

My Dreamy Old Husband

Chapter 542

Sophia felt a wave of bitterness rising in her heart, especially when she saw the earth-shattering publicity and the triumphant momentum for 'Legend of Fan Lihua' after its box office premiere. All the reviews for the movie were favorable. In contrast, many viewers criticized and insulted 'Doctor Invincible', using words that were very vulgar and harsh on the eyes.

Similarly, the fans of the opposing party would pop up from time to time to insult, mock, and ridicule the movie. Not only that but they would extend their insults to the two middle-aged washed-up actors, who had no endorsements nor variety shows.

*You motherf*cker! Who the hell do you think you are, son of a b*tch?!* Inside the Edwards Residence, the two fangirls exploded with anger. Setting up two computers in the living room, they began taking control of the fan support group to do activities amidst the sound of mahjong in the background.

They monitored the data, conducted online and offline activities, chartered venues and cinemas, controlled reviews, appeased fans, and so on. At the same time, they also had to watch 'Doctor Invincible' and deliver the cured meat. Therefore, they were extremely busy.

Meanwhile, the two middle-aged washed-up actors were sucking on lollipops as they played mahjong.

Stanley had a lollipop in his mouth too. While playing mahjong, he said, "Uncle Michael, don't you think Aunt is being silly? How could the movie sponsored by the Harpers possibly compete with the popularity of your movie? Why does she

need to spend so much money? She might as well use it to play mahjong with me.”

Michael glanced at Sophia, who was assigning tasks to the fan support group. Then, he said, “You won’t be able to understand a girl’s heart.”

Similarly, Harry sneaked a glance at Sarah and said teasingly, “Bro, be careful. Otherwise, they will give away all the cured meat in your house as their prizes.”

At the mention of cured meat, Michael felt a little distressed. He had secretly taken a look at their ‘Box Office Rescue Plan’. According to the plan, half of his cured meat would be given away—they were planning to use his handmade cured meat to reinvigorate the ticket sales! *What a f*cking pain!*

While Sophia was focused on monitoring the ticket sales, Richard couldn’t even fall asleep out of worry. The movie, ‘Legend of Fan Lihua’, was Xyla’s only remaining hope. If it became a success, she would become famous within the circles instantly.

Then, they would have hope of repaying the Huffs’ gigantic debt. If it failed, the Harpers would never spend another dime on her again. When that happens, the Huff Family would collapse completely with no hope of rescue anymore!

On the first day, the box office earnings of the movie recorded 300 million, and it seemed like it was extremely well-received. What with the shocking amount of online and offline publicity, the situation seemed to be very good. However, only Richard knew that those results were brought about through the money poured into it by their investors! Therefore, he knew best just how much the 300 million recorded in the box office earnings was actually worth.

In his anxious state, he finally waited until the final box office earnings for the second day were announced—50 million! It was 300 million on the first day and 50 million on the second day. The sharp decline in ticket sales was shockingly large.

The film reviews that had been bought over before had fallen apart as batches of movie fans voiced their discontent after watching the movie. They furiously demanded refunds, citing that the primary roles and the minor roles were imbalanced; the supporting roles had more appearances than the protagonists; and it had great special effects, but the storyline was terrible. Despite the amazing special effects, it could not make up for the downsides. Many scenes had been cut out and the acting of the protagonists and supporting roles were horribly exaggerated. At the same time, fans of the original work protested that the movie had destroyed the original work....

By the third day of its release, the box office earnings fell to 30 million. In contrast, the bad reviews were increasing by the day, and the word of mouth came crashing down. As the box office sales tumbled down, the 500 million investment into the movie could not be regained. On the other hand, the box office earnings of 'Doctor Invincible' remained scarily stable despite being ripped apart by the ghostwriter fans of 'Legend of Fan Lihua'. It recorded ticket sales of 300 million on stable days and 250 million on unstable days. Still, the attendance rate remained extremely high even after 10 days.

Looking at the box office data, Richard felt like he was on the verge of a mental breakdown. Thus, he slumped limply into a chair, his head hurting terribly.

"Richard, trust me. We probably chose an unfavorable date of release. The past two days were working days, so the ticket sales won't be as great. If we put in a little more money into publicity, the ticket sales will definitely pick up," Xyla said reassuringly.

Even so, she knew in her heart that the movie was a flop. In order to persuade herself, or perhaps to persuade him, she continued, "Many movies start off with poor ticket sales. However, their ticket sales start to skyrocket once word-of-mouth picks up."

As she talked, she started to choke up. She knew that she only had several chances left, and her chances were reducing bit by bit. If she failed to perform well this time around, the Harper Family might completely lose their patience with the Huffs. Moreover, her parents were still in the intensive care ward at the

hospital, and their medical expenses came to approximately 20,000 to 30,000 per day.

Although the debtors had been appeased by the Harpers, for now, they would surely return sooner or later. Besides, the Huff Family would fall to utter ruin once they lost the support of the Harper Family. Therefore, she had to succeed and make her mark in the entertainment circles so that the Harper Family would continue to support her acting career. Conversely, if she was unsuccessful, the consequences would be dire.

He remained quiet. Countless plans flashed through his mind in an attempt to reinvigorate their box office earnings. If he failed this time, not only Xyla, but he, too, would suffer the consequences. However, each of his plans was mercilessly turned down by himself. How could it be so easy to rescue their box office earnings?

Meanwhile, she glared bitterly at 'Doctor Invincible', which stood arrogantly at the top of the box office rankings. *If it wasn't for that movie, 'Legend of Fan Lihua' would have been a hit! It's all that movie's fault! I had a cameo in that movie, but I can't believe that particular scene was cut off before its release! Not only that but my role in 'War Dragon' was canceled too. So, now I only have 'Legend of Fan Lihua'.* Then, she resentfully muttered, "If only a scandal involving Taylor Murray could surface during this time..."

If a scandal were to appear, the sales tickets of that movie will fall, sooner or later. When that happens, 'Legend of Fan Lihua' will shine in its place! She naïvely believed that her movie would become popular as long as there were no competitors.

He was currently under great pressure. Glaring at the irritating words 'Doctor Invincible' written at the top of the box office rankings, a bold idea came to him suddenly. Once that idea took root, his mind immediately replayed those words Taylor had said to him back then: *'How embarrassing would it be for you if word got out that your ex-girlfriend had gotten herself a husband who is leagues better than you?'* However, he had no other choice. He had to try everything in his arsenal.

Thus, he broke his silence and said, “I happen to know a scandal about Taylor. Moreover, it’s related to Sophia...”

Upon hearing those words, Xyla’s eyes brightened. “What scandal? Hurry up and tell me!”

Richard hesitated, considering it over and over again. In the end, he said, “Back then, Taylor spent 80,000 to buy Sophia and make her his wife. Perhaps we can use that to our leverage.”

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Over at The Imperial, Sophia began to send out the cured meat via delivery services upon her return from her holiday at Riverdale. Therefore, the cured meat at home was nearly all gone. Michael was starting to worry as he studied the amount left over—it wasn’t enough to last them for the year. Meanwhile, Nathan hurriedly stole a few pieces and hid them at Linus’ place.

Sophia had been extremely busy over the past two days. After vacuum packing the cured meat, she had to place them in gift bags before posting them out via delivery services. At the same time, she had to make more cured meat. For that reason, Michael was also instructed to make more of his handmade cured meat during his off days at home. Dressed in his pajamas with an apron over it, he yawned as he put on gloves and prepared to make the cured meat. First, he rubbed handfuls of salt into the fresh meat, then he left them to marinate for a while before hanging them out to air dry for several days. After he was done making cured meat, he quickly sneaked into the basement to look for Abel, for fear of being forced to continue making cured meat.

All of a sudden, the phone in his pocket vibrated. It turned out that ‘Eddie Fletcher’ had posted a new tweet on Twitter. He had listed her account under favorites, so he would receive a notification on his phone as soon as she posted something on Twitter. Taking out his phone, he saw that she had posted a picture of him in his pajamas, yawning as he made more cured meat. The caption was: ‘Shocking! Middle-Aged Washed-up Actor With No Endorsements or Variety Shows Makes Cured Meat for a Living!’

Michael was rendered speechless by what he read.