

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 541

Chapter 541 A Useless Sparrow

Nan Xing had never dropped his guard toward Ouyang Duo. While he was unaware of the Ouyang family's designs on their family, he knew Ouyang Duo was hardly a gentleman.

Ouyang Duo had forced the Nan family into a corner over the Vietnam project. If not for Nan Chen's help, Nan Xing would have been in hot soup as the actual manager of that project.

I'm not as shrewd as Chen when it comes to business, but I'm hardly naïve in the ways of the world.

Nan Xing could sense that something was amiss from the minute he set foot in the room.

Ouyang Duo had met Nan Xing several times as their families ran in the same circles. Nan Xing would bet money that his private meeting with Ouyang Duo today was far more complicated than an interview for a future son-in-law.

Consequently, he politely refused the liquor that Ouyang Duo offered and cautioned himself to think carefully before answering any questions.

Ouyang Duo took a puff of his cigar and frowned. He asked, "Is my question so difficult to answer?"

Nan Xing scrunched his nose at the offending smell of the cigar.

Feigning ignorance, he countered, "What do you mean?"

"I asked you about your plans. It's a simple question," Ouyang Duo repeated himself.

Letting out a smile, Nan Xing replied, "I don't plan that far ahead into the future. You know me; I'm just winging it one step at a time."

Ouyang Duo began to sound impatient as he questioned, "You're a member of the Nan family. Nan Chen can't possibly take charge of your family's entire business alone. Aren't you helping him to shoulder the burden?"

An ambitious man himself, Ouyang Duo held no little contempt for unambitious good-for-nothings like his son, Ouyang Qi.

Hearing about Nan Xing's ambiguous plans disappointed him immensely.

I guess the similarity between Nan Xing and Nan Chen ends in their looks.

Nan Xing sensed Ouyang Duo's disdain and was secretly pleased.

Looking down upon me now, I see. Great! Ask your daughter to leave me alone from now on!

He decided then and there that playing dumb was the best strategy in his arsenal.

Nan Xing piped up, "I don't need to share any burdens. Chen can manage Nanshi Corporation on his own."

At his words, Ouyang Duo's heart sank even further.

Nan Xing may not have a plan, but I have plenty in mind. All he needs to do is to sign up for the ride.

Ouyang Duo tried to hide his contempt as he advised, "You are a descendant of the Nan family. Surely, you must have the ambition to match your family's great name."

Waving his hand dismissively, Nan Xing drawled, "What ambition? I want to have fun all day instead of working. Our family is stinking rich. I can swim in money without working a day in my life, so what's the point of having lofty ambitions?"

Upon hearing that, Ouyang Duo was rendered speechless.

They share the same face, for heaven's sake! Why is Nan Chen soaring like an eagle while his brother is nothing but a useless sparrow?

"Is that what you truly think?" Ouyang Duo did not even bother to hide his disappointment.

He had been hoping that it would be easier to convince Nan Xing to join forces, but he hardly wished to find a lazy bum who could ruin everything out of sheer laziness.

Nan Xing observed Ouyang Duo closely and witnessed the disappointment and scorn in his eyes.

Internally, he was cackling in glee over the success of his strategy.

"Of course!" Nan Xing tossed out. "I've lived like this my whole life, and I don't see anything wrong with it. Chen, bless his soul, has been encouraging me to join the family business, but it's so boring. My eyes start drooping before I can even get through a line on those financial reports and business proposals."

He continued lamenting, "Life is too short to stress myself out, you know? Why should I work myself to death when my family can give me all the money I'll ever need? Even if I were hard-pressed to name an ambition, I guess I'd stick to booze and hotties— I mean drowning myself in booze all day long!"

The mention of "hotties" was the final nail in the coffin.

Ouyang Duo's expression soured immediately.

God, he's even worse than I imagined. My daughter will be humiliated in the Nan family if she marries someone like this! She's practically signing away her dignity.

Exasperated, Ouyang Duo forgot to control his temper as he bellowed at Nan Xing, "How can you behave like a lazy bum at your age? You should be stepping up to bear more responsibility and power!"

Shocked at his outburst, Nan Xing muttered, "Why are you so angry?"

Ouyang Duo realized then that he had overstepped. After all, he was still talking to someone from the Nan family, even if Nan Xing was a good-for-nothing.

Plus, he might be my son-in-law in the future. I can't scare him off before he's even at the altar.

"Nothing, I was just worried for you. What if Nan Chen's gone one day? How will you fill his shoes and lead the company?" Ouyang Duo said placatingly.

His words unsettled Nan Xing. What do you mean when Chen's gone? We're the same age and perfectly healthy men. What is he implying?

"My brother is fine. I doubt he will be gone so soon, though I thank you for your kind concern," came Nan Xing's cold reply.

Ouyang Duo realized with a start that he had unknowingly offended Nan Xing by losing his temper.

He tried to appease Nan Xing by explaining, "All I meant to say was that Nan Chen could be exhausted from managing the business alone. He might wish for you to share his burden, and what will you do then if you don't buck up and learn the ropes now?"

"My brother is the strongest person I know. He doesn't need my help. Plus, I'm really not interested in the business. I just want to have fun and enjoy my life," Nan Xing responded.

Once again, Ouyang Duo found himself at a loss for words.

He had planned to gauge Nan Xing's ambitions before offering the Ouyang family's resources to strengthen the latter's position in the Nan family.

It was a small price to pay to build Nan Xing's power and set Ouyang Duo's next plan in motion.

However, Nan Xing's laziness had derailed his plans.

If it was merely a question of capability, Ouyang Duo had more than enough resources to fix the issue, but the lack of ambition truly wrecked the older man's plans.

Suddenly exhausted, Ouyang Duo uttered, "Let's end our discussion here. I'm a bit tired."

Nan Xing felt as though a boulder had been lifted off his shoulders as he replied, "All right. I hope you have a good rest. I shall take my leave now."

"Goodbye." Ouyang Duo waved at the young man, gazing at the latter's departing figure in dejection.

Nan Xing returned to Ouyang Qing's group, only to realize that they were still heavily imbibing.

They had moved on to drunken gossip.

An heiress stated tipsily, "Nan Chen fell for some C-list actress. We don't even know when she gave him two kids, which allowed her to weasel her way into the family. Hmm, that's not quite right. She got some nice benefits, I guess, but it's not like she married into the Nan family. He'll ditch her sooner or later."

She was obviously comforting Ouyang Qing over her failure to capture Nan Chen's affections.

Ouyang Qing's tone dripped with vile as she spat, "I don't want to talk about that woman. She's as gross as a cockroach. I can stomp her out too easily; I just don't want to soil my heels."

Hearing that, Nan Xing was disgusted by her scornful words. You're the gross cockroach! You're just slandering Ning Ran because you're jealous of her!

Putting on an innocent smile, he chimed in, "Are you talking about my sister-in-law? She and my brother love each other very much. Your concerns are appreciated but unnecessary."

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Chapter 542 Called Her A Liar

Everyone there knew how much Ouyang Qing hated Ning Ran, so they verbally attacked Ning Ran together.

It was nice to speak ill of someone behind their backs because there was a common hatred. However, Nan Xing's involvement in the conversation turned the situation sour.

Nan Xing was Nan Chen's biological brother, so his stories, especially those involving the Nan family, carried a lot of credibilities.

He had publicly regarded Ning Ran as his sister-in-law, and that sent an implicit message of how he was on her side.

That, in turn, meant that he was going against Ouyang Qing.

The part where Ouyang Qing was most angry about, however, was how Nan Xing claimed that Nan Chen and Ning Ran were on good terms.

That was equivalent to calling Ouyang Qing a liar.

"Are they married?" challenged Ouyang Qing while glaring at Nan Xing.

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"You shouldn't call her your sister-in-law if she hasn't signed on the dotted lines. Don't you know that's not right? Would you regard a random girl on the street as your sister-in-law? Do you see every woman who has any contact with Nan Chen as your sister-in-law?" growled Ouyang Qing angrily.

Nan Xing chuckled. "Everyone knows my brother won't hang out with just any woman. He's an endangered species who has a very specific taste, so there is no need for you to worry about me making a mistake."

"You..." Ouyang Qing was so angry that she pointed a finger at Nan Xing and demanded, "You're not welcomed here. F*ck off"

"Okay," replied Nan Xing happily.

He never wanted to socialize with them anyway, so the insult came in a timely manner. They basically gave him an amazing excuse.

He took a few steps forward before he turned around and warned, "By the way, don't tell me to f*ck off the next time you want me to leave. If I hear those words again, I will kick you out."

After saying all that, he left.

Ouyang Qing was utterly embarrassed because Nan Xing had dissed her in front of her friends.

She wanted to chase after him and further insult him, but she was worried about Nan Xing actually kicking her out of the place.

At the time, her only shot at accomplishing her goals was Nan Xing, so she could not go overboard.

That was why she chose to hold her anger in.

Half an hour later, Ouyang Qing's friends left. She went to another private room in Orchid Club and met up with her father, Ouyang Duo, there.

The first thing the man did was scold Ouyang Qing. "Nan Xing is nothing but a useless piece of trash, so why did you choose him?"

Ouyang Qing had gotten into a fight with Nan Xing earlier, so she was irritable as well.

Hence, she bellowed, "Dad, you have long known that Nan Xing is nothing compared to Nan Chen, so why are you putting the blame on me now? It's not like I have another choice."

"I know he's the lesser brother, but I didn't expect him to be that terrible! He's like toxic waste from a factory and is utterly useless," complained Ouyang Duo.

"What did the two of you talk about? Why did you meet up with him?"

"Why do you think? I asked him over to tell him I'd support him if he wants to build a career or compete against his brother. Who would've thought that he'd say that he dislikes power and simply wants to enjoy life? Seriously, how useless does a man have to be to say something like that?"

Ouyang Qing did not know how to respond to that. She was truly disappointed in Nan Xing, but there was nothing she could do. Her disappointment did not change the fact that she could not find anyone better.

"No, this won't do. We have to turn things around," said Ouyang Duo as he picked up the wineglass on the table and downed his drink.

"How do we do that?" asked Ouyang Qing.

"We'll ignite his passion and his desire for power by making him feel threatened."

“That might prove to be difficult. Some people are simply born without ambition.”

Nan Xing was born with a silver spoon and had always had a luxurious life. Men like him did not need to worry about anything.

There’s one just like him in our own family, too.

Naturally, the person Ouyang Qing was thinking about was Ouyang Qi.

“Nan Xing’s life has been too easy, and that is why he thinks he doesn’t need to grow. We must destroy that belief of his. Nan Chen always has Nan Xing’s back and will clean up whatever mess the latter makes. That is why Nan Xing has always seen Nan Chen as a dependable brother and thinks the world of the guy. However, if Nan Chen proves to be unreliable, Nan Xing will probably start thinking about his own future and whether he wants to keep depending on Nan Chen.”

Ouyang Qing felt as though her father was deliberately being confusing. Why would Nan Chen be unreliable? The guy is extremely powerful. Moreover, he’s young and healthy, so he wouldn’t have any health-related issues for the time being. It’d be extremely difficult to make him seem unreliable.

“I don’t care what you have to do. Just drive a wedge between him and Nan Chen,” added Ouyang Duo to clarify what he meant.

Ouyang Qing understood her father’s plan right away. Truth was, she had considered doing something similar in the past.

She hated Nan Chen now, and she knew the entire family would suffer if Nan Chen and Nan Xing got into a fight.

Their suffering was something Ouyang Qing craved, so she would be happy, even if Nan Xing would fail to beat Nan Chen.

Unfortunately, that mission was virtually impossible to accomplish.

“Nan Chen and Nan Xing are twins, and they have always been close. It’s way too difficult to get them to turn on each other,” replied Ouyang Qing, sharing her concern with her father.

“It doesn’t matter how difficult the task is. We have to do it, regardless. Nan Xing won’t feel threatened and grow unless there was a conflict between him and Nan Chen. Naturally, it’d be best if their fight gives us an opening to involve ourselves in the matter. Think about it. Why are Bai Hua and Nan Zhiyuan so polite to you? It’s because they both need you! If Nan Xing feels threatened, he’ll turn to you for moral support,” uttered Ouyang Duo.

Then, he continued, "Sooner or later, he will get closer to you and trust you. He might even lean on you. Yes, that is the best option for us! Turning the brothers against each other will be the outline of our plan for now. We'll spend more time figuring out the details in the future. Trust me. Everything is possible as long as we put our mind to it."

"Okay, I'll try."

The next morning, Ning Ran woke up early to prepare breakfast.

She had to continue shooting the movie today, and her schedule was pretty packed at the time, so she did not have much free time to hang out with her kids. That was why she had to prepare the kids' breakfasts quickly before rushing to the filming site.

Nan Chen woke up even earlier and was already done with his morning exercise routine.

The kids did not need to go to school, so they had been sleeping in lately. However, they heard a commotion outside, so they woke up anyway.

The maids showed up just in time. Since there were two kids, there was no way one nanny could handle taking care of both. Hence, the Nan family sent five maids over. Each kid would have two maids taking care of them, and the remaining maid would be responsible for cleaning and cooking.

The truth, however, was that the kids did not need that many nannies. Erbao would only be mischievous occasionally, and Dabao was downright perfect. He would either read a book or play on his computer, so there was no need for anyone to babysit him at all.

Even though Ning Ran did not prepare that many breakfast, she invited the maids to join them, anyway.

The maids turned her down, though. They let her eat up and rush to work before preparing their own breakfasts. They were not in a hurry anyway, so that was the right thing to do.

"Mommy, how long before we go to school again?" asked Erbao suddenly during breakfast.

"Your holiday just started. Are you missing school already?" questioned Ning Ran curiously.

"It's so boring here because I'm not allowed to watch cartoons continuously, and Dabao is too busy with his projects to play with me. The nannies don't know how to play either, so it's impossible for me," complained Erbao.

Ah, so she's bored at home.

“What do you want to do, then? Hmm... how about I drop you off at your great-grandma’s place?” asked Ning Ran.

Erbao’s tiny head shook like a rattle-drum. “No, no, no. It’s even more boring over there.”

“But the holiday is not over yet. You may be bored at home, but we can’t ask the school to reopen sooner. How about I take you to a daycare center? There are many kids there, and you can play with them.”

“Nope,” banned Nan Chen before Erbao could say anything.

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Chapter 543 He Refused To Be The Villain

“She is not a regular kid, so we can’t drop her off at any random daycare centers. It’s not safe,” added Nan Chen.

“Yeah, I agree. Many daycare centers nowadays are questionable, and I heard rumors about how some carers abuse the children,” replied Ning Ran.

“How about we sign her up for some lessons?” suggested Nan Chen.

“You mean like an extra-curricular activity?”

“Yeah. At first, I was against it because I thought she’s too young, and I didn’t want to burden her with too many activities. I simply want her to be happy, but if she’s bored, we can hire someone to teach her a new skill. That might help kill the boredom and fill up her time,” replied Nan Chen.

Ning Ran thought that idea was great.

“Well, Darling? What would you like to learn?” asked Ning Ran as she turned to Erbao.

“Acting,” replied Erbao. Her response surprised both Ning Ran and Nan Chen.

“Acting?”

“Yeah, I want to be an actress like you, Mommy, and I want to shoot a movie with you,” answered Erbao.

It turned out the kid simply wanted to tag along with Ning Ran and go play at the filming site.

“No, that won’t do. You can’t be an actress because you have an important destiny to fulfill in the future,” said Nan Chen, trying to nip his daughter’s idea in the bud.

“But why? I want to be a movie star and look pretty on TV,” insisted Erbao.

Truth was that her understanding of being an actress was limited and vague. To her, being an actress meant being featured on the screen and having people around her all the time.

Erbao had always been an extrovert who enjoyed a crowd, so she thought that being an actress would be perfect for her.

At that moment, however, she only asked to go to acting lessons because she wanted to follow Ning Ran to the filming site and play there.

“You’re still too young to know what you want to be,” stated Nan Chen patiently.

“I may be young, but I’m sensible. I want to be an actress.”

“There aren’t any acting classes for kids around here,” replied Nan Chen.

“I don’t need to be in a class to learn anything. I can learn from Mommy because she is a great actress.”

“And how will you do that?”

“Mommy can take me to the filming site, and I’ll watch her. That way, I’ll learn how to do it,” answered Erbao, who finally revealed what she had in mind all along.

Nan Chen and Ning Ran turned to one another. They were both signaling the other to turn Erbao down.

The man was firmer, though. Both kids obviously favored Ning Ran, and he was a little envious, so he refused to be the “villain” at that time.

Ning Ran hinted again to ask him to turn the kid down.

Still, he refused to voice up.

Seeing how her parents were signaling to each other, Erbao thought they were both on her side, so she was instantly delighted.

“Yay, then let’s hurry up and eat. We can go there in Daddy’s car later.”

“No, that’s not possible,” replied Ning Ran. She had no choice but to turn her daughter down herself.

“But why?” asked Erbao. Her big, round eyes were watery as she stared at her mother.

“The filming site is a mess, and everyone will be too busy to babysit you, so it’d be dangerous. I will also be distracted if you’re there, and I won’t be able to focus on my job. On the other hand, I will feel much better if you’re home. That will help me work faster, and I can be home sooner to play with you,” remarked Ning Ran patiently.

Erbao was disappointed to see her scheme failing. She had no excuse, but she still wanted to fight for it, so she promised, “I’ll behave. I promise I’ll just sit there and watch from the side.”

“No,” replied Nan Chen, who decided to speak up as well. “It’s dangerous to stay in a crowded place, so you’re not allowed to go. I will get you a dance teacher instead, and you can learn some basic dance moves. You can also ask to learn some other skills, but you can’t go to your mommy’s workplace, and that’s that. If you’re not happy with that or find classes to be boring, I will send you to your great-grandma’s place.”

“No, I won’t go,” complained Erbao.

Putting her cutlery down, she pouted. She also turned her head to the side to fume silently.

Nan Chen and Ning Ran turned to one another again. It did not take long before they simultaneously turned to Dabao.

Really? You’re going to toss that problem to me? Geez, adults nowadays are so unreliable. I’m the older brother, though, so I do have the obligation to soothe my pouting baby sister.

“I’ll teach you how to play some computer games, but we need to set a time limit,” offered Dabao. “We can’t play for too long because that’s bad for our eyes.”

“I don’t want to play games. I want to be a hacker like you,” replied the intrigued Erbao.

“It’s not easy to be a hacker. There are many techniques and skills to master. You’re already getting a pretty sweet deal, so you can either take it or leave it.”

“I’ll take it.”

Erbao knew she could not go to the filming site, so she had to opt for the second best.

“You’re not allowed to play all day, okay? It’s easy to get addicted, and kids like Erbao are especially prone to addiction because she has less discipline,” reminded Ning Ran in a worried tone.

“Don’t worry, Mommy. I will time everything,” replied Dabao sweetly.

After having breakfast, Ning Ran entered Nan Chen's car. He would drop her off at work before heading to his company himself.

Ning Ran did not actually want Nan Chen to drive her over because his car drew too much attention.

She had already gotten used to others gossiping about her relationship with Nan Chen behind her back, but she did not want to lose herself in the dream of having a luxurious car dropping her off everywhere. Life was getting too great, and she did not have the guts to fantasize about having it forever. She worried everything would turn out to be a dream, and she was terrified of the immense disappointment she would have to face when she was back to having nothing.

Nan Chen was a great man. He was handsome and rich, so he was one of the most desirable bachelors.

Unfortunately, the more perfect he was, the more difficult it was to keep him.

Ning Ran had gone through too much in life, and she knew how cruel things were sometimes.

Every day, she would mentally ready herself to be abandoned. She was convinced that was the only way to prevent herself from feeling too much pain and hopelessness when others left her.

Putting all her hope in someone else, be it a man or a woman, was a risky move because no one could dictate another person's fate. Hence, there was no guarantee that the person she held dear would stay.

That was why she believed it was best to only believe in herself. The only being that had to stay with her forever was her lonely soul.

That belief drove her to always remain calm and be ready to leave at any given moment.

Obviously, Nan Chen did not have the mindset. He saw Ning Ran as a talented employee who had given him two kids. Hence, he wanted to give her the very best.

In fact, the incredible movie she was in only existed for her sake. He knew she enjoyed acting and was good at it, so he set everything up for her to spread her wings.

Looking out the window, Ning Ran was lost in her mind.

Nan Chen, on the other hand, was checking his e-mails using his tablet. He was always in a hurry and had to find tiny pockets of time just to work more.

No one spoke, so it was quiet in there.

Nan Chen turned to Ning Ran only when they were almost at the filming site.

“We need a child actor for the movie, and the sponsors asked if they could get one of our kids to play the role. What do you think?” asked Nan Chen.

“No, that won’t do,” replied Ning Ran without missing a beat.

“Why not?”

“The kids shot a commercial some time ago, and the netizen called me a bad mother who abuses her children. That is why I will not let my kids act again, regardless of how strenuous life is. I want them to grow up happy, and I want them shielded from the harsh comments on the internet,” said the woman.

Nan Chen was secretly delighted because he wanted to turn down the production team’s request as well.

“The sponsors actually mentioned something else. They said that the kid won’t have any lines and can be his or her youthful self. Those sponsors also offered to pay the salary of a child celebrity. The money will go straight to you,” added Nan Chen to further test the waters.

However, Ning Ran was no fool; she knew Nan Chen was just testing her.

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Chapter 544 Swayed

“Stop testing me. I wasn’t lying when I turned down that offer and said I want the kids protected. I don’t want my kids to be targets, and I don’t care how much money they offer. My children will not be a pawn in anything.”

“It’s just... Erbao said she wants to be an actress, and I’m swaying a little. Maybe we should let her try. Obviously, we won’t need the kids to earn the money, but it’d be rather interesting to let her try. When she grows up, she’ll be able to see herself in the movie. Won’t that be cute?” asked Nan Chen.

Ning Ran was a little surprised, as she did not expect Nan Chen to consider letting Erbao play a role in the movie.

His words make sense, though. It’s rather amazing to let her play the role, and it’ll definitely help her grow. The only thing is that I have to be absolutely certain that she’ll be safe. Except... There are no such absolutes in the world. It would be a lie if anyone said otherwise.

“It’s fine if you don’t want it,” chimed Nan Chen.

“Let me think about it. Shooting a movie is a tiring task, and Erbao just wants to play. She definitely won’t be able to handle the stress of actually being an actress,” replied Ning Ran, who was in a dilemma.

“You don’t need to worry about that. The movie mainly features adults, and kids have very few lines. It won’t wear Erbao out, and I certainly won’t let her work endlessly for the production team.”

Nan Chen’s words made him sound as though he truly wanted Erbao to be a part of the movie.

If we take money out of consideration, letting the kids participate in the production of a movie would be a rather interesting and meaningful experience.

Ning Ran was swaying as well.

“Let me think a little more about it, then.”

Their conversation was relatively peaceful at that time, and they reached the filming site soon after.

Getting out of the car, Ning Ran entered the site.

Even though no one dared to passive-aggressively diss her anymore, they were still staring at her enviously.

The director showed up to welcome her right away. “Ms. Ding, please come over. I have something to discuss with you.”

Ning Ran went to the office that was temporarily set up, and the screenwriter was already there.

“Ms. Ding, we’d like to know what you’d like to change in the script,” said the screenwriter.

Hearing that, Ning Ran was taken aback. Nan Chen had requested for the script to be changed, and almost all of Huang Zichao’s scenes were removed. Why are they changing the script again?

“It’s probably inappropriate for me to say anything about the script. I have no authority over it, anyway,” replied Ning Ran sincerely.

“Sir Chen told us to ask for your opinion,” responded the screenwriter sternly.

Ning Ran was stunned once more. "He did?"

"Yes, last night Sir Chen asked his men to tell us to change the script. We don't know how he'd like the script to be, so he told us to ask you."

Ning Ran was delighted. It turned out she had actually convinced Nan Chen to listen, and the only reason he did not say anything at the time was that he was too proud to do so.

Unfortunately, she was also troubled when asked to comment on the script.

Editing it would affect how the story went, and it definitely would determine how many scenes Huang Zichao would be in.

If there were too many love scenes in there, Nan Chen would definitely misread the situation and thought that she was in love with Huang Zichao.

However, it would not do if Huang Zichao had too little screen time either.

Even so, not having too many steamy scenes was the most important bit.

Anything even slightly passionate was out of the question because Nan Chen definitely would not approve of it.

"Ms. Ding, what changes would you like to make?" queried the screenwriter once more.

"Err... Let me think about it for a while. I may not be able to provide any constructive feedback, though. The best I can do is try my best."

"Okay, then please let us know after you've thought about it," replied the screenwriter.

"Yeah, we'll shoot the scenes that wouldn't be affected for now. Let's get the supporting actors in place," chimed the director, who agreed to do the same.

With everything settled, everyone went to work on their own tasks.

During lunch break, Wang Xiaoou dropped by.

She had been busy working as Ning Ran's manager, so she had not shown up in a while.

"Looks like you'll have to treat me to a meal today."

The first thing the woman did was ask Ning Ran to do something that required money.

Ning Ran had always been careful with her budget, so naturally, she asked for more information.

“I’ll tell you if you treat me to a meal,” insisted Wang Xiaoou. It seemed as though she was determined to get a meal out of it.

“In that case, I’d rather not know,” replied Ning Ran with a smile.

“Seriously, woman, do you really have to be that stingy?” asked Wang Xiaoou in exasperation.

She had worked for many celebrities in the past, and that was the first time she met someone as stingy as Ning Ran.

“All right, I’ll buy you lunch,” uttered Ning Ran with a grin. “Now, can you tell me why I’m doing that?”

“You’re doing that because I asked. Isn’t that a good enough reason?” Wang Xiaoou smiled.

Ning Ran giggled at that. “Yeah, yeah. It is. It’s the perfect reason, actually. I never enjoyed eating on my own, anyway.”

“I was only kidding. You’re nominated as one of the best new actresses and are up for a Golden Flower Award,” informed Wang Xiaoou.

“Wait, what did you say?” Ning Ran asked, thinking she had misheard the other woman’s words.

It’s unbelievable, huh? I have a hard time believing it too, but there’s no mistaking it. I have received the letter inviting you to join Golden Flower Awards this year. You are nominated.”

Wang Xiaoou was delighted as well, and her eyes shone with glee.

Golden Flower Awards was one of the most prestigious awards in the industry. The key to its success was the fact that every nominee was chosen by the viewers.

Professional judges only had thirty percent say in who would win the competition. The other seventy percent of that privilege was with the viewers.

That made Golden Flower Awards much more unbiased than the other awards, which depended only on the experts. It also prevented bribes from happening.

All that made Golden Flower Awards one of the more coveted awards. It was also why everyone would watch the ceremony live.

To up-and-coming artists, a Golden Flower Award was an important validation. Even being nominated was a huge honor.

For an actress like Ning Ran, who was not that famous, being nominated was amazing news.

“Are you sure, Ou? Am I really nominated?” asked Ning Ran as she hugged Wang Xiaoou.

“Of course I’m sure. I’ve received the official letter. The ceremony will be live, and the entire world will be watching, so you have got to be ready. You have to get everyone blown away.”

“But... I’ve never walked on the red carpet before, and I’m scared,” voiced Ning Ran.

“Oh, you don’t need to worry about anything because you’ll have a famous celebrity as your date. He will walk down the red carpet with you. Oh, this is so exciting. You’ll never guess who that person is.”

“Who?”

“The renowned Huang Zichao, of course. His team contacted me. They said that since you two are shooting a movie together, it’d be best for the both of you to walk on the red carpet side by side. He’s an international superstar who had walked down countless red carpets before, so he’s experienced in the matter. With him leading a newbie like you, the rest of us will be at ease. Similarly, you won’t need to be nervous either, because he will be there for you.”

Ning Ran was stunned speechless when she heard that.

Naturally, she was okay with it, but a certain someone definitely would have problems with it.

“What’s wrong? Are you not happy with that arrangement?” asked Wang Xiaoou in a surprised tone.

“It’s not that. It’s just... Is absolutely everybody okay with that?” asked Ning Ran.

Wang Xiaoou did not understand what Ning Ran meant by “everybody,” so she pointed out, “The agency representing him and the agency representing you are okay with it, so it’s pretty much settled. Do we need anybody else’s permission?”

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Chapter 545 Even A Pig Can Be Famous

Ning Ran couldn't speak frankly, as she was worried that Nan Chen would object.

She felt as if her concerns might make her come off as being narcissistic.

After all, Nan Chen might not even be bothered by them strutting down the red carpet together.

Nevertheless, given how experienced Wang Xiaoou was, she quickly saw through Ning Ran's hesitation.

"Even though we have yet to report this matter to Mr. Chen, I don't see him objecting to this. Huang Zichao is an international megastar. Considering our current reputation, you would gain a lot by being his companion on the red carpet."

Pausing for a moment, she then continued, "By doing so, all the fashion magazines and online media will publish photos of both of you together. After all, it's not like they can edit you away just to have Huang Zichao in the photograph alone. Therefore, I'm sure Mr. Chen won't reject such a wonderful plan."

Having heard Wang Xiaoou's words, Ning Ran felt embarrassed.

"It's just my personal opinion. Perhaps, he doesn't even care about something this trivial," Ning Ran replied awkwardly.

"No, you do have a point there. We should report this to Mr. Chen first and only respond to Huang Zichao's agent once we have his agreement."

Without hesitation, she said, "In that case, I'll have to take a rain check on this meal. We'll celebrate again after you walk the red carpet. For now, I need to go back to the office for a meeting to discuss the details of the awards ceremony."

"Ou, sorry for the trouble."

"Don't mention it. I'm just doing my job. Once you become a megastar, all my effort would have been worth it," Wang Xiaoou replied with a smile.

"What if I fail to become famous?" Ning Ran joked.

"That's impossible," Wang Xiaoou declared confidently.

"What makes you think that I'll definitely make it big?"

"Do you know what conditions a celebrity must have to become famous?" Wang Xiaoou asked.

"Acting skills? Talent?" Ning Ran answered.

Wang Xiaoou shook her head. "Those are secondary."

"So, what conditions does one need?"

"Resources. That's the most important factor. The artiste per se is secondary. With massive resources, even a pig can become famous. As for the extent and duration of one's fame, that will depend on the artist's true strength."

Ning Ran's expression turned grim. "Ou, why do you have to make it sound so insulting? If even a pig can become famous, wouldn't I, an actress, be of the same level as an animal?"

Wang Xiaoou burst into laughter. "I'm just quoting you an example. Since you asked me why I'm so certain about you becoming famous, I'm just telling you that it's the unlimited resources that Mr. Chen provides. Combined with your acting skills, it would be impossible for you not to. Therefore, I'm not saying that you're a pig. After all, even a top-tier agent like me can't turn a pig into a megastar."

"Fine. Even then, I still feel that I'm no different from a pig after what you said." Ning Ran smiled wryly.

"If there's nothing else, I'll be going off now. I'll get in touch if I hear anything," Wang Xiaoou replied with a grin.

That day, Ning Ran managed to finish work early and got home by six.

Just when she was about to cook, the maid told her not to, as Nan Chen had arranged for dinner to be delivered.

After all, he was cognizant that Ning Ran would be tired after a long day and needed the rest.

Ning Ran was indeed exhausted. After getting a shower, she lay on the sofa, watching TV. Subsequently, she began to think about the script.

At the same time, Erbao and Dabao stayed closely by her side.

Having stayed at home the entire day, both of them were bored to death.

Therefore, when Ning Ran finally returned home, they wanted her to play with them.

"Mommy, this actress isn't as good as you. Not only are her expressions too dramatic, but she also isn't as pretty as you."

Pointing at the TV, Erbao tried to make a conversation.

Not in the mood to watch trashy soap operas, Ning Ran grunted in acknowledgment as her mind was still on the script.

“Mommy, when will Daddy be home?” Erbao continued the conversation.

“I don’t know. Why don’t you give him a call?”

“Mommy, it’s been a long time since we saw Blondie. What is he doing? Why doesn’t he visit us?” Erbao asked.

Having been reminded of Zheng Lunlun, Ning Ran realized that it had been a while since they last saw him. Hence, she wondered if he was filming a new show.

“I’ll ask him later.”

“Mommy…”

Unable to stay quiet, Erbao kept peppering Ning Ran with mundane questions.

Naturally, Ning Ran empathized with her. After all, she was a chatty person and had no one to talk to at home.

Therefore, Ning Ran didn’t blame the child and tried her best to humor Erbao instead.

However, Dabao couldn’t tolerate it any further. “Mommy’s tired, so stop bothering her and let her rest.”

Puffing her cheeks, Erbao retorted, “I’m only chatting with Mommy. It’s not going to tire her out.”

“It’s all right. Go on. I’ll chat with you. I know how much you love to talk.”

“Mommy, can you take me to the film site tomorrow?” Erbao broached the topic again.

“Why do you insist on going there? What’s the real reason for doing so?” Ning Ran was curious.

“I’m envious of the kids who act in the movie. It’s amazing how they get to appear in the movie even though they’re not much older than I am,” Erbao explained.

Ning Ran pulled Erbao into her arms. “Filming is tiring work. What’s there to be envious about? Is it because you just want to be on TV?”

“Not exactly. I just like being there,” Erbao answered.

If Erbao really enjoys it, I can let her act as one of the children in the show. Having both mother and daughter acting in the show would be a meaningful activity. But I'm just not sure if Old Master Nan will approve of it.

Until she got it sorted, Ning Ran didn't dare tell Erbao about her plan, for she was worried that Erbao would be disappointed if it didn't come to fruition.

More importantly, Erbao wasn't just any ordinary kid. She was a member of the Nan family. Therefore, any decision had to be taken with caution.

"Mommy, do you look down upon movie actors too? Grandma looks down on you because you're an actress. Therefore, do you think acting in movies is bad?" Erbao remarked as she looked at Ning Ran.

Even though it was just innocent child speak, Erbao's words struck a chord with Ning Ran.

Erbao is right. It's one thing for others to look down upon actors, but how can I share their sentiments as an actress myself? If I'm truly not biased against my work, why am I stopping Erbao from acting since that's what she likes?

"I enjoy and respect my career. In fact, I'm proud to be an actress," Ning Ran replied candidly.

"In that case, can I be an actress just like you in the future?" Erbao asked.

"We'll talk about that when the time comes. If you're still interested by then, I'll definitely support you. However, you have to know that underneath all that glamor is a lot of hard work. Moreover, there will be people like Grandma who look down upon actors. They will also contribute to the stress," Ning Ran explained patiently.

"I understand that. Even on the internet, there are plenty of people who ridicule you. Therefore, you should ignore baddies like them," Erbao fumed.

"Ignore who?"

As the door opened, Nan Chen walked in.

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Chapter 546 That Is Big

"Daddy!" Erbao exclaimed as she dashed up to him. "Who do you want to ignore? Who got on your nerves again?" Nan Chen asked with a smile.

"Ignore the baddies who ridicule Mommy on the internet," Erbao repeated angrily.

“What did they say this time?”

“It’s from the past. They rarely do so recently,” Erbao elaborated.

At that moment, Ning Ran picked up on Erbao’s strange expression. What does she mean by that?

“Since Mommy is a public figure, she would always be attracting attention. Some will like her, but there will also be others that don’t. This is entirely normal. Also, as a child, you’re not supposed to read such news, as you may end up being exposed to something inappropriate,” Nan Chen reassured her.

However, Erbao didn’t respond because she disagreed with Nan Chen.

To her, surfing news about Ning Ran online was an important task. Hence, she didn’t see why she wasn’t allowed to do it.

Obviously, Erbao didn’t read most of the news herself. Instead, Dabao was the one who told her about it after reading them.

A short while after Nan Chen came back, their dinner arrived.

It was prepared by the Nan family’s chef and was still piping hot.

The moment Erbao saw the delicious food, her mood improved.

“Next time, can you get them to stop sending food over?” Ning Ran suggested.

“What’s wrong? Do you think the food isn’t worthy of you?”

“That’s not what I meant. It just makes me feel bad.”

“There’s nothing to feel bad about. All that matters is that you enjoy the food.”

Once dinner was finished, Nan Chen went to his study.

Ning Ran made a cup of coffee and brought it to him.

After taking a sip, he furrowed his brows and complained that it wasn’t good enough.

How dare you nitpick? You should be glad that I bothered to make it for you.

Despite his complaint, Nan Chen finished the coffee and asked for another cup.

As a result, Ning Ran has no choice but to make one more for him.

Usually, it was a bad idea to drink coffee at night, as it would interfere with one's sleep.

In spite of that, Nan Chen was an exception, for he would often drink coffee at night. Nevertheless, no one knew if it affected his sleep, but the chances of that happening were low.

Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to drink at the rate he was doing so.

After serving the second cup of coffee, Ning Ran stood by the side.

Nan Chen looked up at her. "Is there anything else?"

"Well... Is the coffee all right?" Ning Ran asked.

"It's okay. Definitely better than water," Nan Chen plainly replied.

Ning Ran scoffed at his response. "That's good. If it was worse than tap water, that would indicate that the coffee beans are fake!"

Meanwhile, Nan Chen lowered his gaze to drink coffee in order to hide the smile on his face.

"By the way, the director and main screenwriter came to see me about the script today. They said that they wanted to get my opinion."

The whole point of her making him two cups of coffee was to discuss that particular topic.

"Sure," Nan Chen simply grunted.

"I couldn't give them an opinion because I don't know what to change," Ning Ran explained.

"Don't give them one then," Nan Chen replied.

Wow, this is like talking to a wall.

After falling into a brief silence, Ning Ran wanted to leave, as she didn't know what else to say.

But if I leave now, what am I going to tell the director and screenwriter tomorrow? Am I really going to say that I don't have an opinion? That would only lower my stature in their eyes. On the other hand, regardless of how good my suggestion is, it still has to go through Nan Chen, for he holds a veto on the final decision.

“I think it’s necessary to increase the interaction between the male and female leads in order to further develop their characters. Nevertheless, it doesn’t have to be only romance since this isn’t a romantic movie anyway.”

In the end, Ning Ran steeled herself and voiced her opinion.

“Sure,” Nan Chen surprisingly agreed.

Consequently, Ning Ran heaved a sigh of relief when she realized that her thoughts were not in conflict with Nan Chen.

“In that case, how do you think we should change it?” Ning Ran asked.

“Don’t ask me. You’re the one who brought it up,” Nan Chen retorted.

This is not getting any easier.

“After giving it some thought, I have an idea. However, I’m not sure if you will agree to it.”

Nan Chen remained silent, indicating for her to continue.

“I think we should have two angles to Huang Zichao. He can be the female lead’s useless ex-boyfriend in the real world who disappears after getting her pregnant. Subsequently, the female lead will bear the children alone and raise them—”

Suddenly, Nan Chen put down the document in his hands and shot a piercing gaze at Ning Ran. “Are you admonishing me?”

Ning Ran was stunned. Since when am I doing that? I’m obviously discussing the screenplay with you.

The very next second, she grasped what was going on. The way she spoke sounded as if she was talking about herself, and by extension, Nan Chen was the useless boyfriend.

No wonder he’s pissed. He’s feeling self-conscious about it.

Unable to control herself, Ning Ran burst into laughter.

“What are you being so smug about? Aren’t you just trying to censure me on the pretext of discussing the screenplay? How can you blame me when I wasn’t aware of the fact that you were pregnant? If I had known about the children, I would definitely have taken responsibility and not allowed them to wander around for so many years.”

Given how agitated Nan Chen was, it was evident that he took that matter to heart.

"I'm not blaming you. Back when I was pregnant with Dabao and Erbao, Ning Ziqiang wanted me to abort them. Left without a choice, I was forced to flee. Therefore, it wasn't your fault because you weren't aware of it all," Ning Ran explained in resignation.

"In that case, why are you trying to insinuate that it was?"

"That wasn't my intention. You're just being sensitive."

"Fine. Continue then." Nan Chen finally calmed down.

Nonetheless, Ning Ran was still amused by how self-conscious Nan Chen was.

"Are you telling me or not?"

He became upset when he saw that Ning Ran was still laughing.

"All right, I'll continue."

Ning Ran regained her composure. "By doing so, there essentially won't be a male lead, and by extension, romantic scenes won't be needed."

Even though Nan Chen didn't say a word, it was obvious that he approved of the idea.

The reason was simple. He was relieved that Huang Zichao would not have any intimate scenes with Ning Ran.

"However, Huang Zichao's part would end up being insignificant, which wouldn't be acceptable. Therefore, we should get him to act as the children's father in the parallel world. That way, he would have the opportunity to interact with the female lead. But since he looks like the female lead's ex from the real world, she would never fall in love with him. After all, the main reason she entered the parallel world was to steal his children."

She continued to explain, "Consequently, both of them would have a lot of interaction but none of them romantic. Nevertheless, the audience will definitely wonder if both of them will end up together in the end. With their anticipation, we can further enhance the plot by ending it in an open-ended manner, where we remain ambiguous and keep them guessing. So, what do you think?"

When Ning Ran finished her proposal, she looked at Nan Chen, who remained silent for a long while.

At that moment, he was astounded by Ning Ran's suggestion. Not only did it allow Huang Zichao sufficient screen time, but it also shifted the theme away from romance. As a result, it negated any need for intimacy between Huang Zichao and Ning Ran.

It was such a comprehensive idea that even Nan Chen didn't think of it.

Nonetheless, he didn't reveal his approval even though he was extremely satisfied.

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Chapter 547 Quick Tempered

Staring at Nan Chen, Ning Ran had no idea what was going through his mind.

"If you don't feel this is suitable, we can think of something else," Ning Ran replied meekly.

"Tell me. What else do you have in mind?" Nan Chen remarked coldly.

Oh no, he disagrees with what I've come up with after racking my brains the entire day. Just when I thought I came up with a good plot, I didn't expect him to disapprove of it.

"As of now, I can't think of anything else," Ning Ran replied with resignation.

"In that case, we'll go with this one," Nan Chen asserted.

"Huh?" Ning Ran was stunned. "Weren't you against it?"

"I didn't say I was against it. I just thought that you had alternatives and wanted to listen to them. Since you don't have any, we'll just go with this," Nan Chen explained.

"That's wonderful! I'll give the screenwriter a call right away. He has been waiting for my answer."

"For anything related to work, it's better if you send an email so that you will have an audit trail. If you call him, he might not fully understand you. Even if he does, he might not have heard everything clearly. Therefore by sending an email, he will pour over it until he understands and remembers everything," Nan Chen added.

That makes sense. No wonder Nan Chen is checking emails most of the time. I guess he demands the same of his subordinates. Therefore, all of them would email him their reports.

"Sure." Ning Ran accepted Nan Chen's suggestion sincerely.

"Write down your thoughts and send them to the screenwriter."

"Okay," Ning Ran acknowledged again.

At that moment, she was delighted that her idea was recognized, especially when the person who did so was none other than Nan Chen, who was famous for being difficult.

Just when she was about to leave gleefully, Nan Chen called out to her.

“Wait, don’t you have anything else to tell me?” Nan Chen asked.

What else is there? My mind has been occupied by the script the entire day. Where would I have time to think about anything else?

When he saw how surprised Ning Ran looked, Nan Chen knew that she had no idea what he was saying.

In spite of that, he left her staring blankly by not telling her.

“There doesn’t seem to be anything else.” Ning Ran just couldn’t think of it.

“You may go then,” Nan Chen replied.

“No, if there’s something, you can just tell me too.”

Nan Chen only waved her away without a word.

How confusing. Why can’t you just tell me? Is it that difficult to do?

The moment she stepped out of the study, something suddenly occurred to Ning Ran.

Earlier in the day, Wang Xiaou had informed her that she was nominated as the best newcomer for the Golden Flower Awards. Hence, Huang Zichao’s agent and the organizing committee had requested her to walk the red carpet together with him.

Is he talking about the awards ceremony?

Ning Ran rushed over. “Are you talking about the Golden Flower Awards?”

“Whatever you say,” Nan Chen answered indifferently.

What does that even mean? He really is hard to talk to.

“Ou told me today that Huang Zichao’s agent wants me to walk the red carpet with him—”

“You must be delighted by it. Does it really make you that happy?” Nan Chen snapped all of a sudden.

What? Since when did I say I was happy? Is my body language conveying my happiness?

"I'm not," Ning Ran replied innocently.

"Stop denying it. I can even see the glee in your eyes!" Nan Chen scowled.

"I'm happy but not because of that. I'm happy because of this matter. Although it relates to that matter, this matter is what makes me happy!"

Nan Chen's anger intensified. You're already speaking gibberish. How dare you claim that you're not happy?

"What are you talking about?" Nan Chen's tone grew frostier.

Ning Ran also realized that she wasn't communicating clearly after being overwhelmed by excitement.

"What I meant was that I'm happy for being nominated and the fact that you accepted my idea for the script. I don't deny that. However, it has nothing to do with Huang Zichao. To me, he's only a colleague from work. Even if we were to walk the red carpet together, it's not a big deal to me."

Having made herself clear, Ning Ran heaved a sigh of relief.

At the same time, Nan Chen managed to calm down a little.

He realized that he had become quick-tempered, which was very unlike his usually frosty demeanor.

Under normal circumstances, he didn't care much about anything. But when it came to something related to her, he would lose control of his own emotions.

To him, it was highly unusual.

"So, you're not keen on walking the red carpet with Huang Zichao?" Nan Chen questioned.

"That's not what I meant—"

"So you do look forward to it."

"It's not that either. It's just... Wow, I don't even know how to describe it!" Ning Ran was frustrated.

"Just figure it out and tell me!" Nan Chen snapped.

“It doesn’t matter to me, so I’ll let you decide, all right?”

He really is incredibly annoying!

“Hmm? You’re letting me decide?”

“Yes, I’ll abide by your decision without question.”

“I understand. You can go.” Nan Chen waved his hand.

Is he asking me to leave? But the discussion isn’t over!

“So, what are your plans? Do you agree with this arrangement?” she asked.

“Are you hoping that I agree?” He threw the question back at her.

“I don’t mean that. I only want to know what you think. Please don’t put words in my mouth,” she pleaded.

“I know what to do. You can go.”

“Can you share your plans with me?” Ning Ran grew curious.

“No,” he rejected her outright.

“Hey, why are you playing hard to get?” she mumbled in response.

“What did you say?”

Ning Ran fled at once. “Nothing. You should get back to your work. I’m leaving now.”

Upon reaching the door, she turned around. “Actually, walking the red carpet with Huang Zichao doesn’t interest me at all. But given how jealous you are, I’m curious—”

“What did you say?” Nan Chen sprang to his feet.

With that, Ning Ran slipped away immediately. Otherwise, she would be in hot soup.

At that moment, Nan Chen wanted to go after her to deny that he was jealous.

No, if I go after her, wouldn’t my actions vindicate her thoughts instead? How is it possible for me to feel jealousy? As Sir Chen, I have rejected many beauties. So, why would I feel jealous on her account? What sort of joke is that? It’s just impossible! However, if I’m not jealous, why am I this angry?

Nan Chen didn’t have an answer to his own question despite how obvious it was.

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Chapter 548 You Will Soon Find Out

The next day, Wang Xiaoou informed Ning Ran that the proposal for them to walk the red carpet had been canceled.

It didn't come as a surprise to her, as she already knew Nan Chen was against the idea.

"In that case, should I still walk the red carpet, or should I give the event a miss? It's not such a bad thing, though. Since I've never attended such an event, I'll just be overwhelmed by my nerves," Ning Ran replied.

"Given how good an opportunity this is, how can you miss it? Don't forget that it is broadcasted live all over the world. Are you really going to give up?" Wang Xiaoou objected at once.

"I didn't say that I'm giving up. Didn't the company cancel it?"

"They only canceled the plan for you and Huang Zichao to walk the red carpet together, not your participation in the awards ceremony. In fact, they even arranged for other top-tier stars to accompany you to do the same," Wang Xiaoou elaborated with a mysterious expression.

"Top-tier stars? Didn't you say that it has been canceled at Huang Zichao's end?"

"Is he the only top-tier star that's available?"

"In that case, who is it?" Ning Ran's curiosity was piqued.

"As a newcomer, attending the event with another star isn't going to make a splash. Since you have decided to go, we intend to shock the world. Therefore, the company has contacted Ye Meng's agent to get her to walk the red carpet with you."

Ning Ran exclaimed at once, "Ye Meng? Have you forgotten that she's my enemy? In fact, she was trying to harm me not too long ago!"

"Nevertheless, she's still a superstar, who not only is popular in China but the rest of Asia too. Although there was some history between the two of you, didn't you end up beating her? Therefore, by walking down the red carpet with her, everyone will praise you for being magnanimous for putting the past behind you. Not only will your fans compliment you for it, but her fans will also have a good impression of you too. Otherwise, they will just continue to hate you. The fact is that she is still more famous than you in showbiz. Therefore, don't you agree that this is vastly beneficial for your reputation?"

After listening to Wang Xiaoou's explanation, Ning Ran agreed that she would benefit from the plan.

"Why would Ye Meng agree to something that's to my advantage?" Ning Ran voiced her concerns.

"Ever since what happened, she fell into the doldrums and has been trying to reinvigorate her career. Unfortunately, she hasn't managed to find a suitable opportunity. After all, timing is everything for an artist. If she tries to restart her career at the wrong time and fails, it would be very difficult to get another chance. Considering she wasn't invited to the awards ceremony, she would definitely not refuse the opportunity to walk the red carpet that we've secured for her," Wang Xiaoou elaborated.

"No wonder she has agreed to it. However, who managed to secure the opportunity for her?" Ning Ran was still clueless.

"Have you forgotten what the most important condition for an artist is?"

"Resources!" Ning Ran remembered.

"That's right. As long as there are resources, any opportunity can be bought. Our condition for her for securing this opportunity was for her to support you, to which she agreed. After all, she can use this opportunity to showcase her stature as a superstar by supporting newcomers and not holding a grudge over the past. As a result, she, too, has much to gain from the arrangement. Since it's a win-win situation, why would her company not agree to it?"

Ning Ran gave her a thumbs up. "Ou, you're amazing! Given how complex this is, I wouldn't have understood it without your explanation."

"However, Ye Meng alone isn't enough. Even though she is a superstar, many youngsters are not into her. Therefore, we need another heavyweight who is popular with youths to support you."

"There's more? Who?"

"Beauty Zheng, of course. He has purposely returned from his studies overseas to walk the red carpet with you," Wang Xiaoou answered.

Ning Ran was delighted by the news.

"Blondie? I haven't seen him in a long time! How dare he not contact me? I must teach him a lesson when I see him!" Ning Ran exclaimed.

"Blondie?" It was Wang Xiaoou's turn to be baffled.

“Haha, I meant Zheng Lunlun. He used to be blond last time,” Ning Ran explained with a smile.

“Are both of you close?”

“You can say that. We used to play together last time. Now that we’re busy, we no longer have time to do that,” Ning Ran casually replied.

“Play together?” Wang Xiaoou was shocked.

“Yes, we play games together because he loves them. That’s why he gets me to play with him often.”

Wang Xiaoou heaved a sigh of relief. “I see. In that case, both of you must be close. He is a top-tier star and is extremely popular. When he struts down the red carpet with you on his arm in front of all those reporters, both of you will definitely make the front page,” Wang Xiaoou remarked.

“What about Ye Meng? Didn’t you say that she would be walking together with us?”

“Zheng Lunlun and you will be in front, while she will follow both of you from behind. We will still need to finalize the details, but I won’t share them with you. You will find out soon enough.” Wang Xiaoou kept her in suspense.

“Details? What kind of details?” Ning Ran was intrigued.

“I can’t tell you for the time being, as it’s also one of the conditions set by Ye Meng. When the time comes, you’ll see for yourself.”

“Come on, Ou. Tell me.”

“I can’t. Besides, it would become meaningless if I did. All you need to remember is to maintain your smile and walk the red carpet calmly regardless of what happens, all right?”

“What in the world is going to happen? You’re just making me nervous!”

“There’s no need to feel that way, as everything will be taken care of by the company. All you need to do is to show your best side.”

“Okay, I’ll do my best.”

Wang Xiaoou looked at her watch. “Sunny is about to arrive, and he will provide you with his suggestions for your look. Since this is your first time at such a grand event, it’s especially important for the company. Thus, they have specifically flown Sunny in from overseas to act as your fashion consultant.”

“Is he the feisty guy that looks like a girl?” Ning Ran asked.

“That’s right. Although he is effeminate and skanky, he is a force to be reckoned with in the fashion world. Furthermore, he has an exceptionally unique sense of style.”

Then, Wang Xiaoou said, “When Mr. Chen got him to come over, he and his team were in the midst of running a fashion show. Hence, you had better be cordial to him when you see him.”

“That goes without saying. In fact, I like him a lot. What I mean is that I admire his ability to dress so flamboyantly and the fact that his hands are fairer and more tender than us girls.”

Wang Xiaoou nodded. “He is indeed prettier than a lot of girls and skanky at the same time. Nonetheless, I’m sure you’re aware that he’s different from other men.”

“I understand. He admits to it as well,” Ning Ran replied with a smile.

At that moment, Wang Xiaoou received a call. “Sunny’s assistant is on the line. It means that he has arrived. Come on, let’s go over.”

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Chapter 548 You Will Soon Find Out

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“Given how good an opportunity this is, how can you miss it? Don’t forget that it is broadcasted live all over the world. Are you really going to give up?” Wang Xiaoou objected at once.

“I didn’t say that I’m giving up. Didn’t the company cancel it?”

“They only canceled the plan for you and Huang Zichao to walk the red carpet together, not your participation in the awards ceremony. In fact, they even arranged for other top-tier stars to accompany you to do the same,” Wang Xiaoou elaborated with a mysterious expression.

“Top-tier stars? Didn’t you say that it has been canceled at Huang Zichao’s end?”

“Is he the only top-tier star that’s available?”

“In that case, who is it?” Ning Ran’s curiosity was piqued.

“As a newcomer, attending the event with another star isn’t going to make a splash. Since you have decided to go, we intend to shock the world. Therefore, the company has contacted Ye Meng’s agent to get her to walk the red carpet with you.”

Ning Ran exclaimed at once, “Ye Meng? Have you forgotten that she’s my enemy? In fact, she was trying to harm me not too long ago!”

“Nevertheless, she’s still a superstar, who not only is popular in China but the rest of Asia too. Although there was some history between the two of you, didn’t you end up beating her? Therefore, by walking down the red carpet with her, everyone will praise you for being magnanimous for putting the past behind you. Not only will your fans compliment you for it, but her fans will also have a good impression of you too. Otherwise, they will just continue to hate you. The fact is that she is still more famous than you in showbiz. Therefore, don’t you agree that this is vastly beneficial for your reputation?”

After listening to Wang Xiaoou’s explanation, Ning Ran agreed that she would benefit from the plan.

“Why would Ye Meng agree to something that’s to my advantage?” Ning Ran voiced her concerns.

“Ever since what happened, she fell into the doldrums and has been trying to reinvigorate her career. Unfortunately, she hasn’t managed to find a suitable opportunity. After all, timing is everything for an artist. If she tries to restart her career at the wrong time and fails, it would be very difficult to get another chance. Considering she wasn’t invited to the awards ceremony, she would definitely not refuse the opportunity to walk the red carpet that we’ve secured for her,” Wang Xiaoou elaborated.

“No wonder she has agreed to it. However, who managed to secure the opportunity for her?” Ning Ran was still clueless.

“Have you forgotten what the most important condition for an artist is?”

“Resources!” Ning Ran remembered.

“That’s right. As long as there are resources, any opportunity can be bought. Our condition to her for securing this opportunity was for her to support you, to which she agreed. After all, she can use this opportunity to showcase her stature as a superstar by supporting newcomers and not holding a grudge over the past. As a result, she, too, has much to gain from the arrangement. Since it’s a win-win situation, why would her company not agree to it?”

Ning Ran gave her a thumbs up. "Ou, you're amazing! Given how complex this is, I wouldn't have understood it without your explanation."

"However, Ye Meng alone isn't enough. Even though she is a superstar, many youngsters are not into her. Therefore, we need another heavyweight who is popular with youths to support you."

"There's more? Who?"

"Beauty Zheng, of course. He has purposely returned from his studies overseas to walk the red carpet with you," Wang Xiaoou answered.

Ning Ran was delighted by the news.

"Blondie? I haven't seen him in a long time! How dare he not contact me? I must teach him a lesson when I see him!" Ning Ran exclaimed.

"Blondie?" It was Wang Xiaoou's turn to be baffled.

"Haha, I meant Zheng Lunlun. He used to be blond last time," Ning Ran explained with a smile.

"Are both of you close?"

"You can say that. We used to play together last time. Now that we're busy, we no longer have time to do that," Ning Ran casually replied.

"Play together?" Wang Xiaoou was shocked.

"Yes, we play games together because he loves them. That's why he gets me to play with him often."

Wang Xiaoou heaved a sigh of relief. "I see. In that case, both of you must be close. He is a top-tier star and is extremely popular. When he struts down the red carpet with you on his arm in front of all those reporters, both of you will definitely make the front page," Wang Xiaoou remarked.

"What about Ye Meng? Didn't you say that she would be walking together with us?"

"Zheng Lunlun and you will be in front, while she will follow both of you from behind. We will still need to finalize the details, but I won't share them with you. You will find out soon enough." Wang Xiaoou kept her in suspense.

"Details? What kind of details?" Ning Ran was intrigued.

"I can't tell you for the time being, as it's also one of the conditions set by Ye Meng. When the time comes, you'll see for yourself."

"Come on, Ou. Tell me."

"I can't. Besides, it would become meaningless if I did. All you need to remember is to maintain your smile and walk the red carpet calmly regardless of what happens, all right?"

"What in the world is going to happen? You're just making me nervous!"

"There's no need to feel that way, as everything will be taken care of by the company. All you need to do is to show your best side."

"Okay, I'll do my best."

Wang Xiaoou looked at her watch. "Sunny is about to arrive, and he will provide you with his suggestions for your look. Since this is your first time at such a grand event, it's especially important for the company. Thus, they have specifically flown Sunny in from overseas to act as your fashion consultant."

"Is he the feisty guy that looks like a girl?" Ning Ran asked.

"That's right. Although he is effeminate and skanky, he is a force to be reckoned with in the fashion world. Furthermore, he has an exceptionally unique sense of style."

Then, Wang Xiaoou said, "When Mr. Chen got him to come over, he and his team were in the midst of running a fashion show. Hence, you had better be cordial to him when you see him."

"That goes without saying. In fact, I like him a lot. What I mean is that I admire his ability to dress so flamboyantly and the fact that his hands are fairer and more tender than us girls."

Wang Xiaoou nodded. "He is indeed prettier than a lot of girls and skanky at the same time. Nonetheless, I'm sure you're aware that he's different from other men."

"I understand. He admits to it as well," Ning Ran replied with a smile.

At that moment, Wang Xiaoou received a call. "Sunny's assistant is on the line. It means that he has arrived. Come on, let's go over."

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 550

Chapter 550 Are You Kidding Me

“If you don’t resolve the matter, I won’t do anything to you. At most, I’ll just reveal the fact that you relied on plagiarism to win an award last time—”

“No, don’t. That was ages ago. I was young and ignorant back then. I’m sure there’s no need to hold such a trivial mistake against me my entire life, right?” Giorgio became anxious.

“Get the gown done, and I’ll buy you drinks. If not, your reputation will be destroyed.” Nan Chen gave him two choices.

“I’ll—”

“That’s all.” Nan Chen ended the call at once.

“Hahaha!” Without any delay, Sunny burst into laughter. “Since when is Sir Chen reasonable?”

“Hasn’t he gone overboard by threatening me with my past?” Giorgio scowled.

“Would he still be Sir Chen if he doesn’t intimidate you? Which one of us has escaped being bullied by him since we were young? On the contrary, hasn’t he always gotten our back whenever we’re in trouble?” Sunny replied.

“That’s true, but there’s still no way I can come up with something in just a few days,” Giorgio lamented.

“That’s your problem. You’ll have to figure it out by yourself.”

Even though Ning Ran sympathized with Giorgio, she felt it was inappropriate to interfere.

Whatever arrangements Nan Chen had made, all they needed to do was to obey without question.

Slumped in his chair, Giorgio continued to stare at Ning Ran.

Feeling nervous, she wondered if he was planning to kill her instead.

Nan Chen is the one who forced you to do it, not me. So please don’t vent your frustration on me.

“Giorgio, if you really can’t do it, I’ll talk to Nan Chen and change his mind. After that, I’ll just get a gown from the mall,” Ning Ran suggested fearfully.

In spite of that, Giorgio didn’t respond.

Not knowing what else to say, Ning Ran continued to let him stare earnestly at her.

After that, she turned to Sunny for help to defuse the situation.

However, Sunny looked as if it had nothing to do with him and took out his makeup to freshen up instead.

At that moment, Ning Ran was stunned at how effeminate Sunny behaved.

“Hahaha!”

All of a sudden, Giorgio burst into laughter before approaching Ning Ran, causing her to panic.

Has he truly gone mad?

“Well, the measurements are more or less there. All we need to do is to accentuate her charm and make some minor alterations. That way, I can complete the dress in time! I’m a genius!” Giorgio exclaimed after scrutinizing Ning Ran.

Clueless as to what was going on, Ning Ran could only force herself to smile awkwardly.

Walking to her side, Giorgio showed her some pictures on his tablet. “Between these two gowns, which one do you prefer?”

The two dresses had simple colors. One was black, while the other was white.

Both of them were avant-garde in their designs. The black one even had diamonds embellished across its chest, giving it an opulent look.

“Can I see the back?”

After rotating the photos, the back of the dresses was shown.

The black dress had a more revealing back, while the white dress had a lower cut in front.

“I like them both very much, but didn’t you say that there isn’t enough time to make them?”

“These are completed designs for one of the princesses of the royal family. She was going to wear them to a reception for foreign dignitaries. After making some observations just now, I noticed that your figure is similar to hers. Hence, all I need to do is to make some minor alterations, and you’ll be able to fit. It looks like my intellect has helped me to solve the problem of time!”

Ning Ran uttered in shock, "I can't wear the princess' dress!"

"There's nothing to fear. Since I've not handed it to her, it doesn't belong to her yet. We'll use it to resolve our desperate situation first. Anyway, tell me which one do you prefer? I'll make the alterations based on your measurements at once. Time is of the essence, so you had better be quick," Giorgio hurried her.

"I'll go with the black dress then," Ning Ran answered.

"I agree that it suits you more. By revealing your porcelain-like back, everyone will be in awe of you. We'll settle on this one then. Anyway, I'll inform Sir Chen right away that I will get this done," Giorgio declared in delight.

His words indirectly reminded Ning Ran that her opinion didn't matter. It all boiled down to Nan Chen instead.

After all, the matter couldn't proceed without his agreement.

This time, she reached Nan Chen on a video call to let him choose the dresses.

In the end, he replied, "Both aren't good enough!"

Giorgio panicked in response. "But, I designed these for a princess. She approves of them, so why not you?"

"There's room for improvement," Nan Chen asserted coldly.

"Where?"

"At the back. It's not like you don't have enough material. Is it necessary to show so much skin? Won't it be cold?" Nan Chen replied.

"My God! Haven't you attended tons of banquets? Isn't a bareback a common occurrence? What sort of comment is that? Even the princess isn't afraid—" Giorgio yelled back.

"Change it. Don't reveal so much. A little will do. Also, extend the length of the gown," Nan Chen added.

"Extend the length? But under usual circumstances—"

"I don't care about usual circumstances. If I did, I would have gotten one from the mall instead of coming to you," Nan Chen retorted.

"Fine. It's not a problem to extend the length. I can make all the changes that you asked for."

“Good. That’s settled then.”

Just as he spoke, Nan Chen ended the call.

“That’s exactly the way he behaves all the time! He never listens and insists on telling professionals how to do their jobs,” Giorgio lamented.

Sunny looked at Giorgio with a sense of schadenfreude. “There’s no point in complaining now that the matter has been settled. Anyway, show me the gown so that I can find Ning Ran matching shoes and decide on her makeup.”

“Actually, there’s no need for all this trouble at all. I find all of this ridiculous,” Ning Ran commented meekly.

“Not at all! Sir Chen has said it himself. This is your first time attending an event that is broadcasted live across the world. Therefore, it’s necessary to make an entrance,” Sir Chen explained.

“In that case, why can’t I reveal her back or chest? Nowadays, actresses would die to wear as little as possible and show all the skin they possibly can. Instead, he doesn’t even allow me to show her back a little. What age do we live in now? Why is he being so conservative still? This is utterly frustrating,” Giorgio ranted.

“It’s no use complaining to me. If you’re dissatisfied, you should talk to Sir Chen instead,” Sunny replied with a smile.

“Forget it. I’m not going to get myself into trouble for nothing. He is nothing but a dictator. All right now, both of you can go. I need to start work right away.” Giorgio began to get his guests to leave.

“Fine. We’re leaving now,” Sunny gestured to Ning Ran.

“Please hand over the deposit first. The gown will cost at least two hundred thousand. So, it will be a hundred thousand now. You can pay the balance when you pick up the dress.”

Ning Ran was astounded to hear the price. Two hundred thousand? I can buy a decent car with that money! Also, such a dress can only be worn on extremely special occasions. Therefore, isn’t this a waste of money?

“Sir Chen will arrange for payment. You can’t expect me to pay.”

Just as he spoke, Sunny gave Ning Ran a look to signal her not to do the same.

Obviously, Sunny didn’t know Ning Ran very well. If only he was aware of how stingy she was, he needn’t have worried about her at all.

There's no way I'm going to pay so much for a dress. What kind of joke is that? Even at two thousand, I feel it's too much, let alone two hundred thousand. I would rather go naked instead.

"Of course. Nan Chen will take care of it." Ning Ran nodded in agreement.

"Fine. Off you go then," Giorgio said with resignation.