

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 601

Chapter 601 Wretched State

Even though Nan Chen reassured Ning Ran, the latter still felt anxious. Nevertheless, under such circumstances, being frustrated wouldn't change anything.

"You should lie down and rest properly. Do not waste energy because we don't know what will happen next," Nan Chen reminded Ning Ran.

If Nan Chen's theory was correct, people would most probably be coming over. However, it was uncertain when they would arrive, how many of them would there be, and who would be coming.

Moreover, he was hurt, and Ning Ran, as a weak lady, would not be able to face them off no matter how she prepared herself.

Noticing Ning Ran's anxiety, Nan Chen said, "Don't worry. I'll do my best to protect you."

Ning Ran had always trusted the man. Despite that, she couldn't help but feel he was only consoling her at this juncture.

"I'm fine, but I'm worried about Erbao. She's still waiting for us to get a doctor to treat her, but we're trapped here now." Ning Ran heaved a sigh.

"Erbao has been discharged from the hospital. The poison in her system is already gone. It's just that her body is weak now, and she needs plenty of rest. She'll be fine. You don't have to worry so much. As for us, since things have come to this, we can only face it head-on. It's no use panicking. Calm down. After all, it's a miracle we have escaped with our lives after falling from such a height. Don't be so pessimistic."

Every word Nan Chen said hit the nail on the head.

Although Ning Ran couldn't be as calm and composed as him, she could only trust him and follow his lead.

As time went by slowly, the sky gradually darkened.

After what felt like forever, Ning Ran thought she heard the sounds of paddling.

She and Nan Chen stood up almost simultaneously and turned to look at the source of the sound.

They could vaguely see a small boat coming their way in the darkness.

It was a small wooden boat, and a person with a bamboo hat was sitting on it.

Something was placed on the bow of the boat, but they couldn't make out what it was.

"Look, someone is here. Do we call out to him?" Ning Ran asked.

"No, don't do that. Let's observe it for a while," Nan Chen said quietly.

As the little boat came nearer and nearer to the bank, the person in the bamboo hat eventually spotted Nan Chen and Ning Ran. The man said something to them in a heavy local accent.

Alas, Nan Chen and Ning Ran couldn't understand what he said.

"Who's there?"

The man switched to Chinese this time, albeit sounding slightly off. Fortunately, they understood him.

Waving her arms vigorously, Ning Ran shouted, "Mister, help us!"

"What's that? Help you? Why? What are you doing there?" he asked.

"We were involved in a car accident, and we need your help!" Ning Ran replied.

The man stopped his boat at the riverside and threw the end of a rope to the bank. After getting off his boat, he tied the rope to a big rock to prevent his boat from being washed away.

"You say you have gotten into a car accident? Are you all right?"

"He's hurt, but I'm fine. Please, mister. Help us!"

The man walked over. He was a big and muscular man, and his skin was dark, evidence that he often did farm work.

"Can he walk?" he asked.

"No, he can't."

"All right. Get on the boat. However, I can only take one of you at a time because I still have something on board. Who's going first? You or the man?" the boatman asked.

Ning Ran looked at Nan Chen.

If only one of them could leave, it would be pretty dangerous for them.

After all, the risk of leaving Ning Ran on a boat with another man late at night was self-explanatory.

Leaving Ning Ran alone there was a no-no too.

“I want to leave with my wife. Can you unload your cargo here and take us away first? After that, you can return and retrieve your items. If you can help us, we’ll be very grateful. I will repay you,” Nan Chen said.

“Oh? Don’t trust me, eh? I’m a fish farmer who does some cage culturing here. These are actually fish feed, and I need them to feed the fish at night. I can’t put them here. Look, I can only bring one person. That’s the deal—take it or leave it.” The boatman gave his ultimatum.

“Huh? Hey, don’t go! We’ll think about it—”

When Ning Ran saw the boatman preparing to leave, she panicked.

But then, Nan Chen touched her hand lightly, signaling her to stop talking.

The boatman got on his boat and asked, “Are you sure you’re not leaving?”

“If we go, we go together. I won’t leave without my wife. I’m sorry. Thank you for offering, though,” Nan Chen refused.

In the end, the boatman relented. “Okay, fine, fine. Get on. I’ll leave a bag of fish feed here. I think this much is okay. We won’t overload the boat.”

True to his words, the boatman unloaded a bag of fish feed, and Ning Ran thanked him continuously.

“All right, help your husband up. I don’t think getting him on the boat will be easy. You can’t carry him, right?” the boatman questioned.

“Yes, I can’t. Would you mind helping me, Mister?” Ning Ran pleaded.

“All right then.”

With the boatman’s help, Nan Chen got on his feet.

Supporting himself with one arm on the boatman’s shoulder, Nan Chen laboriously hopped on his good leg and eventually got on the boat.

However, he lost his balance and actually fell into the boat, looking quite ungraceful.

That might be the only time Nan Chen was in such a wretched state all his life.

Nan Chen picked himself up, sat at the bow, and smoothed his hair. In an instant, he regained his composure as a dignified young man.

Nevertheless, the fish feed in the bags emanated a pungent smell.

“Mister, what is this river called? And where is the nearest hospital?” Ning Ran asked.

“Ah, this is not a river but a reservoir. Well, they built a dam downstream. They are planning to build a power plant, so the waters here are deep. As for the nearest hospital, it’s in town. But it’s very far from here, so you need to get off at the river bank and hitch a ride there,” the boatman replied.

“Oh, then, where do you keep your fish?”

“A little further down here. We’ll get there in about twenty minutes.”

“Where did you buy your fish food from? The town?” Nan Chen suddenly cut into the conversation.

“Yes, from town. Why?” the boatman asked quizzically.

“Oh, it’s nothing. How far is the town from here?” Nan Chen continued to ask.

“It’s very far. Let me see. It’s about fifty kilometers away from here. Moreover, the road is currently under repair, so getting there won’t be easy. You’ll need approximately three to four hours to get there,” the boatman responded.

“Have you eaten? My wife and I haven’t had our food, so I was wondering if I could buy some food from you. We want to fill our stomachs with something first,” Nan Chen said.

“I’ve already eaten in town, but I do have some food stored at my fish farm. You can have some. I don’t mind,” the boatman answered.

Nan Chen stopped asking.

“Mister, can I borrow your phone to make a call? Our phones died because they fell in the water,” Ning Ran requested.

“There’s no signal here, and I don’t carry my phone with me. How about this? I’ll send you to the hospital tomorrow, and you crash at my place today.”

Ning Ran merely sighed, for she didn’t have a better idea.

When the boat made a turn, their view suddenly expanded. They could see a vast stretch of water and realized this was a huge lake.

In the middle of the lake was an island, and the boat was currently heading there.

Surrounding the island were some cages for fish farming. Occasionally, one could hear water splashes when the fish jumped.

On the island, she saw a three-room cement-brick house with a cement-tiled roof.

After they reached there, the boatman helped Nan Chen off the boat with considerable difficulty.

When they were finished, the sky was totally dark. There was no electricity on the island, so they stood in pitch-black darkness.

“I have a diesel generator here, but I ran out of diesel. I’m sorry, but we have to put up with kerosene lamps for light,” the boatman explained.

Suddenly, Nan Chen asked, “What is your name?”

“My name is Guo Si. You can stay here for the night. I’ll come back and take you to the hospital tomorrow.”

“How much did they give you?” Nan Chen suddenly asked.

“What did you say?” The boatman started to panic.

“I know someone ordered you to come find us. How much did they pay you? If you cooperate with me, I’ll double—No. I’ll increase it tenfold. I’m richer than those people,” Nan Chen coldly said.

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Chapter 602 Not Foolish

The boatman turned and ran to the side. He picked up an axe and asked, “How did you know that?”

“It’s simple. Your boat was originally rowing in the middle of the water. But you rowed by the bank when you got near us. You must have done it on purpose. You knew we had a car accident here, as someone must have described the exact location of our accident to you. You were actually there to check whether we were dead,” Nan Chen said.

“That’s right. Our location at that time could not be easily seen, but you still found us immediately. It shows that you were looking for someone, and you were looking for us,” Ning Ran chimed in.

Nan Chen was slightly surprised. He thought Ning Ran wasn't too foolish since she had thought of this too.

"You two are suspicious of me even after I saved you?" the boatman asked.

"Put down the axe. My leg is injured now. So even without it, we can't do anything to you. Relax." Nan Chen sounded relatively calm.

"I'm just someone who farms fish. You two are overthinking it," the boatman denied.

"Stop denying it. You were acting strangely the moment you approached us. You didn't ask where we came from or where we were going. Also, you didn't ask us how we got into an accident. It shows that you already know all of this. Then, you said your boat could only fit another person, or it would exceed the weight limit. But that was a lie. All you did was dispose of a small bag for the both of us to get on the boat. Moreover, judging by the water level, the boat could contain two more people without a problem. And you said you ate in town. During that time, you smelled of fresh wine and hotpot with fish, so you must have eaten within an hour of meeting us. You said the road to town is under construction and would take at least three to four hours to get there. But if you had eaten within an hour of meeting us, then you must have eaten at your house and not in town. Besides, you farm fish yourself, so why would you travel to town to eat fish? It would be more plausible for you to serve guests at your house fish since you have many of them at home. You've been lying all the while, no? Why would you lie if you are innocent then?" Nan Chen said.

The boatman opened his mouth but could not utter any words.

On the other hand, Ning Ran was stunned. How did Nan Chen know he had eaten within an hour and what he ate?

"How did you know I had fish? Did you think I must have eaten it since I farm them? And how did you know I ate within an hour?" The boatman found it hard to believe.

"You don't need to know how I found out. Regardless, I am right, aren't I?" Nan Chen asked.

The boatman did not utter any words. His silence was tacit confirmation that Nan Chen was right.

"Don't worry. I know you're not a bad guy. You got involved in this because you have this island that makes it convenient for you to hide people. How much did they pay you? I'll double it up for you," Nan Chen said.

"I can't let you go. I can't afford to offend them." The boatman became nervous again.

"Who are they?" Nan Chen probed.

"I can't tell you. They say they will kill my children if I dare to disobey them. My son is only five years old. I can't risk their lives." The boatman sounded emotional.

Ning Ran felt a tug at her heartstrings once she heard his son was five years old.

"Your son is five years old? My daughter is the same age as him. She's sick, so we came here to get her a doctor. But we got trapped here. As a parent, I sympathize with you. We won't harm your kids. We only want to help you."

As Ning Ran spoke, her eyes turned red and welled up with tears.

The boatman remained silent, at a loss.

"I really can't let you go. You two won't be able to leave the village even if I release you. They have people around here. As soon as you show up, they will attack immediately. They are ruthless. I can't afford to anger them, and neither can you," the boatman explained.

Nan Chen nodded. "I've already guessed that was the case, so I didn't ask you to let us go. My leg is injured now. I can't move for the time being so I can't go anywhere. There's no need to worry. I won't make things difficult for you. You only have to give me a phone to contact the outside world, and I'll reward you handsomely. Just give me your account number. I'll get someone to transfer money to you."

"It's useless even if you have a phone. There's no signal here. I heard there's been some problem with the cell tower or something. There's been no signal since a week ago, and it has not been fixed."

The boatman looked sincere and seemed to be telling the truth.

In rural areas, it was easy if one wanted the phone signal gone. They just had to cut off the power of the nearby base stations.

The other party must have been well prepared if they were responsible for the lack of cell signal.

It showed that they knew Nan Chen and Ning Ran's schedule beforehand.

This was a problem because it meant someone they knew betrayed them. There was a traitor.

Nan Chen's brows furrowed together, and he remained silent.

"There are rice, potatoes, and cabbages here. Also, there's a pot of corn wine. You can rest and recuperate here. I am serious when I say I cannot let you go, or my son and daughter will die," the boatman said.

“All right. How about this? Can you get me some medicine? Please? Trust me. I’ll reward you generously when I leave this place,” Nan Chen said.

“I’m afraid not. Every time I get on the boat, they will search me, and I can only bring things with me if they agree.” The boatman still looked perturbed.

“You can hide it in the fish feed. Tell the doctor I can move my leg slightly, so it is probably not broken. Ask him for some bandages and medicines. Then, you hide them in the fish feed. Please get me a pen and some paper too. I’ll reward you for sure,” Nan Chen said.

The boatman still looked hesitant.

Ning Ran took off her bracelet and said, “My mother left this behind for me. It’s worth more than ten thousand. I’ll give it to you for now. Please keep it well. I’ll redeem it from you with a hundred thousand if I can get out of here.”

Then, she took off her necklace. “This is expensive too. I’ll give it to you. Please help us or else he will become disabled. I’m begging you.”

The boatman took a glance at the bracelet and necklace.

“I don’t need these things. Just don’t sue me when you two get out of here. I’ll help you for the sake of my daughter.”

Ning Ran and Nan Chen were overjoyed and thanked him repeatedly.

“Cook and eat by yourselves. There is a gas stove over there—be careful when using it. I’ll teach you if you don’t know how to use it,” the boatman said.

“I know how to use it. Thank you. Please remember to bring us medicine,” Ning Ran reminded him.

Nan Chen added, “Anyway, what do you plan to say if they ask about our condition?”

“I’ll tell them as it is.”

“No. It’s better to tell them I’m seriously injured and will pass away soon. And I can’t move an inch,” Nan Chen said.

“What if they don’t believe me?”

“Don’t worry. They won’t be coming to the island for a while. I can pretend to be gravely injured if they do. I won’t get you into trouble,” Nan Chen reassured.

“Sure. I’ll do as you say.”

“Also, I hope you can be on our side. I will for sure reward you in the future. But if you dare to betray me, my family will avenge me even if I can’t leave this place alive. They are also capable of doing cruel things,” Nan Chen said coldly.

“Don’t worry. I won’t,” the boatman reassured him without hesitation.

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Chapter 603 Levelheaded

The boatman boarded the boat and left. He disappeared into the darkness like a ghost ship without a lamp. “First, boil some water. I feel thirsty,” Nan Chen said.

“Sure.” Ning Ran found a pot, washed it, and brought water from the tank to boil. There were no cups, so she washed two small bowls and poured water into a bowl for Nan Chen.

Under the dim light of the kerosene lamp, Nan Chen’s face was relaxed, and his eyes were calm as usual. “Does your leg still hurt? What should we do now?” Ning Ran asked softly.

“We should be happy we got rescued. I’m feeling hungry, so you should cook. Plain water is barely enough,” Nan Chen said. Ning Ran was impressed by Nan Chen’s mental strength as he was not anxious at all.

Optimism and pessimism were contagious. Seeing how calmly Nan Chen was behaving soothed Ning Ran’s anxiety. Without further ado, she started to cook.

Ning Ran cooked regularly. Still, she had only cooked rice with an electric rice cooker and had never cooked with fire. That was why the rice she made turned out slightly undercooked. But it was still edible.

There were only potatoes and cabbages, and there was no refrigerator. These two kinds of vegetables were easy to store and wouldn’t spoil quickly.

Ning Ran cut the potatoes into pieces and deep-fried them. Then, she chopped up a cabbage and stir-fried it.

After that, she dumped in some undercooked rice and braised them together until the vegetable and rice were fully cooked.

There were no condiments around, only salt.

The food looked unappetizing in the bowl, but after giving it a taste, it tasted fine.

The potatoes and cabbages were all grown at home by the boatman. Hence, the quality of the ingredients was good and tasted well.

Nan Chen's hunger made him finish two bowls of rice in one sitting.

Ning Ran was relieved seeing how Nan Chen was eating well.

"I was worried that it would be difficult for you to eat this since I can only cook with the ingredients given. I will try to cook the rice well tomorrow so that it won't be undercooked."

"It tastes fine. I haven't eaten this before. It's delicious," Nan Chen commented.

Ning Ran washed the bowls and put them away. Then she boiled another pot of water to wash Nan Chen's face and feet.

There were some used towels in the house. Naturally, Nan Chen wouldn't use them. Instead, he dipped his head into the basin to clean himself.

Without his phone, Nan Chen felt fortunate that he still had his watch to check the time.

After washing his feet, the two lay on the rough grass.

"Is your leg still hurting a lot?" Ning Ran asked.

"Yes. But it's fine. It's probably not broken."

"Who do you think ordered the boatman to come? Who is backing him?"

"I'm not sure. Though, only a few people knew we were coming here. There must be a traitor within Nanshi Corporation. This is not surprising. Although Nanshi Corporation appears peaceful on the surface, a storm has been brewing underneath. Many people are eyeing the company, and they can seize the opportunity this time. It isn't necessarily bad since the bad eggs can be exposed," Nan Chen remarked.

"What's their goal for trapping you here?"

"Of course, for their profit. They want to divide or take control of Nanshi Corporation. Some people have always wanted to do this, but they have never been successful. Back then, Grandpa protected the company. Now, there's me. So I am the target of many people. This is bound to happen sooner or later. It is hard to put up my guard all the time. No company or individual can avoid crises all the time. We overcome them to become more powerful and more mature. Don't be dejected. This was unavoidable since it would happen in the future if not now."

Ning Ran only sighed. "I'm not as relaxed as you. I'm worried about our children."

“Don’t worry. They are safe,” Nan Chen said firmly.

“How do you know that?”

“Because their target is me, not our kids. If they had the kids, they wouldn’t have needed to get me under control. They only have to threaten me with the kids. Since they got me under control, they won’t bother the kids. Besides, the kids have Nan Xing, Qiao Zhan, and Qiao Zhan’s elite team by their side. Nothing will happen so don’t worry.”

After a moment of contemplation, Ning Ran thought what Nan Chen said made sense.

“So what are they going to do next? Can trapping you here get them what they want?”

“I can’t predict what they are going to do next. There are too many possibilities. But one thing is for sure. They would threaten me if they got the kids under their control but now that they have control over me, they will threaten Grandpa. Dad doesn’t care about the business. Although Grandpa has retired for many years, he is still the head of the Nan family. If my speculation is correct, they will contact Grandpa soon,” Nan Chen said.

Ning Ran drew a sharp breath when she heard that. “It sure is hard being rich. Will they kill us?”

“Are you afraid of dying?” Nan Chen glanced at Ning Ran.

“Yes!” Ning Ran answered without hesitation.

“Good. You won’t die if you are,” Nan Chen sidestepped the question and said.

“I’m asking you if they will kill us.”

“How would I know? I’m not them. We are not the ones to decide if we get to live. The decision is in Grandpa’s hands.”

“What do you mean?”

“It’s simple. If Grandpa agrees to their conditions, then we might get to live. But if Grandpa rejects them, then we are dead. The other party had already got us trapped. They will probably choose to kill us if they don’t reach their goal. They might sink us into this reservoir, not allowing us to float back up even after we die, as we might be discovered if we do.”

“You’re scaring me!” An inexplicable chill ran down Ning Ran’s spine.

“I’m telling the truth. They don’t even need to kill us. They only have to keep us here without giving food to us, and we will starve to death,” Nan Chen said with a straight face.

“That means I can’t see my children anymore.” Ning Ran panicked.

“It’s just a hypothetical situation. Grandpa won’t leave us to die. He will save me even if it means giving away all the assets of the Nan family. Grandpa once said we should choose life before money when in a dilemma because money means nothing compared to our lives. Since the Nan family had always been targeted, this kind of crisis was inevitable. Grandpa reminded me countless times that if anyone from the Nan family got kidnapped, I should yield and pay the kidnappers however much they asked for. And that I shouldn’t hesitate since saving a life comes first. I’m sure Grandpa will give them what they want. Don’t worry.”

Ning Ran was slightly relieved after what Nan Chen said.

“What if they still want to kill us after they got what they wanted?”

“Grandpa is experienced. He has handled this kind of matter many times. I’m sure he’ll think of a way to ensure our safety. Although Grandpa is old, he is still levelheaded. We won’t be in danger as long as he is there.”

Nan Chen had faith in Nan Zhengde. It was faith based on trust and understanding.

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Chapter 604 What Makes A Good Gift

The next morning, Nan Zhengde was practicing Tai Chi in the yard when Chai Hua walked in. Nan Zhengde gestured for him not to say anything and to wait for him to finish his practice instead.

Without a choice, Chai Hua stood by the side and watched Nan Zhengde finish a set of Tai Chi moves before handing him a towel. Grabbing over the towel, Nan Zhengde gently wiped off his sweat. “What is it in this early morning?”

“Qiao Zhan called me in the middle of the night and said that Master Chen and Ning Ran are both unreachable.” Nan Zhengde paused in his movement. “Unreachable?”

“Yes, Master Chen and Ning Ran were rushing to a place called Lotus Town in Lightspring to look for a doctor. Qiao Zhan and Master Xing remained at Livingsfill with Little Miss and Little Master. They promised to make a video call between nine to ten every night. But the call couldn’t get through since yesterday afternoon,” explained Chai Hua.

“What have you done after learning about that news?” Nan Zhengde asked.

“I’ve sent two men to rush over there. They’ve just arrived and have yet to send me any news,” Chai Hua answered.

“Good job. Do not act rashly. Tell Nan Xing and Qiao Zhan to stay put at Livingsfill and take care of the children instead of heading to Lightspring to look for Nan Chen.”

“Got it.”

“Send more men to head down to Lightspring. Do it discreetly. Have them travel in groups to avoid getting busted and get them to investigate in secret.”

“Understood, Mr. Nan.”

“Guard the phone. If anyone calls, you must answer it personally. If anyone is looking for me, tell them I’m not around and call back later,” Nan Zhengde further instructed.

“But what if it has got to do with Master Chen...”

“No way. Those people will try to confuse me before negotiating. I need some time to think about it. I will not answer phone calls or accept visitors before two in the afternoon. Bring breakfast to my study room,” Nan Zhengde uttered.

“Sure, Mr. Nan.”

Having worked for the Nan family for many years, Chai Hua had long gotten used to Nan Zhengde’s calm and composed disposition.

“Also, don’t let Madam learn about this for the time being.”

“Got it.” Chai Hua left immediately right after.

Nan Zhengde stayed in the study room and only got out at about three in the afternoon.

He then called Feng Wan into the room, where she saw about ten pieces of calligraphy artwork lying on the floor.

“So you’ve been hiding in the study room so long just because you’re practicing calligraphy? I thought you met a difficult problem again. You always lock yourself in here whenever you have troubles,” Feng Wan uttered, looking displeased.

“Yeah, I’ve been practicing calligraphy. Take a look and see which ones are the best. Help me pick three from all of these,” remarked Nan Zhengde.

“Your works are of a similar standard and look almost the same. What is there for me to choose? Besides, what do you want to do with them?” Feng Wan was puzzled.

“Just help me pick a few works first. I asked you for help because I believe in your aesthetic sense.” Nan Zhengde spoke with a smile.

With that, Feng Wan helped pick out three of the nicest-looking calligraphy pieces. Since Nan Zhengde practiced calligraphy daily, he was naturally good at it.

“Hmm... As expected of my wife. I like these three works the most too. Let me get Chai Hua to frame these up. I'll send them out as gifts.”

“Darling, are you mad? You aren't a famous calligrapher. Why would you gift your works to others? Do you really see yourself as a calligrapher? Your works aren't worth a single cent since you aren't famous. No one will want it!”

“Oh, how can you say that? I think that I'm quite accomplished in this aspect. You might not think it's good, but that doesn't mean others will think the same way as you.” Nan Zhengde chuckled.

“Gosh, why exactly are you acting like this? Why would you think of gifting others your calligraphy works suddenly?”

As a married couple for many decades, Feng Wan naturally had a good understanding of Nan Zhengde.

Even though Nan Zhengde kept a smile on his face, she somehow sensed that something was amiss.

“I'm thinking of visiting some old friends. They're members of the board of directors. I don't know what would make a great gift, so I thought of crafting a few works to bring as gifts,” Nan Zhengde explained.

“Members of the board of directors? Why would you think of visiting them during the Lunar New Year?” That further fueled Feng Wan's uneasiness.

“Nanshi Corporation is facing a crisis. I have to visit a few old friends and seek their help.”

“Crisis? What crisis? Did something happen to Nan Chen?”

Feng Wan was smart enough and managed to figure it out right away.

“You're right. We received news from the Xinan region that Nan Chen and Ning Ran are both unreachable. There must be more to it. Nanshi Corporation's peace will undoubtedly be interrupted. I need to get some preparations done first. That's why I have to visit some old friends of mine.”

Dejected, Feng Wan sat on a chair. “I knew there must be something wrong since my eyes kept twitching. Who would the culprit be?”

“Anyone is possible. I can’t be bothered to make any guesses. The culprit will show themselves soon. I have to get ready before they make an appearance,” said Nan Zhengde.

“Do you think it has something to do with the board of directors?”

“That’s for sure. It’s obvious that the culprit has taken action against Nan Chen because they wanted to threaten me. Had they wanted to threaten Nan Chen, they would’ve made a move on the kids. With Nan Chen in trouble now, I believe the kids should be safe. Nan Chen is the current head of Nanshi Corporation. The culprit must’ve seized the successor because they wanted to conquer the corporation. Since Nanshi Corporation is what they’re eyeing, the shares will inevitably come into play. That means the board of directors will be involved as well. That’s why I have to visit them, specifically the ones who don’t have a good relationship with me and would most likely turn their backs on us. I’m sure those who dare to meet me are generally the ones who have done nothing wrong. In contrast, those who dare not meet me must have a guilty conscience,” Nan Zhengde elaborated.

With a pause, he added, “Trust me; I’ll be able to tell if there’s something wrong. My visit will also remind them that I’m still alive and it’ll be the best choice to stand with the Nan family. Of course, I’ll also have to pay a visit to those whom I’ve forged a better relationship with. I have to adjure them to stand by us and give us their utmost support. All right. That’s how things are right now. There’s no need for you to worry either. We’ve faced many crises throughout all these years, but we’ve overcome them. What you have to do now is to stay at home. I’ll get Chai Hua to accompany me for my visits and return quickly.”

Nan Zhengde kept his artwork and walked out of the study room.

Feng Wan followed behind. “Will anything happen to Chen?”

“He’ll be fine. That fellow is tough. He won’t die so easily so don’t worry.” Nan Zhengde turned around and patted his wife’s shoulder gently.

“You probably already figured out who the culprit is, right?” Feng Wan fixed her gaze on Nan Zhengde intently.

“I’m not making any assumptions. We’ll find out sooner or later. Just stay put at home and don’t do anything. I’ll be back in a bit. Get the helpers to close the doors when I’m not around. Don’t accept any visitors or answer any phone calls.”

“I can’t even answer phone calls?”

“No, lest it’s from the culprit. You might not know how to handle it. Just wait till I return.”

“Okay. Make a fast trip then. Be careful.”

“Sure.”

Just then, Chai Hua brought over a cane. Seeing that, Nan Zhengde waved his hand. “I don’t need that. I can walk.”

“Qiao Zhan is in the Xinan region. There are only over ten men in the house. How many should we bring along?” Chai Hua inquired.

“We’re not going for a group fight. There’s no need to bring any men along. Just get a chauffeur.” Nan Zhengde gave a dismissive wave.

“Won’t that be risky?”

“Why would it be risky? I’ve spent more than half of my life in this city, and no one ever dares to lay a finger on me!” Nan Zhengde roared.

Chai Hua figured that Nan Zhengde made a lot of sense. Had the other party dared to make a move in Flower City, there would not have been a need for them to wait till now.

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 605

Chapter 605 Stay Calm

It was already nine at night when Nan Zhengde returned. It had been a long time since he had gone out and entertained guests. Nan Zhengde was exhausted from all the interactions.

As soon as he sat down, Chai Hua said, “Ouyang Duo is here. Do you want to see him?” Nan Zhengde’s eyes lit up. “Is it really him?”

“Do you suspect that the Ouyang family is the culprit, Mr. Nan?” “Currently, there isn’t any evidence, but there will be soon enough,” Nan Zhengde replied.

“So, would you like to see him?” “No. Tell him that I’m tired and have turned in for the night.” “No?” Chai Hua was astounded.

“I always go to bed early. He’s here at this time of night to see if I’m unable to fall asleep. He wants to know if the Nan family is restless and on edge. Ask him to leave. He’ll be back tomorrow,” Nan Zhengde said as he waved his hand.

“Understood.” Chai Hua followed his order and went to the living room. “Mr. Ouyang, Mr. Nan has already retired for the night. He can’t be woken up, or he’ll be very angry. Please return tomorrow, Mr. Ouyang.”

Ouyang Duo was taken aback. That's not what I expected. Shouldn't Old Master Nan be feeling anxious and unable to sleep? He went to sleep this early? And he can't be woken up?

He checked the expensive watch on his wrist. "It's only a little past nine, and Mr. Nan is already asleep?"

"He always sleeps before nine because he has to get up early in the morning," Chai Hua replied.

"Uh... I see. Has anything happened at home recently?" Ouyang Duo tried to probe.

"What might you be referring to, Mr. Ouyang?"

Chai Hua instantly threw the question back. As the housekeeper of the Nan residence, he was definitely not one to be trifled with.

"Oh, I'm not talking about anything in particular. I'm just asking if everyone is well," Ouyang Duo said.

"Thank you for your concern, Mr. Ouyang. Everyone is very well," Chai Hua replied calmly.

"That's good. Good to hear."

Although Ouyang Duo said that, he still had no intention of leaving. He was unwilling to back down and refused to believe that nothing was wrong with the Nan family.

"Are you planning to spend the night here, Mr. Ouyang? In that case, I will arrange a room to be prepared for you," Chai Hua said politely.

"Oh, uh, that's not necessary. I'll leave right away."

Ouyang Duo could only stand and head outside.

Chai Hua pretended to try and make Ouyang Duo stay. "Mr. Ouyang, if you stay here for the night, you may see Mr. Nan tomorrow morning."

"It's fine. I prefer my bed and am not used to spending the night outside. I'm going. Goodbye, Mr. Chai."

"I'll see you out, Mr. Ouyang."

After exiting Commoner Residence, Ouyang Duo climbed into his car.

Feng Jialing had been waiting for him. "That was quick. What did the old man say?"

“I didn’t see him. I was told he had turned in for the night.”

“He’s asleep? Something happened to Nan Chen, and he’s still able to sleep soundly? Just how nonchalant is he? Could it be that he doesn’t know what happened to Nan Chen?”

“There’s no way he doesn’t know. Nan Chen has been uncontactable for a long time, so the news would definitely have reached them. The Nan family’s information feedback wouldn’t be this slow,” Ouyang Duo said.

“But why is Old Master Nan still able to fall asleep? Isn’t he just intentionally refusing to see you?”

“Old Master Nan is a sly old fox. I wonder what tricks he has up his sleeve. He’s been enjoying his status as a powerful figure in Flower City for such a long time; it’s natural for him to be formidable. We should be careful,” Ouyang Duo replied.

“Now that Nan Chen and Ning Ran have fallen into our hands, we don’t have to fear the Nan family anymore! We will be victorious this time!”

Feng Jialing had always been rather calm and composed, but now she was almost on the edge of her seat.

Ouyang Duo pondered for a moment before speaking up again. “You’re right. No matter how powerful Nan Zhengde is, he’s old and no longer on the board of directors. There’s nothing he can do.”

Nan Chen is trapped, Nan Zhiyuan is useless, and Nan Xing is a playboy. There is no one else left in the Nan family! We will definitely win this!

Ouyang Duo’s mood improved as he grew more confident in his victory.

“Shall we have a small celebration?” Feng Jialing suggested.

“It’s still a little too early to be celebrating. We’ll do a proper one when we acquire Nanshi Corporation. Let’s head back for now.”

Meanwhile, Chai Hua returned to the study room and saw Nan Zhengde practicing calligraphy again.

Nan Zhengde had written the word “calm” in large letters on the paper.

Calm your heart, mind, and situation.

Nan Zhengde raised his head and asked, “What do you think of my calligraphy, Chai Hua?”

"It's excellent," he answered.

"Such a flatterer. I think so, too." As soon as Nan Zhengde finished his sentence, he let out a hearty laugh.

Chai Hua was glad to see Nan Zhengde still so optimistic.

Now that his grandson was in trouble, Nan Zhengde was the only one left who could do something. Moreover, being able to do this in his old age was not easy.

"Sir, you should get some rest," urged Chai Hua.

"I can't sleep. I still feel quite anxious," Nan Zhengde said honestly.

Chai Hua nodded in acknowledgment. If it were me, I would be more anxious than this.

"How do you intend to handle this?" he asked.

"When they come to negotiate with me, I will agree to all their demands," Nan Zhengde replied.

"And what if they want Nanshi Corporation?"

"That won't happen. Nanshi Corporation is too huge for one person to acquire. They won't be able to handle it. They just want the power to control, at most. With it, they can slowly acquire Nanshi Corporation. There are countless listed companies under Nanshi Corporation. No one would be able to acquire them all in one go," Nan Zhengde stated calmly.

"So, will you be giving them the power to control?"

"Yes. I can't refuse to do so. Chen is more important than Nanshi Corporation. Protecting him is the most important thing."

"You are right, sir. Where there's life, there's hope. As long as Master Chen returns in one piece, he'll be able to get back everything he lost!"

"By the way, has there been any news?" Nan Zhengde inquired.

"Not yet. They're still investigating, but they've found the hotel Master Chen and Ning Ran had stayed at. They should be making progress soon."

"Okay." Nan Zhengde gave a slight nod.

"You should rest, Mr. Nan. If you really are unable to fall asleep, have some milk or take a sleeping pill."

Nan Zhengde conceded, "Sure, I'll just have one pill then."

Just then, Feng Wan entered the study. Nan Zhengde still had not retired to their room, so she came to take a look.

"What are you two talking about? It's late. You should get some rest."

"I'm going to bed now. Why are you still up?" Nan Zhengde asked.

"I can't sleep because I was thinking about Chen. How did someone as bright as him fall for someone's scheme?"

"Even the brightest person won't be able to escape from someone else's schemes. They set the trap long ago and were just waiting for him to fall into it. It can't be helped. But I believe he'll be able to overcome this. He will survive and return to Flower City."

What he said was to comfort Feng Wan and himself.

As Nan Chen was unreachable, no one knew if he was dead or alive. So, although he had faith in Nan Chen, he was still quite worried.

But this was precisely the time they had to remain calm.

"We should sleep for now. Hopefully, there will be good news tomorrow," Feng Wan said.

"There will definitely be good news."

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 606

Chapter 606 Very Touched

Nan Zhengde took a sleeping pill and was able to have a restful sleep. He woke up in the morning feeling refreshed.

While he was having breakfast, Chai Hua reported the new findings. "Master Chen's car has been located, but there aren't any signs of damage on it." "He's not in the car?"

"No. The local police also did not receive any report regarding this," Chai Hua replied. Nan Zhengde took a bite of his food. "Was the car parked normally?"

"Yes, it was parked on the wider part of a roadside." "How far is it from where his car was parked to where he wanted to go?" Nan Zhengde asked again.

"It's quite far; almost a hundred kilometers." "How's the traffic?"

"The road is currently undergoing repairs, so there are traffic jams occasionally. It's difficult to navigate on it." Chai Hua took out his phone and pulled up a picture that his subordinates had sent him.

In the picture, Nan Chen's car was covered in yellow dust and filthy. Nan Zhengde said nothing as he continued to have his breakfast. Chai Hua remained silent as well, for he knew that Nan Zhengde was mulling over the matter.

"Mr. Nan, do not worry too much. As Master Chen's car is fine, that must mean he is fine as well," Chai Hua comforted him in a gentle voice.

"There are a few possibilities. One is that Chen was stopped on the road and abducted. However, this is unlikely to have happened as there is traffic on the road. Kidnapping him is very risky as the chance of having someone witness it is high. Hence, they wouldn't choose this method," Nan Zhengde analyzed.

Chai Hua nodded.

"The second possibility is that Nan Chen felt that driving there was taking too long, got on another mode of transport, and was held hostage by someone."

Chai Hua piped up, "A motorcycle. The road is undergoing repairs, so it's common for jams to occur. If it's a motorcycle, it would be a lot more efficient than a regular car."

Nan Zhengde slammed the table and exclaimed, "Yes! Tell them to visit the nearby area and ask the villagers and road repair workers if Nan Chen had purchased or rented a motorcycle locally. Tell them to keep asking questions. A lead should come up."

"I've already instructed them to do so," Chai Hua said.

Nan Zhengde gave him a look of approval. As expected of the Nan family's housekeeper. Chai Hua knew exactly what to do even without instruction.

"That's great."

Nan Zhengde finished his breakfast, went for a walk, and headed to the garden for some Tai Chi.

At ten in the morning, someone came to report that Ouyang Duo had come again.

"Let him wait. I'm going to get changed," Nan Zhengde said.

He put on a traditional Tang suit and went to the living room.

Ouyang Duo rose from his seat. "Mr. Nan, how are you doing?"

"I'm doing very well. I was told that you were here when I woke up this morning. My employees must be unfamiliar with proper etiquette. They should have woken me up. Sorry to keep you waiting, Duo," Nan Zhengde replied with a smile.

"It's fine. I'm sorry for the sudden visit."

Nan Zhengde hummed in response. "Have some tea, Duo. Is there something you need from me?" he asked as he stared at Ouyang Duo.

Ouyang Duo felt a bit daunted when he locked eyes with Nan Zhengde.

In all the times he had gone up against the Nan family, Ouyang Duo had always lost. Hence, he was a little traumatized.

"I received some information, but I'm not sure if it's legitimate or not."

"Oh? What is it?"

"I have a friend in Lightspring who knows that Nan Chen is in trouble. Do you think it's true that he has fallen into someone's hands?" Ouyang Duo asked.

"It's true. Nan Chen has been unreachable for two days now. We've been looking for him but to no avail. How did your friend know about this?"

Ouyang Duo explained, "I'm not too sure how he found out. It seems like he saw Nan Chen's car. There aren't many in that small town that drive that kind of SUV. Someone managed to find out that the car belonged to Nan Chen and deduced that something had happened to him."

"In that case, can you ask your friend to do us a favor and check if Nan Chen is still alive or not?" Nan Zhengde asked calmly.

Ouyang Duo tentatively started, "I'm afraid he can't do that. He was only guessing, after all. Why don't you call the police? If the police get involved, I'm sure they can find out everything."

"We can't contact the police without endangering Nan Chen's safety. In addition, if news about Nan Chen being uncontactable spreads, the stocks will plummet, and Nanshi Corporation will descend into chaos. We can't let outsiders learn about this."

This was what Ouyang Duo had intended to say to Nan Zhengde, but Nan Zhengde beat him to it.

Hence, Ouyang Duo had nothing else to say. Everyone understood what it meant, and now it was almost time for a showdown.

Ouyang Duo pretended to ponder for a moment. "That is true. So, what do you plan on doing, Mr. Nan?"

"Do you have a suggestion, Duo?" Nan Zhengde threw the question back at him.

"Since it will still take some time before any leads come up, you should take charge in Nan Chen's stead quickly. Nanshi Corporation is such a large firm that it can't have no one at the helm."

Nan Zhengde nodded. "That makes sense. However, there is currently no one suitable in the Nan family to take over Nan Chen's position."

"Nan Xing can do it. They're brothers, after all. I think he'll be able to handle it."

"Nan Xing is not capable enough to take up such a huge responsibility."

"I think he can do it. A CEO doesn't have to do everything himself—he can just let his subordinates run things for him. You don't have to worry, Mr. Nan. Nan Xing is rather competent. But then, he's not married yet. In China, it's tradition for one to settle down before working on their career. If he becomes CEO now, I'm afraid many people will feel that he's still not mature enough. But if he gets married, things will be different. If he marries my daughter, I'll be his father-in-law. As my son-in-law, he'll definitely be qualified enough to be the CEO of Nanshi Corporation. After all, Sunshine Corporation is one of the best companies in the region."

Ouyang Duo declared his intentions.

"Nan Xing and Ouyang Qing are to be married? Right now?"

"Yes. Once they are married, we'll all be a family. The two of them are already dating, and they're bound to get married sooner or later. Since it's inevitable, we might as well get it done now. A man will become more responsible once he has a family. The board of directors will also have more faith in Nan Xing."

Nan Zhengde nodded vehemently. "I've been worrying about this. Now that you mentioned it, Duo, I think it'll work. After he gets married, you will be his backer. With someone like you to endorse him, it won't be difficult for Nan Xing to take control of the situation. It's a good idea!"

"So, are you giving your approval, Mr. Nan?"

Ouyang Duo was overjoyed. He thought that Nan Zhengde would reject him and did not expect Nan Zhengde to acquiesce so quickly.

"Of course I am. Why wouldn't I when you've thought of such a great plan, Duo? However, Nan Xing isn't in Flower City right now. I'll have to summon him back."

Ouyang Duo was even more ecstatic. "This is rather sudden, so I think the marriage ceremony can be held at a later date. We'll get them to register their marriage first, and then you can transfer the stocks you have on hand to Nan Xing, Mr. Nan. This way, Nan Xing can legitimately become the largest shareholder and take over Nanshi Corporation."

"Duo, I'm so grateful that you're being considerate of us. It's settled, then. I'll do as you have said."

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 607

Chapter 607 A Precious Gem That Might Burn

Ouyang Duo still could not believe Nan Zhengde would agree to his suggestion without hesitation.

He was still a little suspicious. I didn't think this old man would give up his ownership of Nanshi Corporation so easily. It's like he didn't even hesitate or put up a fight at all. He must have some tricks up his sleeve.

Given that Nan Zhengde had toiled in the business world for several decades, Ouyang Duo believed he would not easily let anyone step all over him. Nanshi Corporation wouldn't have achieved great success had he been a coward.

Ouyang Duo was still considerably skeptical because, so far, everything had turned out well.

He planned to get Nan Xing to marry Ouyang Qing.

Once Nan Xing obtained the shares after marrying Ouyang Qing, the shares would automatically become their matrimonial assets, provided that they did not sign any other supplementary agreements. That was Ouyang Duo's first move.

Next, he would get Nan Xing to transfer the assets to Ouyang Qing's account. Sunshine Corporation would then step in and buy out Ouyang Qing's shares at the lowest price possible. In other words, Sunshine Corporation would directly acquire Nanshi Corporation.

Should his dream come true, the Ouyangs' Sunshine Corporation would become the one and only conglomerate in the province!

He would also become the most powerful person in the region.

Nonetheless, the fact that his dream was not as far-fetched as it seemed frightened him. Or rather, he felt a tad insecure.

Despite being on the winning side, he was overwhelmed with anxiety.

Ouyang Duo was like a thief who knew he would soon get his hands on a precious gem that he had been coveting for some time but worried it might burn him or even explode.

“Why did you agree to my proposal so quickly?” Ouyang Duo asked while staring at Nan Zhengde.

He hoped to read the expression on the elderly man’s face but to no avail. Nan Zhengde was calm and did not show any changes in his emotions.

“It’s a good suggestion. And you’re right. Nanshi Corporation can’t operate without a leader. We should do as you said,” Nan Zhengde said.

“All right. When is Nan Xing returning?”

“Tomorrow,” Nan Zhengde answered steadily.

“Can he come back earlier?” Ouyang Duo wanted to end this as soon as possible, as he no longer wanted to live in fear.

“I’ll ask someone to get in touch with him. If possible, let’s get it done by tonight.”

“Sure. If that’s the case, I’ll wait for your update. I’m gonna go now.” Ouyang Duo stood up.

“Why are you in a hurry? It’s almost lunchtime. Stay and eat with us.”

“Oh, no. We can always celebrate once Nan Xing and Qing are married.”

“All right then. Chai Hua, see Mr. Ouyang out,” Nan Zhengde said.

Chai Hua walked over. “This way, Mr. Ouyang.”

Ouyang Duo waved Nan Zhengde goodbye, and the latter reciprocated.

After taking a few steps, Ouyang Duo turned around to glance at Nan Zhengde.

The elderly man still had a smile on his face, but there was a cold glint in his eyes.

Panicked, Ouyang Duo strode and left the house in haste.

Meanwhile, Feng Wan, who had been hiding in a corner the whole time and listening to them, walked out and said, “It’s really him! You’ve figured that out, haven’t you?”

“Why didn’t you nab him and force him to release Nan Chen?” Feng Wan questioned Nan Zhengde furiously.

“He must have planned this for years and have everything sorted out. We might risk putting Chen in danger had we acted on impulse,” Nan Zhengde explained.

“You’re right. But why did he want Nan Xing to marry Ouyang Qing? By doing what he has done, he’s already made an enemy out of the Nan family. Yet, he still wants to become our in-law?”

“Do you really not know what’s going on?” Nan Zhengde asked while looking at Feng Wan.

“I know what you mean. Ouyang Duo just wants to turn Nan Xing’s shares into matrimonial assets. But even if they eventually file for a divorce, he could only get half of the shares. Unless he could get Nan Xing to transfer all his shares to Ouyang Qing and lay his hands on Ouyang Qing’s shares.”

Nan Zhengde shook his head. “Nope. He can’t do that. He’ll pay for the shares.”

“Why? He could obtain those shares without paying a single cent.”

“Nanshi Corporation is a giant conglomerate. A hostile takeover will cause an uproar in the business world, and everyone in Nanshi Corporation will protest against his action. Nanshi Corporation has tens of thousands of employees all over the world. Even if he becomes the new boss, he’ll not be able to handle the situation,” Nan Zhengde explained.

He continued, “But things would turn out differently had he acquired the shares of the company. Had he followed through with the legal processes, he’ll be regarded as the legitimate boss, and people will respect him for that. In other words, acquiring the company shares is a more civilized way to cover up his unscrupulous action.”

“But what he’s really doing is robbing! He locked Nan Chen away so that he could carry out his plan. Isn’t this robbing?” Feng Wan bellowed.

“Yes, it is. That’s why he’s playing some tricks to put a gloss on his plan.”

“What should we do now?”

“We’ll listen to him. Just do as he said,” Nan Zhengde replied steadily.

“But Nanshi Corporation...”

“Keeping Nan Chen alive is more important. We can always start from scratch.” Nan Zhengde then turned to a housekeeper and asked, “Is lunch ready? I’m a little hungry.”

“The lunch will be ready soon, Mr. Nan.”

Feng Wan expressed her dismay, “What is wrong with you? We’re going through a crisis, yet you’re more worried about your lunch?”

“Food is everything. I’m not going to give up my lunch.”

Feng Wan sighed. “It’ll be an utter embarrassment if Ouyang Duo takes over Nanshi Corporation. I would be too ashamed to continue living in Flower City.”

Nan Zhengde’s lips curled into a smile. “Ouyang Duo will definitely banish us out of Flower City should that happen. He’ll force us to leave the country and live overseas. So you better be mentally prepared.”

Feng Wan began to panic. “I’m not going anywhere. Why do I have to leave the country at this age? You want me to die in another country?”

Nan Zhengde responded with a sigh. “Why do women have to relate everything to life and death? Did I say we’re not coming back?”

“I don’t care. I’m not leaving, and that’s final. Ouyang Duo can torture me to death, but I’m going nowhere!” Feng Wan roared.

“Can you calm down? We’ve gone through all kinds of tribulations over the past decades, and we’ll get through this together. But I don’t think this is going to end anytime soon. We’ll have to proceed with the marriage and get Nan Xing to take over the company,” Nan Zhengde deduced.

He continued explaining, “According to Nanshi Corporation’s regulations, the replacement of the CEO must be justified with a valid reason, and this move must obtain the board of directors’ approval. Nan Xing is an infamous playboy. Do you think the board of directors will agree to hand the company to him?”

“Besides, some directors are also eyeing that position, and they know what Ouyang Duo has in mind. Do you think they will allow him to take over Nanshi Corporation without putting up a fight? If Ouyang Duo thinks he can absorb Nanshi Corporation into his business empire by tearing the Nan family apart, he’s nothing more than a naive man who’s set to fail,” he added.

Nan Zhengde waved his hand in the air. “Oh, forget it. I don’t think you understand what I just said. Let’s have lunch!”

Feng Wan begged to differ. “Of course I understand. I understand every word. So you think Ouyang Duo will fail?”

“Not necessarily. We’ll see.”

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 608

Chapter 608 A Shrewd Proposition

Ning Ran had a dream that night. She dreamt that she was looking for something with her mother. She had no idea what they were looking for, only that she was very anxious.

It felt as though they would be in big trouble if they failed to find the unknown item, not that she knew what trouble was in store. Dreams were never known to be logical anyway. Ning Ran soon jolted awake from sheer anxiety.

She immediately saw Nan Chen's handsome face. He stared intently at her and asked, "Did you have a nightmare during the day? What was the dream about?"

"I felt as though I was looking for something, but I have no idea what," Ning Ran explained while exhaling slowly. Nan Chen replied, "Well, my body feels itchy, so I'm taking a shower."

"Guo Si only brought us medicine and towels. There's no soap or shampoo. How are you going to shower?" she asked. "There's a bar of soap there for washing clothes."

"That's not for bathing. It'll harm your skin." Nonetheless, he insisted, "Well, we can't go days without showering. I'm sure it'll be fine if we use more water to rinse ourselves off."

"Don't use the bar soap, then. Just shower with clean water and scrub a little harder; that should work. There's a wooden bucket over there with water in it," suggested Ning Ran.

Nan Chen nodded and replied, "Thanks in advance, then."

Ning Ran felt a sense of foreboding as she asked, "Why are you thanking me in advance when you're the one showering?"

"My leg's injured now. I can't move around easily. How can I bathe without your help?" retorted Nan Chen.

"But... erm..."

He added, "Might I remind you that we actually have children together? What's wrong with helping me to take a shower? I can always return the favor."

Ning Ran practically yelped in reply, "No! I can shower alone, thank you very much!"

Smirking, Nan Chen returned, "It's settled, then. You'll help me bathe. Boil some water, will you? I don't want to freeze."

The kettle in their room was so small that Ning Ran had to boil several kettlefuls of water before the water temperature in the wooden bucket was tolerable.

Nan Chen promptly took off his shirt, revealing his chiseled muscles. Then, he looked at Nan Chen and said, "Pants."

"I'm sure you can take it off yourself," Ning Ran mumbled while blushing.

"I can't, and I need your help. Why are you blushing? You have two children, woman."

The blush on her face deepened, and she stammered, "I-I... Why don't you shower at night instead? This feels a bit weird in the day."

"No one's going to come here in the day; it's safer to shower now. Stop dawdling. Come on."

Ning Ran turned her head away and tried to take off Nan Chen's belt. Her blind fumbling was futile.

Nan Chen teased, "How are you supposed to take it off if you're looking the other way? Why are you always making such silly mistakes?"

"I'm not looking at it!"

"I'll take it off myself, then."

"Hey, you don't have an arm injury. Why didn't you take off your belt in the first place?" demanded Ning Ran.

He feigned innocence and drawled, "You started working on the belt before I said anything. I only meant to tell you to wipe me down, not take off my belt. I didn't have the heart to stop you when you voluntarily helped to take off my belt."

Ning Ran sputtered, "Y-You..."

In the meantime, Nan Chen had taken off his belt and was slowly peeling his pants off his legs.

Ning Ran panicked and shrieked, "You're not seriously taking everything off, are you?"

"How else am I supposed to bathe?" he deadpanned.

"Ugh, you're shameless! I'm still standing here! Let me wipe your back first before you take anything else off!"

In truth, Nan Chen had no plans to take off all his clothes. He only wanted to tease Ning Ran a little.

Her nervous reaction amused him to no end.

Soon, Ning Ran returned to his side with a towel and began wiping him down.

Nan Chen reminded her, "Wipe a bit harder. Don't be so gentle."

"This is all the strength I can muster. I'm not some kind of professional scrubber. This is the best I can do. Take it or leave it."

"Fine, fine. Take your time."

A while later, Ning Ran asked Nan Chen curiously, "Guo Si brought you pen and paper, but I haven't seen you touch them. I assume you wanted them to write a letter?"

"Yes, I wanted to write a letter, but I eventually decided against it. Guo Si's disembarking in another couple of days, and they'll surely pat him down before allowing him to leave. I don't want to get him in trouble by asking him to smuggle a letter out for me. We can bide our time for a better opportunity to get a letter out of this place," explained Nan Chen.

Nonetheless, Ning Ran replied anxiously, "Letters take time to arrive. We might not get our message out in time if we wait any longer."

He replied calmly, "Don't worry; Nanshi Corporation is far too big. They'll need at least half a month and a very precise operation to orchestrate a takeover. We have plenty of time."

"Well, we need to send word to our families that we're here. They'll need time to arrange a rescue operation. I still think it's prudent to send out our letter as soon as possible."

Nan Chen tried to reason with her, "The Nan family's every move is being scrutinized as we speak. If they realize the Nan family has uncovered our whereabouts, they might perform some extreme counterblow. In fact, it might be a blessing in disguise that our family is clueless about where we are. Of course, I agree that the situation is urgent. However, Guo Si has been kind to us. We can't recklessly endanger him or his children, so we must plan our next steps carefully."

Suddenly, Ning Ran piped up, "I have an idea."

"What is it?"

"You're worried that Guo Si will be subjected to a body search when he disembarks. What if he voluntarily offers up the letter? They won't see a need to inspect his possessions then."

Nan Chen halted Ning Ran from wiping him down and mulled over her suggestion. He asked, "So what you're saying is we write two letters and have Guo Si surrender a copy to prove his innocence. As long as he hands over a letter, they won't suspect him or try to do a body search. Then, he can secretly send the hidden letter out."

She nodded. "Yes. That's exactly what I meant."

Nan Chen voiced another concern in his mind, "That's a great idea. It could work, but there's still another risk. People rarely send letters these days, and his best chance at getting the letter out is to go to a courier. What if someone trails Guo Si and finds out about the hidden letter? That would be dangerous to him too."

Ning Ran countered, "Guo Si has a wife. He can let his wife post the letter while she brings the children to the market or something. I'm sure they won't bother to trail his wife too."

"How are you so smart?" Nan Chen stared at her in awe.

"Excuse me; I've always been this smart. I just can't be bothered to use my brain on normal days," Ning Ran replied haughtily, even tilting her chin for good measure.

"That will surely reduce the risks, but Guo Si may not necessarily agree."

Ning Ran shared his views. "If I was in his shoes, I wouldn't risk my wife or kids for this. He probably wouldn't agree."

"I think we need to come up with a more full proof plan," said Nan Chen.

"How about asking Guo Si to find somewhere with a satellite signal and call Nan Xing?"

Nan Chen promptly shot down her suggestion. "That would never work. It's far too easy to dig out phone records. It's not too hard to bug a call, either. Calling is too risky. Only a letter would work."

Ning Ran mused out loud, "Guo Si must be doing these people's bidding for other reasons besides his family's safety. I'm sure he's getting paid for this. If he was only being threatened, how could he be in the mood to wine and dine with others before seeking us out? He must've received a reward from them. I bet he's willing to help us if we can offer him better benefits. As for the safety of his wife and children, they're quite safe as long as everything is planned carefully. Why don't we ask him straight up if he's willing to do it? He can assess the risks himself and decide. If he refuses because he thinks it's too risky, we can't force him anyway. What do you think?"

Convinced by her argument, Nan Chen replied, "You have a point. He's risking himself by locking us up here. If the police find us, he's going to be in trouble too. He's not that risk-averse. Let's ask him when he's back then."

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Chapter 609 Do You Understand

Ning Ran washed up inside the house while Nan Chen stood guard outside the door. After taking a shower, they felt a lot more relaxed and comfy.

The only problem was that they did not have a change of clothes. As such, they could only wash their clothes at night and dry them over the fire briefly. In the morning, they had to put on their clothes, which were still damp, and continue drying them using their body heat.

Although it felt rather uncomfortable, they were at least able to keep themselves clean. That was considered quite a luxury given their current circumstances.

Guo Si arrived in the afternoon and brought the couple some necessities, including toilet paper, shampoo, and soap.

He had also brought them a bag of fruits, which was perfect for Ning Ran and Nan Chen, as they needed something nutritious.

"Is your leg better? Is there anything else you need?" Guo Si asked Nan Chen.

"Recovery will take some time. Did those people ask about my situation?"

Guo Si nodded and replied, "They did. I told them that you are seriously injured, and your life was hanging by a thread. They did not want you to die so soon and asked me to think of a way to keep you alive without letting you recover completely."

"Yup. They are worried that I'll escape. But their worries are completely unfounded. The reservoir is huge. No matter how good my swimming skills are, there's no way I can get away. Besides, I'm sure their men would be guarding the shores."

Guo Si nodded and replied at once, "You're right. So please don't try to escape as that would get both of you killed."

"Oh, you haven't told us yet. How much did they pay you?" Ning Ran asked.

An awkward expression appeared on Guo Si's face before he replied, "Let's not talk about this. It's true that I've taken their money, but it's not much. Besides, I didn't make things difficult for you guys. So I hope that you guys will do the same for me. They threatened to hurt my wife and kids if I don't do as they say. I don't have a choice."

“We won’t cause you trouble, but we need your help to pass a message to my family and let them know that I’m here. Tell them I’m safe and not to worry.”

As expected, Guo Si gave a dismissive wave at once and exclaimed, “That’s not possible! They would conduct a thorough body search on me every time I get on shore!”

“I’ll prepare two letters. If you hand over one of the letters to them voluntarily, it’s likely that they wouldn’t find you suspicious and won’t pat you down. After that, you can think of a way to deliver the other letter. As for the means, I’ll leave it to you. You can either get your relative or your wife to do it. As long as you manage to deliver my letter, I’ll reward you handsomely. If I’m right, those people must have given you a few thousand, is that so? Is it three thousand or five thousand?” Nan Chen asked.

“Three thousand six hundred,” Guo Si answered honestly, to Nan Chen’s surprise.

“I’ll give you fifty thousand. I’ll write your bank account number in the letter. As soon as my family receives your letter, fifty thousand will be deposited into your account. We are in your hands now. If you fail to receive the money, it’s easy for you to make things difficult for us, such as not giving us food and starving us to death. As such, you don’t have to worry about me lying to you, right?”

After a moment of contemplation, Guo Si felt that what the man said made sense.

Fifty thousand was a rather huge sum of money to him.

“No, I want one hundred thousand. You are obviously from a wealthy family. I’m sure a hundred thousand means nothing to you!” Guo Si demanded.

That was exactly what Nan Chen wanted to hear.

He was hoping to make use of Guo Si’s greed to get him to do things that he would not do under normal circumstances. That was just human nature.

Of course, one hundred thousand was nothing to Nan Chen.

“Sure, I’ll give you one hundred thousand, but you have to be careful not to expose yourself. I won’t be responsible for anything that happens to your family if you slip up.”

“Don’t worry. I already have a plan in mind. My wife often sells fish at the market. They are not going to suspect her.”

Sure, it’s settled then.”

Meanwhile, at Livingsfill’s Mountview Inn, Nan Xing was lying on a chair under a tree in the courtyard.

He was certain that something bad had happened to Nan Chen. However, Nan Zhengde had explicitly disallowed him to head to Lightspring to look for Nan Chen and instead asked him to stay in Livingfill to look after the two little ones.

As such, he did not even dare to step out of the inn. In fact, after they started staying there, the inn stopped accepting other guests, and there were bodyguards standing outside the inn round-the-clock.

After losing contact with his brother, Nan Xing had not slept well. He was always having nightmares, in which he saw Nan Chen's face covered in blood. After jolting awake from those dreams, he would always have difficulty going back to sleep.

Nan Xing wanted to go to Lightspring and look for Nan Chen, but he could not disobey his grandfather.

He was also worried that something bad would happen to the two kids in his absence. If that happened, he would never be able to forgive himself.

Just then, Qiao Zhan walked over. "Mr. Xing, you have a call from Old Master."

Nan Xing took over the phone and said, "Grandpa, any news on Chen?"

"Not yet. We are still investigating. I've booked flight tickets for you. You have to come back immediately."

"Huh? Didn't you ask me to stay here and protect the kids? If you don't need me here, I'm going to Lightspring to look for Chen. He's been unreachable..."

"I've already sent some men over to look for him. Let's talk when you get back." Nan Zhengde hung up after saying that.

Nan Xing trusted the decisions made by his grandfather. He knew that the man must have his reasons for wanting him back home.

"Qiao Zhan, I'm returning to Flower City. Please take care of the kids. You must not let anything happen to them!" Nan Xing instructed.

"Don't worry, Mr. Xing. I will protect Little Master and Little Miss with my life!"

"You don't have to sacrifice your life. Just make sure you keep the kids and yourself safe. I understand that it's tougher on the men during this period of time, but please ensure that there's someone guarding the children's room at any time," Nan Xing said before patting Qiao Zhan's shoulder lightly.

"Don't worry. I will definitely do that."

When Nan Xing entered the children's room, he saw Dabao standing on a chair while looking out of the window. Erbao was standing next to her brother and had a gloomy expression on her face.

Nan Xing could feel his heart aching. As they were extremely smart children, they must have already guessed that something bad had happened to their parents.

"Dabao, I have to make a trip back to Flower City. You must take good care of your sister when I'm not around. I'll be back soon."

Dabao was even more nervous when he heard that. "Is there any news on Daddy? How's Daddy now? Why are you not bringing us back with you?"

"He's all right. He's really fine. What happened was that a stretch of the ground had collapsed due to roadworks, which resulted in vehicles not being able to pass through. As such, your daddy and mommy are trapped there. But don't worry, the situation will be resolved very soon."

Nan Xing had no choice but to lie as he did not want the kids to keep worrying.

"But why wouldn't Daddy and Mommy pick up our calls? They promised to video call us every night," Dabao asked at once.

"There is no reception in the countryside. Unlike the city, in most countryside areas, the mobile phone signal can be quite weak. As such, it can be difficult to make calls," Nan Xing made up a reason on the spot.

"Uncle Xing, you're lying. Daddy can go somewhere with a reception and call us. It's impossible for the entire place to not have any reception!" Erbao found Nan Xing's reply rather incoherent as well.

"Exactly! What happened to Daddy and Mommy? What are you hiding from us? Also, Uncle Xing, why are you going back to Flower City now? Did Great-Grandpa ask you to go back? If nothing happened, you would definitely stay here with us instead of returning alone!"

Dabao had logical reasoning, and Nan Xing was barely able to handle the boy's barrage of questions.

"It's true that your daddy and mommy are currently trapped. However, repair works are already ongoing, and they will be able to come back once the roads are fixed. Only Great-Grandpa and Great-Grandma are at home right now, and there's a lot of work to settle at the company. Great-Grandpa and Great-Grandma are already so old, so they can't handle everything themselves. That's why they need me to go back and help them. Do you understand now?"

Dabao accepted his uncle's explanation after thinking about it for a while.

"But when will Daddy and Mommy be back?" Dabao questioned further.

"Three days. They will definitely be back within three days." Nan Xing had no choice but to say something to pacify the children first.

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Chapter 610 Not Clear Enough

At seven in the evening, Nan Xing rushed back to Flower City. Nan Zhengde was still practicing calligraphy in the study room. Knowing that Nan Xing had many questions to ask, he waved his hand and said, "Shower and change first. We'll talk when we're eating."

"Let's talk first," Nan Xing blurted out. "Go ahead and let me finish writing this. Hush now." Nan Zhengde waved dismissively once again.

Left without a choice, Nan Xing slinked away to shower and change. By the time he was done, Nan Zhengde and Feng Wan were already waiting for him in the dining room.

There were no servants by their side, for everyone else had been summoned to the west wing. Thus, only the three members of the Nan family were in the dining room.

"Don't panic and eat first. Only after eating will you have the energy to do anything," Nan Zhengde pointed out.

"All right, Grandpa, just spill it. How am I supposed to have any appetite if you don't tell me anything? Is there news about my brother yet?"

"Trust me. Your brother's fine. He really is. Dig in now."

Upon hearing that Nan Chen was fine, Nan Xing found himself a little more relaxed. Then, his hunger began to make itself known.

After that, Nan Zhengde told Nan Xing what Ouyang Duo had said at the Nan residence.

Nan Xing lost his temper right as he heard Nan Zhengde's words, and he threw his chopsticks on the ground. "So it's that old prick Ouyang Duo who set my brother up!"

"I've got to remind you something. Although things have mostly been made clear, we still don't have evidence to prove that he's involved in your brother's disappearance, so you can't do anything rash. If you do anything impulsive, you might end up killing Nan Chen," Nan Zhengde told Nan Xing.

“Who else could it be but him?” Nan Xing snarled.

“It’s possible that he has allied himself with someone else. Even if he’s the one behind this, you can’t get the cops to arrest him without any evidence. Moreover, he has never admitted that he was involved in this incident. Ouyang Duo isn’t an easy man to deal with. He still has Nan Chen in his hands, so we have to heed his words as of now,” Nan Zhengde emphasized.

“So I have to marry Ouyang Qing? I’d rather be single for the rest of my life than marry her!” Nan Xing roared.

“Foolish boy. Do you really think that Ouyang Duo wants you to spend the rest of your life with Ouyang Qing too? Unless you submit to him completely, or he’s going to get his daughter to get a divorce from you the moment he takes over Nanshi Corporation. You’re just a tool to him right now. This is only a procedure; you’re only registering for a marriage certificate with her, so just go with him tomorrow,” Nan Zhengde said.

“I refuse to play along with the Ouyang family even if it’s just for the show!” Nan Xing gritted out stubbornly.

Immediately, Nan Zhengde snapped, “Are you telling me you don’t care if Nan Chen dies?”

“Of course not! How can I—”

“Then you will listen to me! You’re a man. What loss will you suffer even if you pretend to marry Ouyang Qing? Even if you really do get a divorce from her in the future, you still won’t have any problems marrying another woman. On the other hand, Ouyang Qing, a woman, will be condemned for marrying twice, so what are you afraid of?”

“I’m not happy with it! I don’t want to do this! Grandpa, why do we Nans have to let someone else trample on us?”

“This is a plan they’ve plotted for a long while, and we’ve stepped right into the trap. Since we’re in it now, we’ll have to do everything we can to ensure that Nan Chen’s safe. We’ll have to plan things carefully. If you’re the one trapped right now, and if Ouyang Duo had requested Nan Chen to marry his daughter, Nan Chen would have done it in a heartbeat. Do you understand?” Nan Zhengde slowly uttered.

“Nan Xing, why are you so insensible at a time like this? Has your grandpa not explained the situation clearly enough? Only by agreeing to their conditions will we be able to resolve the current crisis. It’s the only way to keep Nan Chen safe. Why won’t you listen?” Feng Wan cried out, anxious about Nan Xing’s reaction.

Nan Xing did not speak, but he gradually calmed down.

“You’ve always hidden behind your brother’s back. Your brother has always been the one to bear all the pressure alone. He has always protected you with utmost care. Now that Nan Chen is in danger, it’s time for you, a member of the Nan family, to take on this responsibility to make sure that your brother is safe. Am I right?”

Nan Xing finally nodded. “I got it, Grandpa. I’ll go with Ouyang Qing to register our marriage tomorrow.”

Nan Zhengde inclined his head. “Good. You have to agree to everything the Ouyang family says. Remember to keep your cool. This is only temporary.”

“But they’ve requested you to transfer all of the shares to me before transferring the shares to them. Won’t they have control of Nanshi Corporation then? Will we still be able to take the company back if that’s the case? This is all my fault. I’m too weak to do anything. If my brother was here, he’d surely have a way around this instead of heeding everything Ouyang Duo says...” Nan Xing muttered as he hammered his head in distress.

Nan Zhengde’s tone turned cold as he said, “Are you looking down on me? Do you think I’ve lost the ability to protect Nanshi Corporation just because I’ve grown old? Do you think I can only listen to Ouyang Duo now?”

“That isn’t what I mean. I just...”

“Don’t worry. I’m old, but I haven’t lost my mind. Just do as I say.”

“Okay. I trust you, Grandpa.” Nan Xing bobbed his head.

Nevertheless, Nan Xing did not have a good night’s sleep.

The next morning, right as Nan Xing woke up, Ouyang Duo came with his daughter.

They were there to pick Nan Xing up for the marriage registration. Afraid that an issue might crop up if they took things slowly, the Ouyang family was quickening the pace of their plan to acquire Nanshi Corporation.

In the past, Nan Xing found Ouyang Qing a relatively pretty woman. However, when they came to pick him up for the marriage registration, he found her as disgusting as a worm.

“Nan Xing, did you come back last night?” Ouyang Qing asked.

However, Nan Xing did not bother lifting his head to answer her question.

At his ignorance, Ouyang Qing almost rolled her eyes in contempt. What are you pretending to be high and mighty for? Your brother's fate is in our hands, so what's with your attitude?

Right then, Nan Zhengde emerged from his room. "You're early."

"Mr. Nan, I've consulted a geomancy expert, and they've told me that today's morning is the best time for the marriage registration. That's why I've come to pick Nan Xing up to bring him and my daughter to register their marriage. A good day and a good time will spell good fortune for us all," Ouyang Duo said with a smile.

"All right. The date you've picked will certainly be a good day. Nan Xing, hurry up and get changed so that you can head out with Qing to get this done. From now onward, we'll be a family," Nan Zhengde uttered.

"I've checked the lunisolar calendar this morning, and they clearly said that today is not a good day for any major events. Aren't you afraid of bringing disaster to the family if we were to register our marriage today?" Nan Xing coldly responded.

Instantly, Ouyang Duo's expression darkened. "Nan Xing, you shouldn't say that. I've consulted a specialist on this. Today is truly an auspicious day. It'll only be an unfortunate day if you keep up with that attitude of yours."

The threat in his words was obvious—if Nan Xing did not go along with his plan, Nan Chen would be doomed.

Nan Xing was no fool, so he heard the underlying threat.

Hence, he had no choice but to fume in silence.

"Mr. Ouyang, I was just joking with you. I'll get changed right away," Nan Xing said upon forcing a smile onto his face.

"That's more like it. Nan Xing, the Ouyang family is a prestigious family as well. It's a good deal for you to become the son-in-law of our family, you know?"

A good deal for me? You're about to snatch Nanshi Corporation from us! What are you talking about?

Then, Ouyang Qing chimed in, "Nan Xing, we're going to take wedding photos later, so do remember to wear something formal."

Shortly after that, Nan Xing re-emerged from his room.

Indeed, he was dressed in formal wear—a black shirt and a pair of black pants. One might mistake him for Nan Chen at first glance.

