

## Toxic Ex 476

Chapter 476: She Doesn't Even Have the Right to Say She Loves Him

Ouyang Hao put the ring back into the box when his phone suddenly rang.

He glanced at the phone screen indifferently, hesitated for a moment, and eventually answered the call. A woman's voice quickly came through from the other end.

"Aunt Wang brought back a free-range chicken from her hometown. Do you want to come over for dinner?" Tang Wan asked tentatively.

"No need, I have other things to do tonight."

"Really? Xiao Zhi just mentioned that it's been a long time since he saw Uncle Ouyang."

"I'm free this weekend. You can tell him that I'll come to see him then."

"Alright, I won't disturb you then. Take care." Tang Wan ended the call, her eyes involuntarily darkened.

She stared blankly at the newspaper on the coffee table. The front-page headline featured a photo of Ouyang Hao with another woman, who was holding Ouyang Hao's arm intimately.

Over the years, such gossip was not uncommon, and Tang Wan gradually got used to it. But every time she saw such news, she couldn't help but feel heartache.

What pained her wasn't the constant presence of other women around Ouyang Hao but the fact that these women had one common trait: they all bore some resemblance to that woman. Either in the eyes, the mouth, or the overall demeanor.

Tang Wan bitterly smiled. After all these years, he still hadn't forgotten that woman. Even his kindness towards her and Xiao Zhi was because of the similarity in their backgrounds to Lin Yixun.

She found herself more pathetic compared to the women around Ouyang Hao. Those women could at least openly admit their admiration for him, while she could only hide everything and do nothing.

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After getting caught in the rain and standing by the roadside for over half an hour in the cold wind, Shi Yi developed a high fever that night. As Shi Yi's mind grew foggy from the fever, blurred images flashed through her brain.

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"Are you the new housekeeper?"

"75, 60, 80, with this figure? Don't you know that women around me must meet a certain condition?"

...

"If you can't do it, get lost. Don't bother staying here and being an eyesore!"

"My people can only be bullied by me, not by others."

...

"Lin Yixun, happy birthday!"

"Lin Yixun, I love you!"

...

In her dreams, a familiar yet unfamiliar voice echoed in her mind. Shi Yi tried desperately to see the person's face clearly, but she couldn't. She could only watch helplessly as he slowly disappeared into the mist.

Shi Yi suddenly opened her eyes, realizing that it was all just a dream. She stared blankly at the ceiling and noticed that the chandelier had been replaced by a plain white wall; her mind instantly became clear.

Where was she? Shouldn't she be in the hotel right now?

At that moment, Shi Yi saw a nurse push the door open and enter the room. She gradually realized she was in a hospital. Just as she was about to ask the nurse who had brought her here, Chu Yan walked in carrying a food container.

"Shi Yi, you finally woke up! You nearly scared me to death last night!"

"What happened last night?"

"I went to the hotel to find you. After knocking on the door for ages with no response, I realized something was wrong. After much persuasion, I finally convinced the lobby manager to open the suite door. When we entered, you were already unconscious from the fever. I originally sought Song Yi's help, but he was out of town, so I had no choice but to bring you to the nearest hospital."

Listening to Chu Yan, Shi Yi finally understood what had happened.

"You were doing fine a few days ago. How did you suddenly catch a cold?" Chu Yan asked, frowning.

"I got caught in the rain while waiting for a ride at the convention center last night."

"Waiting for a ride? Why didn't you call me? I happened to be near the convention center last night. You could have called me; I could have dropped you off at the hotel."

"I intended to call you, but something unexpected happened." Shi Yi's face turned a bit sullen. After a pause, she added, "My phone was accidentally stolen."

"Your phone got stolen?" Chu Yan's eyes widened in shock. "What kind of person is that bold? Did you report it to the police?"

"It was just a petty thug; I didn't bother reporting it. Besides, it was just a phone. Even if I did report it, the police wouldn't take the case." Although Shi Yi said this, she felt quite annoyed.

That man better not show up in front of her again. Otherwise, she would make sure he regretted it.

But this world is so small that even being hospitalized, she could still run into that man.

Shi Yi stared intently at the well-dressed man in the distance, her face growing cold. She had come to the hospital lobby to complete her discharge paperwork. Who would have thought she would meet the culprit responsible for her hospitalization here?

The man stood in the center of the lobby, with more than a dozen industry experts in white coats trailing behind him, as if stars surrounding the moon, displaying an arrogant demeanor.

Judging by the respectful attitude of the experts, Shi Yi could tell that the man held an extraordinary status. However, no matter his status, to Shi Yi, he was merely the robber who took her phone.

Thinking about the fever caused by this man, Shi Yi's anger flared up. Just as she was pondering how to take revenge, her body acted before her brain, making the decision for her.

She walked towards the man in flip-flops, stood before him, and without regard for the shocked gazes around her, extended her hand and angrily demanded, "Give it back!"

Shi Yi's sudden appearance and request left everyone around bewildered. They finally realized that this woman was talking to the boss.

The experts in white coats didn't understand Shi Yi's intention, but Leng Yixiu knew exactly what she meant. He recovered from his initial surprise and scanned Shi Yi, seeing her in her hospital attire, his narrow eyes slightly squinted.

"Are you sick?"

"None of your business!" Shi Yi snapped, anger rising as she mentioned her illness, keeping her hand extended towards Leng Yixiu. "Give me my phone back!"

One of the white-coated experts behind Leng Yixiu, mistakenly assuming this was some unresolved romance, stepped forward and nervously asked, "President Leng, do you need a break?"

Leng Yixiu then remembered the group of people trailing behind him and said, "I have some matters to deal with first. That's all for today."

"Alright, alright, please carry on," the experts responded, dispersing quickly.

#### Chapter 477: Fuming

"Give me back my phone!" Shi Yi said, expressionless.

The man couldn't help but laugh, "Are you a broken record? You keep saying the same thing over and over."

Shi Yi couldn't help but get angry. This man took her phone and wouldn't return it, yet he had the nerve to call her a broken record. "I'm telling you, if you don't give me back my phone today, I won't let it slide!"

"Sorry, I left your phone at home, I didn't bring it with me."

"You!" Shi Yi was furious, pointing at him, wanting to curse but restrained herself because they were in a public place. This wasn't proper. After thinking for a while, she sullenly said, "Where do you live? I'll go with you to get it!"

"Going to a stranger's house to get your phone, aren't you afraid I might do something to you?"

"Why should I be afraid?" Shi Yi lifted her chin. "Those medical elites were very respectful to you, calling you President Leng. I assume you are a person of status and position. If you really tried something on me, you'd stand to lose more than gain."

The man looked at her with interest, a thin smile curling on his lips, "You're quite smart."

"I don't want to waste words with you. Didn't you say my phone is at your house? Let's go right now."

Leng Yixiu found this CEO of Lei Man rather intriguing. For some reason, he ended up getting into his car with her and driving toward his apartment in the city center.

Shengde Hospital was about an hour's drive from Leng Yixiu's city-center apartment. By the time Shi Yi got out of the car, she realized she had been so angry with this man that she left the hospital without even changing out of her hospital gown.

Instinctively, she checked her appearance – hospital gown, flip-flops, disheveled hair. She probably looked terribly unkempt.

Given the man's status, it was no surprise his apartment would be in a high-end area. Just by looking at the facilities and the respectful attitude of the security guards at the gate, Shi Yi knew this place must be extremely valuable.

Shi Yi followed the man all the way to the 16th floor and saw him calmly input a string of numbers on the code lock. She glanced casually, but unintentionally memorized the code.

At a certain moment, Shi Yi had a mischievous thought of coming back on a dark night to empty all the valuables from the man's apartment.

Of course, it was just her daydreaming. No matter how bad things got, she wouldn't resort to stealing.

As she was lost in thought, the apartment door had already opened in front of her. The man was quite gentlemanly, making a "please" gesture, but she didn't want to give him the satisfaction.

"I'll wait here for you to bring my phone." She didn't even want to change shoes.

"What's the matter, afraid that something might happen to you if you step inside?"

"Ha, as if!" Shi Yi, falling into his trap, changed into slippers and followed the man into his apartment.

Instinctively, she surveyed the apartment. Logically, considering the man's personality, the apartment's decor should be in cool tones, but unexpectedly, it was in "girlish pink," which left Shi Yi astounded.

This man's taste was... No, it must be because of that "baby" he called on the phone yesterday. Now, she thought, this apartment color scheme is likely for that "baby."

She didn't expect the man who seemed cold and aloof was actually quite affectionate.

"Would you like a drink?" the man asked.

"No, let's get straight to the point." Shi Yi had other business at her branch office in the afternoon and didn't want to waste time here.

"Get straight to the point?" The man suddenly smirked devilishly, stepping closer to her. "How do you intend to get straight to the point?"

The man's unexpected advance made Shi Yi momentarily at a loss. Instinctively, she stepped back but soon found herself cornered by the man.

They were too close, making Shi Yi incredibly uncomfortable. She glared angrily at Leng Yixiu, "Move away from me!"

"Move away? How can we get straight to the point then?" He did not move, even edging closer.

"You misunderstood. By 'getting straight to the point,' I mean give me my phone back!"

"Oh? Did I misunderstand you? There wasn't any other implication in your words?"

As his lips moved, the unfamiliar yet familiar scent of the man engulfed Shi Yi, making her slightly breathless. She abruptly pushed him away, "Keep it if you want, I'm done fighting! Keep the phone for all I care, okay?"

Really, she must have lost her mind to follow this infuriating man here today!

Shi Yi, still furious, rushed towards the door with long strides.

But somehow, the door was already locked. Quick-witted, she entered the code she remembered, expecting the door to unlock, but it remained unmoved.

Just then, the man's voice came from behind her, "So, you memorized the entry code. But you miscalculated, the inside and outside codes are different."

Before he finished speaking, he was already in front of her, and in his hand, somehow, appeared a white iPhone.

Seeing her phone, Shi Yi finally realized she had been played. Anger flared in her heart, "So my phone was with you all along! You are shameless!"

"I told you last night, we have an unfinished business. If you apologize to me, I'll give you your phone back."

"Apologize? Out of the question!"

"Don't you want your phone anymore?"

"I said, I don't want the phone! Consider it a gift to you as a memorial for your grave!"

Leng Yixiu laughed, "My grave memorial would certainly be worth more than this."

"Just unlock the door for me."

Leng Yixiu suddenly found the angry side of this woman quite entertaining, so he decided to tease her a bit, "Ask nicely, and I'll unlock it for you, how about that?"

"In your dreams! If you don't unlock it, I'll call the police!"

"On what grounds? For taking your phone?" He chuckled, "You should know, police have more serious matters to attend to, they won't bother with petty things like this."

"..."

Seeing her eyes widen like saucers, nearly ready to blow up, he suddenly stepped closer, trapping her between him and the door, and whispered in a deep voice, "Can't think of a reason to report me? How about I give you one? For example, molestation?"

Chapter 478: She is Not a Pushover

"You can try!" Shi Yi gritted her teeth, enunciating each word with difficulty.

She was not a pushover who could be easily manipulated. If this man dared to do something rash, she wouldn't let him off easily!

Leng Yixiu had thought Shi Yi would back down, but he didn't expect her to be so stubborn. The man was momentarily dazed, recalling someone from years ago with the same prideful temperament, refusing to admit defeat or give in, proud like a peacock.

Just then, there was a sudden noise outside. The apartment door swung open the next moment.

The door behind her opened unexpectedly, startling Shi Yi. She stumbled backward, ready for the pain of falling, only to land in a warm embrace instead.

Shi Yi froze for a moment, then realized a large hand was tightly holding her waist, the warmth of the man's palm seeping through her thin dress, spreading to every part of her body.

The atmosphere became somewhat ambiguous.

However, Shi Yi wasn't swayed by the amorous atmosphere. Instead, she felt a deep sense of unease. Her first reaction was to push the man away forcefully, but her feet slipped, causing her to tilt even more awkwardly.

The precarious angle made Shi Yi feel embarrassed. It was impossible to stand up on her own, and asking the man to let her go was even more humiliating.

The man looked at her with a half-smile, holding her but not helping her up, as if waiting to see a good show. Seeing through his intentions, Shi Yi was furious. Instead of giving him the satisfaction, she'd rather he let go and have a fall.

Just as she was about to speak, a soft voice called from the doorway, "Daddy?"

Upon hearing the voice, Shi Yi mechanically turned her head to see a small child standing still at the door, her round eyes staring blankly at them.

Seeing his daughter return, the man's expression softened, and he pulled Shi Yi up with more strength, stepping forward to crouch in front of his daughter. "Yixun, why are you alone? Where's Sister Yi?"

Little Yi Xun turned and pointed outside the door. The man followed her finger to see Sister Yi standing a few steps away, holding Yi Xun's school bag.

The man slowly retracted his gaze and looked down at his little princess, softly asking, "Baby, were you good at school today? Did you listen to the teacher?"

But Little Yi Xun didn't respond to his questions. Instead, her big, watery eyes stared straight at Shi Yi, and her little red lips moved, mouthing, "Mommy! Mommy!"

The two cries of "Mommy" instantly changed the expressions of the three adults at the door. Sister Yi hurried forward, gesturing for the little princess to be quiet. "Little Miss, you can't call just anyone 'Mommy'."

Observing the man's still composed expression, Sister Yi felt a bit relieved. She then turned her gaze to Shi Yi, standing not far away.

With an apologetic smile, she said, "I'm sorry, the little miss is too young to know better. Please don't take it to heart."

While apologizing, she also took a closer look at Shi Yi. Over the years, Sister Yi had never seen Leng Yixiu bring any other woman here; Shi Yi was the first.

Speaking of this woman, she was undoubtedly beautiful, but her beauty was somewhat too enchanting. Taking her home wouldn't make anyone feel at ease. However, a man like Mr. Leng would be able to handle any type of woman.

Sister Yi immediately stopped herself. What was she thinking? Mr. Leng hadn't shown his stance yet, so why was she worried? But in truth, she was quite anxious. After all, the little miss's mother had been gone for four years, and she had seen firsthand how Mr. Leng had lived during those years.

Sister Yi only hoped Mr. Leng could forget about Miss Lin and find a woman to happily spend the rest of his life with.

"It's okay, children often mistake people for others," Shi Yi said, glancing at the little girl at the door, then back at Sister Yi, already recognizing them. Weren't these the same two people she met at the musical fountain square?

It really is a small world. So, this cute little girl turned out to be the daughter of this man in front of her. Shi Yi couldn't help feeling a bit resentful. How could such an annoying man have such an adorable daughter?

But that was someone else's family matter and had nothing to do with her. Shi Yi was here to get her phone. Since the man was being stubborn and wouldn't return it, there was no reason for her to stay any longer.

However, just as she took a step to leave, a small hand caught the hem of her dress, and a soft little voice followed, "Mommy, eat!"

Shi Yi paused, confused, and looked at Sister Yi, who gave her an embarrassed smile. "The little miss means she wants you to stay for lunch."

"Ah?" Shi Yi's eyes widened in surprise. Could the little girl really have mistaken her for her mother?

This...

Shi Yi felt like crying but couldn't, unsure how to refuse a child's request.

She opened her mouth to find an excuse to leave, but the once silent man suddenly spoke, "Stay. Once lunch is over, I'll return what you want."

Thinking of the phone made Shi Yi furious. She was about to retort that she didn't care about the phone when a soft little hand grabbed her pinky finger.

Looking down instinctively, she saw the little girl looking at her with a pitiful, expectant face, making it hard not to feel moved.

In the end, she nodded, agreeing to the man's request, letting the little girl lead her into the hallway and eventually into a bedroom.

The bedroom's dreamy pink color scheme was centered around a large princess bed covered with plush toys, making the room feel incredibly cozy. It was clear the child's parents put a lot of effort into it.

Shi Yi could already tell the entire apartment's decor wasn't meant to cater to any woman but to this little princess. It showed how important the little girl was to that annoying man.

Leng Yixiu stopped at the doorway but didn't enter. From a short distance, he watched as Little Yi Xun handed Shi Yi a plush toy from the bed, seemingly as a welcoming gift.

The man couldn't help but be amused. When had Little Yi Xun learned to do this? He was surprised because the plush toys on that bed were the little princess's treasures, which even he wasn't allowed to touch, yet now she was generously offering one to a woman she had only just met.

#### Chapter 479: Goodbye, Never to Meet Again

Shi Yi was a bit surprised and asked softly, "Is this for me?"

Xiao Yi Xun nodded.

Shi Yi glanced at the stuffed toy in her hand with some helplessness. She was already an adult and didn't need such things, but it was hard to refuse the little girl's kind gesture.

"Alright, then I'll accept it." Shi Yi smiled, squinting her eyes, and affectionately pinched the little girl's cheek. "By the way, I still don't know your name. What's your name?"

"My name is Leng Yixun."

"Leng Yixun?" Shi Yi was slightly taken aback. Why did this name sound familiar? She thought she must have remembered it wrong and didn't pay much attention, smiling, "It's a nice name, but I still think Little Dot sounds more catchy. How about I call you Little Dot from now on?"

When giving someone a nickname, shouldn't you ask for the child's consent?

It seemed that Xiao Yi Xun didn't quite understand the meaning of "Little Dot," so she asked in her childish voice, "Mommy, what does Little Dot mean?"

Mommy?

Shi Yi couldn't help but frown. It seemed this little one had mistaken her for someone else again.

Oh... she was a bit speechless and patiently reminded once again, "I'm not Mommy, I'm Auntie. Little Dot, don't mistake me again, okay?"

Upon hearing this, Xiao Yi Xun's sparkling eyes seemed to dim instantly, but she still insisted, "You are Mommy!"

Shi Yi wanted to emphasize it again, but seeing the little girl's disappointed face, she felt a bit soft-hearted and let it go. If she considered her as Mommy, let her do so, they wouldn't see each other again anyway. With this thought, Shi Yi no longer dwelled on the issue.

She rolled her eyes and said, "Little Dot means a small person, a tiny little one, very cute... do you understand?"

At the end of her explanation, Shi Yi found herself at a loss for words and even began to despise her own explanation, so she had to give up. Unexpectedly, Xiao Yi Xun, even though listening in a daze, nodded earnestly.

Leng Yixiu had been watching their interaction at the door for a long time and suddenly realized that despite his efforts over the years, he still couldn't fill the void of motherly love. No matter how materially well-off Xiao Yi Xun was, she was ultimately a child without a mother's love.

He did not enter the bedroom but quietly retreated to the living room.

Shi Yi and Xiao Yi Xun, the two of them, one big and one small, stayed in Xiao Yi Xun's bedroom for a good while until Sister Yi came to call them for lunch, and they leisurely left the bedroom.

Regarding this, Shi Yi was somewhat surprised. She was not particularly liked by children, yet she unexpectedly gained a moment of pride in front of this little one.

Not only did the little one give her a meeting gift, but they also had a slow conversation for quite a while. Although the child's topics were somewhat childish, Shi Yi found that she astonishingly had a lot of patience in front of this little one.

After lunch, the man kept his promise and returned the phone to Shi Yi. Shi Yi checked the time and decided to leave as it was getting late.

However, as she was about to leave, she encountered some resistance. The little one tightly hugged her legs, refusing to let go. Clearly, she didn't want her to leave.

"Little Dot, Auntie has things to do this afternoon. How about I come to see you again next time?"

The little one pouted and shook her head vigorously, No!

Shi Yi began to feel troubled. She looked up at the man not far away, seeking his help. Although she didn't want to ask him for help, only this man could handle the situation in front of her.

The man saw this, walked over, crouched down, and whispered gently in Xiao Yi Xun's ear, "Xiao Yi Xun, Auntie needs to go to work. If you keep holding her like this, Auntie will be late and get scolded by her boss."

Although Xiao Yi Xun was young, she had some concept of being "scolded" and had to let go of her hands obediently, looking up at Shi Yi with teary eyes full of reluctance.

With the restraint on her legs gone, Shi Yi finally let out a long sigh of relief. If the little one had continued to cling to her, she really wouldn't have known what to do.

The man carried Xiao Yi Xun over to Sister Yi and then turned back to Shi Yi, saying, "Shall I give you a ride?"

"No need."

"It's hard to get a taxi here."

Shi Yi looked at her watch, thinking about the important client she had an appointment with in the afternoon. If she was late, it would leave a bad impression. So, she didn't refuse any further.

Sitting in the black Ferrari, Shi Yi was a bit surprised. She hadn't expected that after having a heated argument with this man, she could now sit calmly in his car.

Of course, the reason wasn't because of the man, but because the man had an adorable and well-behaved daughter.

The car was a bit stuffy. Thinking that the trip to her company would take about an hour, Shi Yi casually asked, "Why did Xiao Yi Xun mistake me? Do I look like her mother?"

What she didn't expect was that this casual question caused the man's face to change. She could see his face tighten, and even though he tried to hide his emotions, Shi Yi could still tell from his tense profile that she had brought up a very sensitive topic.

Was it possible that they were divorced?

Shi Yi secretly regretted it. She knew she had a loose tongue. She should have just sat quietly without asking any unnecessary questions. What did any of this have to do with her?

At that moment, the man's deep voice suddenly sounded in the confined space, "She left when Xiao Yi Xun was very young."

Left?

Shi Yi's eyes widened in surprise. What did he mean by "left"? Ran away from home? Or...

Shi Yi couldn't ask further, fearing that probing deeper would yield even worse answers. She originally thought that the man and Xiao Yi Xun's mother were simply divorced. Who knew it would be this outcome? No wonder Xiao Yi Xun kept mistaking her for her mother. It turned out she hardly ever saw her mother and couldn't remember her mother's appearance.

What a poor child.

"I'm sorry!" Shi Yi said with difficulty. She shouldn't have asked about other people's private matters.

"It's okay, it's not your fault."

For the rest of the trip, Shi Yi didn't speak again, fearing she might say something wrong and cause unnecessary trouble. After some time, the Bentley stopped steadily by the roadside at Lei Man's office building.

"Thank you, sorry for the trouble, goodbye!" Shi Yi thought to herself, hoping never to see him again.

"Goodbye!"

The man rolled down the window and watched Shi Yi leave. Only after her figure disappeared into the office building did he retract his gaze.

When she left, Shi Yi didn't ask for the man's name. She thought it was just a minor episode in her life and that she would never have any further dealings with this man. What she didn't know was that from the moment she left Shengde Hospital in the morning, entered his apartment, and was driven back to Lei Man by him, everything had been captured clearly by the paparazzi.

Chapter 480: Pillow Wind?

Early the next morning, Shi Yi woke up early. Today was the day of the auction for the land in the new district, and as the CEO of Lei Man's headquarters, she naturally had to attend in person.

Before leaving the suite, she received a call from the front desk, saying that a gentleman was looking for her. Shi Yi thought it was Shen Xu, but felt puzzled; if Shen Xu wanted to see her, why didn't he call her directly but went through the front desk?

Only when she arrived in the lobby on the first floor of the hotel did she realize that the person looking for her was someone else, a stranger. Shi Yi was certain that she didn't know this man.

"Miss Shi, hello! Sorry for the abrupt interruption. May I introduce myself first? I am Xiao Ou, assistant to Mr. Ouyang Hao. I am here specifically to find you on behalf of Mr. Ouyang."

"Ouyang Hao?" Shi Yi frowned slightly.

"Yes," the man nodded respectfully and continued, "I wonder if Miss Shi could spare a moment to talk?"

Shi Yi hesitated for a moment but eventually nodded and followed the man to a nearby coffee shop.

Seeing Shi Yi glance at her watch, the man politely began, "I imagine Miss Shi is a very busy person with precious time, so I'll keep it brief. Here's the situation: at the last auction, Miss Shi successfully bid on a diamond ring and had it gifted to Mr. Ouyang. Mr. Ouyang Hao feels this gift is too precious to let you suffer a loss for nothing, so please accept this check."

As he spoke, the man handed a check to Shi Yi.

Shi Yi glanced at the number on the check, frowned slightly, then looked up at the man, "I only spent 13 million on the diamond ring. Mr. Ouyang must have made a mistake."

The man shook his head, "Mr. Ouyang said the remaining one million is to thank Miss Shi, because the ring has significant meaning to him. He is extremely grateful that Miss Shi was willing to part with it."

"It's not a big deal."

Shi Yi curled her lips without feigning politeness and took the check, placing it in her wallet.

Seeing Shi Yi accept the check so readily, the man sighed in relief and exchanged a few polite words before leaving.

Shi Yi watched the man's departing figure, her smile slowly fading. She looked down at the row of purple lavender outside the floor-to-ceiling window and sighed deeply.

It seemed there wasn't much hope for the new district land.

However, the outcome was totally different from what she expected. Leng Group suddenly withdrew from the bid at the last critical moment, allowing Lei Man to easily obtain the land.

When Shi Yi found out, she was undoubtedly shocked. She couldn't make sense of it. Wasn't Leng Group aiming to suppress Lei Man? Why would they suddenly decide to let Lei Man win? Are they not afraid Lei Man would grow strong enough to eradicate Leng Group?

What Shi Yi didn't know was that Leng Group indeed planned to snatch the land from Lei Man, but then changed their mind at the last minute. Even Assistant Chen didn't expect Leng Yixiu to let Lei Man have the land.

This... really doesn't fit the big boss's usual style!

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Since the land issue for the branch office was resolved, Shi Yi didn't plan to stay long in T City. She decided to stay one more day in T City before heading back to the United States headquarters.

Still, she hadn't anticipated that things were far from over.

Early the next morning, Shi Yi was awakened by the ringtone of her phone. Annoyed, she turned over to continue sleeping, but the persistent ringtone left her no choice but to crawl to the bedside, grab her phone from the nightstand, and glance at the screen.

The call was from Shen Xu, which instantly made Shi Yi angry. Was this guy that idle? It wasn't even daylight, and he was already calling her.

She pressed the answer button forcefully, "I say, boss, what's the matter with you calling me so early in the morning?"

"Shi Yi, quickly turn on your computer."

"Why turn on the computer? It's not working hours yet."

"Just turn on your computer, go to a major website, and open the news page."

Hearing some urgency in Shen Xu's usually laid-back tone, Shi Yi sensed something unusual. She got out of bed and turned on the computer as told.

What could be so urgent?

Shi Yi moved the mouse and casually opened a well-known domestic website, clicked on the news section, and a headline immediately caught her eyes.

"Leng Group President and Lei Man CEO Spend a Night Together in Downtown Luxury Home"

The striking title, along with a photograph, instantly wiped out Shi Yi's sleepiness. She stared at the screen, unable to believe she would become the lead in a gossip news, and the other lead was that despicable man.

These paparazzi sure are good at lying. She visited that man's house in broad daylight and left in the afternoon; how did it become "spending a night together"?!

Shi Yi looked at the photo again, the dark background indeed made it look like nighttime. However, such effects are easy to create with a bit of Photoshop.

Suddenly, a thought flashed through Shi Yi's mind, and her face changed several times. Wait, what was the title again?

Her gaze fell back on the headline, "Leng Group President"? Which Leng Group?

A possible answer suddenly hit her, making Shi Yi jump up in shock, "Leng Group" could it be referring to Leng Group's CEO?

If that's the case, then that despicable man is...

Thinking quickly, Shi Yi closed the webpage and opened a search engine, typing "Leng Group CEO" in the search box. Numerous entries related to "Leng Group CEO" immediately appeared.

She clicked one entry, and her guess was confirmed. The man who flirted with her and played her was indeed Leng Group's Executive CEO.

Shi Yi angrily ran her fingers through her hair and chuckled coldly. What is this?

She knew that man's identity was extraordinary, but never thought he was the CEO of Leng Group—Leng Yixiu.

All this time, she hadn't known her competitor was right beside her, while the opponent seemed to have thoroughly investigated her background.

What frustrated Shi Yi even more was this news surfaced neither early nor late but precisely after Lei Man successfully snagged the new district land from Leng Group, it would undoubtedly trigger numerous speculations.

The industry knew Lei Man and Leng Group were competitors; it was also known that Leng Group was trying to oppress Lei Man. But yesterday witnessed a dramatic reversal, with Leng Group willingly giving up the land almost in their grasp to its rival—Lei Man, undoubtedly surprising and perplexing everyone.

Now, this gossip news gave the best explanation—it would appear Lei Man's CEO sweet-talked Leng Group's boss.