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Chapter 521 More Outrageous Than Anyone

Furrowing his brows, Nan Chen asked, "How is this scaring them? I'm just asking them a question. It's no reason for them to be scared."

Ning Ran looked at Erbao. "Are you sure? Look at Erbao. She doesn't even dare to show her face now."

Hearing that, Erbao played along. "That's right! I'm so scared that I don't even dare to speak. I'm really scared!"

Nan Chen was rendered speechless. Isn't it enough that you're an actress already? And now you want to turn your child into a drama queen?

"Come out here and talk properly! If you do, I won't give you a hard time," Nan Chen uttered.

Only then did Erbao poke out her head fearfully from behind Dabao and glance at Nan Chen.

Then again, anyone who saw the pitiful look on her face would not have the heart to punish her, even if she did make an unforgivable mistake.

"Okay. I'm going to ask you one more time. Who had answered my phone?"

To their surprise, both Dabao and Erbao raised their hands and answered in unison, "Me!"

Ning Ran was pleased by their response. Such united siblings. They're willing to take responsibility for what they've done. As expected of my children.

"So both of you are taking responsibility? Okay, then. Both of you shall be punished," Nan Chen said furiously.

Hearing that, the children lowered their heads, remaining silent.

"Don't frighten them!" Ning Ran interjected, her protective instincts rising in her heart.

"But they're lying. How could both of them have answered the phone? How can children tell lies? Are you condoning their actions? Do you think this is the right way of educating them?" Nan Chen questioned while glaring at the woman.

"Okay. Wait here." Ning Ran got to her feet and walked to the other room before reappearing with a feather duster.

“How dare you two lie! I’m going to beat both of you up!” she yelled, charging toward the children furiously. However, the children did not run away. Instead, they looked at Nan Chen with pleading looks.

Of course, Nan Chen would not let Ning Ran hit them. Hence, he quickly pulled the children into his embrace and shouted, “Don’t frighten them!”

As soon as those words left his mouth, he froze. Wasn’t this Ning Ran’s line earlier? How did our roles get switched? Now I’m the one protecting the children while she’s the one scaring them. Did she set me up?

“Daddy, I’m scared!” Erbao cowered in Nan Chen’s embrace, hugging his neck tightly.

Her actions caused Nan Chen’s heart to melt, and he could not bring himself to scold her anymore.

“It’s okay. Don’t be scared. I’m here,” Nan Chen comforted.

Ning Ran almost burst out laughing at the scene before her.

With all the commotion, Nan Chen had totally forgotten about finding out the culprit.

Despite that, when Dabao noticed Nan Chen’s anger had dissipated, he admitted, “I was the one who had answered the phone. I pretended to be Erbao when I did that. That’s why both of us admitted it. We weren’t lying.”

“What happened after that? Tell me the truth. No matter what you did wrong, I promise no one will hit you,” Nan Chen said.

Ning Ran snorted when she heard his words. So much for principles. He’s more outrageous when it comes to protecting the people he cares about.

“Grandma’s the one who told you to go to the hotel. When I heard that, I thought something sounded off,” Dabao explained.

“If your grandma asks me out for a meal, it should be at home or at a restaurant instead of a hotel.” Nan Chen nodded to confirm the child’s suspicion.

He was impressed by his son’s meticulous thinking at such a young age.

“Exactly. That’s why I found it suspicious, so I let Uncle Xing go by pretending to be you to find out what’s going on.”

Nodding, Nan Chen stated, “I get it now.”

“It’s all my fault. I shouldn’t have answered your call on my own,” Dabao said.

"It's my fault for not stopping Dabao too," Erbao added hurriedly.

"There's nothing wrong with answering my phone, but you should have told me after that."

"Okay. I've learned my lesson. I won't do that again," Dabao remarked obediently.

"It's all right. Go and play then," Nan Chen replied affectionately.

When the children returned to their room, Nan Chen remained seated, not uttering a single word.

At the same time, Ning Ran, who stepped out of the kitchen after cleaning the dishes, noticed him sitting there quietly.

"Is this a serious matter?" Ning Ran felt slightly uneasy.

"I don't know," Nan Chen answered moodily.

"The children are the ones who had answered your call. Not me. Don't be mad at me."

"I'm not. I'm just thinking about something."

"Which is?"

"Ouyang Duo's reaction," Nan Chen responded straightforwardly.

"How do you think he'll react? Are you worried he'll be mad?"

"He'll definitely be. After all, he's a prideful man. Now that this matter has ruined his reputation, he'll definitely be mad. I'm just thinking of what actions he will take."

"Are you worried he'll harm the Nan family?"

"I don't know. That's why I'm thinking about it."

"Do you have a conclusion already?"

"Not yet."

On the other side, Ouyang Qing did not expect Ouyang Duo to arrive at Orchid Club so quickly. She did not even have the time to think of a way to explain the humiliating matter to him.

Smack!

Suddenly, Ouyang Duo gave Ouyang Qing a slap across her face.

The slap left Ouyang Qing stunned. Since young, she had been the Ouyang family's pride. Never in her wildest dreams did she expect to receive a slap from her father.

"Ouyang Duo, how could you do that?" Feng Jialing immediately stood in front of Ouyang Qing, feeling heartbroken for her daughter.

When Ouyang Qing finally came back to her senses, she started bawling her eyes out.

"How dare you cry? You've brought so much disgrace to me! He's just a man. Are you so desperate to get close to him? Now everyone knows my daughter is a shameless person—a person who clings to the Nan family and doesn't have dignity! I've been involved in the business world for so many decades, yet I've never been this humiliated!" Ouyang Duo bellowed.

"This is partially your fault, too. Didn't you say you wanted to find a way to get our daughter married into the Nan family and make her their new lady of the house? That's why she did such things. How could you blame her now? If you hit her again, I'm going to kill you." Feng Jialing was fuming as well.

Smack!

Ouyang Duo made a move again, but the slap was now directed at Feng Jialing.

The woman was utterly stunned. Not only did he hit our daughter, but me as well?

"Look at what your daughter has become! How did you carry out your responsibilities as a mother? How could you let your daughter do such humiliating things?" Ouyang Duo raged.

"How is this my fault? Wasn't this your plan? You were the one who wanted her to marry into the Nan family and take control over them. It's your greed that made us do all that! You bought over the entire Orchid Club as your base, hoping you can replace the Nan family as the most powerful family in the city one day. Now that something bad has happened, you're pushing the blame onto someone else. Worst of all, you even slapped us! Tell you what, Ouyang Duo. I'm getting a divorce from you, so go ahead and marry whoever you want! Let's go, Qing. From now on, we're not related to the Ouyang family," Feng Jialing vocalized, evidently burning with fury.

"If you dare step out of this room, then don't you ever think of coming back to the Ouyang family. Both of you will lose everything. You'll never be able to survive out there!" Ouyang Duo warned coldly.

"I don't need your money. We can survive on our own!" Feng Jialing roared.

Feng Jialing was extremely confident, but Ouyang Qing remained in her spot.

Although she was slapped across the face, she was well aware that she had to rely on her father to salvage the situation.

Her reputation had been completely ruined. If she were to cut ties with the Ouyang family, then she would be nothing.

She was a smart person. She knew she could offend anyone on earth, but not her father.

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Chapter 522 A Punching Bag

Therefore, no matter how great a tantrum Feng Jialing threw, Ouyang Qing did not go against Ouyang Duo with her.

Instead, she clutched her mother's hand tightly, signaling the latter to calm down.

At that precise moment, someone else came. It was Ouyang Qi.

"What are you all doing? The internet is now abuzz with our family's scandal—"

Slap! Slap! Slap!

Before he had even finished speaking, Ouyang Duo struck him thrice across the face.

It all happened in the blink of an eye, leaving him in a daze as he stared at the man blankly.

"This is all on you, you worthless piece of trash! All you know is to eat, drink, and have fun!"

Slap! Another hard blow landed on Ouyang Qi's face.

Finally snapping back to his senses, he hastily darted to the side. "Dad, get it straight that it wasn't me who created a mess this time, but her!"

"Still, you're to blame! If you had even shown a spark of promise, would I have had to ask a girl to go out and do such a humiliating thing?"

At long last, Ouyang Duo had found someone on whom he could vent his anger and use as a literal punching bag.

Conversely, Ouyang Qi had already decided to make himself scarce. "So, I'm here to be cannon fodder? You want to get physical with me, huh? I'll just leave, okay?"

"Stop right there! If you dare leave, all your cards will be suspended, and you won't have even a single dime at your disposal!"

"I don't mind staying, but don't hit me anymore. How are we to talk when you're knocking me around for no reason?" Ouyang Qi protested.

"Get on your knees now!" Ouyang Duo barked.

"Why should I?" Ouyang Qi argued. "I wasn't the one who disgraced myself! I only came to comfort you all out of the kindness of my heart, yet it's me who's getting beaten up? How unreasonable!"

"You don't want to kneel, yes? In that case, get out of here! After leaving this place, you'll no longer be a member of the Ouyang family! In the future, don't spend a single dime of my money!"

At Ouyang Duo's threat, Ouyang Qi did not dare leave anymore.

He would not care if it were anything else, even if his father were to disown him, but it was a huge issue if he had no money to spend.

"Fine. If it'll make you happy, I'll kneel."

With that said, Ouyang Qi got on his knees.

Unexpectedly, Ouyang Qing strode over and kicked him several times.

"Just beat me to death!" Ouyang Qi wailed exaggeratedly.

"This is all your fault! If you'd gotten rid of that b*tch, Ding Mi, I wouldn't be in such a passive position! And you said I disgraced myself? Wasn't that all for the sake of our family? If the men in the family were capable, would I have had to go out and humiliate myself thus?" Ouyang Qing lambasted.

Her words were actually very caustic, for the men in the Ouyang family were not limited to Ouyang Qi. Ouyang Duo was also a man, and he was even the most important one.

Thus, that was tantamount to a slap in the latter's face, a blow that stung greatly.

Going ballistic, Ouyang Duo spun around and slapped Ouyang Qi several more times.

Ouyang Qi protected his head with both hands, playing the role of a punching bag with much professionalism.

“Don’t be mad anymore, Dad. I know I’ve embarrassed you, but I didn’t want that to happen, either. The question now is how we’re going to salvage the situation. I’m a girl, so it doesn’t matter regardless of how humiliated I am. You, however, are a big shot. You still have to show your face in public in the future, so you’ve got to save your dignity,” Ouyang Qing asserted.

“You’ve still got the cheek to mention that to me? How am I supposed to salvage the situation when it was something you did? Don’t tell me you want to claim that it wasn’t your doing? Can you possibly whitewash yourself when countless netizens have seen it?” Ouyang Duo questioned.

“I’ve said that I didn’t want that to happen either! It isn’t just for my sake that I want to marry Nan Chen! Instead, it’s you who want to take over the Nan family! That has been your dream for years, and I’m just a pawn in your hands! Now that I’ve failed, you find me an embarrassment. But what if I had succeeded? If I really marry into the Nan family, how much help would I be to you? Who doesn’t want to succeed? However, failure is inevitable. Do you not understand that principle when you’ve been through so much, Dad?”

As expected of a graduate from a prestigious university, Ouyang Qing was exceedingly persuasive.

After she said that, Ouyang Duo calmed down considerably.

“Then, tell me—how are we supposed to salvage the situation now?” Ouyang Duo pinned his gaze on Ouyang Qing.

“I don’t know. I’m just a weak woman, so I don’t have the capability to turn things around. Naturally, I’ve got to depend on you, Dad.”

“Well, I don’t have good ideas either. All I can do is mobilize all available resources and delete the videos on the internet as much as possible. Nonetheless, it’s impossible to delete everything. Hence, go abroad and lie low for a while first. When this matter has been slowly forgotten, you can then return. This is the best solution, and it’s also the only way to deal with this matter,” Ouyang Duo stated.

“No, I can’t go abroad. If I do, I’m worried that I won’t stand a chance anymore,” Ouyang Qi objected.

Naturally, the “chance” she mentioned referred to the chance of marrying Nan Chen.

I’ve been in Flower City, yet I haven’t succeeded in bagging him. If I were to go abroad, I wouldn’t be able to have anything to do with the happenings here for a long time. At that time, I’ll really be out of the running!

“Even if you stay now, you’ll only be a laughingstock! You’ll still stand no chance, so it’s best that you leave for a time,” Ouyang Duo insisted.

“I don’t want to leave!”

“You must leave! If you refuse, I’ll publicly sever my relationship with you!” Ouyang Duo threatened.

That remark had a chill engulfing Ouyang Qing. I was once the most outstanding daughter of the Ouyang family, the pride and joy of the family. Yet, he now wants to sever his relationship with me?

“Dad, it won’t benefit you in any way if you do that for real. Contrarily, it’ll only bring you irreparable loss! Although my reputation is now in tatters, time will eventually wash everything away. I’ll still be the most outstanding child of the Ouyang family! Without me to help you, you won’t be able to take over the Nan family. Instead, they will be taking you down sooner or later! Nan Chen is a wolf, one that lies in wait patiently. Only when I marry into the Nan family will I be able to control him. Even if I can’t do that, I can at least help you guard against him! Without me, you’ll never be able to achieve your dream!”

She was panicked, so she put everything bluntly without bothering to be tactful.

“Do you think the Nan family will agree to Nan Chen marrying you when your reputation is no longer intact? Nan Chen is proud and arrogant in the first place, so do you think he’ll still spare you a single look when you’ve had a scandal with his brother?” Ouyang Duo bellowed.

“But I can’t give up either!” the woman countered. “If I do, all my efforts would have been in vain, and I won’t have an opportunity anymore!”

“You must leave now and go abroad first! We’ll talk about the future when the time comes!” Ouyang Duo shouted as well.

“Mom...”

Panicked, Ouyang Qing could only turn to Feng Jialing for help.

In truth, Feng Jialing could not do anything about that matter either.

She felt that it was wrong for Ouyang Duo to get physical, but she agreed with his suggestion of sending Ouyang Qing abroad to lie low for some time.

After all, people would slowly forget about someone when they did not appear for a period of time.

The internet was the easiest place for one to be forgotten. Tons of things took place in the world every day, so the netizens could not possibly remember something forever.

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Chapter 523 Do You Not Know

For that reason, Feng Jialing felt very conflicted. She glanced at Ouyang Duo but said nothing.

She had been married to the man for decades, so she knew the kind of person he was all too well.

If he were enraged, there was a possibility that he would kick her and her daughter out.

“I think your father’s suggestion makes sense. I’m of the same opinion. In the situation at hand, the netizens will only condemn you relentlessly if you stay here. Besides, all you’ll be able to do is hide at home every day, not daring to leave the house. In that case, it’s better for you to live abroad for some time. Consider it a vacation and forget about this matter,” she coaxed gently.

Ouyang Qing’s panic snowballed when she saw that her mother was not siding with her.

She initially wanted to throw a fit once more but decided against it on second thought. If the entire family gangs up on me, it’ll be even worse for me.

“All right, then. I’ll book a flight ticket and leave as soon as possible,” she relented.

“That’s not going to work. I’ll have the driver send you away tonight itself so that you can board the flight in another city, lest you get photographed by the paparazzi,” Ouyang Duo declared in a frosty voice.

“I still have some matters to handle, so I’ll leave by myself.”

“What are those matters? I can have my subordinates handle them for you,” Ouyang Duo countered.

“Are you really in such a rush to have me leave, Dad? Now that everyone knows I’ve had a scandal, many paparazzi are lying in wait for me at the airport. Once I make an appearance, I’ll be caught right away! Isn’t it safer to stay for a bit before leaving?” Ouyang Qing contended.

Hearing that, Ouyang Duo felt that it indeed made sense. “Fine. You can stay for a day before leaving, then. However, you can only remain here without going anywhere else! A word of warning—if you dare take a step out of the house and get caught by the paparazzi, I’ll definitely sever my relationship with you!”

After saying that, he stalled over to Ouyang Qi.

Worried that he would be hit again, Ouyang Qi hurriedly covered his head.

“Why didn’t you act when I ordered you to ruin that actress’ reputation? Now, she has ruined your sister’s reputation instead!” Ouyang Duo roared.

“I haven’t managed to come up with an idea yet. Such a thing can’t be rushed,” Ouyang Qi parried.

“Starting tomorrow, all your cards will be suspended and can only be used when you’ve destroyed Nan Chen’s woman’s reputation! I’ve already warned those in the company that whoever dares lend you any money will be going against me. Therefore, no one dares lend you a single cent now!” Ouyang Duo announced.

“What? I’m not going to have any money when you suspend my cards, so I won’t be able to accomplish it either. You can’t do this,” Ouyang Qi bemoaned.

“I gave you a chance, but you didn’t appreciate it. There’s no room for negotiation. Your cards will be restored the day you accomplish that mission! I’m not going to support a bunch of useless creatures!” Ouyang Duo berated.

That “bunch of useless creatures” evidently included Ouyang Qing.

He had high hopes for her, yet she had now become his greatest shame. Thus, he was inevitably disappointed and incensed.

When he finished tearing into them, he whirled around to leave in a fit of rage.

Upon noticing that Feng Jialing was still standing there without any intention of leaving, he bellowed at her, “Why are you still standing there? Are you thinking of shielding her again? Are the lot of you going against me so that I’ll be thoroughly mortified in my golden years?”

By then, Feng Jialing had calmed down completely. She no longer went against the man but along with him.

After they left, Ouyang Qi made to leave as well.

While he was Ouyang Qing’s brother, the latter had always looked down upon him and never showed him any respect. Hence, there was nothing to be said between them.

This time, however, Ouyang Qing called him back, “Where are you going?”

How novel! She’s actually minding my business?

“How is that any business of yours? Mind your own business first,” Ouyang Qi sneered.

“I didn’t say that it’s my business. I’m just curious about where you can go when Dad has suspended all your cards. Do you have the money to fill your petrol tank? Do you have the money to ask girls out for meals and have fun? Without money, you’re nothing, not even a rich playboy!” Ouyang Qing scoffed coldly.

That was indeed true, and it had Ouyang Qi stunned.

Now that I’ve got no money, I really have nowhere to go. Money isn’t everything, but without money, everything is impossible!

“You’ve got no options left, huh? And you can’t do anything now, can you?” Ouyang Qing chuckled icily.

“Oh, you can still laugh? Even if I can’t do anything, I can seek out some friends and get a few free meals out of them. The same can’t be said of you. You don’t even dare leave the house now, yet you dare ridicule me?” Ouyang Qi likewise mocked with a snicker.

“I can give you money,” Ouyang Qing offered.

“Huh? What did you just say?”

Ouyang Qi thought he had misheard her.

She has never bothered about me, but she voluntarily offered to give me money now? That’s impossible!

“I’ve got money, and I can give you some, but you’ve got to help me with something,” Ouyang Qing drawled.

“What kind of help do you need? Are you planning to order me to deal with Ding Mi again? I’ve told you long ago that the possibility of you marrying Nan Chen has nothing to do with anyone else. It all depends on whether he has any interest in you! But you never bother reflecting upon yourself, urging me to sabotage others instead. Such mentality and attitude are erroneous!” Ouyang Qi lectured.

“No, I’m going to deal with her myself. You’re useless, so you’re not her match at all. Thus, I can’t count on you anyway,” Ouyang Qing stated in a chilly voice.

“How could you say such a thing? How rude! Would you need my help if you’re not useless? Hurry up and tell me what exactly you want me to do!”

“I don’t want to go abroad, so I want you to help dupe Dad that I’ve already gone abroad.” Ouyang Qing finally revealed her motive.

“How am I going to do that? I can’t go abroad on your behalf, can I?”

“I’ll find a place and hide. You only need to tell him you saw me boarding the plane with your own eyes. After that, you’ll also need to lend me a hand if I need any help,” Ouyang Qing explained.

“But you haven’t specified what kind of help you need from me. You’ve got to spell it out first. I’m not going to agree if it’s something bad.”

At that, Ouyang Qing sneered, “You’ve gotten it into your head that you’re someone good, huh? Do you not know the kind of person you are?”

“I’m not a good person, but there are some things I’ll never do!”

“Mainly, you only need to help me dupe Dad. As for the rest, I’ll only ask you to run errands at most. If it’s really something serious, I won’t dare entrust it to you either.”

Ouyang Qi contemplated for a moment before agreeing, “Okay. How much will you give me, then?”

“I can give you a supplementary card with a monthly limit of two hundred thousand.”

“Two hundred thousand? That’s a pittance!” Ouyang Qi griped.

“It’s already a king’s ransom. Considering your current situation, having some money is better than none!”

That’s true. I’m in dire straits now, so having two hundred thousand is better than having nary a dime!

“Okay, I agree. However, I’m making this clear first—I’m not going to do it if you want me to hurt someone else, especially Ding Mi! She has never hurt me, so I can’t hurt her!”

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Chapter 524 That Is Impossible

While Ouyang Qi and Ouyang Qing were still negotiating among themselves, Tang Jing was lying in her residence, scrolling through her phone.

She initially thought that she could make it to the trending topics, but it turned out otherwise.

Nonetheless, there were many photos and videos of her leaning against a luxurious car. Besides, many netizens were commenting that she was actually a friend of a wealthy heiress.

Consequently, they concluded that she must be one herself but merely concealing her identity.

Plenty of netizens had wild imaginations, so some even surmised that she was the Ouyang family's illegitimate daughter, Ouyang Qing's sister. That was why she took the brunt of criticism for the latter.

That was, of course, a load of nonsense, but many believed it.

Tang Jing was not averse to those rumors. In her opinion, it did not matter whatever was circulated on the internet as long as there was enough attention on her.

In fact, she had even registered for a few accounts and left comments between those of the netizens' to fan the flames.

Just then, her phone rang with a call from Ouyang Qing.

Answering the call, she greeted, "Qing."

"I sent you a location. Come over immediately, for I've got something to tell you," the other woman urged.

"Okay," Tang Jing agreed without a moment's hesitation.

Half an hour later, Tang Jing arrived at Orchid Club.

Hmm? I don't quite understand why she's always at this club. She told me she has a lot of properties in Flower City, so why isn't she living at home but in a club?

Nevertheless, it was a high-end club with food and entertainment, so she did not mind meeting there.

Returning the car key to Ouyang Qing, she remarked, "Don't take those rumors on the internet to heart, Qing."

In response, Ouyang Qing waved a dismissive hand. "Never mind, I'll just consider it bad luck on my part. There's always that one hurdle in life. Anyway, let's not talk about that."

Well, all the better if you don't want to talk about it! I don't want to mention that matter anyway, afraid that I might give the game away if I say too much.

Taking the initiative, Tang Jing asked, "So, what should we do now?"

"I asked you here precisely to help me figure out a solution. How should I turn the tables?" Ouyang Qing looked at her.

Inwardly, Tang Jing cackled.

This is exactly as I expected! The more passive she is, the more she needs me and trusts me!

"What would you like to do? I'll definitely help you," she avowed.

"I don't know what to do now. I'm in an extremely passive position now, so I'm really at a loss." Ouyang Qing heaved a sigh.

Tang Jing did the same.

"Don't sigh with me. Hurry up and help me out here. If I can't turn the tables, your role might possibly be replaced as well."

Ouyang Qing started threatening her again, irritating Tang Jing to no end.

"This is all on Nan Xing! I'm going to make that b*stard's life a living hell!" Ouyang Qing lambasted.

"Actually, if you think of it sometimes, Nan Xing is also part of the Nan family," Tang Jing interjected out of the blue.

"What's the meaning of this? You're defending him now?"

Ouyang Qing shot to her feet and began berating her again while jabbing a finger at her, "I didn't rear you for you to bite me, but others!"

Those words were exceedingly caustic, for it was no different from saying that Tang Jing was a dog.

Anger started building within Tang Jing, but she inhaled deeply and pushed her rage down.

"I'm not defending him. I mean, why don't you consider it from a different viewpoint now that things have come to this?" she clarified calmly.

"What do you mean? Make it clear, please."

"Nan Xing is also part of the Nan family. While his position isn't comparable to Nan Chen's, he's still one of the heirs. Now that there's such a video of you both, the

netizens' perception of you is indeed atrocious. However, if he marries you, it'll be mutual love, and all will be well."

Tang Jing started launching the second step of her plan surreptitiously.

"You want me to marry him? Have you lost your mind? I'll never marry him!" Ouyang Qing screeched.

You don't want to marry him? Even if you do, he might not be willing to marry you!

Aloud, Tang Jing stated, "Actually, he's just as handsome as Nan Chen. While his status is a touch lower, it's something that can be elevated. Nan Chen didn't have such prestige back then either. He only had it later, no? The truth is, as long as he can get into Nanshi Corporation and play a bigger role, the status will naturally follow. As long as you marry him, he will definitely be regarded highly in Nanshi Corporation, considering your family's influence. Therefore, there is a possibility of him surpassing Nan Chen."

Ouyang Qing was stunned to hear that, for she had indeed never considered things from that angle.

"He did admit that he was interested in me once, but I don't like him. The person I like is Nan Chen, not him." Ouyang Qing remained steadfast.

"As a matter of fact, they're equally good-looking. Besides, he's more approachable and romantic. Feelings can be nurtured slowly. Perhaps you'll discover that you actually prefer someone like him after spending time with him, and it was all a misunderstanding in the past."

Tang Jing was a highly educated actress, so she knew her boundaries in speech, rendering her words logical and convincing.

Unable to discern her thoughts, Ouyang Qing merely felt that she was simply a good friend who wanted the best for her.

"Put that way, it does make some sense. Let me think about it further." Ouyang Qing wavered.

"I don't think you need to do that. If you marry him, the two of you will certainly trump Nan Chen in Nanshi Corporation with the combination of his identity and your background. At that time, Nan Chen will probably be haunted by regret. Don't you think so?" Tang Jing uttered, fixating her gaze on the other woman.

Ouyang Qing said nothing.

Verily, she was faltering. She cast her mind back at Nan Xing's roguish and wicked smile.

Actually, his shameless look when he taunted me was very much riveting. Most importantly, he looks just like Nan Chen. If I have to settle for the next best thing, he's really quite a decent option.

"But I don't know what he thinks about it all. I'll be mortified if he isn't willing to marry me," Ouyang Qing remarked.

At once, elation suffused Tang Jing. Yes! Everything is going according to my plan, and it's even smoother sailing than I expected.

"How about this? I'll meet with him and feel him out first," Tang Jing proposed. "After that, I'll tell you what he thinks about you. Then, you won't be mortified."

"That works. However, don't say that I'm begging him. He had once confessed to me, but I ignored him. Besides, I was angry at the hotel that day, so I didn't show him much courtesy and even tore into him. If he's vindictive, he'll probably want nothing to do with me. Thus, you must be careful with your words and make sure that I'm not embarrassed," Ouyang Qing ordered.

"Don't worry about that. I won't run my mouth. I'll only feel him out. Furthermore, there's no reason for him not to like you when you're beautiful and wealthy. He's blessed that you agreed to be with him now. It's his honor! Would he dare disdain you? I don't think so!"

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 525

Chapter 525 Within Reach

Hearing Tang Jing's framing put Ouyang Qing in a much better mood. "If he says that he can't accept me, then you should leave it at that. Don't give him cause to look down on me! Never mind that Nan Chen doesn't think well enough of me, you can't allow Nan Xing to do that as well," Ouyang Qing said.

"Rest assured that no one would be looking down upon you with you being the young heiress that you are," Tang Jing replied comfortingly. "Then when will you go and see Nan Xing?"

"Obviously, the sooner the better. However, I don't have any means of reaching him. Could you try extending an invitation on your end? Then, I'd go meet with him to try and sound him out."

Tang Jing was somewhat reluctant to meet Ouyang Qing's gaze when she said this because she was worried that the latter might catch on to the fact that she was merely using her to get close to Nan Xing.

Truth be told, Tang Jing was merely pricked by her own guilty conscience. With Ouyang Qing's emotions all over the place, she was really in no state of mind to over-analyze anything.

"I could, but what if he declines to meet?" Ouyang Qing was still a little worried.

"My guess is that he'd agree. Tell you what. Why don't you pass me his contact straight and let me give that a shot instead," a cautious Tang Jing proposed.

Initially, she thought that Ouyang Qing would require some time to consider, but instead, the latter assented to it quite readily.

"Okay, you go ahead and ask him out. At least that way, I won't come away embarrassed should he refuse," Ouyang Qing stated.

Pride could very often prove the downfall of many, even with someone as sharp as Ouyang Qing. For the sake of her own dignity, she had even managed to overlook Tang Jing's obvious designs.

"Okay, then I shall go meet with this Nan Xing on your behalf." Tang Jing was positively thrilled.

The next day, Tang Jing and Nan Xing convened as scheduled.

It was not like Nan Xing was obliging to just anyone, for he had women in Flower City who were interested in dating him lining up from end to end. His willingness to meet with Tang Jing stemmed from his understanding that the latter was the one who drove to lure the paparazzi away from Ouyang Qing.

Nan Xing had seen the photo featuring Tang Jing leaning against the luxury car and found that to be quite intriguing.

Pretty women were not an uncommon sight to Nan Xing, who had mostly grown weary or even sickened by those heavily made-up aesthetics popularized by online influencers.

In contrast, a well-read and intelligent beauty like Tang Jing came across to him as much more palatable and refreshing.

Of course, that sentiment was merely an absence of dislike and a far cry from any degree of fondness.

His agreeing to meet was chiefly rooted in an interest in listening to what she had to say.

On her part, Tang Jing did make a concerted effort to doll up.

She knew she was no breath-stealing beauty, but she understood that her own charisma was where her strength laid.

Hence, she opted to put on glasses in a shade of pale blue, and with her hair bundled up. Decked out in a suit, she looked less like someone from the entertainment circle and more like a white-collar.

That effectively alleviated Nan Xing's sense of fatigue in his appreciation for beauty—a most astute move from a doubtlessly smart woman.

“Hi, Mr. Xing. I'm Tang Jing.” The woman took the initiative to greet him. “We've met before, but I'm sure you've come across too many beautiful women to find me memorable.”

That yielded a positive chuckle from Nan Xing. “I certainly do remember you, Ms. Tang, as you're quite the beauty yourself.”

“I'm flattered. Thank you for this, Mr. Xing.”

Addressing Nan Xing as “Mr. Xing” was also a groundbreaking move on her part, for most others would generally address him as either “Master Xing” or “Mr. Nan.”

Although respectful, those were lacking in novelty, because being hailed as a “young master” was something that came to Nan Xing through his familial connections. Literally, any son of the Nan family could be addressed as such.

Along the same lines, “Mr. Nan” was even more commonplace since any male individual with a corresponding surname could be hailed in this manner.

However, “Mr. Xing” was something else. This was not reflective of a hereditary status and was, in itself, an affirmation of Nan Xing's stature within the group.

People around Nan Chen hailed the former as “Mr. Chen.” Addressing Nan Xing as “Mr. Xing” was a subtle way of expressing her regard for him as an equal to Nan Chen per se.

This was, as a matter of fact, keenly sensible. Some things need not be explicitly stated, and subtlety might, at times, be even more effective in communicating one's own sentiments.

It was like praising one for his good looks; a direct approach would seem extremely lame, insincere, and smacks of flummery.

However, if that opinion was to be conveyed tactfully through the use of language that the intended recipient was able to grasp, then the result could be spectacular.

Anyone would be delighted at being able to decipher the intentions of another. The added perk of receiving a veiled compliment in the process would naturally increase one's sense of affinity for another as well.

As things stood, Nan Xing's fondness for Tang Jing had been enhanced in no small measure.

"Have a seat, Ms. Tang." Nan Xing motioned to Tang Jing.

"Thank you, Mr. Xing. Order whatever you like to drink, it's my treat," said Tang Jing, smilingly.

"I'd usually drink coffee with men, and alcohol with women, so I'm going to opt for alcohol," Nan Xing informed with a laugh.

"A pity that this is a café. Alcohol isn't on the menu." Tang Jing chuckled as well.

"That makes this place unsuitable for conversation then. How about I treat you to lunch?" Nan Xing extended an invitation.

"Won't that take up your time?" Tang Jing was pleasantly ecstatic.

"Isn't that precisely what you're here to do?" Nan Xing laughed.

Even though Tang Jing was good at concealing her intentions, Nan Xing was equal to the task of sussing them out.

The eyes were said to be the windows to the soul. No matter how good one's acting was, the eyes would often divulge the truth.

Nan Xing decided he would give this woman a chance, just to see how far she would go to keep up this charade.

Besides, he was firm in his belief that the purpose of Tang Jing's overture must have had something to do with Ouyang Qing.

"I'm definitely honored since you are so obliging, Mr. Xing. Being able to dine with you must be the best thing to happen to me all year," Tang Jing remarked cheerfully.

That was met by Nan Xing's boisterous hoot. "Well, after you then."

There was a very decent Japanese restaurant just a stone's throw away from the café, with a pleasant atmosphere and fresh offerings.

As Japanese cuisine was lighter on the palate, the requirements for its ingredients were comparatively more stringent.

Much unlike spicy hotpot, where the degree of freshness for anything would be rendered indistinguishable once it had been stirred into the stock.

It was a phenomenon comparable to the internet celebrities these days who would, regardless of the physical attributes they were born with, turn out more or less the same coming out from the other side of plastic surgery.

However, Nan Xing was not that enamored with these sorts of milder flavors. He primarily chose this joint because he had thought rather favorably of the sake they served.

Nan Xing was not joking when he claimed to only drink coffee in the company of men and alcohol in the presence of women.

With men, he needed to be rational, so coffee made sense.

Conversely, he could not afford to be too rational with women. As more impulse and excitement were in order, he had to imbibe.

Tang Jing, too, was excited for sake.

She was not exactly a habitual drinker because she had to be mindful of the highly educated vibes she was designated to project as an artist.

In view of that, she could not possibly allow herself to be caught walking out of a nightclub looking drunk and stupid.

Were that to be documented even once, the image she had spent years meticulously cultivating would easily crumble to bits.

However, it was Nan Xing that she would be facing this day, and to her, he was someone worth getting drunk for.

In any case, being an infrequent drinker did not necessarily mean she was not capable of holding her own.

The only reason she had almost never gotten drunk before was that she did not find many men who were worthy for her to get drunk alongside.

This man before her, though, was deserving. Regardless of looks or background, he was practically someone who had previously been beyond her reach.

Not just beyond her reach, but also beyond that of her wildest dreams. Yet today, she could dream and perhaps with a little luck, go even further than that.

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 526

Chapter 526 A Major Problem In Itself

The pair did not eat as much as they drank, and down their drinks with great fervor, they did.

Nan Xing meant to get Tang Jing sloshed because he discovered that there must be more to this woman than meets the eye.

For one, she was way too restrained. From the moment they met until now, there was nothing she presented that made him uncomfortable.

Every detail about her had been impeccable and well-executed. From her dressing to her mannerisms and the way she addressed him, he had found them all appropriate and delightful.

That was precisely what was wrong.

Nan Xing was nobody's fool, for he had been seeing the world since the age of sixteen or seventeen, and thus knew a fair bit about women.

More than anything, he understood everyone had their flaws. If one should ever encounter another without discernible ones, then the latter must be a fraud.

Only those who were intelligent and smart about it would conscientiously try to mask their own weaknesses.

Hence, at times, the absence of a problem was a major problem in itself.

Perfection contravened the laws of nature, for no one could be perfect, thus anyone who appeared to be so must most likely be faking it.

The desire to witness her true self was what prompted Nan Xing to try to get Tang Jing intoxicated.

Coincidentally, Tang Jing was of the same opinion. She was determined to get this playboy before her smashed, so he would not be conscious enough to discern whether she was speaking truthfully.

No one demonstrates less restraint than an agreeable drunkard.

Hence, both of them kept their thoughts to themselves while they sought to douse each other in drink, just to see who might be the first to fall.

The alcohol content of sake ultimately proved too much for Tang Jing, who was the first one to buckle, and at the rate that they were going at it, she feared she might collapse outright and be robbed of the chance to talk.

That was why she elected to throw in the towel first. "We might be going too hard. Shall we ease off a little, Mr. Xing?"

"Nonsense. You can really hold your liquor well, Ms. Tang. A true heroine amongst men. Let us continue." Following that, Nan Xing raised his cup anew.

With so many years of clubbing under my belt, I refuse to believe that I can't knock you out!

Tang Jing clasped her palms together in a gesture of seeking clemency. "I really can't take it anymore. Let's take it slow and chat a little."

"All right." Nan Xing, too, lowered his cup.

To a certain extent, he, too, felt that their pacing had been a little frenetic. Although he was pretty confident of coming out victorious, his hasty drinking had nonetheless become a cause for some abdominal discomfort.

"Actually, Ouyang Qing and I were in the same class in high school." Tang Jing started the ball rolling.

"Oh, is that so? Now I see why you wanted to hold a press conference to enable her to come away unscathed," Nan Xing replied genially.

"My intention of asking you out today, Mr. Xing, is really to try to understand what's your take on that incident," Tang Jing queried.

"I don't have too many opinions about it. Hasn't the matter already blown over? Just treat it like another piece of fodder for the tabloids," said an ebullient Nan Xing.

"No, this isn't over yet. Right now, Ouyang Qing's still very upset and is preparing to execute the second part of her plan."

"Oh. A second step? Might you be able to share with me what that is?"

Tang Jing feigned a look of apprehensiveness. "Qing and I are really close, so I'm not sure whether I should be telling you this."

Hearing that, Nan Xing was sniggering inside. Keep it going. You wouldn't have asked me out if you have no intention of talking.

"In that case, would you like to reconsider? Actually, it really doesn't matter whether I hear it or not, as I know well what sort of person Ouyang Qing is." Nan Xing appeared nonchalant about it.

His was not an act either, for he simply did not care to know to begin with.

This response of Nan Xing's put Tang Jing in a bit of a pickle, for the scenario she planned was for Nan Xing to press her, and she would, in response, portray her reluctance to share the information she had.

His stated disinterest had just set her script veering off course.

The flip side was that she had somehow arrived at the understanding that the one before her was no ordinary Casanova, but a thinking person who could not be easily subjected to her manipulation.

"Then we shan't discuss Ouyang Qing anymore. Let's resume drinking." Tang Jing smiled.

"Suits me just fine." A jolly Nan Xing raised his cup and clinked it against Tang Jing's.

When Tang Jing took a sip, she suddenly tasted a trace of bitterness in this alcohol that did not seem present before.

"Though Mr. Chen and yourself look exactly alike, your personalities are a world apart."

Given the circumstances, Tang Jing had to latch onto some other topic in order to keep the conversation flowing.

Her motive for doing so was, of course, to persist in finding a way by which she could eke out the details concerning what Ouyang Qing said. That was, after all, her real purpose in coming out here.

"That's right. Chen and I are very different indeed. However, it's kind of normal, just like there aren't two identical leaves to be found anywhere in this world," Nan Xing remarked genially.

"True, that. Then surely you and Mr. Chen don't share the same taste in women either?"

"That, I don't know. It may probably be the case, as I'm not sure whether Chen would be into the ones that I am."

"What sort of girls do you fancy then, Mr. Xing?" Tang Jing followed up quickly.

"I don't have a preferred type. The sort that I'd gravitate to when we meet are the ones that I'm looking for. Since human beings are not merchandise, none could be made to order. Therefore, a so-called preferred type is, in reality, a loaded question. People simply aren't drawn to the one type of romantic interest, just as one could not possibly enjoy just one type of dish. We must surely find ourselves attracted to a diverse range of people, or at least, that's what I think."

Nan Xing is a chatty person, and considerably more so than usual now that his lips are loosened by drink.

Tang Jing nodded heartily in agreement. "You're absolutely right, Mr. Xing. Would Ouyang Qing be the sort that you'd be attracted to, then?"

"No," blurted Nan Xing without the slightest hesitancy.

"Why so? She's pretty, hails from a good family, and is a top student from a renowned school. It's almost as if she's the perfect specimen."

Tang Jing was quietly jubilant to hear Nan Xing express his disinterest in Ouyang Qing, for that meant that the latter's desire to backpedal and marry Nan Xing instead was completely wishful thinking.

"Didn't we agree not to talk about Ouyang Qing? Why has this conversation drifted back to her again?" Nan Xing asked.

"Oh, I have no idea how that happened, either. Perhaps it's because she's a common acquaintance to us both," Tang Jing purred.

Even as she presented herself as rational from day to day, she actually knows how to act girlish and coquettish. She is a woman, after all.

"Since we're already back onto this subject, why don't you just tell me what the second stage of her plan is?" enquired Nan Xing opportunistically as well.

"But she's my good friend. How could I tell you something that she shared with me in confidence? Wouldn't that be inappropriate?"

Tang Jing had to slap a little gravy on it. Her performance demanded it.

"Since she's got a plan that she's eventually going to follow through on, I'm going to find out regardless, even if you choose to keep mum about it. So it doesn't really matter whether you say it or not, and neither is it going to affect your friendship."

Nan Xing knew that Tang Jing was looking for a launchpad to ease into what she wanted to reveal about Ouyang Qing's plan, and he was happy to provide it.

Otherwise, would it not be a waste of everyone's time if they were to keep going on and on in circles like that?

"All right. You've got a point there, so here goes. It's something she came up with all on her own, but I've been trying to talk her out of it because it didn't sit right with me. However, I can't say for sure that she'd listen. All I can do is try my best to put a stop to this," confessed a hapless Tang Jing.

"It's fine. Go on and say it. What exactly is she planning?"

Tang Jing's revelation was rather shocking. "She's preparing to sue you for harassment and to take you up for attempted assault."

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Chapter 527 More Excitable Than Usual

For a moment, Nan Xing thought he had misheard. "What's that, you say?"

Tang Jing slowed down the rate she spoke. "Ouyang Qing said that she was going to sue you for harassment and attempted assault."

Confirming the piece of information he had just learned, Nan Xing broke into a boisterous guffaw. "Has she gone mad? She's the one who drugged me and wanted to bed me. Now, she's going to take me up for harassment? It's blatantly obvious that she's the one who's doing the harassing, yeah?"

Tang Jing, too, laughed along. "Now that you say it, it does sound a little absurd. But were she to really go through with this, it won't bode well for you."

"If she went ahead and sued me, the police investigation will turn up the truth, as it would become obvious to them what really had happened when they see the video feed." Nan Xing seemed unconcerned.

"That's what I thought too, and why I tried to talk her out of it. But it seems that she wouldn't listen."

"Let her sue if she wants to—"

Nan Xing was not finished when he was interrupted by his ringing phone. When he checked the number, he saw that the call was from Nan Chen.

"Sit tight. I have to take this."

With that, Nan Xing picked up his phone and stepped to the side with it.

“Something up, Chen?”

“Where are you?” Nan Chen asked.

“Out dining with a friend. Why?”

“Come over to the office.”

“Right now?”

“Is right now too late for you?” Nan Chen answered with a question of his own.

“Nope. Not at all. Be right there,” Nan Xing replied.

When Nan Xing returned to the table, he collected his coat. “I’m sorry, but something came up. I’ve got to make a move first.”

“Okay. I think I should be leaving as well. Let’s meet up again some other time,” uttered Tang Jing warmly.

The two of them exited the Japanese restaurant together. Nan Xing had the diner hail a cab for him and set out for Nanshi Corporation.

When he reached Nan Chen’s office, his older brother was still busy.

“Not that I like to nag at you, Chen. What are you working so late for? Can’t you just devote more time to your wife and kids? Never mind you working your ass off, don’t tell me that you’ve called me in so late to hustle alongside you?” Nan Xing griped.

“I’ve already spent the entire day with them and built up quite the backlog. Since school is out, Erbao has been creating havoc at home, making it impossible for me to work from there. That’s why I have no choice but to come into the office to put in a few more hours,” Nan Chen haplessly explained.

“Haha. The burdens of marital bliss. What have you gotten me in for, by the way?”

“Are you seriously asking me that? Don’t you think you owe me an explanation for impersonating me and stirring up that mess with Ouyang Qing?” Nan Chen questioned.

Nan Xing stood up and held his head, crying foul. “What do you mean impersonate you? It’s your son who had put me up to it! I wasn’t willing, but that little rascal pressured me by accusing me of attempting to break up your loving family. I had no choice but to agree to it! How could you put it all on me now that things went south?”

He then continued, “You should know that you’d surely end up being drugged for real if you were the one who went over that day. I’m sure you can figure for yourself what

would follow. Being the principled person that you are, I'd say that you'd definitely take to assuming responsibility for it and wind up marrying that Ouyang Qing."

His words yielded a frown from Nan Chen. "Are you suggesting that I ought to be grateful to you instead?"

"That won't be necessary." A gleeful Nan Xing waved his hand dismissively. "We're brothers, so I'm happy to take the hit for you!"

"How are you still able to joke about it?" Nan Chen asked in an icy voice.

Nan Xing then pulled a straight face. "Look, I'm serious. Dead serious!"

"Are you so pleased with yourself, humiliating the Ouyang family's Second Miss in front of so many netizens like that? Does it make you feel good?"

"I wouldn't put it that way because I had no idea that her video's going to circulate on the internet. But, seriously, it was kind of fun!" Nan Xing could not help but burst out into another guffaw.

With all that alcohol coursing through his veins when he arrived, he was more excitable than usual.

"Kind of fun? Surely you haven't forgotten whose daughter Ouyang Qing is?" Nan Chen fumed.

"I haven't. She's Ouyang Duo's daughter. But she's the one who drugged me, not the other way round, so I'm completely innocent!"

"Since you know she was going to drug you, why did you still go along with it?"

"What do you suggest me to do, then? Should I have grabbed the door and made a break for it? Besides, I had no clue she was doing a live stream. I wouldn't have rolled with that sort of stuff had I known any better."

"You're just playing the fool. Being childish!" Nan Chen suddenly bellowed at his brother, his finger pointing at Nan Xing.

Not daring to retort, Nan Xing could only roll his eye and stage a silent protest.

"No matter what she did wrong, she's still the daughter of the Ouyang family! Humiliating Ouyang Qing like this is akin to a slap on Ouyang Duo's face! Don't you know what Ouyang Duo is like? Do you think he's going to just forgo a slight like this?" Nan Chen suddenly got up and castigated Nan Xing.

Nan Xing was a bit stunned. What's with the temper? We were getting along just fine a second ago, so how come you're blowing up like that all of a sudden?

"Surely we have no reason to be afraid of him," Nan Xing muttered under his breath.

"We don't, but is this fight even necessary? Ouyang Duo's still pretty miffed about our acquisition of their project in Vietnam at their expense, so have you considered the Nan family's position when you went out and pulled a stunt like that? Is it only about fun and games for you?" Nan Chen continued to rail.

This somewhat roused Nan Xing's contrite, as he had not thought that far ahead back then.

"It's not that I wanted to humiliate her, Chen. She was asking for it!"

"You could have just walked away when you realized she was up to no good, but you chose to play along. Now, there's no going back from this. There's no telling what consequences your frivolity might bring about!"

Nan Chen then continued, "Right now, you've got to think about how to be answerable to the Ouyang family and try to prevent a backlash from them against us. We've got our own developmental timeline to adhere to, so we can't keep getting into disputes with other people. If we keep fighting with them, it'll weaken both our and the Ouyang family's position, giving others openings to take advantage."

"But that Ouyang Qing is looking to take me up for harassment and attempted assault, and might not play ball even if I want to parley with her. Besides, it's apparent from that video that she was the one who was forcing herself on me. I didn't initiate anything. She's the one who brought humiliation upon herself," stated a disgruntled Nan Xing.

"She's going to sue you?"

"Yeah, tell me about it. Isn't she just incorrigible?"

"You can't let her. If she takes this to court, we'll be placed on the backfoot," Nan Chen said.

"Why? The facts are on my side. She's the one who had harassed me, not the other way round!"

"That wouldn't do either! Remember back then when Ning Ran got suspected of drug involvement? When was Nanshi Corporation subjected to short selling? Those massive funds are still being detained and most of them haven't been released yet. If negative publicity were to surround Nanshi Corporation, our stock value would be affected regardless of who wins the case. When that happens, they'd be able to take the opportunity to get themselves off the hook."

The man continued, "If the stock value really plummets, they might even make a killing before they exit. No way can we allow that! I'm going to keep them impoverished and make sure that they do not get to flee from their losses, so we can't afford to get dragged into any court cases during this time!"

Upon hearing that, Nan Xing was astonished. To think there's so much intrigue going on behind the scenes! But what should I do? Tang Jing said that Ouyang Qing is going to sue me and there is nothing she could do about it. How can I avoid this?

"Go and meet up with Ouyang Qing. Find a way to clear the air with her. Do not get into conflict and, more importantly, do not get into litigation with her. I've seen that video. It can't prove that she had drugged you. In most of the footage, you were shown locking her hands and keeping her held beneath you, so if this really goes to court against an established lawyer, it'll be difficult to say for certain what the outcome might be. You have to avoid court proceedings. Fix this," Nan Chen ordered.

Nan Xing was really stressed. I thought it was just for a bit of harmless fun and never expected that it would end up becoming such a major crisis!

"All right." Nan Xing could only reluctantly assent.

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Chapter 528 Immoral

After Nan Xing left, Tang Jing went to look for Ouyang Qing at once. At that moment, Ouyang Qing was drinking as she was feeling frustrated.

When she saw Tang Jing, it was as if her lifesaver had arrived. "How did it go?" Tang Jing was secretly gloating at the other woman's state of anxiety.

"While we were chatting, he suddenly received a call and left right after that. The person who called seemed to be a woman," Tang Jing replied seriously.

"A woman?"

"Yup. Nan Xing is an heir of the Nan family, after all. Given his good looks and wealth, I'm sure there are plenty of women going after him, so it's pretty normal that there are women calling him."

As she spoke, Tang Jing carefully observed Ouyang Qing's expression and noticed that other than frustration, there was no sign of jealousy on the other woman's face.

That meant that Ouyang Qing was only interested in Nan Chen, and Nan Xing was just a backup.

"In other words, nothing came out of your discussion?" Ouyang Qing's temper sparked.

"I tried to sound him out a little. I think Nan Xing is quite fond of you."

Hearing that, Ouyang Qing felt her confidence grow. "I don't need you to tell me that. I've known it all along that he likes me. He has even confessed to me before."

Tang Jing sneered silently, wondering where the woman got her confidence from.

"So you should just meet him and have a good chat. Who knows, the two of you might make a great pair."

Ouyang Qing took a deep breath and replied, "I want him to publicly declare his intention to pursue me. Only then will I stop feeling awkward about what had happened previously and gain my reputation back."

"Yup, I think he should do that too," Tang Jing agreed. "He should hold a press conference to state his intention to woo you. That will show his sincerity toward you."

"Do you think he'll agree to that?"

"That's why you need to be firm in your stance. The more assertive you are, the more he will give in to you. In the future, you should take the lead and let him attend to your needs."

"All right, I understand. Ask him out for me. I can't be bothered to call him. If he agrees, he can buy me a meal tomorrow, and I'll consider accepting his apology. As long as I start dating Nan Xing, I would have completed my dad's task for me. If that's the case, I wouldn't have to go overseas anymore."

As her words fell, Ouyang Qing was in a visibly good mood. Lifting her glass of wine, she took another sip.

"Is your dad forcing you to go abroad?" Tang Jing asked.

"Yeah. He thinks I'm an embarrassment and wants me to go overseas and lie low after all that has happened. I didn't want to go and insisted on staying. However, if I don't settle the matter properly, it's just a matter of days before I have to leave. Haven't I told you about it? Have you already forgotten? Did you even pay attention to my words?" Ouyang Qing snarled.

For the past two days, Tang Jing had been focusing on thinking of a way to make use of that incident to her own advantage. As such, she had indeed forgotten all about it.

"Of course I paid attention to what you told me. Don't worry, I'll try my best to help you settle it. I'm sure you won't need to go overseas."

“Fine. Ask Nan Xing out for me then.”

“Sure, I’ll keep you updated, then.”

“All right. You should go first. Remember to keep everything we’ve discussed private. Don’t tell anyone about me,” Ouyang Qing uttered before dismissing Tang Jing with a wave of a hand.

“Understood.”

Just when Tang Jing was about to step out of the door, Ouyang Qing stopped her.

“Wait.”

“Is there anything else?”

“I just received news from the production team that the filming of the movie will continue. The male lead has also arrived. It’s Huang Zichao.”

“Huang Zichao?” Tang Jing got a shock when she heard that.

“Yup. It’s unexpected, huh?”

“Very! Hasn’t Huang Zichao already shifted his focus to Hollywood? He even won the ‘Best Actor Award’ last year. Why would he agree to take part in this film? Besides, this film tells the story of the female lead, and there aren’t many scenes for the male lead. Why would he be willing to take it up?” Tang Jing wondered aloud.

“Even though he is an award-winning actor, acting is still his job. He can’t just survive on the award alone. With his participation, the scenes for the male lead will definitely increase. I’m sure there’ll be some romantic scenes between him and the female lead. If that b*tch, Ding Mi, gets to act alongside him, she’ll definitely gain a new bout of popularity. That’s why you need to do everything in your power to prevent that situation from happening. Otherwise, you’ll have no chance of surpassing her, ever,” Ouyang Qing said, fixing her gaze on Tang Jing.

“Who’s the one who hired Huang Zichao? Is it Nan Chen again?”

“Nope. It’s me and the other investors. These days, there has to be some sort of romantic element in any film genre. Otherwise, it wouldn’t be popular among the youngsters. In order to prevent losses and make sure that the movie will be a hit, we got him on board. As you know, Huang Zichao was voted as the second most attractive Asian male star last year, just one rank behind Zheng Lunlun. With a gorgeous male lead like him, success will be guaranteed for our film!” Ouyang Qing explained.

“But wouldn’t this benefit Ding Mi?” Tang Jing grew anxious upon hearing that.

“That’s why we can’t let that happen. If she’s the female lead, she’ll be able to act alongside Huang Zichao. But if she’s not, there won’t be any benefits for her, right?” Ouyang Qing threw the question back.

“But she’s the current female lead!”

Hearing that, Ouyang Qing grew impatient and stood up. Pointing at Tang Jing, she scolded, “Why are you so dense? That means your job is to kick her out of the production team! Of course, that wouldn’t be easy with Nan Chen protecting her. However, her weakness is her two children. If something happens to her kids, do you think she’ll still be able to concentrate on acting?”

“What do you mean exactly?” Tang Jing was terrified at the woman’s suggestion.

“There are no hidden meanings behind my words. It’s only because of her children that she’s able to enjoy her current status. Without them, she is simply nothing. Go ahead and deal with it. Remember to act discreetly and don’t leave any traces. As long as you get this matter settled, you’ll be the female lead. With the opportunity to act alongside Huang Zichao, the ‘Best Actress Award’ will be yours in no time! This is a golden opportunity for you. Don’t let it slip by.”

Tang Jing felt a prickle of fear.

She had met those two kids previously and knew how adorable and good-looking they were.

She could easily imagine how precious they were to the Nan family.

The woman could hardly believe that Ouyang Qing was that immoral to actually suggest hurting those two children.

Murder was a crime punishable by death. Besides, how could anyone bear to harm such adorable kids?

Tang Jing felt children should never be dragged into conflicts between adults.

Sensing Tang Jing’s apprehension, Ouyang Qing asked, “Are you scared? Or can you not bring yourself to do it?”

“I just don’t think there’s a need for that. It’s too cruel to lay our hands on kids. I don’t think I can do that,” Tang Jing rejected.

“Ha! Why are you pretending to be a Samaritan in front of me? Sure then. You can just wait to get eliminated and see that b*tch, Ding Mi, win the ‘Best Actress Award,’” remarked Ouyang Qing, obviously raging.

“|—”

“What else do you have to say? I’m willing to support you because I believe in you. Without my help, you’re nothing! If you want something that doesn’t belong to you, you have to be ruthless! Otherwise, you’ll just remain a loser for the rest of your life! Tang Jing, let me tell you. Even if I don’t get to marry Nan Chen or invest in that film, I’m still Ouyang Qing, heiress of the Ouyang family! However, if you don’t succeed, you’ll always remain at the bottom. There are countless newbies joining the industry every day who are young and attractive. I’m sure you know that the old is constantly replaced by the new, and you’ll be ousted in no time. Think carefully about this. You don’t really have a choice.”

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Chapter 529 A Trap For Uncle Xing

On the way back, Tang Jing could not stop thinking about Ouyang Qing’s words.

That woman was right. If Ning Ran got to act alongside that handsome award-winning actor, Huang Zichao, her career in the entertainment industry would definitely reach new heights.

Before this, she had managed to ride on Zheng Lunlun’s popularity for the previous film, and currently, it was Huang Zichao. Tang Jing could not believe how smooth-sailing Ning Ran’s acting career was and wondered why she did not have the same good fortune.

She felt she was on a par with Ning Ran in terms of acting skills, and there was no reason she was always the supporting actress.

Ning Ran would definitely lose her mind if she lost her children. She might not even want to continue living, not to mention continue acting.

It would be the end of her. If that happened, Tang Jing might get to replace Ning Ran, and it would finally be her turn to shine.

However, the question was whether she could bring herself to harm those five-year-old kids.

No! Tang Jing knew deep down what her answer was.

The difference between humans and beasts was that humans had moral boundaries. Killing children would make her no different from a beast.

She would never do that. It was simply not possible.

If she needed to harm children in order to gain fame and fortune, she would rather not have it.

In other words, even if Tang Jing hated Ning Ran, she would never take it out on her innocent children.

Even if she did not consider the kids, she would not want to offend Nan Chen.

After all, they were Nan Chen's children as well. He would surely go to the ends of the earth to avenge his kids if anyone hurt them.

Tang Jing was sure that the man's means of revenge would be extreme and destructive, not something an ordinary woman like her would be able to endure.

As such, the woman had made up her mind not to take up Ouyang Qing's suggestion.

After coming to a clear decision, Tang Jing felt somewhat more relaxed.

Then, she took out her phone and called Nan Xing.

The man answered after just a few rings. "Ms. Tang? You've just met me a while ago. Are you missing me already?"

It was meant to be a joke, but Tang Jing saw it as an opportunity for her to jump into the topic. "Mr. Xing, how did you know that?"

Letting out a chuckle, Nan Xing replied, "I was just kidding. What's the matter?"

"Ouyang Qing wants to meet you tomorrow. Will you be free?"

"If she wants to meet me, shouldn't she ask me herself? You're not her assistant."

"I don't know why, but since we are friends, I simply agreed when she asked me to ask you out. Are you free? If you're free, I'll let her know," Tang Jing replied.

"Is she beside you now? Pass the phone to her."

"Nope. I didn't meet her. We spoke over the phone just now," Tang Jing quickly said.

"If that's the case, what time and where should we meet tomorrow?"

"Oh, she didn't mention that. I'll check with her again tomorrow."

Nan Xing laughed. "Ms. Ouyang is really some big shot, eh? Okay, we'll talk tomorrow, then."

The man hung up after that.

Initially, Tang Jing wanted to chat with him a little longer, but Nan Xing had already ended the call. The woman could not help but feel slightly dejected as she listened to the disconnected tone on the phone.

“It’s already so late. Are you going out to meet some girl again?” Nan Chen, who was next to Nan Xing, asked coldly after seeing his brother hang up.

“Nah. It was Ouyang Qing’s friend asking me out on her behalf. She wants to meet me tomorrow,” Nan Xing explained.

“She asked you out? Why does she want to see you?”

“I have no idea. She didn’t ask me out personally. She got someone else to do it instead. I have no idea why she wants to meet me either.”

Nan Chen paced about a little before saying, “I think I know why.”

“Of course you know, since you’re so smart. You’ll definitely be able to guess her motives. Why don’t you analyze it for me, then, Chen?” Nan Xing joked with a laugh.

“Stop joking. I’m being serious here.”

“I’m serious too. I’m always a serious person,” Nan Xing replied with a serious expression on his face this time.

“Previously, you said that Ouyang Qing intended to sue you. If that’s the case, I think she’ll be making some sort of request. If you agree to her condition, she won’t sue you. However, if you don’t agree, she’ll then file a lawsuit against you in order to preserve her reputation.”

“That seems likely, but what sort of request do you think she’ll make?” Nan Xing asked.

“I’m not sure about that. It could be her personal request, or she could also be making a request on Ouyang Duo’s behalf. However, the possibility of it being the latter is very slim. Given Ouyang Duo’s character, I’m sure he wouldn’t want to see his daughter at all and would send her overseas immediately. He wouldn’t risk being embarrassed by her again, not to mention asking her to make a request on his behalf.”

Nan Xing gave it a thought before responding, “But didn’t you say that Ouyang Duo would be infuriated and attack our Nan family?”

“If he’s really thinking of attacking us, he would do it from the shadows. I don’t think he will get his daughter to propose any conditions. A prideful man like him wouldn’t send his daughter to act on his behalf. That would be too humiliating for him. As such, I’m

guessing Ouyang Qing will be making a personal request. Maybe something like asking you to admit to the reporters that you were the one who messed with her first. Anyway, no matter what her request is, you should just agree to it first and let the matter rest," Nan Chen uttered.

Nan Xing became anxious when he heard his brother's words. He bolted up from the sofa and replied, "Agree to it, no matter what? How can I do that?"

Walking toward Nan Xing, Nan Chen placed his hands on his brother's shoulders, pushing him back onto the sofa.

"Well, you're the one who caused the problem, so you have to settle it. As such, you have to agree to her request no matter what it is."

"What if she wants to sleep with me? Am I supposed to agree to that as well?" Nan Xing asked with a grimace.

"Do you really think she'll ask you for that, given her situation? Do you think she's really that shameless? Her request would surely be related to salvaging her reputation. Hence, you have to agree to it," Nan Chen ordered sternly.

"But—"

"Maybe after this, you'll finally learn your lesson. You can't always just act as you wish without considering the consequences," Nan Chen remarked coldly.

Releasing a sigh, Nan Xing stated in frustration, "It's all Dabao's fault. He was the one who landed me in this sh*t. I'll never listen to anything that rascal says again. He has set a trap for his uncle!"

At noon the next day, Ouyang Qing left Orchid Club after covering herself from head to toe.

She was wearing a cap, a mask, sunglasses and a scarf.

She wanted to be sure that no one would recognize her, as she would be in trouble if someone managed to recognize her.

Ouyang Qi was her chauffeur for the day. As there was no one else Ouyang Qing trusted, she had asked her brother to drive her.

However, when she saw that Ouyang Qi did not even bother to put on sunglasses, the woman's frustration kicked in.

“Are you stupid or what? If someone sees you, they would be able to guess that I’m the one in your car. With my get-up, they would be certain that it’s me! Are you trying to get me in trouble? Are you upset that I asked you to drive me?”

None of that had crossed Ouyang Qi’s mind. Of course, he would never intentionally cause trouble for Ouyang Qing.

Even though he was not exactly a good person, he would certainly not harm his own sister.

“All right. I’ll wear my sunglasses right away, but I don’t have a mask. I’ll get one from the pharmacy ahead.”

Aware that Ouyang Qing was in a bad mood, Ouyang Qi did not want to provoke her.

“Forget it. Just find an underground parking lot and drop me there. You can leave after that,” Ouyang Qing uttered.

“Huh? Why do you want to go to an underground parking lot? Are you thinking of committing suicide? Don’t do that! You’re still so young. Besides, what happened to you is not even that serious. Why can’t you just get over it? There’s really no need to go to that extent. You still have a long journey ahead of you!” Ouyang Qi exclaimed.

“Are you crazy? There’s no way I’d do that!” Ouyang Qing scolded. “Besides, have you seen anyone committing suicide in an underground parking lot?”

“Right, it doesn’t seem like an ideal location. Why are you going there, then?”

“I need to meet someone, so I have to choose somewhere without crowds. You can just drop me there and leave.”

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Chapter 530 Inevitable

It was simple to look for an underground parking lot. Even so, soon, Ouyang Qi managed to find a quiet parking lot for Ouyang Qing.

It was a new shopping area, and the lots had yet to be fully rented out. Even the shops that were already opened barely had any customers. That was why the place was quiet.

“Is this place quiet enough for you? If it’s not, the only place left is the cemetery,” Ouyang Qi teased.

“Scram off the car,” Ouyang Qing huffed.

“What’s the matter with you? Are you burning bridges after you cross them? This car is mine!” Ouyang Qi cried out.

“Just scram when I tell you to. Why do you need to say so much nonsense?” Ouyang Qing snapped.

“What about the money? I’ve done the deed, but I haven’t gotten the money yet.”

“What money?”

“Stop playing dumb. You’re the one who asked me to work for you. You told me to listen to your instructions and that you’ll give me two hundred thousand each month for that. If not for your money, do I look like I’ll run errands for you? Are you trying to shirk the responsibility now?” Ouyang Qi questioned.

Only then did Ouyang Qing recall that conversation.

She then took out one of her cards and handed it to Ouyang Qi. “Two hundred thousand spending limit. Be more thrifty. If you use it all, then you’ve depleted everything you have!”

“This is functional, right? You’re not trying to fool me, are you?” Ouyang Qi stared at the card dubiously.

“Pah! If it’s not usable, why would I give it to you? Take it and scram. If you don’t want it, then give it back to me.”

“Of course I want it. This is the money I deserve for my hard work. I’ll take it first. However, if I give this car back to you, how am I supposed to go back?”

“Sort it out on your own. You can always hail a cab outside. Now, scram!” Ouyang Qing impatiently remarked.

After a few steps, Ouyang Qi turned around again and asked, “You’re a girl, and it isn’t safe for you to stay here by yourself. Why don’t I linger around to protect you?”

“Just get lost, would you? If you’re not going to leave now, give me back my card!” Ouyang Qing snarled.

“All right, all right, I’m going.”

With that, Ouyang Qi took the elevator and went up to the first floor of the mall.

After a while of mulling over the matter, Ouyang Qi decided he had not done the right thing. Although Ouyang Qing looked down on him, she was still his little sister.

She's a girl by herself there. If anything happens, no one will be able to help her.

Hence, he entered the elevator and went back down to the parking lot again. Then, he hid behind a car and watched out for her from there.

Meanwhile, Ouyang Qing, who was in her car, sent her location to Nan Xing without saying anything.

When Nan Xing received the address, he realized she was in a parking lot.

What is she doing? Instead of a hotel or a club, she's inviting me to meet her in an underground parking lot? Has she found a group of people and is about to mess with me? Huh, but it's unlikely. Ouyang Qing won't get anything good from crippling me.

At the start, he thought of getting Qiao Zhan to look for a few men to guard him, but a while later, he dismissed that thought.

Ouyang Qing's a girl. I can't possibly be scared of her.

Thus, he drove to the parking lot and called Ouyang Qing.

There were not many cars in the parking lot, so the man could easily spot Ouyang Qing.

The moment he saw Ouyang Qing fully swaddled from head to toe, he burst out laughing.

"Ms. Ouyang, are you some kind of runway model? Why did you wrap yourself up like a burrito?"

"What are you laughing at?" Ouyang Qing roared.

Nan Xing then opened the car door and sat by Ouyang Qing's side. Instantly, the woman inched further away from him.

"Okay, okay. I'll stop laughing. Why did you invite me here?"

"I'm obviously here to talk with you. You're the reason I ended up like this. What are you going to do?" Ouyang Qing asked.

"You're the one who had set me up. How could you twist the story? You're being unreasonable!" Nan Xing roared.

"Speak nicely!" Ouyang Qing snapped.

At that, Nan Xing was furious. If not for my brother ordering me to let you do as you please, I wouldn't have bothered myself with you!

“Speak. What do you want to say?”

“I just want to ask you what you’re going to do now that I’ve turned out like this,” Ouyang Qing repeated.

That was a question Nan Xing dared not reply to her instantly, for he still had yet to figure out Ouyang Qing’s ulterior motives. Therefore, he would not dare to rashly say anything.

“Get to the point, please.”

“I want you to salvage my reputation!” Ouyang Qing blurted out.

“You’re the one who sabotaged your own reputation. How am I supposed to salvage it?” Nan Xing rebuked.

“I don’t care. This happened because of you. If not for you, I wouldn’t have been embarrassed to this point. You have to take responsibility for this!” Ouyang Qing sternly told him.

She thought that she would be able to frighten Nan Xing into submission if she were to adopt an arrogant demeanor, but unfortunately, it was useless.

Nan Xing was only amused by her act; he was not afraid at all.

The only reason he was willing to listen to Ouyang Qing’s complaints was due to Nan Chen’s orders.

“All right. In that case, what do you want me to do?”

“You have to court me from tomorrow onward. I want you to court me as publicly as possible. I want everyone in Flower City, especially the elite individuals of the upper-class social circle, to know that you’re courting me.”

Hearing that, Nan Xing laughed again. “Women have always been the ones courting me; I’ve never courted women. Say, how am I supposed to court you to the point the whole city knows about it?”

“You’re the one courting me, not the other way around. Obviously, you’ll have to think of the details yourself. If I think of everything for you, would that still count as you courting me?” Ouyang Qing questioned.

“But I’ve never courted anyone, and I don’t know how to court someone. You have to teach me, or else I wouldn’t know what to do,” Nan Xing answered with a chuckle.

“What are you laughing at? What’s there to laugh about?” Ouyang Qing fumed.

“Okay, okay, I won’t laugh anymore. Say, how am I supposed to court you?”

“Air a notice on the television saying that you’re sorry and that everything’s a misunderstanding.”

Upon hearing that, Nan Xing inhaled sharply. “Air a notice on television? Do you need to be that dramatic?”

“What’s dramatic about that? How will the entire city find out about it if you don’t make a public announcement about it? Are you unwilling to spend the money? The Nan family isn’t poor, but you won’t even spend this little amount of money? You’re not at all sincere about this!” Ouyang Qing gritted out.

Promptly, Nan Xing began mulling over the matter.

If they really decided to air it, Nan Xing would be able to afford it, obviously. Financial issues were not why he was hesitating.

If they were to air the matter on television, everyone would know about it.

From then on, Ouyang Qing would be akin to a package deal to him. If he wanted to court anyone else, that person would certainly think about this matter again.

There were no way other girls would believe that he felt nothing for Ouyang Qing once the notice was aired.

Therefore, the money for the notice was not an issue; the consequences were.

Yet, at the same time, he could not say no.

Nan Chen had told him to temporarily agree with anything Ouyang Qing requested and to not infuriate her.

Otherwise, she might go to the police and drag the Nan family into the mess with the negative publicity, and things would become difficult to deal with.

That was why Nan Xing was stumped. He could neither agree nor disagree with her.

“Hello? Why are you silent? Are you going to reject me? You’ve once confessed to me before. You said you liked me back then. Was that a lie?” Ouyang Qing bellowed.

Nan Xing pressed his lips. Back then, he had been forced by two certain people to do that.

Now, Ouyang Qing was holding him accountable for that!

That was a fate that no one could run away from.