

My Wife Is a Superstar Chapter 366

In a private club within Flower City.

When Tang Jing appeared before her, Ouyang Qing's eyes lit up.

When they were in high school, Tang Jing didn't stand out much. But now, she had grown into a gorgeous beauty, which was beyond Ouyang Qing's expectations.

"Jing, do you still remember me?" Ouyang Qing stood up.

"Of course I do. How can I forget you, Ms. Ouyang?" Tang Jing laughed.

Despite having good grades in school, Tang Jing came from an ordinary family.

In order to climb the social ladder back then, Tang Jing ingratiated herself with someone. That person was Ouyang Qing.

Ouyang Qing was the most perfect among all the girls in high school. She came from a rich family, was pretty, and also had good grades.

She looked as if she was an angel sent from heaven. Being exceptionally attractive, she was like the moon shining high in the sky while all the other girls were just stars dotted around her.

Beside her, Tang Jing was one of those stars that weren't bright enough and were easily overlooked.

There was once when Tang Jing got on Ouyang Qing's nerves when she was in a bad mood. Ouyang Qing then gave her a tight slap in front of many of their schoolmates.

Ever since then, Tang Jing woke up and realized that she shouldn't be living under the shadow of someone else. It would only make her look more insignificant by comparison.

After the incident, Tang Jing transferred to another school, and no one heard from her since.

By the time she reemerged, she was already a famous actress who was highly educated.

"We were still young and foolish then. Let's just forget about the past."

Ouyang Qing opened her arms and prepared to hug Tang Jing.

"What happened in the past? I don't even remember it anymore."

Tang Jing smiled as she hugged Ouyang Qing in return as if it were all water under the bridge.

After they hugged, both of them took their seats. "What would you like to have? Red wine?"

"I'm fine with anything. I'll let the Second Miss pick," Tang Jing replied with a grin.

"Don't be a stranger as we are sisters after all. So don't call me Second Miss, but instead, call me by my name," Ouyang Qing replied, smiling sweetly.

Tang Jing thought to herself, *her smile hasn't changed a bit after so many years. It's still just as sweet and innocent, just like a flower.*

That was the same smile that mesmerized everyone then. Even when she was angry and used her fan to cover her face, she was still smiling behind it.

However, her eyes would be filled with viciousness and contempt. Even her smile was devious.

Ouyang Qing was the first person who taught Tang Jing a lesson about the gulf between different levels of the social hierarchy.

Earlier, when Tang Jing and Ouyang Qing were still close with each other, Tang Jing assumed that she had been accepted into Ouyang Qing's social circle.

In the end, she realized that wasn't true, and she was never part of that circle.

She had always been outside the circle. In fact, she never even came close to being part of it.

That realization drove Tang Jing to fully focus on her studies. Her previously ordinary grades improved significantly to the extent she became a top student in school.

The path she chose was the right one. Her success today was due to all the hard work she had put in.

Despite her achievements, she still wasn't where she wanted to be in terms of social status. Nevertheless, she had managed to make a lot of progress.

At the very least, the gap was no longer as wide. With the right opportunity, she was one step away from being part of upper-class society, which had always been her dream.

When she saw Ouyang Qing today, Tang Jing realized that this was the opportunity she was looking for.

Ouyang Qing belonged to upper-class society, and she wanted to leverage their relationship to get in.

Did I not learn my lesson from last time? Why am I letting history repeat itself?

No, I was just too weak then. I was only a paper tiger because I relied on her influence.

Things were different now. She was a force to be reckoned with, just like a real tiger. All she wanted was to use Ouyang Qing as her ticket into upper-class society – the social circle which was filled with temptations of fame and fortune.

“Jing?”

Ouyang Qing’s voice broke Tang Jing’s train of thought.

“Oh, alright, sure.”

Lost in her own thoughts, Tang Jing didn’t hear what Ouyang Qing said and gave her a cursory answer.

“You are the supporting actress for *Sound of Thunder 2*, aren’t you?” Ouyang Qing asked.

“That’s right. How did you know?”

“My God, you’re so pretty and highly educated. How did you end up just being the supporting actress? You are more than qualified to be the lead. Who was the one who made the casting decision?” Ouyang Qing immediately felt indignant on behalf of Tang Jing.

“I’m only suited to be the supporting actress. The lead is someone that’s better than me,” Tang Jing replied.

“Are you talking about Ding Mi? How is she better than you? You graduated from a prestigious drama school while she didn’t even make it into university. How can she even compare to you?”

Tang Jing chuckled. “Why do you know so much?”

Ouyang Qing laughed in return. “Let me be honest – we don’t exactly see eye to eye.”

“Why?” Tang Jing asked with a straight face.

“Because of Nan Chen.” Ouyang Qing was forthcoming.

In Ouyang Qing’s eyes, Tang Jing was still one of her lackeys who didn’t command any respect at all.

Therefore, she didn’t feel the need to be mindful of her speech. To her, Tang Jing wasn’t a threat at all.

However, reality would prove her wrong.

“Nan Chen?” Tang Jing pretended to not understand.

“Don’t you know Nan Chen? The third son of the Nan family and current CEO of Nanshi Corporation. People call him Sir Chen, and he is absolutely dashing.”

When Ouyang Qing spoke of Nan Chen, her eyes lit up in delight.

“Oh... It suddenly hit me. Is he the Young Master of the Nan family that you used to have a crush on?”

“That’s right, I’m amazed you still remember.”

“Isn’t he someone that’s highly placed in society? How did he get himself involved with Ding Mi?” Tang Jing maintained her indifferent expression.

“I really have no idea how that despicable woman got herself attached to him. She even bore him two bastards! Now, she is trying to leverage the children to get herself married into their family. Her ambition knows no bounds!” Ouyang Qing ranted.

When Tang Jing saw how worked up Ouyang Qing was, she gloated inside her heart.

I didn't expect Ding Mi to end up being such a thorn in Ms. Ouyang's side. This is getting interesting.

Now that Tang Jing understood how everyone was connected, she could easily guess the reason Ouyang Qing invited her out.

“I’m surprised to hear that. Did she and Mr. Nan have a one-night stand?”

“I don’t know. She must have thrown herself shamelessly at him while he was drunk, or perhaps she drugged him. Or else, how is it possible for Chen to fancy someone like her?” Ouyang Qing was further enraged.

“Since there are already children involved, it’s going to be a challenging task. Prominent families care a lot about their legacies who are related by blood. Having borne them children, she stands a good chance of being part of the Nan family.” Tang Jing rubbed salt on Ouyang Qing’s wound on purpose.

When she saw the fury in Ouyang Qing’s eyes, Tang Jing relished in her success in goading Ouyang Qing further.

“Nonsense! What’s the big deal about bearing children? Even a pig can do that. She’s just a sow that only knows how to bear children!”

Tang Jing was shocked by how the supposed prim and proper Second Miss of the Ouyang family could spout such vulgar words.

She stared at her in disbelief. *Is this what people in the upper-class society are like?*

Just as Ouyang Qing spoke, she too realized that she had lost her composure.

“No matter what, that woman has a bad character, and I hate despicable people like her!” Ouyang Qing added.

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Tang Jing let out a faint smile.

She enjoyed watching Ouyang Qing being agitated. The more she lost her composure, the more it showed how much she hated Ning Ran.

The immense hatred she had for Ning Ran demonstrated the significant amount of pressure Ouyang Qing must be feeling.

The more pressure Ouyang Qing felt, the more desperate she was for Tang Jing's help.

“I think Ding Mi is pretty alright. Her acting skills are great, and she's also gorgeous. Actually, I was rooting for her. However, it is shocking to hear that she had borne Nan Chen's children for him,” Tang Jing spoke slowly as she bided her time.

“She’s just putting on a facade. In truth, she’s a devious b*tch! You mustn’t be tricked by her!” Ouyang Qing countered impatiently.

Tang Jing nodded at once.

“Jing, I’m sure you remember how much I took care of you?”

When Ouyang Qing brought up the past, it caused Tang Jing to shudder.

Just a while ago, Ouyang Qing had swept the past under the blanket with a smile.

Tang Jing had also pretended to have forgotten about it. *Why is she bringing it up again? Isn’t it an insult to my face?*

At that moment, Tang Jing was caught off guard. Ouyang Qing had just claimed to have forgotten the past, and now she is dredging it up. *Isn’t she contradicting herself?*

Tang Jing had no choice but to smile awkwardly.

Ouyang Qing continued, “I can still look after you and even turn you into a megastar. It will be beyond what you can imagine now because you will be an internationally recognized actress, just like Scarlett Johansson!”

Forcing a laugh, Tang Jing thought that Ouyang Qing was really good at boasting.

Scarlett Johansson’s achievements are a combination of her talent, beauty, and acting skills. Furthermore, she also has the luck and temperament for success. Who in the world can have so many factors going in their favor at the same time?

However, Tang Jing wasn’t going to stop Ouyang Qing from boasting.

“Thank you.” All she could do was nod with a smile.

“You don’t believe me? We are going to start shooting a movie. The initial investment is about one billion, and Nan Chen is the lead investor. But, it’s still in the negotiation stage. However, one thing is for sure. That despicable lady is still the female lead because Nan Chen wants it so,” Ouyang Qing explained.

Tang Jing was shocked when she realized the news was true.

During the promotion for *Sound of Thunder 2*, she heard some rumors that Ning Ran’s new show was a movie, and it was going to have a huge budget. However, she wasn’t sure if it was true.

Now that Ouyang Qing had mentioned it, she believed the rumor to be true.

Suddenly, she could feel a sense of dissatisfaction brewing within her. *Ding Mi, what makes you deserve it?*

Once the series, *Sound of Thunder 2*, was completed, the lead actress would be catapulted towards the big screen. As for Tang Jing, the supporting actress, there was still no news if she would even get a part in the next series.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. So, do you want to be a part of the movie?” Ouyang Qing looked towards Tang Jing.

Collecting herself, Tang Jing tried her best to appear calm.

She then broke into a smile. “Doesn’t the casting decision usually lie with the investor and director? Usually, it’s the director’s choice, but given that the investor finances the movie, they have a larger say in it. As for the actors, they don’t get to choose. Hence, I’m afraid I do not stand a chance because I have not even received any form of notification.”

“Your assumptions are correct. Coincidentally, I’m one of the movie’s investors too,” Ouyang Qing declared proudly.

“Is that so? That’s wonderful.”

Tang Jing smiled faintly as she could now see a glimmer of hope.

“I can ensure that you are cast as the female lead in this movie,” Ouyang Qing declared.

Tang Jing laughed again as she didn’t believe Ouyang Qing’s words.

She would still believe it if Ouyang Qing told Tang Jing that she could get her a part.

But to get cast as the female lead, Tang Jing didn’t think it to be possible.

Ouyang Qing herself had said that Nan Chen specifically wanted Ding Mi to be the female lead.

As the lead investor, Nan Chen was the key decision-maker.

Even if he weren’t, his status in the industry would easily allow him to place Ning Ran in that position.

“Don’t you believe me?” Ouyang Qing could see the doubt in Tang Jing’s eyes.

“I’m not experienced enough, so I’m afraid the female lead role is beyond my capabilities. Besides, Mr. Nan wouldn’t agree to it,” Tang Jing sidestepped her question.

“We can think of a way for him to change his mind. As long as you join the cast, we can work together to force Ding Mi out. After that, I will propose to everyone for you to be the female lead,” Ouyang Qing laid out her plan.

“Is it going to work? How are we going to force her out?” Tang Jing asked.

“I don’t have a plan fleshed out yet since Ding Mi is right in the center of the limelight now. Her popularity has been increasing non-stop as she is participating in many variety shows. We have to stop the growth of her fame and curtail her development,” Ouyang Qing explained.

“Clearly, her company arranged all these, so how can we even contain it?”

“Your production crew has an upcoming variety show, and I heard that she has a history of allergy. If you can trigger her allergy and force her to be hospitalized, her screen time will be reduced. After that, the audience will slowly forget her,” Ouyang Qing added.

Tang Jing was shocked at Ouyang Qing’s plan to harm Ning Ran physically.

This is not going to work because the risk is too great. If Nan Chen finds out that I did it, my career will instantly be over.

Obviously, it was a bad idea to make such a risky move based on Ouyang Qing’s empty promise.

However, to reject her outright would mean the collapse of negotiations. There would then not be any opportunities to collaborate in the future.

That would mean losing all the openings Ouyang Qing might bring. Hence, Tang Jing decided to verbally agree to her proposal first.

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When Ning Ran saw the contents of the notice, she was shocked.

It related to the most popular reality show in the country recently called *Speedy Journey*.

All the guests on the show were big-name stars with each show having a guest star every week. For the upcoming show, that person would be Ning Ran.

The reality show was the highest-rated program last year and the top show on the entire network.

It didn't just top the reality show segment. In fact, it beat all other variety shows in terms of its popularity.

All the actors or actresses that participated in the show became famous almost instantly.

It was as if they were coated in gold. They would receive numerous offers for commercials and sponsorships, which would result in a further increase in their popularity.

Therefore, Ning Ran still couldn't believe that she was invited to the show as she was still a budding actress.

"What do you think? Are you excited?" Wang Xiaoou looked at the stunned Ning Ran.

"I'm still alright," Ning Ran replied.

"You were overseas last year, so you don't realize how popular this show was domestically. It was an instant hit. In this second season, the producers have increased its difficulty and entertainment value. Therefore, it is projected to be even more successful this year," Wang Xiaoou explained.

"Despite being overseas then, I knew how popular the show was. Many of us who were overseas watched it. After all, there are many Chinese living in foreign countries," Ning Ran clarified.

“It’s great that you understand. This is an opportunity that’s hard to come by; therefore, you have to make the best use of it,” Wang Xiaoou remarked with a smile.

“However, I have not been in any such shows before. As I have to face off with so many megastars, I’m worried that I’ll become a nervous wreck.” Ning Ran felt really anxious about it.

Although she felt that she was mentally strong, she knew anyone could feel nervous, even the biggest stars.

She was also one of them, let alone she was still considered new in the industry.

Despite having accumulated a little bit of fame, she was still a relatively new compared to the other superstars.

“Don’t worry, you have me, and I will make the necessary arrangements.”

“Alright, thank you, Ms. Wang.”

With Wang Xiaoou’s reassurances, Ning Ran felt relieved.

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Before filming for the event started, Wang Xiaoou went through every process carefully. They brought their own makeup, makeup artist and even prepared their own wardrobe. Everything checked out.

As filming started, the first challenge was a hundred-meter swim race. Before that, the participants had to first train their swimming technique under the supervision of a swimming champion.

Whoever did well in that challenge would receive an advantage and special privileges.

Obviously, all the participants knew how to swim, just with different degrees of proficiency.

Hence, before the professional training began, all of them had to swim one lap and record their times. After training, they would then compare and see who had the biggest gains in performance.

Before Wang Xiaoou sent Ning Ran over, she asked, "How's your swimming?"

"I had some practice when I was young, but rarely swam when I was older. I can only guarantee you that I won't drown," Ning Ran joked wryly.

"In that case, you should swim slower in the first round, so that your initial results won't be that good. After training, the gap between your results will appear bigger, and you will have the advantage," Wang Xiaoou whispered.

Ning Ran felt uncomfortable when she heard it. "Swim slowly on purpose? Isn't that faking it? It would not be fair to the other contestants."

Wang Xiaoou straightened her face. "This is a reality show, who isn't faking it? Besides, you should keep it down."

"But..."

"Don't but me. You're a guest star, so the audience's attention will be focused on you. Therefore, you have to put in a good performance, or the netizens will have you for lunch," Wang Xiaoou warned.

“This... ugh... very well.” Ning Ran had no choice but to agree.

Wearing her swimsuit in front of all the cameras, Ning Ran couldn't help but feel awkward.

When she saw what the other female guests wore, Ning Ran suddenly felt that her swimwear was a joke.

Her swimsuit was extremely conservative as it only exposed her arms.

As for the other female guests, they were all scantily clad and exposed everything they had, regardless of whether it was appropriate to do so or not.

The interesting thing was that the producers were worried the show couldn't get past the censorship on local television. Hence, they sent the other female guests back to change into something less revealing.

After some back and forth, the outfits were all resolved, and the first round of swimming began.

With some warming up, Ning Ran jumped into the water and swam forward with all her might.

Wang Xiaoou quickly reminded her to hold back her strength in the first round so that the increase in performance for the second round would be more significant.

However, Ning Ran wasn't willing to take Wang Xiaoou's advice. She felt that she should give it her best instead.

Given that the producers had set a rule like that, they would definitely be aware of the loophole it created. Therefore, they would be expecting people to take advantage of it.

Since the focus of the program was being true to oneself, Ning Ran felt that holding back would result in her being punished.

Although she didn't know how the producers were going to determine whoever that was swimming slowly was faking it, she believed that it would be wrong for her to do. Thus, she didn't want to put up an act the first time she was invited to such a popular reality show.

But when Wang Xiaoou saw how Ning Ran was swimming her heart out, she screamed in her heart.

How stupid can she be? Why doesn't she listen to what I tell her?

What is she putting in so much effort for? In fact, is she trying to come in first place?

All the other celebrities are obviously swimming slowly on purpose. Only she is giving it her all. Is there something wrong with her brain?

Ning Ran put her best foot forward and didn't notice what the other celebrities were doing. She was only focused on swimming forward as fast as she could.

When she lifted her head to take a look, she realized that she was in the first place.

She then felt awkward.

As for Wang Xiaoou, she felt like pushing Ning Ran's head in the water so that she could calm down after choking on some pool water.

Now that you got yourself in the first place, how are you going to improve on your result later on?

After that, Ning Ran exited the pool before drying herself. Covering her head with a towel, she looked at Wang Xiaoou, who was fuming.

She quickly turned away to avoid making eye contact because she knew Wang Xiaoou was angry.

Earlier on, Ning Ran's intention was just not to come in last. However, she didn't expect all the other celebrities to fake their performance to the extent she ended up in first place.

They were simply holding back by ridiculously.

When the other celebrities came out of the pool, they looked at Ning Ran before exchanging glances with a smile.

In their minds, she had shown she was clearly a newbie to have done something as stupid as to obtain first place.

At that moment, the host came over. "Alright, now that you have finished swimming the first round, I will announce the results."

Once he was done with the results, the host looked towards Ning Ran. "Now, let us congratulate Ding Mi for winning the first round of the swimming contest! Congratulations!"

All the other celebrities exchanged glances and smiled. They were all mocking her in their minds for being stupid and coming in the first place.

Ning Ran also felt embarrassed as she knew everyone was laughing at her for being dumb.

Life is tough. Since when did being true to oneself was perceived as being stupid?

“And in last place, we have Ms. Shen Yue.”

Shen Yue was one of the biggest stars of the show this season. She had started her career in Korea before returning to develop her career domestically. Hence, she was the most popular figure on the show.

She had gone through many rounds of plastic surgery and looked like the stereotypical beauty. However, she had a sexy figure and was daring in the way she dressed. With a sharp tongue, she was well-adored by her adolescent fans.

Most of the words she used to attack other celebrities were turned into memes on the internet. They were then used by other netizens to swear at the people around them.

“Damn it, how did I end up in the last place? This is terrible. I don’t know if I can still continue filming given how embarrassing this is,” Shen Yue remarked with a smile.

She then walked towards Ning Ran. “You must be Mi Ding. Your performance in the pool was great. Did you grow up planting wheat or raising hogs? To be able to swim so fast with such an ugly technique, you must be relying on raw strength alone.”

She knew that Ding Mi was a newbie. Therefore, she purposely picked on Ding Mi by inverting her name to Mi Ding, so as to show her condescension.

The mockery that followed was even more rude.

Shen Yue’s style had always been like that. Every word that came out of her mouth sounded aggressive.

She was one of those uncivilized characters who was well-loved by netizens. It was simply incomprehensible.

Meanwhile, all the other celebrities burst out in laughter as they always enjoyed watching Shen Yue insult others.

All Ning Ran did was to smile without responding.

As she was still new, she didn't want to get into a conflict with one of the permanent guests on the show.

If she dared to talk back and it was broadcasted, she would be berated by netizens even if she were doing the right thing.

The reason was simple. The netizens didn't know Ning Ran well enough, but they are familiar with Shen Yue.

To the long-time fans of the show, Shen Yue could do no wrong. As for everything the newbie did, it would never be right.

Therefore, Ning Ran had to endure it.

“Since your surname is Mi, are you related to Mickey Mouse? Oh, I forgot that rats can swim very quickly too. Now that explains how you came in the first place.”

Just as she spoke, she burst into laughter.

Meanwhile, the other celebrities joined in. Even the production crew couldn't help but laugh.

“Ms. Shen, you're contradicting yourself. First, you claim that I raise hogs, and then you accuse me of being a mouse. Have you ever seen mice raising pigs? Hahaha.”

Despite laughing outwardly, Ning Ran was burning with rage inside. Therefore, she began to fight back indirectly.

However, Shen Yue didn't expect Ding Mi to talk back at her, so her temper flared.

All this while, the guest stars of the show would show her respect no matter how important they are. How dare this small-time actress talk back at me? Are you disrespecting me?

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All the other celebrities were surprised at how daring Ning Ran was to verbally spar with Shen Yue.

Doesn't she know that Shen Yue's online fans have an equally vulgar tongue as she does? Or else, they wouldn't fancy a belligerent character like Shen Yue.

"I was just joking. So why are you taking it seriously?" Shen Yue's expression darkened.

"I'm not taking it seriously. I'm just serious in discussing how Mickey Mouse can raise a pig with you," Ning Ran replied with a smile.

When the host realized that they were attacking each other, he quickly defused the situation.

Although an argument between the stars would create a lot of publicity and increase the show's ratings, the host still had to ensure they didn't go out of control.

When that happened, the show might end up being a program where the stars were just quarreling.

“I’m sure both of you were just joking, so there’s no need to take it to heart. In the meantime, I’m still announcing the results,” the host replied with a smile.

Only then did Shen Yue shut up, but the look she was giving Ning Ran was no longer a friendly one.

“In that case, I will now announce the results of the first round. Based on our rules, the winner of the first round will bypass the second round and no longer need to compete. In other words, regardless of what Ms. Ding’s results are later, she will automatically be named as the winner of the first round,” the host explained.

All the celebrities were shocked to find out that those were the rules.

Damn, they didn’t announce it before this. Or else everyone would have tried their best to win. Given Ning Ran’s mediocre technique, it would be a surprise if she could still come in first. In fact, she might not even make it into the top three.

Those who had better techniques but held back earlier were the ones who were the most remorseful. *What the hell is this? How can they have such a sneaky rule?*

Despite the dissatisfaction they felt, they were aware that it was inappropriate to express it. After all, they were embarrassed to admit that they were taking advantage of the loophole by slowing down on purpose.

Hence, they had no choice but to suffer in silence.

Even Wang Xiaoou didn’t expect the sudden turn of events. *Is this some sort of beginner’s luck?*

During their break, Wang Xiaou wanted to hand Ning Ran some water. However, she was stopped by the crew.

As there was a drinks sponsor for the show, no other brands of drinks were allowed on-site.

The crew was worried that the camera might capture the drink by mistake, and it would end up being a huge dispute. Therefore, drinks from all other brands were barred from the filming site.

As a result, Ning Ran had no choice but to consume the drinks provided by the sponsors, which tasted strange to her.

After going through the professional guidance, the second round of the competition began.

As Ning Ran had gotten first place in the previous round, she had already qualified for the next round.

Therefore, the result this time would not affect her in any way.

Nevertheless, she was still fully focused on her preparations. The last thing she wanted was to end up in the last place right after coming in first. Doing so would be utterly embarrassing.

At the host's signal, Ning Ran jumped into the water and started swimming.

Right after covering a few meters, she suddenly felt her limbs giving way.

No matter how hard she paddled, she was unable to exert any power and could only inch forward arduously.

The next moment, she felt her body sinking gradually, just like a piece of lead.

Despite her best efforts, her body just refused to surface.

Right when her head dipped below the surface of the pool, she opened her mouth and took a big gulp of water.

With that, everything went black, and she no longer knew what happened.

After an unknown amount of time, Ning Ran was woken up by a noisy commotion.

Gradually opening her eyes, she could make out the hazy silhouette of Wang Xiaoou, who was conducting CPR on her.

“Bwah!” She suddenly threw up a mouthful of water.

It was a terrible feeling, with nausea and exhaustion overwhelming her.

When Wang Xiaoou saw that Ning Ran was awake, she heaved a sigh of relief.

*F***! If something had happened to Ning Ran, Nan Chen would definitely kill me. In fact, he might even do it with his bare hands!*

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In the meantime, at Nanshi Corporation.

Nan Chen dragged his exhausted self out of the meeting room and returned to his office.

During the meeting, they discussed a huge project which took up a huge amount of time. It was to the extent that Nan Chen felt a little bit dizzy.

Usually, he would rest his eyes for twenty minutes.

However, he could no longer rest while sitting because he had sat for too long.

Hence, he stood up and lay down on the recliner chair by the window, closing his eyes to rest.

As he was simply too tired, he fell asleep quickly.

However, he awoke after just sleeping for ten minutes.

Standing up, he prepared to head for the washroom to wash his face and continue with work.

Right when he opened the office door, Jiang Zhe was waiting there for him.

“Anything?”

“Yes. You were resting earlier, so I didn’t dare disturb you,” Jiang Zhe replied.

“Let me freshen up.”

After cleaning up, Nan Chen felt refreshed.

“What is it?”

“Ms. Ding had an accident during filming. She almost drowned...”

“What?” Nan Chen jumped up from his chair. “Why didn’t you tell me earlier? How is she now?”

“I saw that you were resting...”

“I’m asking you what is her condition now?” Nan Chen roared.

“She has been sent to the hospital, and the doctors are giving her a check-up. She should be fine...”

“Get my chauffeur ready. I’m heading to the hospital.”

“Mr. Chen, a high-ranking official will be arriving soon. You’re supposed to accompany them to visit...”

“I’m busy. Let the Deputy CEO do it...”

“Mr. Chen, the high-ranking official came a long way from the capital. Even leaders from all over Flower City have gathered to welcome him. You can’t leave at such a time...”

“Do you not understand me?” Nan Chen yelled.

Jiang Zhe quickly granted acknowledgment and called the driver to prepare the car.

Meanwhile, Ning Ran had completed her check-up and was lying on the hospital bed, hooked to an IV drip.

“Do you feel better now? I have reported this to the company, and we will tie up all the loose ends. So don’t worry,” Wang Xiaoou reassured her.

“Alright, I’m not worried. It’s just a small issue, so you shouldn’t worry too. I don’t think it’s necessary to let Nan Chen know about this,” Ning Ran replied.

“That’s impossible. Incidents such as these must be reported to him. If he finds out about it himself, that would be the death of me,” Wang Xiaoou explained.

“Aren’t I doing fine? Telling him will just create unnecessary drama,” Ning Ran remarked.

“This is not my decision, so there’s no point in you trying to convince me,” Wang Xiaoou added.

Just as she spoke, the ward’s door opened, and Nan Chen stormed in with his black suit.

“Are you alright?” Nan Chen rushed to her bedside.

“I’m fine, why are you here?”

“What did the doctor say?”

“They just completed their tests and haven’t gotten any results. The preliminary diagnosis is food poisoning,” Wang Xiaoou explained.

Nan Chen turned towards Wang Xiaoou and glared at her, “How could this happen?”

As an experienced manager, Wang Xiaoou had a strong presence. However, it was nowhere to be found when she faced Nan Chen.

“I’m sorry Mr. Chen, this is my responsibility...”

“Of course, it’s your fault...”

“This isn’t her fault. She has got nothing to do with it,” Ning Ran interceded on Wang Xiaoou’s behalf.

“Shut up!” Nan Chen ordered.

Ning Ran was stumped after being yelled at. *You’re such a bully for not allowing me to explain.*

After all, I'm a patient here. Can't you at least be a little more gentle? Just a little gentleness will do. Why do you have to be so fierce?

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Nobody dared say another word.

The whole ward fell into dead silence until Nan Chen's phone vibrated. He walked over to the window and picked up the call. "Yes, Grandpa?" It seemed like Nan Zhengde had received news about what happened. "Don't worry, Grandpa. I know what I'm doing."

Nan Chen's face hardened as he ended the brief call.

Not long after he hung up, Ning Ran's phone beeped as well. It was a message from Jiang Zhe.

She took a cursory look at his wordy message. In short, a high-ranking official had come from the capital to inspect the corporation.

But Nan Chen left hurriedly when he got the news that she was rushed to the hospital.

And the key leaders of the city who were with the high-ranking official were getting worried. That was why they even called up Nan Zhengde.

However, the old man had gone to Yunfeng Temple to pray and was not at home, so all he could do was to call his grandson.

But Jiang Zhe knew Nan Chen's temperament. He did not like people telling him what to do.

So he texted Ning Ran, hoping that she could persuade him to go back and attend to the official and other leaders who came to the company.

After all, things were always tricky when it came to politics. The Nan family was a wealthy family who owned an illustrious corporation. To some extent, it would be wise to maintain a good relationship with the politicians. That was why Jiang Zhe hoped Ning Ran could ask Nan Chen to go back.

She rolled her eyes at his message and put her phone aside. *What can I do? It's not like I can make him go back.*

But she knew Nan Chen could not risk offending the higher-ups. There would be unbearable consequences.

She had to at least try dissuading him from staying back. *Who knows he might actually listen?*

Ning Ran cleared her throat and trod carefully. "I think I'm feeling much better. Why not you go back first?"

But her words fell to deaf ears. In fact, Nan Chen did not even respond to her. He acted as if he did not hear anything at all.

I knew it! This Poker Face is always like this!

Ning Ran glared at Nan Chen as she pouted her lips in dissatisfaction. But she quickly put up a serious face when she saw the director scrambled up the door from the corner of her eyes. It was the same director who solicited her help on behalf of his nephew.

"Sorry I'm late, Mr. Chen," he said as he panted.

Nan Chen waved his hand dismissively. “It’s fine. What’s the result?”

“We have confirmed it’s a type of poison called...”

“Just tell me if it’s food poisoning or someone did it on purpose.” Nan Chen cut him off abruptly and asked impatiently.

“From the looks of it, it seems like someone poisoned her,” the director reported honestly.

Nan Chen shot a death glare at Wang Xiaoou. “And none of you took any precautions?”

The manager sat up straight and held her breath at Nan Chen’s overbearing tone. She knew she had to give him a satisfactory answer.

“We took meticulous care of every single detail. In fact, everything was in our control—except for one.”

Nan Chen’s brows furrowed as his glare intensified, anticipating an answer.

“The drinks are all sponsored. The people in charge of the program requested us to only take drinks from that particular brand.”

“Can’t you bring her a thermos flask?” Nan Chen questioned.

“I did. But the production crew wanted a shot of the celebrities drinking the sponsored drinks.” Wang Xiaoou was trying her best to explain that what happened was unavoidable.

But clearly, the man was not buying it. “So you’re saying y’all bear no responsibility for what happened?”

Wang Xiaoou fidgeted her fingers in panic and her gaze wandered helplessly. “I mean, yes, of course, we are responsible for it...”

“Then make sure you do a thorough investigation and give me a full account of everything that happened.”

“Yes, Mr. Chen.” She picked up her things and rushed out of the ward immediately after receiving new orders.

Seeing Wang Xiaoou caught in a difficult situation, the director interjected the conversation. “Mr. Chen, the poisoning is not severe. It will only cause some temporary anemia-like symptoms, so Ms. Ding will be well in no time.”

“I see,” Nan Chen replied tersely and ended the conversation.

But the director stood there without any intention of leaving.

“Anything else?” Nan Chen asked.

“Oh, em, nothing else. I was just wondering if you’d like to have some coffee?” the director inquired.

But Nan Chen was not in the mood for coffee and he waved his hand dismissively. “No, I’m good. If there’s nothing else, please excuse us.”

Now that the director had left, Nan Chen could finally have some private time with Ning Ran.

“I’m feeling fine actually. You can make a move first,” she said, trying to get him going.

But still, he totally disregarded what she said.

Ning Ran was getting testy after being ignored the second time. “You’re not a doctor. There’s nothing you can do here.” She raised her voice.

“Can you just keep quiet?” She finally elicited a response from him.

But his reply was so rude it startled her.

Did he just ask me to shut up? I can’t believe I have to put up with this attitude because of Jiang Zhe.

Ning Ran knew she had to do everything within her capacity to persuade him to go back. Her condition was not even serious and it was nothing compared to the ongoing inspection at the corporation.

“I won’t be able to rest properly if you keep bugging me here.” She figured emotional blackmail would definitely work this time, although she might be risking his anger.

She knew Nan Chen would not budge on his decision easily. He would shush her instead of giving her a chance to speak—that was how he had always been.

That was why she always ended up having to swallow her words.

But just as she expected, he finally shifted his gaze from his phone and looked at her.

“What did you just say?”

“I said, you should go back to work.” Ning Ran repeated.

“No, before that.”

His scrutinizing tone alarmed Ning Ran.

All of a sudden, she was not sure if she should have said what she said.

“Speak.” Nan Chen hurried her.

Fine, you’re the one who asked for it. Don’t blame me later on.

Ning Ran eyed him and finally spoke. “I said, I won’t be able to rest well if you’re here.”

Nan Chen fixed his cold glare on her without saying another word.

His glare was so suffocating that Ning Ran started having goosebumps. She knew he would get his revenge if she should ever cross him.

“What I mean is that you’re someone who has important things to do. You shouldn’t be wasting your time on me. It’s just mild poisoning and there’s no need to overreact.”

But Ning Ran instantly realized she said the wrong thing again. *Dang it, Ning Ran! Did you actually say he overreacted? You’re done for!*

“I overreacted?” Nan Chen asked, looking at her searchingly.

The woman really had to tread warily this time around. “I didn’t mean to say you’re irrational. What I mean is...”

“Uh huh?”

Ning Ran knew she should not bring up the high-ranking official, so she kept quiet.

If she mentioned the official, she would give the whole game away and Jiang Zhe would be good as dead.

She knew Poker Face would not let his assistant off the hook if he found out the latter had reached out to her.

Ning Ran knew she needed an excuse. "I'm not even in some critical condition or on the verge of death. What will people think of you if they see you acting like everything is so serious?"

Her excuse was so strained that even Nan Chen frowned and looked at her cluelessly. "What will they think?"

Ning Ran felt like slapping herself for saying something so far-fetched. But she had to finish what she started. "People will think that you care too much about me and that you are too emotional."

Her voice became softer as she spoke. *I can't believe I just said that. I literally just dug my own grave.*

But it was not just Ning Ran who was surprised by those words.

Even Nan Chen stared at her, perplexed and speechless.

He did not even know how to react to what she just said.

Since he was at a loss for words, Ning Ran decided to just continue whatever she was trying to say.

"I know you just want to show that you truly care about me but I'm not buying it. You might as well give up and go back now."

Nan Chen squinted his eyes and walked over. He leaned so close that Ning Ran could feel his breathing.

"Don't even think about doing anything. I'm still sick." She reminded him.

