, I'm sorry. Due to my negligence, I almost caused a disaster. I'm truly sorry!" Sister Yi had intended to take Xiao Yi Xun out to see the music fountain, but the little one disappeared in the blink of an eye.

With so many people in the square and it being nighttime, finding a little child wasn't easy, so Sister Yi hurriedly called Leng Yixiu.

The man was attending a dinner when he received the call. Upon hearing that Xiao Yi Xun was missing, he immediately left the table without a word. He rushed from the other side of T City, running several

red lights along the way. Thankfully, by the time he reached the square, the child had already been found.

If the child had been lost, he didn't know what he would have done.

"I hope this never happens again." The man's voice was cold, and his aura made Sister Yi shiver.

Sister Yi nodded heavily, "Yes, sir. I will be more careful in the future! Nothing like this will ever happen again!"

Xiao Yi Xun seemed to sense the tense atmosphere around her. She reached out her tiny hand and pinched the man's cheek, pouting, "Grumpy face!"

The girl's soft and warm voice made the man's expression soften. A charming smile suddenly appeared on his handsome face. He lovingly tapped Xiao Yi Xun's nose and seriously said, "Next time, don't run around like today. Stay close to Sister Yi's side, understand?"

Xiao Yi Xun seemed to understand and nodded heavily. Suddenly, as if she had thought of something, she turned around and pointed behind her. "Mommy! Mommy!"

Upon hearing this, the man was taken aback. He felt a bit sad, but his face showed a gentle smile, "Who have you mistaken for mommy this time?"

"Mommy! Mommy!" The little girl persisted, her little eyes staring across from the music fountain.

The man was a bit helpless but followed the girl's gaze. He saw, not far from them, a woman in a long dress and wearing sunglasses standing there.

Chapter 467: Daddy, Will Mommy Come Back?

At this moment, the music of the fountain suddenly started playing, and under the dazzling lights, thousands of water jets swiftly ascended into the sky, immediately blocking Leng Yixiu's view.

The man slowly retracted his gaze and said to Xiao Yi Xun, "That's not your mother. You shouldn't call others 'Mom' like you did today. If you do, your mother will be sad."

Mom would be sad?

Xiao Yi Xun looked up at the sky. Sister Yi said Mom went to heaven and is watching over her all the time. If Mom knew she called another woman 'Mom', would she really be mad?

Her long eyelashes trembled slightly, and Xiao Yi Xun eventually withdrew her hand. However, when Leng Yixiu carried her back into the car, she still couldn't help glancing back towards the fountain.

Her reluctance fell entirely into the man's eyes. He bitterly curved his lips, realizing that although he could present the best things in the world to his daughter, he couldn't give her a complete family, nor a loving mother.

Half an hour later, the car drove into a high-end residential area in the city center. Four years ago, ever since Lin Yixun fell into the Seaside, Leng Yixiu sold the house there and moved to the city center. It was more convenient for work and taking care of Xiao Yi Xun, but more importantly, the house at Half Mountain Villa held too many memories of Lin Yixun. Every time he walked into that villa, memories related to her would flood back like a deluge.

Some memories were too painful to bear, and he could only escape.

Xiao Yi Xun was already asleep as the man carried her out of the car and gently walked into the entrance.

This apartment was a property he unintentionally bought six years ago, about two hundred square meters. Usually, it was just the three of them living there—Leng Yixiu, Xiao Yi Xun, and Sister Yi.

The house was themed in pink, making it feel very cozy despite its spaciousness. Actually, the apartment wasn't always this color. Before moving in, Leng Yixiu had the decor slightly altered just to cater to Xiao Yi Xun.

When Leng Yixiu carried Xiao Yi Xun into the bedroom, she was already awake. She tightly grasped his fingers and murmured, "Daddy, story."

Her words instantly lifted his mood. He took a storybook from the bedside table and flipped to the next page from where they last left off.

As he saw the title of the story, his eyes slightly changed, but he still read every word aloud, "Warm spring has arrived. The ice in the pond melted. The frog mother, who had slept through the winter, woke up. She crawled out of the muddy hole and splashed into the pond, laying many round black eggs among the water plants..."

One day, the duck mother brought her children to swim in the pond. The little tadpoles saw the ducklings swimming in the water and began to think of their own mother. The tadpoles asked each other, but no one knew.

"Where is our mother?"

They swam together to the duck mother and asked, "Duck mother, Duck mother, have you seen our mother? Please tell us what she looks like?"

The duck mother replied, "Yes, I have seen her. Your mother has two big eyes on her head and a wide, large mouth. You should go find her yourselves."

..."

Ten minutes later, Leng Yixiu finished reading the story and closed the book. "Alright, that's it for today's story. Xiao Yi Xun, it's time to sleep."

He bent down and lightly kissed her forehead. As he was about to leave, a small hand grabbed him, "Daddy, what does my mom look like?"

Leng Yixiu was slightly surprised. Due to some congenital reasons, Xiao Yi Xun's character had always been quite reserved. She rarely spoke voluntarily. Even when she did, it was just simple words, even to him. This time, however, she not only initiated a conversation but asked about her mother.

It was the first time.

"What does your mother look like?" The man suddenly fell into memories and remained silent for a long time. Then, as if in a trance, he began, "Your mother is a very beautiful woman."

"Beautiful?" The little girl blinked her eyes in confusion, not yet having a clear concept of beauty.

The man paused and continued, "Her eyes are large and bright, but when she smiles, they turn into crescent shapes; her skin is fair, her nose is high, lips are of moderate thickness, and her lip color is really pretty; when she gets angry, she habitually pouts her lips like a child; she doesn't sleep very well, always likes to kick the quilt, and prefers sleeping near the edge of the bed, often falling off because of it..."

"Daddy, why are your eyes red?"

Leng Yixiu then realized how dry his eyes had become.

He gathered himself, stiffly forced a smile, "Maybe some sand got into them. It's nothing. It's getting late; you need to sleep now, baby."

He tucked Xiao Yi Xun in and slowly stood up, but then heard her low voice, "Daddy, will Mom come back?"

Leng Yixiu's back stiffened, his throat moved a bit. He took a deep breath and solemnly said, "She will come back, she definitely will."

Even though chances of survival after falling into the Seaside were slim, and everyone said Lin Yixun was dead, he refused to believe. He always felt that Lin Yixun was still alive somewhere in this world.

Some memories, the man thought he had deeply buried them, not realizing that one simple question from his daughter could awaken all those buried feelings.

Leng Yixiu pulled out his phone from his pocket and dialed Fei Yichen's number. The sound of Fei Yichen's voice quickly came from the other end, "Hey, calling me so late, what's up?"

"Do you want to have a drink?"

"What's wrong, feeling down?" Fei Yichen curled his lips, kissed his wife, and softly asked, "Leng Yixiu says he's feeling down and asked me to have a drink with him. Is that okay?"

"Then drink less." Mu Yi did not oppose; she understood Leng Yixiu's situation.

"OK, I'll be back soon." Fei Yichen got out of bed, kissed Mu Yi's already swollen belly, and softly said, "Baby, Daddy's going out for a bit. Take good care of Mom and be good!"

They met at a bar not far from the music fountain. The bar was bustling with business. Even in the middle of the night, the dance floor was crowded with people dancing wildly.

In stark contrast to the noisy dance floor, the two men sitting in the corner of the bar seemed quite gloomy. In just twenty minutes, Leng Yixiu had downed several glasses of strong liquor. Clearly, he was seeking to drown his sorrows in alcohol.

Fei Yichen didn't stop him, just silently sitting beside him and occasionally clinking glasses with him. He had once tasted the anguish that Leng Yixiu was experiencing now. He knew that unbearable pain; at times like this, silent companionship was all anyone could offer.

Leng Yixiu tilted his head back and gulped down another mouthful of whiskey, remaining silent for a long time before painfully speaking, "Yichen, do you think she will come back?"

Chapter 468: Yixun, Is That You?

Fei Yichen took a deep look at him. After hesitating for a moment, he slowly started to persuade, "It's been four years. Some things, you should let go."

"Let go?" Leng Yixiu put down his glass, lifted his gaze to him, "If this happened to Mu Yi, would you let go? Would you completely forget her?"

"I wouldn't." Fei Yichen replied without hesitation.

He suddenly realized he had no standing to act as a mediator. He had no reason to persuade Leng Yixiu to forget the woman named Lin Yixun because if it were him, he couldn't let go either.

He had tried before, thinking time could make him forget Mu Yi completely. But as it turned out, time isn't always a remedy. Sometimes, it doesn't erode some feelings but rather makes one addicted to longing, unable to extricate oneself.

Fei Yichen fell silent, took a bottle of liquor from the bartender, refilled their glasses, and then clinked his glass with Leng Yixiu's.

He could empathize with the pain of losing a loved one, but he couldn't bring Lin Yixun back for Leng Yixiu. Now, this was all he could do.

Just then, a stylish, voluptuous woman came over to them with a smile, "Hey handsome guys, interested in sharing a drink?"

Leng Yixiu lifted his gaze coldly, his sharp eyes scrutinizing the woman. Just when she thought she had a chance, he parted his thin lips, "Get lost!"

His voice was fierce and cold. The woman shivered, her face instantly losing color, and she fled as if escaping.

Fei Yichen watched the woman's hurried back with a cold smile at the corner of his lips. This kind of person really overestimated herself.

Who knows how much time passed. Several empty bottles had piled up on the bar, and both men were a bit drunk.

Fei Yichen's phone suddenly rang. He picked it up and glanced at the screen, his hard features softening slightly.

"Hello?"

"Honey, when are you coming back?"

Fei Yichen instinctively glanced at Leng Yixiu beside him, "Maybe a bit later. Go to bed first, don't wait for me."

"Oh, okay. Don't drink too much, it's not good for your health."

"Alright, you get some sleep. Staying up late is bad for you and the baby."

After a brief exchange, Fei Yichen hung up the call. He noticed Leng Yixiu was staring at him intently, his expression... indescribable.

Just as Fei Yichen thought Leng Yixiu might be drunk, Leng Yixiu suddenly spoke, "Fei Yichen, sometimes, I really envy you."

"You envy me?"

"Yes, I envy you. I'm even a bit jealous. Jealous that you have a happy family, a woman who loves you deeply. Jealous that you can be with the woman you love. But I..." Leng Yixiu smiled bitterly, "Once, these things were within my reach, easy to have, but I missed them. I missed them, haha..."

"Leng Yixiu, you're drunk."

"No, I'm not drunk. I'm very clear-headed. I really want to get drunk so I can forget all my worries and... forget her completely. But I can't get drunk, haha, isn't that pathetic?" Leng Yixiu paused, "Your wife is still waiting for you at home. You should go back, don't make the woman who loves you wait."

"I'll take you home first," Fei Yichen saw that Leng Yixiu was about seventy to eighty percent drunk.

"Don't worry about me, I'm fine. I just want to sit here for a while."

Having known Leng Yixiu for many years, Fei Yichen somewhat understood him. Since Leng Yixiu said he wanted to stay here for a while, he would stay for a while. No one could change his mind.

"Alright then, be careful. Call me if you need anything."

"Okay, okay. Why are you so naggy? Go back, don't worry about me."

Although Fei Yichen left the bar, he called for a designated driver and left his driver with Leng Yixiu, instructing him to keep an eye on Leng Yixiu and take him home when he had enough to drink.

The driver was supposed to follow his instructions to take Leng Yixiu home, but after getting Leng Yixiu in the car, he realized his boss hadn't told him Leng Yixiu's address when he left.

He looked at the time in the car, it was already 1 a.m. Calling his boss now would probably get him cursed out, so he decided to take Leng Yixiu to a nearby five-star hotel—the hotel was under his boss's name. Things wouldn't go wrong if he took Leng Yixiu there.

After getting out, booking a room, and getting the room card, the driver struggled to get Leng Yixiu into the presidential suite. When he left, he made sure to inform the lobby manager before feeling relieved.

...

Having traveled a long distance that day, Shi Yi was quite tired, but she found it hard to sleep in a new bed. She tossed and turned for a long time but couldn't fall asleep.

Just as she was finally about to drift off, she heard noises from outside the door. She instinctively turned over, thinking the noise would stop after a few moments, but the person outside seemed very persistent, knocking again and again, showing no sign of stopping.

Shi Yi flipped over abruptly, annoyed, and sat up on the bed. She turned on the bedside lamp, slipped on her flip-flops, and stormed to the door. She wanted to see who was causing trouble outside.

She opened the door in the next moment. As the door swung open, Shi Yi was slightly startled to see a handsome man in a suit knocking repeatedly.

But no matter how handsome the man was, it couldn't quell her anger. She pointed to the room number behind her and said angrily, "Mister, you're at the wrong door."

"Wrong door?" The man looked at the room number, his vision somewhat blurry.

Shi Yi then noticed that not only was the man's vision blurry, but he was also wobbling. She leaned in a bit closer and smelled the pungent scent of alcohol on him.

So, he was just a drunken fool!

Shi Yi felt even more frustrated. She had barely managed to fall asleep, only to be disturbed by a drunkard. But since the man was drunk, there was no point in tangling with him further.

She was about to turn around and call the front desk to complain, but before she could, the man's hazy gaze suddenly changed. The next moment, her wrist was grasped tightly by a strong hand.

"Yixun..."

Chapter 469: Forceful Kiss

Shi Yi couldn't quite make out what the man was mumbling, but she felt distinctly annoyed as someone suddenly gripped her wrist, "What the hell is wrong with you, you... mmph..."

Before she could finish her sentence, her words were swallowed by the man's lips pressing forcefully against hers. Shi Yi never imagined that she would be woken up in the middle of the night by someone, only to meet a drunk who then took advantage of her.

Her eyes widened, her mind went blank for a moment, and the man seized this opportunity, becoming more aggressive, deepening the kiss dominantly.

In an instant, her mouth filled with the pungent smell of alcohol. She snapped back to her senses, feeling a mix of shame and anger, grabbing the man's shoulder and flipping him over her shoulder, slamming him heavily onto the ground.

She couldn't help but feel a sense of relief. Who would have thought that the self-defense techniques she learned in America would come in handy not there, but here after she returned home?

Initially, she expected the man to be embarrassed and angry after suffering this, but to her surprise, he didn't make a single move while lying on the ground for a long time.

Frowning, Shi Yi walked over and nudged the man's thigh with her foot, but he still didn't respond. She kicked him harder, yet he remained unresponsive. She lowered her gaze to study his face, only to see his eyes tightly shut, seemingly unconscious.

Recalling how she might have been overly forceful in her anger earlier, she squatted down and checked his breathing, which was steady and even. Only then did she realize the absurd mistake she had made earlier.

Clearly, her over-shoulder throw hadn't affected the man at all; he was simply drunk and had fallen asleep!

Heh... heh...

Shi Yi felt like steam was coming out of her ears. She had been taken advantage of for no reason and wanted to vent her anger, only to find that the culprit was a drunk who had fallen asleep right after his "crime."

So, who should she take it out on now? Damn it, the guy probably doesn't even remember what he did. Should she complain to ghosts?

So, should she just swallow this loss in silence?

Boiling with anger, Shi Yi kicked the man's thigh a few more times. Finally feeling a bit satisfied, she cast a cold glance at him before turning back to the suite, closing the door behind her with a "bang." Bad luck indeed, getting bitten by a "dog" in the middle of the night.

However, once she lay back in bed, she couldn't fall asleep at all. After all, no one could rest easy knowing a passed-out drunk was lying outside their suite.

Tossing and turning for a long time, Shi Yi finally couldn't bear it any longer and jumped out of bed, opening the door. Sure enough, the drunk was still there.

Frustrated, she ruffled her hair and eventually called the front desk, "Hello, can you help me deal with a drunk..."

The front desk promptly sent staff upstairs, apologizing profusely, "Sorry, ma'am, we're truly sorry!"

"Forget the apologies. Just get him out of here," Shi Yi leaned lazily against the door, arms crossed, expressionless.

"Of course, we'll definitely handle this. Apologies for the inconvenience!"

"That's fine then."

Shi Yi yawned, leaving the staff to handle the situation, and went back into her suite.

...

Leng Yixiu woke up the next day when the sun was already high. Rubbing his aching temples, he realized not only did he have a terrible headache, but his legs also hurt, which couldn't be from just a hangover.

Rolling up his pant leg, he was astonished to find his leg covered in bruises. This wasn't from a hangover; it looked like... like someone had beaten him up.

Leng Yixiu stared at the bruises, his face darkening with anger. Who had the audacity to take advantage of him while he was drunk?

He vaguely remembered drinking a lot last night, then being brought here by Fei Yichen's driver, and then...

Frowning, he couldn't recall what happened next. What had occurred after that? Who had he met afterwards?

Thinking hard, he couldn't figure it out, so he picked up the phone by the bed and called the front desk, "Hello, I'm the guest in 1101..."

From the hotel manager, Leng Yixiu learned that Fei Yichen's driver had taken him to the room and left after settling him in. But somehow, he left the suite later and fell asleep in the corridor until he was found by the guest from the opposite suite.

"The guest from the opposite suite?" Leng Yixiu narrowed his eyes, "Do you have surveillance in the corridor?"

"Um..." The hotel manager hesitated, but knowing Leng Yixiu wasn't someone he could offend and was a good friend of the big boss, he had the surveillance footage from last night retrieved.

Around one in the morning, the corridor was empty. Then, at two, the footage showed Leng Yixiu staggering around, wandering in circles in the hallway, eventually arriving at the opposite suite's door, persistently knocking on it for about five minutes. The door was then opened by a woman in loose pajamas.

Awakened in the middle of the night, the woman seemed quite angry. After saying a few words to him, she tried to ignore him, but as she turned to leave, something jaw-dropping happened.

The hotel manager stared at the screen in shock. Leng Yixiu, drunk as he was, started kissing the woman wildly. The scene was... quite explosive. And the woman, she was fierce – she flipped Leng Yixiu over her shoulder and kicked him several times. Did she even know who she was dealing with?

The hotel manager stole a cautious glance at Leng Yixiu's face, which was expressionless, save for the cold aura emanating from him, enough to freeze anyone in the room.

The hotel manager shuddered, ready to slip away, but Leng Yixiu, who had been silent till now, suddenly spoke coldly, "I want information on that woman."

Chapter 470: What's this? Enemies on a Narrow Road?

"President Leng, this... this isn't appropriate, is it?" the hotel manager stammered.

According to the hotel's regulations, it's not allowed to retrieve a guest's personal information without permission. This is both a show of respect to the guest and a way to protect their privacy.

"What, it's not possible?"

"It's... it's not that it's impossible."

How could it be impossible? If Boss Leng has spoken, even if it's not possible, it has to be possible. He still wanted to keep his job at the hotel and didn't want to be fired by his boss for offending Leng Yixiu.

Shortly, the hotel manager had someone retrieve the woman's identity information from the hotel system.

He stared at the ID photo on the computer screen for a few seconds, his gaze finally landing on the conspicuous name next to the photo. His deep eyes narrowed dangerously.

Shi Yi?

What is this? Enemies meet on a narrow path?

Leng Yixiu never imagined that he would encounter this mysterious opponent under such circumstances. Even more unexpected, this woman had the audacity to lay hands and feet on him.

He thought, whether public or private, he should meet this woman.

Shi Yi's return to the country this time was mainly for the branch office selection matter.

A year ago, Lei Man established its first branch office in S City, a trial to see if they could penetrate the Chinese market. The result was what Shi Yi hoped for. In just a year, Lei Man had become a leader among small and medium-sized enterprises in the industry and even snatched several important orders from some major companies.

This result gave Shi Yi considerable confidence and strengthened her determination to expand her business territory in China. The first step in expanding her business territory was to set up another branch office.

T City, with its superior geographical location in China and leading economic development level domestically, had also introduced many policies for small and medium-sized enterprises in the past two years. Therefore, it was unsurprisingly the most suitable choice for establishing a branch office.

Selecting a location for the branch office wasn't supposed to be a big deal. Shi Yi originally planned to stay in the country for no more than a month, but she encountered considerable resistance when it came to the land.

Originally, Lei Man had used some connections to get in touch with the person responsible for the land auction, and even the price of the land had been privately agreed upon. Who would have expected someone like Cheng Yaojin to come out of nowhere? And this Cheng Yaojin turned out to be the domestic industry leader Leng Group, with deep pockets and hard to deal with. As a result, all of Lei Man's previous efforts went down the drain.

This infuriated Shi Yi. Their company was just choosing a location for a branch office. What did it have to do with Leng Group? Why would they interfere?

"Last month, we snatched an order from Leng Group. I heard that President Leng was very upset about it. So, this time Leng Group suddenly stepped in, probably as a retaliatory action because of that matter," Shen Xu said leisurely, resting his chin on his hand.

Shen Xu was Shi Yi's Chinese classmate at Carnegie Mellon. Despite his usual carefree demeanor, he was very reliable when it came to getting things done. Thus, Shi Yi sent him back to China to handle all matters of the branch office. It turned out Shi Yi was right; in just one year, Shen Xu had made great progress in the country.

"Is that so?" Shi Yi sneered, "In business, isn't it normal for competitors to snatch orders occasionally? Leng Group really has no tolerance at all."

"A big company doesn't necessarily have big tolerance. The bigger the company, the less they can tolerate being taken advantage of by smaller companies," Shen Xu looked up at Shi Yi, "So, what are you going to do next? You know, competing with Leng Group for that piece of land, our chances of success are minimal."

"Even if the chances are zero, I still have to fight for it. Besides, things haven't reached the final step yet, and the outcome is still uncertain." In Shi Yi's world, there was no such thing as giving up.

"I knew it." Shen Xu leaned back and swiveled his boss chair a hundred and eighty degrees, then he took a folder from the desk behind him and handed it to Shi Yi.

"What's this?"

"Something good." Shen Xu smiled mysteriously.

Shi Yi opened the folder and saw a stack of... photos of handsome men. She frowned and looked at Shen Xu displeased, "This is the good thing you were talking about?"

"Don't you think he's very handsome?"

"Handsome?" Maybe a little, "But what does that have to do with me?"

"It has a lot to do with you." Shen Xu tilted his head and looked at the man in the photo, asking Shi Yi, "Do you know who this is?"

Shi Yi shook her head. In a world of over six billion people, how could she know everyone? Moreover, even if this man was good-looking, there were plenty of good-looking men in the world; it was normal that she didn't recognize him.

"You don't even recognize him, Shi Yi, sometimes I really wonder if you are actually a woman."

The more Shi Yi listened, the more confused she got, "Not knowing him means I'm not a woman? Are you joking?"

"I'm not exaggerating at all," Shen Xu said lazily, "Even old grannies on the street know him. As for the younger generation, even more so. You must be a freak or something."

"Whatever you say." Shi Yi interrupted impatiently, "Who is he?"

Shen Xu rolled his eyes at her, exasperated, then said slowly, "Ouyang Hao, my dear lady.'

"Ouyang Hao?"

Shi Yi frowned. For some reason, she found the name vaguely familiar. Suddenly, she remembered. When she left T City years ago, she had heard the name on the plane. If she recalled correctly, Ouyang Hao seemed to be someone from the entertainment industry.

"Are you talking about that superstar?" Shi Yi frowned. She couldn't help but wonder, what did a superstar have to do with the land in the new district.

"No, no, no! Ouyang Hao hasn't been a superstar for a long time. Miss Shi, is the information in your head outdated? Can't you keep up with the times and learn more about the news in the country?"

"Sorry, I've spent most of the years in the United States and know very little about domestic matters."

"Alright then, let me give you a good introduction." Shen Xu cleared his throat and started to explain leisurely, "Ouyang Hao is somewhat of a legendary figure in the country these past years. Apart from his prominent family background, he himself is quite remarkable. Initially, unlike his father and brother, he didn't choose a political career but instead whimsically entered the entertainment industry. His luck was incredibly good, and in just a year, he rose to become one of the country's top stars, a highly sought-after music idol. This status lasted for nearly ten years. Everyone thought he'd stay in the entertainment sector forever, but he wasn't someone to follow the expected path. For some unknown reason, he suddenly announced his retirement from music four years ago, and what's more shocking is that after leaving the music scene, he chose the same path as his father and brother—politics."