

Read Novel My Wife Is A Superstar Chapter 611

Chapter 611 Publicize

"We're getting married today, not attending a funeral. Why are you dressed up like this?" Ouyang Qing was ticked off when she saw Nan Xing's outfit.

"This is what my brother usually wears," Nan Xing replied. "Why are you wearing Nan Chen's clothes? What is wrong with you?"

"You like my brother, but he doesn't feel the same way about you, and that's why you settled for me. So, I chose to wear my brother's clothes to please you." A bitter expression appeared on Nan Xing's face.

That made Ouyang Qing feel humiliated. Her pretty face paled with anger as she spat, "Nan Xing, you b*stard! If you say something like that again, my dad won't forgive you!"

"Nan Xing, you're the one marrying my daughter, not Nan Chen. What do you mean by saying this?" Ouyang Duo's expression turned grim.

"So you got a problem with it too, Mr. Ouyang. I wore my brother's clothes simply because I wanted to please Ouyang Qing. I didn't expect to upset both of you. In that case, I'll go and change right now." Nan Xing promptly left to put on another outfit.

Soon, he returned, wearing a plaid shirt with a big red sweater and a pair of light gray slacks.

He was a handsome man. Therefore, he'd appear dazzling no matter what he wore. The red sweater complemented well with his fair skin and further accentuated his charm.

However, Ouyang Qing was still dissatisfied with him. "Can't you wear something more formal? You're getting married here. Why are you dressed in a casual outfit?"

"Then what exactly do I need to wear before you're content with my appearance? How about you just follow me to the wardrobe and pick an outfit for me?" Frustration rose in Nan Xing's tone.

"What's with your attitude? Are you unhappy now?"

"Should I be happy?"

"All right, that's enough. Stop arguing about what to wear. It's not that important anyway. Let's go and apply for the certificate now," Ouyang Duo interjected.

The most important thing to him was getting the share.

“He clearly isn’t taking this seriously, Dad,” said Ouyang Qing in exasperation.

“That’s enough. He thinks he looks charming in that, so let him be. Let’s go.”

Once they stepped out of Commoner Residence, they saw around eight cars parked at the entrance.

“I won’t be going with you two to apply for the certificate. Get along with each other, okay? No arguments or fights. Once it’s done, call me,” Ouyang Duo instructed before entering one of the cars.

Ouyang Qing and Nan Xing both rode in another car together.

Once Nan Xing was inside the vehicle, he leaned back on the seat and closed his eyes.

“Why are you putting on that sour face again? You don’t look like someone who’s on the way to getting married,” Ouyang Qing commented in annoyance.

“Then what kind of expression do you think I should put on so I’ll look like I’m getting married?”

“I’m about to become your wife! Do you think this is how you should treat me?”

“Then how should I treat you?”

Ouyang Qing realized she couldn’t get along with Nan Xing at all. Whenever they conversed with each other, it would just escalate into a fight. There was no way they could communicate peacefully with one another.

“You should know your place, Nan Xing. Treating me badly won’t do you any good,” she warned.

“I do know my place. Your family harmed my brother, so now I’m forced to marry you. How shameless!” Nan Xing replied.

“Who are you calling shameless?”

“You, of course! Do you think I’m calling myself that?”

Ouyang Qing turned sideways and attempted to slap Nan Xing’s face.

However, the space within the car was cramped, so it wasn’t easy for her to perform that act. By the time she turned, he had already caught her hand.

“Don’t you dare cross the line, Ouyang Qing! Just because your family is controlling my brother doesn’t mean you get to do whatever you want!” he barked.

“Our marriage has nothing to do with your brother! Stop spewing nonsense like that! Also, let me warn you again. You better treat me nicely. Otherwise, you’ll suffer consequences you cannot bear!”

Nan Xing fell silent.

His grandfather warned him many times before not to provoke members of the Ouyang family when it still wasn’t the right time yet.

For the sake of Nan Chen’s safety, he had to bear with it.

When they arrived at their destination, they saw plenty of cars parked at the entrance with a huge crowd gathered there even though it was still early in the morning.

Those people were all reporters with cameras and microphones in hand, waiting for Ouyang Qing and Nan Xing to arrive.

“My dad told you not to talk nonsense in front of those reporters and only say what you should say. Consider the consequences of saying things that you shouldn’t,” Ouyang Qing reminded again.

Nan Xing remained silent.

When the duo stepped out of the vehicle, the reporters surrounded them immediately.

“We received news that you’ll be here to apply for a marriage certificate with your partner today, Ms. Ouyang. Is that true?” The reporters were clearly planted there by the Ouyang family.

“Thank you all for coming here so early today, dear reporters. Nan Xing and I are indeed here to apply for our marriage certificate,” Ouyang Qing answered.

The reporters cheered, “Congratulations!”

Nan Xing continued wearing a grimace on his face. It wasn’t until Ouyang Qing subtly nudged him that he forced out a smile.

“Why the sudden decision, Ms. Ouyang?” a reporter asked.

“It’s not, actually. Nan Xing had been asking for my hand in marriage for a while now. I’ve been considering if I should accept his proposal. After my father encouraged me, I made up my mind and decided to marry this man who had been after my heart for a long time,” Ouyang Qing responded with a bashful expression.

Another question came from one of the reporters. “How did you move Ms. Ouyang to the point that she agreed to marry you, Mr. Xing?”

The reporters then aimed all their cameras in Nan Xing's direction, waiting for his answer.

The man felt aggrieved even though it wasn't his first time dealing with reporters. In the past, he would put on a gleeful grin while answering their questions. However, at that moment, he couldn't for the life of him plaster a smile on his face.

He tried his best to force out a smile, but he still couldn't.

Ouyang Qing gave Nan Xing a meaningful stare, telling him non-verbally that he must say something.

Reluctantly, he said curtly, "Thank you, everyone."

"You didn't tell us how you moved Ms. Ouyang to the point that she agreed to marry you, Mr. Xing," asked one of the reporters, relentlessly pestering the man.

"I think she decided to marry me because my dazzling mug made her fall for me." Left with no choice, Nan Xing could only crack a half-hearted joke that wasn't even funny.

Still, the reporters played along and chuckled.

Ouyang Qing flashed a bright smile. "See, he's already starting to bully me. That's not what he said during the proposal."

"What did he say, then?" a reporter wondered.

"He said he'll love me and treat me as a princess forever."

"Is this how you tricked Ms. Ouyang into marrying you, Mr. Xing?" questioned one of the reporters.

At that point, Nan Xing was sick of putting up a show. He didn't want to face the cameras in such a wimpy manner.

"Let's apply for the certificate first and talk later," he said, making no effort to hide the impatience in his tone.

However, Ouyang Qing wasn't done yet. She wanted more pictures of her and Nan Xing to be taken. Since so many reporters were arranged to be there, she figured they should take full advantage of the situation.

Thus, she held Nan Xing's arm, seemingly displaying their intimacy and affection in public, but it was just to prevent him from leaving that quickly.

We still haven't answered all the questions the reporters had prepared beforehand! How can we leave just like that? We must utilize this opportunity to publicize our marriage to the fullest.

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Chapter 612 Relying On Cuteness

Nan Xing was forced to stay where he was. To make matters worse, he couldn't shove Ouyang Qing away right in front of the reporters.

"Ms. Ouyang, the public thinks your marriage with Mr. Xing is a marriage of convenience. Will there be more collaborations between Nanshi Corporation and Sunshine Corporation in the future after your wedding?" a reporter questioned.

That question was clearly prepared beforehand. Ouyang Qing must provide coherent answers to such important questions.

"Of course. Our marriage will no doubt promote more collaboration between the Ouyang family and Nanshi Corporation. Actually, our families have always been working closely together. It's just that the collaborations will be more expansive and in-depth henceforth." Ouyang Qing beamed in front of the cameras.

Another reporter asked an even more pivotal question. "Will the Ouyang family consider investing in Nanshi Corporation?"

"You'll have to ask my dad that question. After all, he's the patriarch of the Ouyang family. However, I think he will, because if he does, it's a win-win situation."

That was an exceptionally crucial question to answer because that would foreshadow the Ouyang family's subsequent actions in the near future.

The plan was to let the media spread the news so that Nanshi Corporation's shareholders and high-ranking officials would be prepared for what was to come.

That way, when the Ouyang family enacted their plan, it wouldn't come off as being too abrupt and would instead appear natural.

"What do you think about it, Mr. Xing? Do you share the same sentiment?" a reporter asked.

Nan Xing plastered a smile on his face. "You all know I'm a free man. I don't care about Nanshi Corporation's businesses. Besides, there are many more interesting things for me to do now that I'm newly wedded. Why would I want to think about work now? I don't have time!"

That joke was a lot funnier than the last and even implied a dirty context, so it got a laugh from the reporters.

With all the important questions answered, it was almost time to apply for the marriage certificate. Worried that Nan Xing would spout even more inappropriate remarks should the conversation continue, Ouyang Qing waved at the reporters before pulling the man into the building.

Meanwhile, in Livingfill, Dabao and Erbao were sunbathing in Mountview Inn's courtyard.

Erbao was feeling much better as she kept running around the courtyard, occasionally disturbing her older brother, who was reading a book.

"Can you get some rest, Erbao? Don't tire yourself out," Cheng Xiangyun said.

Ever since losing contact with Ning Ran and the others, Cheng Xiangyun's identity had changed from Ning Ran's assistant to Erbao's assistant.

Since Erbao was a girl, it was inconvenient for Qiao Zhan and the other bodyguards to take care of her. Thus, that responsibility naturally fell on Cheng Xiangyun's shoulders.

The job exhausted her. Whenever Erbao was under the weather, the woman would get very worried. It was tiring for her to constantly keep an eye on the little girl's condition and take her body temperature from time to time.

However, the mischievous girl could never stay still when she was feeling better and would constantly be up to something.

Left without a choice, Cheng Xiangyun would have to keep watch of the girl to ensure she did not get herself into trouble.

After a few days of repeating the same actions, Cheng Xiangyun finally understood why babysitters had very high wages, for the job was anything but easy.

After Nan Xing promised that Nan Chen and the others would return in three days, Dabao and Erbao became more at ease. They were able to eat and sleep better.

However, the children being in good spirits meant it was harder for Cheng Xiangyun to do her job and keep them under control.

"I'm bored, Aunt Xiang. How about we go and play outside?" Erbao suggested.

"No, we can only stay in the inn. We can't go anywhere else," said Cheng Xiangyun, turning her down.

“Why not? The weather’s warm right now. It’s such a pity if we don’t play outside!” Erbao exclaimed.

“Aren’t you playing right now? The courtyard’s pretty big. Isn’t that enough for you?”

“It’s not enough! I want to have fun outside! I want to watch a movie and eat tasty food!” Er Bao hugged Cheng Xiangyun’s leg and kept shaking it.

The girl’s ability to pester people was out of this world. She wouldn’t stop until she got what she wanted.

The key to her strategy was that she was reasonable. Instead of crying or throwing a tantrum, she just relied on her cuteness to get her way.

Cheng Xiangyun, who was almost worn down by Erbao’s pleas, hoped she could bring the girl outdoors as well.

However, she knew they shouldn’t act as they pleased for the time being since it was currently a crucial period.

While she had no idea what happened to the Nan family, she knew for a fact that the matter wasn’t child’s play.

Due to that reason, she mustn’t allow anything to happen to the children. Otherwise, it would only add fuel to the fire.

Moreover, even if she agreed to Erbao’s request, the stubborn Qiao Zhan would never allow it.

“Let’s have fun outside, Aunt Xiang. Pretty please?” Erbao pleaded with her adorable voice.

Cheng Xiangyun couldn’t take it anymore, so she came up with an idea. “How about this? You go and ask Uncle Qiao. If he says okay, I’ll take you outside to have fun. If he doesn’t, then there’s nothing I can do.”

Of course, she knew there was no way Qiao Zhan would agree to it. She just wanted to pass the buck to the man for a change.

“Uncle Qiao...” Erbao drawled as she approached the inn’s entrance.

Qiao Zhan spent most of his time at the entrance, vigilantly observing the situation outside.

“Don’t call me that.” Qiao Zhan frowned.

He wasn't that much older compared to Nan Chen and was only a year or two older than the latter at most. Being called that made him feel somewhat old.

In response, Erbao changed the way she addressed him. "Ah Qiao."

"Okay, that sounds even worse. Just stick to calling me uncle, then," Qiao Zhan said quickly.

"Please let us play outside! It's too boring to stay here all day. I feel like I'm going crazy!" complained Erbao.

"Please just bear with it a little longer, Little Miss. You really can't go out right now!" He dared not agree to her request.

It was a critical period, after all. There was no way he could bear the consequences if something happened to the girl after he gave the okay.

"Uncle Qiao, Ah Qiao, Mr. Qiao..." Erbao begged.

"Please don't stop pestering me, Little Miss. I really can't allow you to leave. No matter what you call me, I won't agree to your request," said Qiao Zhan with determination.

Sighing, Erbao turned to walk away with resignation.

It was then they heard knocks on the inn's door.

The knocks were accompanied by the eager voice of a child. "Open the door! Open the door! Open the door!"

Judging by how she repeated the same thing three times in a row, the child seemed to be an impatient person.

When Erbao heard the juvenile voice, she instantly got excited as she really wanted a playmate.

It would be great if it's another kid! We would get to have so much fun together!

"Someone's asking you to open the door, Uncle Qiao," she said.

"Come over here and bring Little Miss away, Cheng Xiangyun! Don't let her stand at the side of the door! Are you even doing your job?" Cheng Xiangyun yelled.

"What are you shouting for? She was the one who wanted to go to you. It's not like I can keep her by my side for the whole day." Cheng Xiangyun was ticked off by how the man called her by her full name.

“There’s a kid outside, Uncle Qiao. I want to see her!” Erbao, however, refused to leave.

That didn’t dissuade Qiao Zhan from being cautious. “The situation is complicated right now, Little Miss. We don’t know what’s going on outside, so please leave for now.”

“No!” said Erbao wilfully.

Staring at Cheng Xiangyun, Qiao Zhan ordered, “Why are you still standing there? Take Little Miss away now!”

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Chapter 613 Another Monster

With no other choice, Cheng Xiangyun complied and took Erbao away. Alas, Erbao wasn’t cooperative. She clearly heard a child’s voice coming from outside, so she was adamant about taking a look at the child.

Kicking her stumpy legs, she protested, “Let me go, Aunt Xiang! There’s a kid outside! It’s not a bad guy!”

Cheng Xiangyun also thought Qiao Zhan was overreacting as she was pretty certain the voice belonged to a child and that there was no need for them to be so nervous.

Therefore, after she brought Erbao away from the entrance, she stopped some distance away, intending to see who the visitor was.

Of course, Qiao Zhan wasn’t scared of a child. He was simply worried someone had used a kid to trick them into opening the door before launching an ambush.

After opening the door, they could see that it was indeed a child standing outside, and a pretty little girl at that.

The girl seemed to be around Erbao’s age. She had fair skin, and a tiny mouth. Her hair was woven into two short braids, and her eyes glimmered like black gemstones.

For a second, Qiao Zhan thought she looked similar to Erbao.

After the door was opened, the girl glared at Qiao Zhan. “Why did it take you so long to open the door?”

Before he could answer, she stepped right into the inn.

Quickly, the man grabbed her. “What are you doing, kid?”

The girl glared at him with disdain. "Don't touch me. You're a man. How can you touch a girl as you please? How shameless!"

Qiao Zhan stilled for a moment before immediately letting go of the girl's hand. "Please don't say that. I didn't do it on purpose."

"You clearly did. Who are you? Why are you so big?" The girl continued fixing her gaze on Qiao Zhan.

The man wasn't sure how he should react. "I'm an adult, so of course I'm big. Who are you? You can't come inside here. Go play somewhere else."

Loudly, the girl claimed, "How about you go play somewhere else instead? This is my home! I'm the second princess here."

"Second princess?" He was somewhat befuddled.

"You're the guest staying at my family's establishment, right? My mom is the queen here, so what would I be if not the second princess? Let me go! I want to go inside!"

Queen? Princess?

Qiao Zhan was utterly confounded by the royal terms she was using.

"I think I get it now, Uncle Qiao Zhan. Her mommy is the owner of the inn. This is her home," Erbao explained.

Her soft voice drew the girl's attention.

The girl, who was an extrovert, promptly greeted Erbao, "Hi, how are you? Are you staying here?"

Erbao was ecstatic because the girl was around her age and looked pretty. Looks like I've found my soulmate!

Thus, she struggled to break free from Cheng Xiangyun's grasp so that she could go over and greet the girl.

Cheng Xiangyun didn't think a child would pose any danger to Erbao, so she let go of the little girl, allowing her to socialize.

The two children speedily approached each other before stopping when they were one meter away from one another. As they curiously studied their counterpart, they realized that their appearances were quite similar.

"I'm Ning Sihan... Oh, no, Nan Sihan. What's your name?" Erbao asked.

The girl was perplexed. "How can you get your own name wrong?"

"I didn't get it wrong. I was called Ning Sihan, but then my name changed to Nan Sihan," explained Erbao with a serious tone.

"Why change the name? Is it because your new name sounds better?" questioned the girl, furrowing her brows.

"I don't know why, but Daddy was the one who changed it. I think both my names sound pretty nice."

"Ah, I see. I'm Lu Yunxue. This building, Mountview Inn, takes after my name. My mommy's the owner of this establishment!" the girl informed proudly.

Both Cheng Xiangyun and Qiao Zhan heard the girls' exchange clearly.

They knew the inn's owner was a woman and that she hadn't been around because she was on a trip.

The entire building was currently rented to Qiao Zhan and company. A few staff members would stop by to clean the place every day. Usually, the establishment wasn't open to other guests.

To their surprise, the owner's daughter, the self-proclaimed second princess, came to visit that day.

"Can we play together in the future?" Erbao asked gleefully.

Joyfully, Lu Yunxue replied, "Of course! I have lots of toys that I can share with you!"

"Yay!"

Cheng Xiangyun approached Lu Yunxue. "Where did you come from, kid? Where are your parents?"

"Are you referring to my mommy? I got separated from them at the airport, so I hailed a car and came back here by myself. They should be here soon." Lu Yunxue put on an unbothered mien.

"You were separated from your mother? She must be anxious right now. I bet she's looking for you everywhere. You should give her a call," suggested Cheng Xiangyun.

"It's fine. My mommy won't get worried because I get lost all the time. When that happens, I always come back here to wait for them. You don't have to worry."

“You get lost all the time?” Cheng Xiangyun was shocked. Looks like this girl is yet another little monster!

“Yeah, I love wandering around. If I get lost, my mommy won’t need to find me because I know my way back home.” The girl looked pleased with herself.

“Aren’t you afraid of running into bad people when hailing for a taxi?”

“There are no bad guys in a police car. It’s fine.”

Lu Yunxue’s reply shocked Cheng Xiangyun even more. So she was talking about a police car? She really is a little devil. I’m honestly amazed that she would just ask the cops to send her back home after getting lost.

“Wait. That doesn’t seem right. The police officer should’ve made sure you were with your parents before they leave.”

“They don’t have to. They know who I am and that I live here, so it’s fine.”

Cheng Xiangyun was impressed. I can’t believe this girl’s treating a police car like her own private vehicle. Not to mention the officers have gotten familiar with her!

Dabao was reading a book when he heard the commotion and decided to check out what was going on.

The moment he noticed the girl resembled his sister, he instantly took a liking to her.

“Wow, you two look so similar to each other! Twins, right? That’s so sad.” Lu Yunxue laughed, clapping.

“Why’s that?” Her comment confused Dabao.

“Even though you two look similar, one of you is a boy, and the other a girl, meaning you two can’t wear matching clothes!”

Everyone was once again befuddled. Why is it sad to not be able to wear matching clothes? She has such a low standard of considering something to be sad. According to her logic, most people around the globe are pathetic.

Dabao couldn’t comprehend her logic, but he didn’t like getting involved in arguments, so he kept quiet.

Right then, someone knocked on the door. Lu Yunxue promptly pointed at the entrance. “My mommy’s back!”

Thus, Qiao Zhan opened the door and saw a beauty outside.

She had a round face, shoulder-length hair, elegant facial features, a gentle temperament, and an exquisite figure.

Next to her was a girl who was just as charming.

Her appearance was almost identical to Lu Yunxue. She was even clad in the same outfit as the other girl, though her hairstyle was different.

Most importantly, their temperament was contrasting.

Lu Yunxue was an extrovert and a social butterfly who began running her mouth as soon as she stepped in.

The girl at the entrance, on the other hand, was quiet and reserved despite looking exactly like Lu Yunxue.

Not only did she remain completely silent, but she also wore an icy expression.

Qiao Zhan met plenty of aloof people before. For example, Nan Chen was a typical cold and distant person.

However, that was the first time Qiao Zhan saw such a young child displaying a frosty expression.

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Chapter 614 Too Stiff

It was hard to imagine a four or five-year-old child having such a cold temperament. Qiao Zhan couldn't help but wonder if someone had irked her by eating her ice cream or something.

"Hello. You are?" he asked, preventing the pretty woman from entering. The beauty replied, "I'm Lu Jingyuan, the owner of the inn."

That's the name of the inn's owner, all right. However, Qiao Zhan still refused her entry. "Sorry, you can't come in." "Why not?"

"When we rented the building, we made it clear that no one is allowed to enter, not even you. You may be the owner of the inn, but before our time here is up, you can't stay here. It's written clearly in our contract. Feel free to take a look at it again to refresh your memory."

"Is there really a clause like that on the contract? A staff member showed it to me back then, but I didn't pay attention," responded the woman.

“Yes,” Qiao Zhan replied firmly.

“Very well.” The woman promptly turned around and left.

Her reaction confused Qiao Zhan. “Wait. Just like that? You’re leaving?”

She turned her head back. “Didn’t you say you won’t let me in?”

“Oh, uh, there’s a girl here saying she’s your daughter.”

“Yes.”

“You’re not taking her with you?”

“Where is she?”

When Qiao Zhan twirled around, he noticed that the girl from before was already gone. “She was still here just a moment ago.”

“Is she a nuisance? If not, just leave her be. She’ll find her way back home herself. We’ll be staying nearby.” The woman wheeled around to leave right after finishing her sentence.

Qiao Zhan was still in a state of befuddlement. This family is odd. Her daughter’s wandering around, but she’s acting as though it’s not a big deal and even claimed that her daughter will find her way home.

Unable to resist his curiosity, he asked, “Aren’t you concerned we might be bad people and that we might kidnap her?”

“You won’t be able to do that. Also, don’t give her food. She won’t want to go home if she’s full and will continue to disturb you all.” After that, she glanced at her other daughter and left.

Qiao Zhan was still stupefied when he heard Lu Yunxue’s laughter. “My mommy’s gone! Now I can stay here and play!”

No one knew where she hid earlier since she didn’t even make a sound.

“Don’t you like your mommy?” Erbao inquired.

“I do, but I get tired of seeing her every day. Right now, I prefer hanging around here,” explained Lu Yunxue.

“Then stay and play with me. I’m bored to death here.” Erbao nodded.

“Then why don’t you go out and play?”

“My mommy’s not around, and this man here won’t allow us to go out. He said it’s unsafe.”

“Why is it unsafe?” Lu Yunxue was confused.

“I’m not sure, either. But anyway, I’m not allowed to head out no matter what,” Erbao lamented in aggrievement.

“You can always sneak outside!” Lu Yunxue gave a shocking suggestion.

Cheng Xiangyun, who was standing at the side, couldn’t listen to the conversation anymore. This girl’s too crafty! I mustn’t let her become a bad example to Erbao, especially when Erbao’s already a difficult child to manage. If I let them team up, they’ll be a pain to control. It’s a critical period right now, and no mistake is too small to let happen. We can’t let anything go wrong, or the consequences will be disastrous.

Thus, she forcibly intervened, “You can’t set a bad example for our girl, Lu Yunxue. How can you tell her to sneak outside? What if she runs into a bad guy?”

“It’s not good to eavesdrop on someone else’s conversation, old woman!” Lu Yunxue exclaimed.

Cheng Xiangyun was infuriated. What did she just call me? I’m not old! I’m young and unmarried!

Tickled pink, Qiao Zhan couldn’t help but snicker when he heard that.

Furiously, Cheng Xiangyun retorted, “Don’t go around calling people that, young lady! I’m still single! You should be calling me—”

“You are pretty young, but now that you’ve eavesdropped on our conversation, you’re not likable anymore. So, I can only call you that!” Lifting her chin, Lu Yunxue appeared extremely arrogant.

Judging by the way she spoke, it seemed like she knew calling Cheng Xiangyun an old woman would damage the woman’s ego. She did it on purpose to punish Cheng Xiangyun for eavesdropping on her conversation with Erbao.

This little witch is ridiculous! I can’t believe she verbally attacked me just because we’re not on the same page! I can’t let her do as she pleases. Still angry, Cheng Xiangyun spat, “Erbao’s sick. Her body is frail, yet you’re instigating her to sneak out. Do you think that’s appropriate?”

Concerned, Lu Yunxue instantly asked, “You’re sick? Are you okay?”

“I was poisoned. The poison is gone now, but I haven’t recovered yet.” Erbao spilled the truth straightforwardly, as expected of a child’s sincere nature.

There wasn’t anything wrong with that. A child should act as naive and genuine as one. It would be pathetic if they were as scheming and untrusting as adults.

“You poor thing! Then what will happen to you?” Lu Yunxue panicked.

“Mommy said it takes time for me to get back in shape. Don’t worry, I won’t die. I’ll get better slowly. In fact, I’m doing much better than before already,” Erbao consoled.

“Oh, thank goodness. You need to recover because we’re going to be best friends in the future. I don’t want my best friend to get sick. Let’s hug.” Lu Yunxue spread her arms open.

The girls then embraced each other, bringing tears to Cheng Xiangyun’s eyes. Such a beautiful and pure friendship. What a precious hug. In the far future, if they can still recall their first meeting, they’ll realize that is the most precious moment in their relationship.

“Where’s your daddy, Yunxue?” After witnessing how Lu Yunxue hugged Erbao, Cheng Xiangyun found the girl considerate and adorable. Thus, she wanted to improve her relationship with the latter, too.

No answer came from Lu Yunxue.

Assuming the girl was still mad at her for what happened earlier, she comforted, “I was wrong. I shouldn’t have treated you like that, but Erbao really can’t go out right now. You may be familiar with the area so you can come and go with no issue, but Erbao isn’t. If she leaves this place, she’ll be in danger. Do you understand?”

“Why is she called Erbao? Isn’t her name Nan Sihan?” Lu Yunxue wondered.

Annoyance marred Erbao’s face. “My mommy calls me that. I don’t like being called that, but I don’t have a choice. I think it’s super old-fashioned, but everyone has gotten used to calling me that.”

“I think it sounds nice. I’ll call you Erbao in the future, too, then.”

“Don’t! It’s too lame!” Erbao rejected outright.

However, Lu Yunxue giggled and replied, “I think it sounds nice.”

Cheng Xiangyun realized Lu Yunxue seemed to be avoiding the topic of her father. This kid’s smart. If she doesn’t want to talk about it, it means she has her own reasons not

to. I should just drop that question. “Yunxue, the girl next to your mom earlier appears very similar to you. Are you two twins?”

“Yeah. Her name’s Lu Yunbing. She came out of my mommy’s tummy first, so she got to be the older sister.” Lu Yunxue pouted with dissatisfaction.

Cheng Xiangyun was fascinated. Wow, I came across yet another pair of twins! Not to mention they look so similar to each other!

“Why didn’t she stay here to play?” she asked.

“She’s not easy to get along with. Unlike me, who’s cute and active, she’s very stiff,” Lu Yunxue explained seriously.

Cheng Xiangyun couldn’t help chuckling. She really is a little devil. It’s incredible how similar she is to Erbao in so many aspects.

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Chapter 615 Still Capable

Meanwhile, in Flower City, Nan Zhengde couldn’t recall the last time he visited Nanshi Corporation’s headquarters, yet everything still seemed so familiar to him.

He had been living in retirement and rarely meddled with Nanshi Corporation’s affairs ever since Nan Chen took over the company.

Since he decided to let Nan Chen run the company, he held himself back from interfering too much. He couldn’t hand over the company to Nan Chen on the surface while still being in control behind the curtains.

If he did, Nan Chen wouldn’t be able to spread his wings, and the employees working under him wouldn’t know who they should take their orders from.

Therefore, not only did Nan Zhengde relinquish all his positions, but he also stopped visiting the company entirely. He simply stayed at home and enjoyed life after retirement.

However, he returned that day as the founder of the company to attend an emergency meeting with the board of directors.

The main seat in the conference room was empty. It should’ve been Nan Chen’s spot.

The board of directors was the most influential and powerful group of people in the company, and the details they were about to discuss during the meeting were also top secret.

Hence, many bodyguards were stationed outside to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering.

Nan Zhengde didn't sit in the main seat. Instead, he was seated at the side with the other members of the board.

That tiny detail was crucial because it meant he was only there temporarily instead of retaking control of the company.

"Everyone, I'm here today because there's something I want to discuss with you all." Nan Zhengde initiated the topic with a calm tone.

The conference room was quiet as everyone was paying attention to what he was saying.

"Due to personal reasons, Nan Chen can't manage the company for the time being. So, I suggest that the board of directors choose a new CEO," Nan Zhengde proposed.

"What happened to Mr. Chen?" asked someone anxiously.

Their anxiety didn't necessarily mean they cared about Nan Chen. They were mainly concerned about how his absence would affect the company's operation.

There were many listed companies under Nanshi Corporation, and the company was like a large ship. So, if anything happened during its course, the fallout would be calamitous.

Instead of answering the question directly, Nan Zhengde vaguely brushed past why Nan Chen was absent, claiming it was due to "personal reasons."

"Do you have a suitable recommendation, Mr. Nan?" a member of the board asked.

"I'm old now, and Nan Zhiyuan isn't capable enough. So, if I am forced to choose someone to recommend, my choices are limited. I think Nan Xing may be able to take on the position since he has been working here for a long time and he's much more familiar with how the company works."

The crowd exchanged glances with each other silently.

They knew what kind of person Nan Xing was. While he wasn't a useless good-for-nothing, his sudden ascension to the position of CEO still made everyone uneasy.

Of course, Nan Xing would be more than capable to be the CEO of one of the companies under Nanshi Corporation.

However, he was clearly not capable enough to take on the position of CEO of Nanshi Corporation itself, who was in charge of managing the entire group's operation.

Although everyone disagreed with the idea in their hearts, no one voiced their disapproval because they didn't want to disrespect Nan Zhengde.

The company belonged to everyone, but the Nan family was the founder, the biggest shareholder, and the core of Nanshi Corporation.

Nan Zhengde's influence didn't decrease after he retired because he had rescued the company during multiple dangerous situations during his tenure.

That was why everyone wanted to show him their respect and didn't have the nerve to go against his will.

"No opinions?" Nan Zhengde's gaze swept across the room.

Still, no one spoke.

"You're all free to speak your mind. I don't have the final say in a matter as important as this. Everyone can contribute their thoughts on the matter." The old man smiled.

Finally, a director broke the silence. "Mr. Xing has been with the company for a while now. Everyone can see his capabilities, Mr. Nan. We believe he has a bright future ahead of him and that he will certainly be able to bear the responsibilities of a CEO and elevate the company to greater heights one day. However, right now, we're afraid he's not ready yet. He's too young, and he's been sheltered by Mr. Chen throughout his employment. We're worried he may not be able to handle it if we suddenly place such responsibilities on his shoulder."

It was nothing out of the ordinary for someone to object, and Nan Zhengde had always welcomed opposing ideas.

If only one voice existed in the world without others objecting to it, that sole voice must be a lie.

The truth would forever be buried if people were forbidden to speak their minds.

Nan Zhengde wasn't a foolish man. He was always willing to accept opinions that differed from his.

Therefore, he nodded instead of scolding the person who disagreed with him.

Smiling and without a trace of admonition in his tone, he uttered calmly, "Yes, Nan Xing's competence is lacking, and your worries aren't unfounded. However, pray tell, who isn't inadequate in some way or form? When I was still in control of the company

back then, I was once a young man with many flaws, too. It was only because I weathered many storms that I grew and became better. Everyone here represents the benefits the shareholders stand to gain. Why do you all have the right to become that representative? That's because all of you are excellent. However, that excellence is honed by experiences. It's not like you're born with it, isn't it?"

No one panicked or felt repulsed when they heard that. The atmosphere remained peaceful and amicable.

"That's why I'm asking you all to give Nan Xing a chance to try. What do you all say?" Nan Zhengde grinned.

The members exchanged glances with each other silently again.

While they really didn't want to disrespect him, they genuinely deplored the idea.

Sure, everyone had the right to improve, but the directors believed Nan Xing should've been given a smaller stage to develop instead of making Nanshi Corporation his testing ground.

"If you must make Nan Xing the CEO, then you have to become the chairman again, Mr. Nan. That's our condition. We'll be at ease if both of you work together," a member of the board proposed.

"Yeah, I agree with that idea!" someone immediately chimed in.

"That sounds like a great idea!"

"If that is the case, then, of course, I'll go along with it, too. With Mr. Nan overseeing the company, we won't need to worry about anything!"

Nan Zhengde shook his head. "You lot are really inconsiderate to an old man like me, you know that? I'm one foot in the coffin now, yet you're still asking me to work? Are you lot demanding me to give you my life so you can keep getting paychecks?"

"You don't have to exaggerate, Mr. Nan. You're still pretty spry!" complimented someone.

"That's right! You may be old now, but you're still capable!"

"Come on, don't do that. I really am old now, and it's been years since I helmed the company. I can't do it anymore. If none of you are willing to give Nan Xing a chance, then you're all free to recommend a candidate and vote. The one with the most votes will become the new CEO," Nan Zhengde suggested.

The board of directors had no choice but to concede since the old man already put it that way.

His stance was clear, and he was adamant about not coming out of retirement. Either they let Nan Xing become the CEO, or they would have to choose someone else to do the job.

However, selecting a candidate meant they were going against Nan Zhengde's will.

Those who opposed Nan Zhengde would have to test the waters first.

It wasn't impossible for whoever they recommended to end up becoming the CEO through voting, but that possibility was tiny.

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Chapter 616 Never Been A Slave

Silence descended upon the meeting room again as they fell into a stalemate. "Why aren't you talking?" Nan Zhengde scanned everyone. However, no one spoke a word.

"You're still young, so you still have time to waste. On the other hand, I'm old, and I need to rest. If you aren't talking, I'm going to leave now. You can figure out who to choose as the new CEO." Nan Zhengde stood up. "Don't leave, Mr. Nan!" Some members of the board of directors panicked.

"What's there left to discuss? Even though you disagreed with my suggestion, you refused to offer another candidate when I asked you to. How can we continue discussing this?" rebuked Nan Zhengde.

"We've already reached an agreement for one part. However, you need to compromise too. At the very least, you should stay in the company as a consultant, right? Considering Mr. Xing's current capabilities, he cannot become the CEO of the company. You know that very well," said another director.

"It's not like I won't intervene at all." Nan Zhengde was still reluctant to concede.

At that moment, a director stood up. "What about this? We can put him on probation for three months. If he does a good job after three months, we'll just accept fate. If he doesn't, we'll discuss this again. What do you think?"

The director who made that suggestion was the first person whom Nan Zhengde visited with his own calligraphy.

“In that case, he’ll only be the surrogate CEO who’ll manage the work on behalf of Mr. Chen temporarily. Any important decisions will need to go through the board of directors first,” agreed another director.

This director was also one of those who received Nan Zhengde’s calligraphy.

It was obvious that although these words were spoken by others, they were representative of Nan Zhengde’s opinion.

“I disagree. If he’s merely the surrogate CEO, there are a lot of things that he can’t do,” objected Nan Zhengde.

If it was Nan Zhengde’s own opinion, there should be no reason for him to object.

However, he believed that if Ouyang Duo wanted to conquer Nanshi Corporation, Ouyang Duo would definitely need an internal spy.

He did not dare to be certain that the spy was not hiding in that crowd.

Still, he was sure that Ouyang Duo would find a way to know everything that transpired in the meeting.

Hence, he wanted to let Ouyang Duo know that the idea to make Nan Xing the surrogate CEO was not his idea but the board of directors’ decision.

“Mr. Nan, Nanshi Corporation is such a huge company. It’s normal that he can’t achieve a lot of things as a newly appointed CEO. You should make a compromise,” urged a director.

“Fine. I’m getting old, so I’ll let you youngsters make the decision. Shall we vote now?” asked Nan Zhengde.

Everyone agreed.

“Raise your hand if you agree to let Nan Xing become the surrogate CEO.” Nan Zhengde raised his hand.

Everyone raised their hands, which meant that the decision had been made unanimously.

Nan Zhengde stood up and sighed. “If I knew earlier that none of you would listen to me, I wouldn’t have come.”

Although he said that, a satisfied look flashed across his eyes briefly.

Immediately after the meeting, Ouyang Duo, who was at the Orchid Club, received a call.

A grim expression appeared on his face after he hung up.

“What’s wrong?” asked Feng Jialing.

“The meeting with the board of directors just ended. Nan Xing became the surrogate CEO,” said Ouyang Duo.

“Isn’t that great? Now that Nan Xing and Qing finished their registration, they’re now a legal couple. In that case, Qing will be the wife of Nanshi Corporation’s CEO! Isn’t that what we want?” said Feng Jialing with a smile.

“You need to be clear on this. He’s the surrogate CEO, not the actual CEO.”

“Isn’t that the same? Doesn’t a surrogate CEO have the same authority and rights as the actual CEO?”

“It’s different. Every company has its own regulations. For some companies, there might be very strict limitations as to what a surrogate CEO can do. I’m still unsure about what’s happening in Nanshi Corporation, but I’m worried.”

“What are you worried about? Nan Chen’s in our hands now. He can’t possibly escape, right?” Feng Jialing was unconcerned.

“You don’t know anything, huh? It was the first time that Nan Zhengde agreed so easily. He surrendered without putting up much of a fight. I’m afraid that there’s a trick somewhere. However, everything’s going according to our plan, and I can’t detect any problems. Furthermore, he opposed the suggestion to make Nan Xing the surrogate CEO. In other words, he wants to appoint Nan Xing as the CEO directly. Yet, a director said that Nan Xing is still not capable enough. He can only be put on probation for three months. If he performs well after that, he’ll be officially appointed the CEO. Surprisingly, Nan Zhengde refused. That made me even more confused. Could it be that old age has caught up with him and made him a weakling?”

Although Ouyang Duo was speaking to Feng Jialing, it seemed like he was mumbling to himself.

As he spoke, he mulled over it.

“Nan Zhengde’s getting old, anyway. More importantly, his beloved eldest grandson is in our hands. He can give up anything for Nan Chen,” said Feng Jialing.

“But I still think that something’s fishy. What’s scarier is that I don’t know what’s wrong.”

"I think that you don't need to be too worried. Once Nan Zhengde transfers the stocks to Nan Xing, who'll transfer them to Qing, everything will be settled! They won't be able to turn the tables anymore!" assured Feng Jialing.

"No, I'm still worried. I'll visit the Nan residence and confirm what happened. Otherwise, I'll feel uneasy." Ouyang Duo stood up and grabbed his coat.

"Should I come along with you?"

"It's fine. I want to visit Nan Zhengde alone and see what he's doing. I'm afraid that he's playing some tricks!"

"He probably won't, right? There's nothing he can do now that Nan Chen's in our hands."

"I don't know about that. If I did, I wouldn't be so worried. I must make a trip there to allay my uneasiness."

Once Ouyang Duo left the Orchid Club, Nan Zhengde received a call at the Commoner Residence.

Half an hour later, Ouyang Duo reached the Commoner Residence.

Chai Hua informed him that Nan Zhengde was sleeping and must not be disturbed.

That provoked Ouyang Duo to kick a chair over. "Why do I have to wait every time I visit? Wake him up right now!"

Chai Hua was shocked. Since when did Ouyang Duo become so arrogant? This is the Commoner Residence, the Nan family's house! How dare he act so unruly here?

"Mr. Ouyang, this chair belongs to the Nan family. If you damage it, you'll have to compensate for it," reminded Chai Hua coldly.

"Belongs to the Nan family? Everything that the Nan family owns will soon be mine, okay? I'll make you pack up and leave when that time comes!" yelled Ouyang Duo.

"Really? Are you saying that you'll be taking over this house too, Mr. Ouyang? Are you saying that you won't let anyone live here?" demanded Chai Hua coldly.

Only then did Ouyang Duo realize that he had crossed the line.

The house was still the Nan residence. As he had not gotten everything under his control, he should keep a low profile first.

"How long has Nan Zhengde been sleeping? When will he wake up?"

"I don't know how long he's been sleeping. Regardless, I'll only call for him after he wakes up," replied Chai Hua icily.

"How long have you been a slave for the Nan family?" Ouyang Duo was extremely displeased with him.

"I've been working here for over twenty years, but I've never been a slave for even a day," said Chai Hua in a frosty voice.

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Chapter 617 A Fight To The Death

"Do you actually think that you're part of the Nan family now?" Ouyang Duo's voice was filled with mockery. Chai Hua did not respond. After all, he had to hold himself back when appropriate.

At his rank, he was not supposed to rebuke Ouyang Duo. What he said earlier was already considered offensive.

Although he was not scared of Ouyang Duo, he was still the Nan family's butler. He must not spoil Nan Zhengde's plan because of his own emotions.

Ouyang Duo was furious too. If even the butler did not respect him, it was evident how little regard the members of the Nan family had for him.

He wanted to use this opportunity to humiliate Chai Hua, but the latter stopped speaking. "Pour a cup of tea for me. I'll wait here!" Ouyang Duo ordered Chai Hua around.

"Pour a cup of tea for Mr. Ouyang!" Chai Hua instructed his subordinates. "No, I want you to pour it for me personally." Ouyang Duo stared at him.

Without uttering a word, Chai Hua turned around and left to prepare the tea. Soon, tea was served. Ouyang Duo stretched out his arm to take the cup, but he suddenly let go.

The teacup fell onto the floor with a loud crash. "What are you trying to do? How dare you smash the cup?" roared Ouyang Duo as he pointed at Chai Hua.

Ouyang Duo kept putting Chai Hua in a difficult spot as he realized that if he provoked Chai Hua, the latter might blurt out some important information in a fit of anger. Perhaps, this would help Ouyang Duo find out something about the Nan family.

Even if Nan Zhengde could keep his mouth shut, Ouyang Duo did not believe that his subordinates would be equally meticulous.

“You smashed it on purpose! I can tell!” As expected, Chai Hua became angry.

Although he was merely a butler at the Nan residence, the Nan family had always treated him with respect.

Even amongst the elites in Flower City, he would not be discriminated against as he represented the Nan family to a certain extent.

Ouyang Duo kept trying to pick a fight with him, but he endured it the entire time. Yet, Ouyang Duo just kept pushing his limits.

“I did it on purpose! What can you do to me? Pour another cup of tea for me, you f*cking slave!” cursed Ouyang Duo.

“You’re going too far!”

“So what? Prepare another cup of tea for me right now! If Nan Zhengde can’t do anything to me, what can a slave like you do?”

Noticing that Chai Hua had become furious, Ouyang Duo started to pull him into his trap.

“Although Mr. Nan can’t do anything to you, I can still kill you,” spat Chai Hua coldly.

“How dare you? Won’t you get executed for murder?”

Chai Hua inched closer to Old Master intimidatingly. “If you dare to bully Mr. Nan again, I’ll kill both of us. F*ck you, you b*stard!”

Ouyang Duo was stunned.

He did not expect the butler of the Nan family to curse at him directly and even threaten to kill him.

To Ouyang Duo, Chai Hua was merely a servant whose life was worth nothing. As the chairman of Sunshine Corporation, it was impossible for him to die alongside a lowly servant.

Suddenly, he understood what it meant when someone was pushed to desperation and did not dare to humiliate Chai Hua anymore.

“If you don’t want to, forget it. I’m just joking. Why are you being so petty?” Ouyang Duo waved his hand.

A murderous look still lingered in Chai Hua’s eyes. “Don’t go overboard, Mr. Ouyang. You need to leave yourself a backup plan.”

“Fine, fine. I won’t drink the tea anymore. Stop being so angry.”

Ouyang Duo leaned against the chair and closed his eyes.

Meanwhile, Chai Hua stood at the side and stared at him intently as if he was a prisoner.

Ouyang Duo napped for a while. When he opened his eyes, he saw that Chai Hua was still standing there and staring at him motionlessly.

The look in Chai Hua’s eyes scared him a little. Is he planning to kill me when I’m asleep?

“You can go about your work, Mr. Chai. Why are you guarding me? I’m not a prisoner!”

“It’s fine,” replied Chai Hua curtly.

“Fine! Just stare at me, then. You’ve got nothing better to do.” Ouyang Duo felt exasperated.

However, he did not dare to doze off or close his eyes again as he was scared that Chai Hua might attack him suddenly.

Luckily, Nan Zhengde came out at that moment.

“You’re here, Duo. Why didn’t you wake me up? I have a habit of napping in the afternoon. Sorry to keep you waiting,” said Nan Zhengde.

“I’m sorry to disrupt your rest, Mr. Nan. I wanted to ask how things are with Nan Xing.”

“We just finished a meeting with the board of directors today. My suggestion to make Nan Xing the CEO got rejected. They still can’t trust him and only agreed to let Nan Xing become the surrogate CEO for three months. As long as he doesn’t commit any serious mistakes within these three months, he’ll become the official CEO. With your help, I’m sure that Nan Xing will finish the probation smoothly and take over the Nanshi Corporation,” responded Nan Zhengde.

Even though Ouyang Duo tried to observe Nan Zhengde’s expression, he could not detect anything.

“What about the stocks, Mr. Nan?”

“I’m starting on it,” replied Nan Zhengde without a hint of hesitation.

“I see. I’m thinking of letting my lawyer help you settle this. What do you think?”

Ouyang Duo was still worried. He wanted his own subordinate to be involved so Nan Zhengde would not play any tricks.

“This is the Nan family’s internal affairs, so it won’t be appropriate for your subordinate to intervene, right?” This time, Nan Zhengde hesitated.

Indeed, there’s something fishy going on with Nan Zhengde. I mustn’t let my guard down.

“Mr. Nan, my lawyer is very professional. He’ll just witness the process and help to review some documents. He won’t meddle unnecessarily.”

“All right, then. Ask your lawyer to come over and oversee the signing of the documents.”

Only then did Ouyang Duo feel relieved.

“Oh, right. We are already almost done with the task you gave us. Has your friend helped to find out where Nan Chen is? When can he come back?” asked Nan Zhengde.

“We can’t rush with this, Mr. Nan. My friend’s been trying to find out, but don’t worry. We’ll soon hear updates.”

“Okay, thank you. I hope that Nan Chen’s fine. Otherwise, it’ll just be a fight to the death,” said Nan Zhengde calmly.

Even though Nan Zhengde said the last sentence calmly, Ouyang Duo felt a chill run down his spine when he heard that.

Although it seemed like everything was under his control, he still felt very uneasy.

After the stocks were transferred to Nan Xing, who would sign a contract to transfer the stocks to Ouyang Qing, everything would be settled.

Naturally, Nan Zhengde was not the only one in the Nan family with stocks. Others had some too.

However, he could only get Nan Zhengde’s stocks for now and use them as a permit to infiltrate the Nanshi Corporation. Afterward, he would use other strategies to monopolize the remaining Nanshi Corporation stocks.

This endeavor would require a long time. Since it could not be accomplished in a matter of days, Ouyang Duo was taking his time.

However, he was afraid that more troubles would crop up the more he waited. Hence, he had no choice but to control the Nanshi Corporation using the simplest yet most brutal method.

Despite that, he still felt uneasy for no reason.

Once this was accomplished, he would evict the entire Nan family from Flower City and hide them in a place where he could control them.

Then, he would keep Nan Xing, who would serve as a puppet to issue all of his orders.

In that case, he would control Nan Xing by using the Nan family as hostages. At the same time, he would ensure that the Nan family would not do anything reckless by having Nan Xing in his hands.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Nan. Nan Chen’s fine and will return safely soon. I’ll head back first,” said Ouyang Duo with a cold smirk.

“Okay. Send him out!”

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Chapter 618 Am I The Ugliest

At a variety show set in Pearl City, Zheng Lunlun sat down during his break. Immediately, his assistant walked over and said that he had a delivery. Huh? I’m filming a show here. Did someone actually send a delivery to this address?

The arrangements for the variety show had been settled the year before, so no one could have recently found out where he was. Who knows about my schedule that was determined the previous year and even sent a delivery here?

The delivery was an envelope. When he picked it up, it was very light and did not seem to contain anything particularly heavy.

The envelope contained a letter. Once Zheng Lunlun finished reading the contents, the look on his face changed. “What’s wrong?” The assistant noticed the strange expression on Zheng Lunlun’s face.

“Nothing. My friend’s sick and hospitalized, so I need to visit him,” replied Zheng Lunlun. “Right now? The show’s not done with the filming yet,” reminded the assistant.

“I must leave now. Please explain it to the director. I’ll compensate for any losses.” Since Zheng Lunlun was a top celebrity, he could do whatever he wanted without much concern.

After leaving the filming set, he got into his car and drove away quickly. The car zoomed rapidly along the road and reached Flower City before dusk.

After parking his sports car and hailing a cab, he headed to the vicinity of the Commoner Residence.

Night had just fallen. However, Zheng Lunlun did not dare to enter from the front gate. Instead, he went to the wall at the back of the Commoner Residence and climbed over it.

Since the Commoner Residence was filled with surveillance cameras, Zheng Lunlun got caught by the bodyguards the moment he landed.

"It's me. Don't make a ruckus." Zheng Lunlun took off his hoodie and cap. "Young Master Lun, why did you climb over the wall instead of going through the front gate?" exclaimed the bodyguard in shock.

"I want to meet my great-grandpa. Also, you must not tell anyone that I returned. You hear me?"

"Got it." When Zheng Lunlun entered, Nan Zhengde was just preparing to eat. "Lunlun? Why are you here? Aren't you at Pearl City?"

"Yeah, Great-grandpa. I rushed over after receiving a letter from Uncle Chen, who asked me to pass it on to you personally. I'm not even allowed to call anyone because I have to hand it to you myself."

Nan Zhengde's eyes lit up as he interrupted, "Are you hungry?"

"To be honest, I've been rushing here the whole time, so I'm hungry."

"Bring a few dishes to the study room, and don't let anyone enter," instructed Nan Zhengde.

"Okay."

"Also, no one is allowed to mention to any outsiders that Lunlun has returned."

"Understood."

Upon entering the study room, Zheng Lunlun took out the letter and passed it to Nan Zhengde.

The latter let out a sigh after reading it.

“Is Nan Chen all right? What did he say?” asked Feng Wan anxiously, unable to hold herself back anymore.

“Nan Chen got into a car accident and is stuck on an island in the middle of the reservoir. His leg is injured, but it isn’t serious...” Nan Zhengde explained to Feng Wan what happened to Nan Chen.

“What should we do now?”

“There’s a bank account written in the letter. He told us to transfer a hundred thousand to that account. Instruct someone to do it immediately. We must secure that person first. If I’m not wrong, he’s looking over Nan Chen and probably sent the letter on his behalf,” analyzed Nan Zhengde.

“I’d already transferred the money on my phone when I was coming here. He has probably received it already,” replied Zheng Lunlun.

“Very good. Nan Chen definitely promised that man. He’ll trust Nan Chen even more after receiving the money and will continue helping Nan Chen,” said Nan Zhengde.

“We should gather our men and save Nan Chen quickly! We can’t possibly let him continue to be trapped there.” Feng Wan was panicking.

“We mustn’t rush into things. I’ll get Chai Hua to go there personally and communicate with the person who gave the bank account privately.”

Since he has given his bank account number and name, it won’t be difficult to track him down. We’ll contact him privately first and figure out what exactly is going on. There won’t be many outsiders going to the countryside. If we don’t act carefully, those people will find out. Once that happens, I’m afraid that they would just kill him to silence him.” A solemn look appeared on Nan Zhengde’s face.

“Let’s do that, then. Ask Chai Hua to go there quickly. We must save Chen!” urged Feng Wan.

The sky was already dark at Livingsfill, and it was time for dinner.

Hence, Lu Yunxue suggested to go home first.

Naturally, Erbao tried to keep her there. “Eat with us! We’ve got a lot of people, so it’ll be lively!”

Evidently, Lu Yunxue wanted to. She whispered beside Erbao’s ears, “I’m afraid that they won’t want me to eat here.”

“It’s fine. Aunt Xiang will agree. I’ll speak to her!”

Erbao ran over. "Aunt Xiang, Lu Yunxue wants to stay for dinner. Can she stay?"

When Lu Yunxue heard his words, she quickly corrected, "Sihan wants me to stay for dinner, but I'm still thinking about it. I should go home and eat with my mommy."

"It's fine, Yunxue. You should just stay here and eat. I'll ask someone to send you home afterward," offered Cheng Xiangyun with a smile.

"Really? Are you agreeing to let me eat here, Ms. Xiang?"

Lu Yunxue knew how to flatter someone well. While she called Xiangyun 'Ma'am' in the past, she was calling Xiangyun 'Ms. Xiang' in the present moment. It made Xiangyun sound younger and closer to Lu Yunxue.

"Of course! Since you're Erbao's friend, we'll naturally welcome you."

"After dinner, can I play for a while before going back?" requested Lu Yunxue.

"Sure, as long as it isn't too late. Otherwise, your mommy will be worried."

Qiao Zhan entered when she was speaking. "Your mom is here to pick you up, Yunxue."

However, Lu Yunxue spun around and ran. "Say that I'm not here!"

"No way! You're right here, so how can I say that you're not? Why don't I tell her that you'll return after eating?" asked Qiao Zhan.

Lu Yunxue sighed. "You don't know my mom well. If she wants me to return, I have to. Forget it. I'm going."

Cheng Xiangyun could not bear to see how dejected she was and followed her out.

Standing at the entrance, Lu Jingyuan nodded at Cheng Xiangyun. "Hello! Sorry that my child disturbed you. I'm here to pick her up."

Under the streetlight, her hair cascaded down her shoulders smoothly. With fair skin and a curvaceous body, she was absolutely gorgeous.

Every woman I meet just keeps getting prettier! Why am I always the ugliest? Cheng Xiangyun lamented.

"It's fine. Your daughter is really cute and gets along well with Erbao. They're already very good friends. I'd like her to stay for dinner, so I hope that you'll agree," said Cheng Xiangyun.

"It's fine, thank you," refused Lu Jingyuan directly.

Lu Yunxue raised her head helplessly and glanced at Cheng Xiangyun. See? I told you that my mom's very old school.

"Why not? Are you worried that our food isn't hygienic or..."

"It's not that. She has been disturbing you for a long time, so I can't keep letting her have her way. Xue, come here." Lu Jingyuan beckoned at Lu Yunxue.

Even though Lu Yunxue looked extremely reluctant, she still walked over obediently.

"Wait! Ms. Lu, let her eat with me. It's already so sad that I'm sick. If she can keep me company, I'll be in a better mood and eat more." Erbao ran toward them.

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Chapter 619 Pretty Mommy

Lu Jingyuan hesitated for a brief while. She was a mother, too, after all. Lu Jingyuan felt her heart soften when she heard that Erbao was sick and wanted to have a meal with her daughter.

"Ms. Lu, do you want to stay and eat together too?" Qiao Zhan invited her enthusiastically. He got slightly excited. Qiao Zhan refused to let anyone enter the house this morning. Hence, it was strange that he made a move by inviting Lu Jingyuan for a meal.

Nonetheless, he could not be blamed for that, as Lu Jingyuan was a good-looking lady that everyone wished to approach. "Is it okay?" Lu Jingyuan gazed at Cheng Xiangyun. "Of course! Come on in!" Cheng Xiangyun responded.

At that moment, Cheng Xiangyun forgot their principle of prohibiting outsiders from entering their inn too.

Perhaps Lu Jingyuan was too gorgeous, or her gentle aura had created the illusion of credibility, causing everyone to neglect the fact that she was an outsider.

Seeing that Lu Jingyuan decided to stay, Lu Yunxue got elated and gave Erbao a high-five. "Oh yeah!" Later, Qiao Zhan swiftly moved the chair over for Lu Jingyuan to sit down.

The dishes were prepared by their chef from Flower City. The Nan family just employed the chef so that they could have someone to prepare meals for them. After all, it was impractical for them to order food delivery every day.

“Do you have any alcohol?” Lu Jingyuan asked abruptly.

Everyone was taken aback for a second upon hearing that. What? Did she just ask for alcohol?

“It’s a habit of mine to drink wine with my dinner.” Lu Jingyuan looked awkward, realizing that her request might be too abrupt.

“Yes, we have. Sir Chen left a box of wines here, but we haven’t consumed any yet. I’ll take one for you.”

Having said that, Qiao Zhan rapidly looked for the wine.

“Who is Sir Chen?” Lu Jingyuan asked.

“That’s my daddy!” Erbao replied proudly.

“I see.” Lu Jingyuan nodded lightly and remained silent afterward.

“My daddy is very handsome. I’ll introduce both of you to each other when he returns later, Ms. Lu. However, I’m afraid that my mommy might not be happy about it. You’re too pretty!” Erbao remarked.

“You’re talking nonsense again!” Cheng Xiangyun glared at Erbao.

Immediately, Erbao kept mum and pouted.

“She’s not talking nonsense. My mommy is truly pretty.”

As soon as Erbao stopped talking, Lu Yunxue continued the conversation.

Erbao could be quite noisy if she were in good condition. Nevertheless, Lu Yunxue was equally rowdy too.

Lu Jingyuan shot Lu Yunxue with a look. Noticing that, the little girl shut up almost immediately.

The atmosphere at the dining table finally became quiet for a brief moment. In the meantime, Qiao Zhan opened a bottle of wine and brought it over.

“Thank you. I think I’m not taking it,” said Lu Jingyuan.

“I just opened it. Come and drink some. It should be a good wine,” Qiao Zhan suggested.

“It must be expensive, so I don’t think I should have it. Sorry for my abrupt request.” Lu Jingyuan sounded genuine while replying solemnly.

Possessing wine knowledge, Lu Jingyuan knew that the bottle of wine was expensive with a single glance.

“Don’t worry. Sir Chen put the wines here for us to drink, but we haven’t drunk any of them yet. Come and have a glass.” Qiao Zhan was eager to please her.

“I regret it now. I shouldn’t have asked for the alcohol,” said Lu Jingyuan.

“It’s fine. How about I have one glass with you?” Qiao Zhan suggested.

“Do you think it’s appropriate for you to drink now?” Cheng Xiangyun asked Qiao Zhan.

“Oh. I can’t.”

Qiao Zhan belatedly remembered that he had to keep the two children safe. Hence, he could not take any alcohol.

As a matter of fact, one glass of wine would not affect Qiao Zhan that much. However, he followed the rules seriously, not consuming a single drop of alcohol.

To him, it was the same as the law had it—no driving after consuming alcohol.

“Okay. How about you have a drink with Ms. Lu instead?”

Now that Qiao Zhan could not drink, he proposed that idea, hinting at Cheng Xiangyun to drink with Lu Jingyuan.

Cheng Xiangyun did not mind at all. She enjoyed having a small amount of wine on usual days. Hearing Lu Jingyuan mentioning how high-priced the wine was, she was eager to try it.

It would be a waste not to take a sip of that expensive wine.

“All right. I’ll have a drink with Ms. Lu.”

After pouring the wine, the ladies clinked each others’ glasses.

Meanwhile, Erbao and Lu Yunxue followed suit too. They raised their fruit juice and toasted each other with a louder clinking sound.

“By the way, I remember you have two children. Where’s the other child?” Qiao Zhan asked with concern.

“She’s at home.” Lu Jingyuan replied.

“I don’t think it’s a good idea to leave a young kid like her alone at home. Should I send someone to pick her up here?” Qiao Zhan asked anxiously.

At the side, Cheng Xiangyun could not bear to watch it any longer. Look at him getting all excited, flattering her. Does he think that she would be interested in him because of that? He should take a look in the mirror.

“It’s fine. She will be all right. I’ll go home after the meal.” Lu Jingyuan remained calm.

“What is she eating, then?” Qiao Zhan asked again.

“She’s an independent girl. She can take care of herself well.”

“My sister doesn’t like crowded places. She’s just like him.” As Lu Yunxue blurted that out, she shifted her attention to Dabao.

Having his name called out all of a sudden, Dabao glanced at her before saying, “I don’t hate crowded places.”

“Why are you so quiet, then?” Lu Yunxue asked.

“I just don’t know what to say.”

“Are you sick too?” Lu Yunxue teased Dabao, hoping that he could talk more.

Being a talkative person, Lu Yunxue could not help but feel pressured sitting beside someone as quiet as Dabao.

How I wish we could talk more to each other. Things would be interesting!

“I’m not sick. I’m feeling good.”

As soon as he finished his words, Dabao lowered his head to eat, not uttering another word.

“By the way, what kind of sickness is she having? I know a professional traditional medicine practitioner. You could take her there for a checkup. My kid was feeling unwell too last time, and I visited him for a prescription. He’s truly an expert,” Lu Jingyuan mentioned.

“Sure. That’s great!” Qiao Zhan agreed without any hesitation.

It seemed like he would agree to everything Lu Jingyuan said.

Cheng Xiangyun did not agree to it, nonetheless. She had no say in serious matters like this and would have to get approval from the Nan family.

At the same time, she was afraid that the doctor was not professional enough to treat Erbao. She did not want to take the risk of bearing the responsibility if anything went wrong.

How could Qiao Zhan agree to that so casually?

Fortunately, Qiao Zhan quickly regained his senses by saying, "I can't really decide on this alone. I will have to ask the Nan family first for their approval."

"Is the doctor a local?" Cheng Xiangyun tried to obtain more information from her before she could report it to the Nan family.

"No. He's from Lightspring," answered Lu Jingyuan.

Qiao Zhan and Cheng Xiangyun glanced at each other and shared the same thought. Lightspring? Isn't that the place where Sir Chen and the others went?

"What's the doctor's name?"

"His surname is Ding. We address him as 'Dr. Ding.' I don't know his real name, though," Lu Jingyuan replied.

Subsequently, Lu Yunxue interrupted, "His name is Ding Yuanchao."

"Why are you interrupting the adults' conversation?" Lu Jingyuan said in an annoyed tone.

Lu Yunxue returned a look of innocence to her and voiced, "His name is Ding Yuanchao. Why can't I say it when I know his real name?"

"How do you know?"

"I heard him mentioning his name to people the last time we visited him at his clinic," Lu Yunxue replied earnestly.

"Really?"

"Yes. I heard it with my own ears. You can trust me. I have a good memory!" Lu Yunxue said.

"If I'm not mistaken, Sir Chen is going to look for the same doctor. The doctor has the same name too!" Qiao Zhan piped up.

“Yes, that name does sound familiar,” Cheng Xiangyun echoed.

“Are they the same person? Maybe he has arrived in Livingsfill, but everyone assumed that he is still in Lightspring.”

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Chapter 620 Too Good To Be True

Later, Qiao Zhan’s call reached Commoner Residence. Qiao Zhan informed Nan Xing of the situation at Livingsfill, and the latter then reported it to Nan Zhengde.

In the end, Nan Zhengde decided the child’s health was more important and that as long as there was nothing fishy with the doctor, Erbao should seek medical attention first.

After receiving the news, Qiao Zhan quickly conveyed it to Lu Jingyuan, who was drinking with Cheng Xiangyun. He asked for Lu Jingyuan’s help to bring Erbao to the doctor.

Lu Jingyuan initially wanted to only have a glass of wine with Cheng Xiangyun, but after finishing the drink, the former felt it wasn’t enough, so the two decided to finish up the bottle of red wine they opened.

There’s not much going on at night anyway. It’s okay to be a little tipsy.

“No problem. I’ll bring the child to see Dr. Ding tomorrow. I’ll call him now to make an appointment.”

As Lu Jingyuan went to the side to make a phone call, Qiao Zhan’s gaze was fixed on her.

Cheng Xiangyun couldn’t bear to watch him acting like that any longer. Does this guy become immobilized after seeing a pretty lady? Does his IQ drop as well? I didn’t realize he was so perverted before. His behavior left me speechless.

“Sure,” Qiao Zhan agreed right away.

Meanwhile, Nan Chen and Ning Ran were eating on the island in the middle of the reservoir.

The plain table was full of dishes such as chicken, fish, and pork.

Compared to Nan Chen and Ning Ran’s usual meals, this was considered a feast.

Naturally, Nan Chen and Ning Ran couldn't prepare so many dishes by themselves. They were all brought by Guo Si.

He also brought a bottle of "good wine," which was a bottle of white wine that cost over a hundred.

"You're not here to see us off with this large meal, are you? In the past, prisoners on death row would be given a good meal before they were beheaded." Ning Ran looked at Guo Si.

"Of course not. Those people have gone into the city today. No one is watching me, so I brought more dishes today and want to have a drink with both of you. I'm sorry for the bad treatment these few days. Let me drink a toast to you."

With that, Guo Si raised his head and took a sip.

Nan Chen and Ning Ran didn't respond because not only did they dislike white wine, but they also hadn't figured out the situation yet.

What if the wine is poisoned?

"Don't you trust me? I've delivered the letter for you guys and received a hundred thousand!"

At the mention of money, Guo Si's eyes lit up as he grinned from ear to ear.

Nan Chen and Ning Ran heaved a sigh of relief upon realizing that money was the reason for Guo Si's elevated mood that day.

If that's the case, there should be no real danger.

"Congratulations," Ning Ran said smilingly.

"It's all thanks to you. Those people only gave me a few thousand, but I got a hundred thousand from you for just an errand. You're so generous!" Guo Si was over the moon.

"What do you plan to do next?" Nan Chen asked Guo Si.

"Of course, I'll serve both of you well. Just tell me if you need anything. I'll try my best to satisfy your needs," Guo Si replied.

"So what you mean is that while you get paid by those kidnappers, you also get money from us. Basically, you're getting money from both parties. If we're killed by those people, that means you'll get a hundred thousand for free. Am I right?" Nan Chen questioned frostily.

Guo Si was taken aback. "My friend, what are you talking about?"

Nan Chen stated in a somber tone, "Guo Si, we're not friends. You're an accomplice of those kidnapers. You kidnapped us and illegally detained us. If the police solve the crime, you'll be sentenced to at least five years in prison. You should know that my family is well off. Money makes the world go round, Guo Si. If I find an influential lawyer to put pressure on you during the trial, you might get a life sentence, and you probably won't have the chance to spend that hundred thousand. Well, if you use that money tomorrow, forget what I've just said, then."

Guo Si finally noticed the change in Nan Chen's tone. "Didn't I help both of you—"

Nan Chen cut Guo Si off. "In the end, if those people kill us, you're the main member of the kidnapping gang. You'll be sentenced to death. I hope your wife won't remarry and abandon your kid by then. But that hundred thousand is not enough for them to survive. Their life will be extremely difficult after your demise. Meanwhile, those kidnapers will bully them while you can only watch in despair because you'll be six feet under by then."

"D-Don't try to intimidate me! I didn't kill anyone!"

"That's true, but they'll most likely eliminate us soon. Once we die, you'll be the murderer. Even if you don't get the death penalty, you'll be in prison for at least twenty years. What's your age now? If you spend twenty years of your life in prison, how old will you be by the time you're released?"

Nan Chen's countenance and voice were as cold as ice. He finally showed his true colors.

"B-But... no one will know—"

"I knew you'd say that! You think no one will know what you did if we die on this island! Do you think that's possible? You've received the hundred thousand. How did that sum of money get transferred to your bank account? You provided your account number and your name! You need to provide your ID card when you open an account at the bank. Am I right? So as long as we have your account number, we can find your home address and all your information. Get it?" Nan Chen raised his voice.

Guo Si put down the glass in his hand. "So this is all a trap?"

Ning Ran chimed in, "Not really. The hundred thousand is for you. Since you've taken the money, you'll need to pay the price. You confine us, but we might die here. You got that hundred thousand for free. Isn't that too good to be true?"

"T-Then..." Guo Si panicked.

I thought I was nimble-witted, but why didn't I think of the exposure risk when I gave them my account number?

In fact, that was greed at work. Even if he were aware that he might expose himself, he would still take the risk for the hundred thousand.

Those who gambled and committed crimes knew the risks too, but they still did it anyway. They were all motivated by pure greed.

Despair was written all over Guo Si's face as he continued, "So I've gotten myself into the mess for the hundred thousand?"

"You were the one who promised to help them and got yourself involved in this mess," Ning Ran corrected him.

"I don't want that hundred thousand anymore. I'll return it to you."

"Are you sure? Can you really bring yourself to do it?" Ning Ran stared at Guo Si.

The latter fell silent. It was true that he was reluctant to give back the money.

It's not a few thousand; it's a hundred thousand. How many fish would I need to sell to make that lump sum of money? The money is right in my account now. It's literally my money already. Of course, I'm not willing to give it back.

"Besides, even if you return it to us, you have committed a crime and will be sentenced, nonetheless. And now my family already knows about this. Even if we die here now, the police will still find you. You can't run away anymore. Stop thinking that you can get out of this unscathed!" Nan Chen continued to pressure Gui Si.

Feeling that he was about to have a mental breakdown, Guo Si asked, "What should I do, then?"