

Boss Mommy 391

Chapter 391 Making Insinuations

After the brand manager from Lada said this, she praised Bai Shanshan, "On the contrary, we can sense the nobility and elegance from you. This is then the pursuit of our brand. So, please give us one more chance."

After saying that, she continued, "We have cooperated with the four great families many times before. All women in the four families have praised that our clothes fit them very well. Madam Bai, the brand you selected earlier is actually considered average among us, top-tier brands. Our brand is akin to Hermes in clothing."

Lada's clothes had always been targeted at the rich and influential. After wearing them, one would be able to flaunt their status very well.

So, when the four great families organized any great events, they would indeed purchase clothes from Lada.

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However, when compared to the women raised in the four great families, Bai Shanshan's temperament was much gentler, and the red dress was too aggressive. Hence, it was indeed not suitable for Bai Shanshan.

Bai Shanshan resolutely waved her hands. "No need, I like the one my sis-in-law picked for me. You should quickly help take my sister-in-law's measurements."

After saying this, the brand manager from Lada couldn't help but shoot another glare at Shen Ruoqing. "Madam Bai, if one didn't exude a certain aura, it would be impossible for them to look good in our clothes. The style of the clothes that Madam Shen chose for you looks like what someone from a small family would wear. It truly isn't suitable for your figure..."

When Shen Ruoqing heard this, she lifted her eyebrows.

She then slowly placed her arms down and looked at the brand manager.

This insinuation was very clear. It was like the brand manager was pointing her finger right at Shen Ruoqing's nose and saying her judgment sucks!

The servants in the family had been instructed by Matriarch Chu frequently, so although they were more respectful toward Bai Shanshan, they didn't dare to slight Shen Ruoqing.

However, things were different for outsiders.

Shen Ruoqing finally realized why there was a hint of pity in the gaze of the butler earlier.

No matter how high the Chu Family wanted to prop her up, in the eyes of outsiders, Bai Shanshan's status would always be higher than hers.

Actually, she was mentally prepared for it, and she didn't care about casual things like this. Hence, she didn't lose her temper.

However, this didn't mean she was willing to be bullied.

Shen Ruoqing's expression turned cold.

Bai Shanshan could also hear what the manager implied, and she felt some anger in her heart. "I like what my sis-in-law has chosen for me, so you don't have to continue talking. Go and take my sis-in-law's measurements immediately!"

The brand manager from Lada lowered her eyelids. "My apologies Madam Bai, I cannot agree to your request. The guests for our brand have to either be from the four great families or people we approved of. We won't sell to those who cannot match our concept."

The brand 'Lada' could simply afford to be so arrogant!

Just like Hermes, those who purchased their goods had to be qualified to use it first! For example, it meant that if one wanted to purchase a \$200,000 bag, they had to purchase \$200,000 worth of other stuff first before they could be qualified to buy the bag.

With such a condition, it actually caused Hermes to become the favored brand of the rich.

Clothing from Lada was the same as well. They would only sell to people who 'matched their brand image'. This would cause those who were wearing their clothes to feel honored.

In fact, many celebrities were willing to pay top dollar to loan one of their clothes to walk on the red carpet...

However, the ego of this brand manager was too high. Since the Chu Family had established a foothold, they could also be considered a noble family. In this case, this manager could simply set the price higher and earn more profits. By doing so, she could help Shen Ruoqing boost her fame while also earning tangible benefits for her brand.

However, she intentionally wanted to make things difficult for Shen Ruoqing because the latter had chosen an article of clothing from another brand for Bai Shanshan.

People who were rejected by Lada would either be those with no fashion sense or those with low status.

Once this matter spread, Shen Ruoqing would become a joke in the circle of wealthy women.

At this moment, the brand manager lifted her head slightly and said, "Naturally, if Madam Bai chooses us, we can give you some face and also allow Madam Shen to wear one of our clothes. After all, if Madam Bai becomes our esteemed member, you do have the qualifications to purchase clothes for your friends."

The brand manager's appetite was very great.

She wanted both of them to choose the Lada brand, so she could earn twice as much!

She thought that Bai Shanshan and Shen Ruoqing would surely compromise for the sake of the Chu Family's face.

"No need."

Shen Ruoqing calmly replied, "You can scram now."

Hearing this, the brand manager of Lada frowned. "Madam Shen, maybe you didn't understand what I meant. You should go and ask Mr. Chu or Matriarch Chu about the consequences of rejecting us. We will keep our members' information a secret, but as for non-members, we won't be responsible for such a thing."

She meant that if the two of them didn't purchase clothes from her brand, she would spread the news of Shen Ruoqing being rejected!

She was clearly trying to threaten them!

Bai Shanshan hesitated as she stared at Shen Ruoqing. "Sis-in-law, if this matter spreads, would you be ridiculed by others...?"

She had been mocked and ridiculed by others all these years, so she understood the feeling.

However, Shen Ruoqing replied, "A brand that mocks its customer won't be able to go far."

The brand manager immediately countered, "A sparrow that flies up to the branch of a tall tree also cannot become a phoenix."

After saying that, she looked at the butler. "You must be the butler from the Chu Family, right? Are you sure you want us to scram according to Madam Shen's instructions?"

The butler revealed a look of hesitation.

If a scandal like this broke out before the banquet began, who would even show up?

Shen Ruoqing clenched her fists.

At this moment, she couldn't help but feel disappointed.

In the end, she wasn't the person who could make decisions in the Chu Family.

She lowered her peach blossom eyes and smiled mockingly.

It had been so many years, but when had she, Shen Ruoqing, ever suffered such injustice?!

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Downstairs.

Chu Cichen returned.

Since the brands were here today, he also needed his measurements to be taken.

Chu Cichen actually wasn't interested in it. In the past, he would simply get Lu Cheng to directly pass the information on his measurements and get them to make the clothes. After all, he would look good wearing any black-colored suit.

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But after thinking that Shen Ruoqing was going to pick clothes as well, he was quite excited, so he quickly came home.

The moment he entered, he saw Matriarch Chu walking out of the kitchen while rubbing her temples. After seeing him, she said, "It is simply too tiring to organize a banquet, and you are actually stopping me from collecting money...I feel so bored doing this!"

"..." Chu Cichen's lips twitched and he turned his gaze upstairs. He then asked in a low voice, "Which brand did Jingjing choose? What's the color of the dress?"

He wanted to get a tie that matched the dress.

It would be for the best if they wore matching colors, so others would know immediately that she was his wife with just a glance.

Only then did Matriarch Chu regain her senses. "Oh, the brands just arrived. We might as well head up now to help Jingjing and Shanshan choose their clothes!"

Chu Cichen curled his lips and followed closely behind Matriarch Chu.

As the two of them went up, they heard a voice drifting out of Bai Shanshan's room. "Butler Chu, do you want to listen to Madam Shen's suggestion or choose our brand instead?"

Chapter 392 Are You Guys Even Worthy?

Upon hearing this, Chu Cichen and Matriarch Chu exchanged a glance. Both of them didn't understand what was going on.

However, Chu Cichen sharply detected that this matter must have something to do with Shen Ruoqing, so he pushed the door open with no hesitation!

In the room.

When the butler heard the brand manager's words, she frowned. She then glanced at Shen Ruoqing who was standing a distance away before she replied, "I... I have to check with my matriarch first."

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An indiscernible frown then creased Shen Ruoqing's brows.

At this moment, the door was suddenly pushed open and Chu Cichen strode in with large steps. His gaze immediately landed on Shen Ruoqing's face.

She looked the same as how she would be usually, looking very out of place in a crowd.

In truth, she merely had a cold exterior, but she had a warm heart.

So, everyone at home was already used to her cold and lazy demeanor.

However, Chu Cichen could sense traces of unhappiness from the faint creasing of her brows.

Upon seeing this, his heart sank and he turned to ask the butler without hesitation, "What matter do you need to consult the matriarch for?"

His tall figure was like a small mountain and caused the tension in the room to instantly build up. His phoenix eyes contained a sharpness that caused the butler's heart to pound involuntarily. "It is a matter about the clothing brands..."

Before she could finish, Chu Cichen interrupted, "Everything shall be as what Jingjing dictates."

The butler started slightly, but she didn't dare to show any hesitation and directly agreed, "Yes."

After saying that, she looked at the brand manager of 'Lada' and said, "You guys can leave now."

The brand manager frowned, looking at Shen Ruoqing before glancing at Chu Cichen. She then took a step forward and laughed. "Mr. Chu, I think you don't understand what happened here."

Chu Cichen glanced at Shen Ruoqing once more.

The woman still stood there, but there was a faint sense of distance that was being projected from her.

This made him realize that Shen Ruoqing was very angry at this moment.

He looked at the brand manager. "Oh, what happened?"

The brand manager of 'Lada' replied, "Things are like this. Madam Shen chose our clothes, but she isn't qualified to be our member. Hence, I wanted Madam Bai to become our member so she can help Madam Shen to purchase our clothes. However, Madam Shen seems a little angry..."

The brand manager casually used the term 'member' to avoid revealing those insulting insinuations she had made earlier.

However, Chu Cichen himself was a scheming expert, and he instantly understood something. "Why can't she be a member of your brand?"

The brand manager instantly found an excuse. "Oh, in the capital, our brand only allows people from the four great families to be our members. For anyone else, they would require three existing members to vouch for them before they can join us..."

Chu Cichen understood now.

So it was because the brand manager felt that Shen Ruoqing wasn't someone from the four great families, so she wanted to bully her?

The brand manager smiled. "Our brand is very welcomed by the influential families in the capital. All of them would feel honored to wear our clothing, and we are also very willing to be of service to Madam Bai and Madam Shen. By doing so, no rumors would spread...Mr. Chu, what do you think? Since Madam Shen is fond of this dress, why don't you help her and Madam Bai purchase it?"

The trap in her words was concealed carefully, but what sort of person was Chu Cichen?

He was a legend that founded and ran a business empire overseas by himself!

How could he not be able to hear the trap in the words?

Normally, he wouldn't care about such minor matters, but since this matter concerned Shen Ruoqing, he listened to it more seriously than when he chaired an international meeting.

He narrowed his eyes slightly. "Do you feel like Madam Shen cannot join as a member?"

The brand manager smiled. "That is correct. Her status and demeanor aren't a match for our brand's concept. However, this wouldn't impede her from purchasing our clothes. As long as Madam Bai joins us as a member and purchases an article of clothing from us, it would be solved. Although our brand's clothes are more expensive, I'm sure Mr. Chu wouldn't care for this little bit of money, right?"

After the brand manager finished saying this, her lips curled slightly.

His words made it so that no man could reject it.

It was like if Chu Cichen rejected it, it would mean that he couldn't afford it...

But what was the Chu Family?

How could they not be able to afford it?

When the brand manager felt that this business deal was secured for sure, she suddenly saw Chu Cichen's countenance turning cold. In an instant, it seemed as though she had been plunged into an icy river.

After that, she heard Chu Cichen's voice. "You actually look down on my Madam Shen? Are you guys from 'Lada' even worthy?!"

As he said that, he looked at the butler and spoke in a severe tone, "Why are you not chasing out such a brand immediately?"

Upon hearing this, the butler was so afraid that she took action immediately. She swiftly ran to the door and shouted, "Guards, guards!"

The brand manager was stunned as well, not expecting Chu Cichen to act like this.

Only when the security guards of the Chu Family had rushed in and violently chased them out did the brand manager finally understand that she had rammed her toes into a board of steel today!

She looked at Shen Ruoqing and spoke in rage, "Mr. Chu, are you sure you want to offend us, 'Lada', for a woman of such status?"

Chu Cichen lowered his eyelids. "Nope."

The brand manager relaxed, but in the next instant, she heard Chu Cichen continuing, "It is Lada who has offended me. In the future, all cooperation between Lada and the Chu Corporation shall be terminated!"

The brand manager sneered.

What cooperation did their brand have with the Chu Corporation?

Wasn't it simply a purchase of two articles of clothing?

They could simply choose not to earn this money from the Chu Family!

When Lada's brand manager was escorted away by the guards, she suddenly turned her head and laughed coldly. "Lada is a brand from Y Country, and our position in the fashion world is unshakable. For all the other brands, please think through carefully. Those who are rejected by us will never be accepted by the fashion circle. If you want to design clothes for a country bumpkin like her, you guys will only become the joke of our industry!"

This was clearly a naked threat!

However, the other big brands in the room actually hesitated.

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Lada's status in the fashion world was at the top, and most of these other brands didn't really dare to offend them. As for the other brands that were equal to Lada, they also didn't want to accept someone Lada had rejected as it would demean their status!

Hence, everyone subconsciously took a step back.

The Lada brand manager sneered and looked at Shen Ruoqing. "Do you see it? If you reject Lada, the other brands will also boycott you. No other brands will be willing to make clothes for you!"

Shen Ruoqing glanced at the other brands, but all of them lowered their heads upon meeting her gaze.

She felt somewhat disappointed.

Was bullying conducted so openly in the fashion industry nowadays?

At this moment—

Chapter 393 We Are Willing!

"Our brand is willing!"

Shen Ruoqing turned her head abruptly and saw a Chinese brand that custom-made dresses stand out.

Their brand logo was a Yulan magnolia, and their brand name was Yafang. The dresses they brought included qipaos, modernized Han-style clothing, as well as classic-styled gowns.

After looking at Yafang, the pupils of Lada's manager contracted. "Are you guys from Yafang crazy? You..."

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Before she could finish her words, she was dragged out by the security guards!

Yafang's manager was a 40-year-old lady. She walked up to Shen Ruoqing and said with gentleness and grace, "Hello, Madam Shen. You're a great standard for Eastern beauties, and your disposition also falls in with our brand's ideologies. We would like to customize a gown for you. What do you think about it?"

Shen Ruoqing nodded. "Sure."

Yafang's manager nodded.

At this moment, Bai Shanshan tossed the white gown she was holding to its brand representative. “I don’t want your gown anymore! I want to pick Yafang with my Sis-in-law! Does Yafang have dresses that are suitable for me?”

She was blaming the brand of the white gown for not speaking up for Shen Ruojing.

Yafang’s manager immediately said, “Yes, we do, Madam Bai. Can we discuss things with Madam Shen first before we move on to you?”

Yafang’s manager didn’t treat Shen Ruojing poorly because of Bai Shanshan’s identity.

Bai Shanshan nodded without hesitation. “That’s how it should be!”

Therefore, the other brands were sent off by the Chu Family.

Yafang’s manager only left the room respectfully after having discussed the plan for the gowns of Shen Ruojing and Bai Shanshan.

After leaving the room, she entered Chu Cichen’s study respectfully.

“CEO Chu.”

Yafang’s manager lowered her head and called out.

Yafang was Chu Cichen’s overseas business, and it didn’t belong to the Chu Family.

Back when Chu Cichen was overseas, he had participated in a fashion week, only to discover that there were too few brands from China. Therefore, he founded Yafang.

Hence, even if all the brands didn’t dare to sell gowns to Shen Ruojing, Yafang would still do it! This was because Shen Ruojing was their lady boss!

However, Yafang’s manager was feeling very uneasy at the moment.

Yafang had been founded for so long, and she rarely saw their boss. And now, she was called into his study. If the boss were to ask about things such as Yafang’s development, how would a mere manager know about these things?

Just as she was feeling at a loss, she suddenly heard Chu Cichen lowering his voice and asked, “Is Ruojing still angry?”

Yafang’s manager. “?”

She was stunned for a moment. “...I don’t think so. Lady Boss was very cooperative and even smiled at me.”

That meant that she was no longer angry.

Chu Cichen heaved a sigh of relief, but at the same time, asked, “Lady Boss?”

The heart of Yafang’s manager started beating very quickly again.

Did she say something wrong?

However, at the next moment, she heard her boss let out a soft chuckle and say, "This address isn't bad."

"..."

Yafang's manager was then told to leave the room in perplexity. Even after she left the Chu Family, she still seemed to be a little out of it.

She quickly returned to Yafang's shop in the capital.

However, she had just entered when the shop assistant ran over anxiously. "Manager, for some reason, seven to eight customers called in to say that they wanted to cancel their orders!"

Yafang's manager was stunned for a moment but quickly understood something. She frowned and said, "Just go with what the contracts state. The gowns can be canceled, but we won't return the deposit."

"Yes."

Almost at the same moment as she finished her sentence, the phone rang again. The shop assistant picked up the call. "Hello, this is Yafang Fashion..."

A voice rang out from the other side. "I want to cancel my order."

The shop assistant was very polite. "May I ask for the reason?"

The woman on the line sneered. "Reason? Naturally, it's because your brand isn't fashionable enough!"

The shop assistant explained, "Yafang is a new up-and-coming fashion brand..."

"Don't say anymore. Who asked you guys to customize a gown for a customer that's rejected by Lada? This makes me feel that Yafang's brand has been tainted, so I want to cancel my order!"

The shop assistant asked, "You've paid a 70% deposit. Do you not want the money either?"

"Of course... I don't want to wear clothes from the same brand as country bumpkins and unfashionable people!"

After saying that, the person hung up the call.

Yafang's manager pursed her lips.

At this moment, a commotion rang out from the door.

They turned their heads and saw Lada's manager, who had gone to the Chu Manor today, entering their shop. Lada's manager said very arrogantly, "Since Yafang is giving Lada no regard when you have just entered the fashion circle, we won't give you any face either. I've told people that Shen Ruoqing has been rejected by the fashion circle. Since you guys are trying to curry up to the Chu Family, then you'll have to be ready to pay the price! From today on, your brand will have its name removed from the fashion circle! You don't have to go to the autumn fashion display either! It's because they'll definitely not send you any invitation letter."

Yafang's manager said angrily, "You guys have gone too far!"

“You guys don’t look at the quality of customers and will customize gowns for anyone regardless of their background if they give you some money. That Shen Ruoqing is a bumpkin! Her father is an unpopular celebrity, and her family is considered a mid-tier family. They are a far cry from being a wealthy family! Since you’ve chosen her, then you’ll have to receive our wrath!”

Yafang’s manager took a deep breath.

Before she could say anything, Lada’s manager smiled. “Of course, it’s not as if you guys can’t do anything to salvage the situation.”

Yafang’s manager was stunned. “What?”

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Lada’s manager said, “Naturally, it is to pick a person in the capital with the most distinguished status to have them customize their clothes from you. With that, there might still be hope for you. Let me think about it. Who has the most distinguished status? Of course, it’s the number one family, the Shen Family. Then who is the most distinguished in the Shen Family? Old Master Shen doesn’t have any biological children, so it should be Miss Shen Jiayi, right? It’s such a pity. She seems to have just canceled her order with you!”

Yafang’s manager clenched her fists furiously.

Lada’s manager smiled. “I told you a solution. But of course, it’s up to you whether you can do it!”

After saying that, she left proudly.

After she left, all the shop assistants gathered next to the manager.

“Manager, what should we do now?”

One of them had their eyes turn red. “We’ve just entered the fashion circle and haven’t stabilized our standing yet. Why did we come into something like this? Manager, the efforts you put in the past few years have gone to waste!”

Yafang’s manager was someone with a goal.

She didn’t lack money and just wanted to let a brand from China enter the international market. She wanted to let qipaos and other ancient-style Chinese clothes establish a foothold in the fashion circle.

She had a great passion for this industry and thus had led Yafang to where it was today.

But now, everything was back to square one.

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Yafang’s manager let out a heavy sigh.

There was no helping it. Shen Ruoqing was their lady boss, so how could she not help her?

Looking at the few shop assistants, Yafang’s manager took a deep breath. “Regardless, let’s get the two gowns ready for the Chu Family. I believe that as long as we put in the effort, we’ll be able to take a leading stand in the fashion industry!”

Even if they were to lose, they could just start afresh!

However, one of the shop assistants couldn't help but complain, "Why does this lady boss only know how to cause trouble for our boss? If she doesn't come from a good background, then she shouldn't be so meddling... Does she think that just anyone can get into the circle of the wealthy and distinguished ladies?"

Yafang's manager quickly reproached, "Little Fang, mind what you say!"

Little Fang's eyes turned red. "I just feel heartache for you..."

"That's enough. The company belongs to the boss. Even if he wants to spam money and go bankrupt for lady boss, we'll have to do it! Go on, everyone can go back to work!"

After the shop assistants left, the manager also let out a heavy sigh.

She walked up to the shop entrance and wiped their logo.

After they completed the two gowns, if there were still no turning points, Yafang would probably really have to go bankrupt...

She was already quite old and no longer had the time to start everything from scratch.

At this moment, the manager didn't expect that the two sets of gowns they customized and her decision to stick up for their lady boss would bring an unexpected opportunity for Yafang.

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A few days later, the Chu Family's banquet started officially!

Chapter 394 Stunning the Entire Scene

This was the Chu family's first time hosting a banquet in the capital. Matriarch Chu had very high regard for this because this banquet would determine whether or not the Chu Family could enter the wealthy circle of the capital!

It was one thing for the Chu Family to have established a foothold, but whether they would be admitted and respected by others, was a different thing altogether.

If no one respected them, they would find it hard to make any moves in the capital.

For example, Shen Ruoqing simply wanted to pick an article of clothing, but there was already so much trouble. Wasn't this simply because they felt that the Chu Family was a new family that had yet to be accepted by the others in the circle?

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The men in the four great families wouldn't only marry women from the four great families. Some got married to wives with weaker backgrounds. But why did no brands dare to offend those wives?

It was simply because the Chu Family wasn't strong enough!

Matriarch Chu felt extremely sullen the moment she thought that a daughter-in-law of the Chu Family had been scolded by a mere brand manager. She immediately spurred those in the kitchen on and was determined to make everyone look at the Chu Family in a new light at the banquet.

Everything from the food on the plates to the furnishing at home was exquisite.

In fact, Matriarch Chu even took out many things from her own collection.

The famous painting on the walls and the arrangement of furniture in each room were all carefully placed. The garden was pruned and artificial lakes were added. All these made it so the Chu Manor didn't look inferior to the manors of the four great families!

The crucial point was that the Chu Family had only shifted here for two months. Hence, they had to hire many people to work at the same time before they could finish such a project within this short period.

One could feel the might of the Chu Family from whichever detail they looked at!

At this moment, Shen Ruoqing and Bai Shanshan were applying makeup in a room.

The brand manager of Yafang personally came today and was responsible for all details of their makeup. They managed to rush out the qipaos on time. For some parts where embroidery was needed, they directly used finished products before making simple modifications.

After the two qipaos were worn, the manager made a request. "Madam Shen and Madam Bai, if it is possible, I can stay here tonight until the banquet ends. So, if any problems occur with the clothes during the banquet, I will be able to mend them for you in a timely manner."

Actually, upon receiving the qipaos, the onus of maintaining the qipaos was on the individuals.

Shen Ruoqing hadn't expected that the manager would be so professional. She nodded. "Naturally, you can."

After saying that, she spoke to a servant beside her, "Get the butler to prepare a seat for Manager Liu."

There were extra seats in the banquet.

After all, no one could guarantee that everyone invited would surely turn up.

Hearing this, the brand manager immediately felt overwhelmed by the favor from a superior. "How am I worthy to join the banquet?"

This was the Chu Family's banquet!

Bai Shanshan immediately spoke, "Since sis-in-law said you are worthy, it means you are! In addition, there are originally no distinctions between humans. Your brand 'Yafang' has to endure such great pressure due to us...So, how can you not be worthy?"

Shen Ruoqing had also heard the news that Yafang was suppressed.

She looked at Manager Liu and suddenly asked, "Do you regret it?"

Manager Liu started slightly.

If she said she didn't regret it, it would be a lie.

After all, CEO Chu didn't force her back then. It was her own decision to do this.

But since things had come to this, Manager Liu felt relaxed now. "There is no medicine for regret in the world. However, the thing I feel gratified about is that both your figures and demeanors are simply too excellent! This can be considered the best effect that our brand can present before I retire from the fashion circle!"

Actually, Shen Ruoqing and Bai Shanshan didn't have figures belonging to those top celebrities.

Shen Ruoqing was trained in martial arts and had muscles to support her figure. When she wore the purple qipao, her fair skin and icy demeanor instantly made the manager feel as though she just saw a beautiful killer.

As for Bai Shanshan, she used to be very fat and had given birth before. So, although she had slimmed down, she still had a huge rack and this matched the concept of her qipao very well. The white qipao made her exude the airs of a scholar and she was akin to a beautiful piece of jade!

The two women...one was cold and one was gentle, yet they both had transcendent auras, and their appearances could suppress the entire crowd. This was especially so for Shen Ruoqing. Her appearance actually caused Manager Liu to sigh in admiration.

Everyone had thought that formal dresses would be more impactful in comparison. However, this point was proven false when Shen Ruoqing wore this.

After wearing the qipao, she resembled a fairy from a painting just by standing there. She completely destroyed the impression qipaos would originally bring to everyone! Shen Ruoqing was simply like a spokesperson for their brand, Yafang!

Manager Liu felt that even if this was her last banquet, it was worth it!

Even if Yafang went out of business, those who had seen Shen Ruoqing before would definitely sigh in their hearts and know that 'Yafang' had existed before!

Bai Shanshan started after she heard this. "Retire from the fashion circle? Why?"

Manager Liu lowered her eyelids and smiled. "Nothing."

All the sales orders of their company had been retracted, and some of their old customers were seen throwing the clothes or burning them.

So, their company wasn't far from bankruptcy.

This banquet was probably the last chance Yafang could shine in radiance.

Shen Ruoqing glanced at her and seemed to have understood something. She suddenly said, "Yafang will not go bankrupt."

Hearing this, Manager Liu started slightly, but she didn't think much about the sentence. "Hmm, madams, if you two don't have any other requests, I'll head downstairs first."

“Sure.”

After Manager Liu left, Shen Ruoqing headed down.

After all, she had yet to be married to Chu Cichen, so there was no need for her to go and welcome the guests at such a banquet. It was enough for Chu Cimo to bring Bai Shanshan to welcome people at the entrance.

As for Chu Cichen, he was only responsible for receiving important guests.

Once Shen Ruoqing went down, her purple qipao and icy demeanor instantly made her the focal point of the entire crowd!

The guests who had arrived were all discussing it in private.

“That’s a qipao from Yafang? It’s pretty nice...”

“It is indeed nice, and I initially wanted to buy my clothes from them too. Sadly, they are affected by Shen Ruoqing’s status. Right now, the brand image of Yafang is rotten in the capital. No matter how good a brand is, once it is deemed to be lowly, it will be very hard to remove the stigma people have of it...”

“What’s so sad about it? She is merely lucky. No matter how beautiful she looks, she cannot change her background.”

“That’s true. In any case, my mind keeps shouting the words ‘country bumpkin’ when I look at her...”

...

“The ‘Lada’ Brand is too unpleasant. She is actually quite beautiful and her demeanor is pretty good.”

“Who told her to offend Lada? Did she think she was someone from the four great families? Or is it because she is married into the Chu Family and feels that the fashion circle has to accept her? She basically doesn’t know that even if an empress wore sackcloth, people would still praise her for being beautiful. But if a wild goose wore a phoenix robe, the goose wouldn’t be able to transform into a phoenix no matter what.”

The person who said this cast another glance at Shen Ruoqing and involuntarily added, “It’s a pity for Yafang!”

Although the group was discussing in low voices, their voices still circulated into the kitchen.

Bai Shanshan looked at them and an angry look appeared on her face. “How can someone so nice like sister-in-law be criticized by them?”

Chu Cimo also frowned.

At this moment, the butler’s voice rang out from the entrance. “The Shen Family is here!”

Chapter 395 Who Said That Her Background Isn’t Good?

The Shen Family was here?

Everyone in the banquet hall stopped their activities and turned their heads in unison to look at the entrance. A few moments later, they finally saw a few figures entering from outside.

The people in the lead were two men, Shen Zhong and Shen Chong.

Although their positions in the Shen Corporation had been stripped, their statuses were still innately higher than the others as they were members of the Shen Family.

!!

Shen Jiayi, who was clad in a purple long dress, followed them. She lifted her head up and exuded an aura of arrogance and pride. She even had a diamond tiara on her head.

When visiting others as guests, people would act low-profile the majority of the time. However, her attitude made it appear as though she was the female owner of this place.

Chu Cimo was stunned after he saw them. "Why are you guys here?"

He remembered that he didn't issue any invitation to them for the Chu Family's banquet.

Shen Zhong and Shen Chong both laughed. "Why? Are you guys not going to welcome us? Our Shen Family takes such good care of your Chu Family in business. Is your big brother going to face us with such an attitude?"

Chu Cimo glanced at the surroundings and suddenly waved at the butler. The butler immediately hurried over.

"How did they enter with no invitation?"

Logically speaking, it was difficult for anyone to enter if they didn't have an invitation today.

At the very least, the butler should go look for Chu Cichen and check the situation.

The butler outside was a male and was responsible primarily for doing tasks for Chu Cichen. After hearing this, he immediately replied, "They did enter with the invitation."

Chu Cimo. "?"

He frowned. The guests invited today were all according to Chu Cichen's will. Could it be that his big brother decided to invite them?

But no matter what, the Shen Family was an influential family in the capital, and it was wrong to keep them waiting outside. Hence, Chu Cimo immediately smiled and spoke to the three of them, "Welcome!"

He stepped aside and invited the three to enter.

Shen Ruoqing was below and seated on a sofa. Due to Lada damaging her reputation, no one at this banquet came to look for her.

However, she was very happy being able to idle.

Just as she lowered her head to look at her phone, the area before her dimmed. She then noticed Shen Jiayi standing before her.

She lifted her chin and swept her gaze across Shen Ruoqing's dress.

The woman was sitting there lazily, and her dress revealed her fantastic figure. In addition to her icy demeanor and straight black shoulder-length hair, she was like a noble among cats. Those who looked at her would sigh in admiration as she was shockingly beautiful.

Shen Jiayi narrowed her eyes before coldly speaking, "Miss Shen, for whom are you dressed up so beautifully? Do you want to seduce guys to look at you? You don't have the bearing of an elegant lady from a noble family at all. No wonder Lada said you are a country bumpkin. However, I don't think so. Instead, I feel that you exude an aura akin to a prostitute. How can someone like you be worthy enough for Mr. Chu?"

After she said this, a woman behind Shen Jiayi walked out. It was actually the brand manager for Lada. She smiled fawningly. "Miss Shen Jiayi is correct. Back when I saw Madam Shen, I immediately felt that her demeanor was not a match for our brand's concept. So, the true reason was as per what you summarized. Although Madam Shen looks like an honorable woman, there is a streak of promiscuity in her bones..."

After she said this, all the guests in the surroundings looked over, revealing contemplative looks filled with pity.

The future matriarch of a family was actually evaluated like a whore?

This was simply stark naked humiliation.

Shen Ruoqing's gaze also sank.

Just when she was about to say something, Manager Liu, the brand manager of Yafang, rushed over and directly spoke, "Lada's manager? Stop speaking blindly! Miss Shen's demeanor is poles apart from the word 'promiscuous'! Those who looked at her would be stunned by her beauty, yet they wouldn't dare to have any blasphemous thoughts in their heads. It is precisely because of her aura!"

After Manager Liu said this, everyone in the surroundings couldn't help but silently nod in agreement.

Honestly speaking, Shen Ruoqing today was stunning.

Her appearance made it so that many men, even women who were here, couldn't help but spare her a few glances. After all, she was too beautiful and was bound to attract attention.

Lada's manager laughed after hearing this. "Manager Liu, you cannot hope for everyone's aesthetic senses to be the same as you. However, you should really go and interact more with people in the fashion industry. For those of us in the branded clothing business, it would be problematic if there's a problem with your aesthetic senses...Oh, my apologies. I forgot that Yafang has been removed from the fashion circle..."

After saying that, she touched her mouth. "Ai, I originally felt it was a pity as Yafang's qipaos are truly in a class of their own. But today, I finally understood what was the reason. So, your judgment is problematic..."

Manager Liu was badly enraged. “Whose judgment is the problematic one? Everyone has eyes and a yardstick in their hearts. Don’t assume Lada can bully us just because you are a big brand!”

Lada’s manager shrugged. “I’ve asked Lada’s clothing designer, Dai Si, for his opinion. His conclusion was the same as mine. Can it be that Manager Liu’s aesthetic senses are even better than Lada’s? However, you are correct. Everyone has a yardstick in their hearts, so why don’t you ask everyone if Madam Shen’s demeanor is truly fashionable?”

Dai Si was a leading character in today’s fashion circle and was also the lead designer for Lada.

Because of this, his words were akin to an imperial edict in the fashion industry.

Now that Lada’s brand manager had said his name, who else in the surroundings would dare to say that Dai Si’s aesthetic senses were problematic?

Everyone was part of the wealthy circle here and had their own judgment. As for something like ‘fashion’, it was too ethereal. Even if everyone felt that Shen Ruoqing’s dress was nice, no one dared to say anything as they were afraid of being labeled as someone who didn’t know ‘fashion’.

Hence, not a single person dared to speak.

Seeing this, Lada’s brand manager laughed arrogantly. “Do you see it? Everyone agrees with my words!”

Manager Liu was infuriated. “Lada’s brand manager, you came as a guest, yet you directly insulted the host. Is this how cultured you people from Lada are?”

Lada’s manager smiled. “I apologize, people from the fashion industry are very blunt when talking. We wouldn’t think too much.”

Manager Liu frowned and suddenly hesitated. “Wrong, you should not have received the Chu Family’s invitation. How did you enter?”

As the words of her voice rang out, Shen Jiayi, who was at the side, laughed. “She is a consultant responsible for my attire today. I brought her in.”

When attending banquets, it was very normal to bring servants.

Now, Shen Jiayi intentionally looked at Shen Ruoqing to disgust her. “I also heard there’s a misunderstanding between Madam Shen and her, so I wanted to try and mediate. My attire consultant is someone very blunt with her words. You wouldn’t take her comments to heart, right? After all, it is for your own good that she pointed out your flaws to you.”

Lada’s manager continued, “Madam Shen, something like one’s demeanor is innately gained upon birth, but it can also be nurtured with effort. Since your background isn’t good and you came from a small place, it is very normal to have such flaws. As long as you stay in the capital long enough, you will be influenced sooner or later, and your demeanor will improve...”

As the sound of her voice faded, an aged voice suddenly rang out from the entrance. “Who said that her background isn’t good? I think you must be blind!”

Chapter 396 Face Smacking!

When the powerful voice rang out, it caused everyone on the scene to start.

Everyone turned in unison, only to see an old man standing at the entrance with Chu Cichen beside him. Clearly, he had just arrived and Chu Cichen had personally gone to welcome him.

This old man spoke fluent mandarin, but he was a westerner.

The color of his clothes looked very strange, of different shades of red and green. However, those who looked at it would feel that it was pretty nice.

At this moment, he already strode over to Shen Ruoqing and looked at her with gleaming eyes. "Goddess Muse, so you are here! You made me put in so much effort to find you!"

Shen Ruoqing's lips twitched.

She shifted her gaze from the old man to Chu Cichen. It was as though she was afraid that she would taint her eyes if she looked at the old man even for a moment more.

However, the old man didn't mind her contempt. He turned and looked at Lada's manager and spoke angrily, "Did you say earlier that my Goddess Muse's demeanor isn't good? I think you should visit an eye specialist! Which brand are you from? Your judgment is so poor!"

Lada's manager was stunned. At this moment, she was looking at the old man in disbelief.

Shen Jiayi coldly snorted. "She's the brand manager of Lada."

The old man sneered. "Lada? Heh heh, it has been so many years, but why is Dai Si's judgment still so bad? I will definitely give him a call and mock him properly!"

Shen Jiayu paused.

She didn't understand why this old man brought up the big shot of the fashion circle, Dai Si, and his tone was also so frivolous. She frowned and asked, "Who the hell are you? How can you be so disrespectful of Dai Si?"

After she said this, Lada's manager immediately tugged Shen Jiayi's arm.

Shen Jiayi frowned. "What are you doing?"

Lada's manager had turned pale. She shook her head and didn't speak.

Manager Liu from Yafang already revealed a look of excitement the moment she saw this old man.

At this moment, seeing that Shen Jiayi and the people in the surroundings didn't really understand, Manager Liu immediately stood up and made the introduction. "I'm sure everyone has heard of the name I'm going to reveal. His name is Franklin."

After his name was out, everyone immediately fell silent.

Franklin straightened his back.

However, it was clear that Shen Jiayi had never heard of this name before. She arrogantly asked, "Who?"

Manager Liu laughed in a low voice and continued, "He is Lada's previous head designer, the one who led Lada to its current height. When he was in power, he was also known as the Father of Fashion. Dai Si was the one nurtured by him, merely one of his students. Also, when it comes to design, Dai Si has always been using Franklin's concepts..."

Shen Jiayi frowned. She hadn't expected that the Chu Family would find someone like him to support Shen Ruojing.

She immediately looked at Lada's brand manager, only to see the manager coughing. "Mr. Franklin, you and Madam Shen..."

Franklin immediately replied, "She is the Goddess Muse I've been searching for! Sadly, she refused to become my goddess back then, using the reason that her mastery of the English language isn't good enough to reject me..."

After saying that, Franklin spoke to Shen Ruojing, "For your sake, I intentionally learned Chinese. Can you become my Muse?"

Shen Ruojing. "..."

She hadn't expected that this old fellow would still be brooding over that matter and that she would encounter him here...

Shen Ruojing glanced at Chu Cichen once more as her lips curled.

It seemed that Chu Cichen had gone to find Franklin for her. She had no idea what he had promised to get this stubborn old man to come and support her.

Lada said her demeanor was bad and she was a country bumpkin? Very well, he would let their 'ancestor' come over to smack their faces!

Shen Ruojing was initially also thinking of inviting Franklin to China to help Yafang survive the crisis. But she hadn't expected Chu Cichen to make a move quicker than her...The two of them actually shared similar thought processes when it came to doing certain things...

Chu Cichen, who was standing in the distance, raised his brows.

He had used his overseas identity to summon Franklin here. Under a mixture of force and temptation, Franklin had merely said that he would clear Shen Ruojing's name. Hence, Chu Cichen hadn't expected that Franklin was already acquainted with Shen Ruojing long ago.

In addition, he wanted her to become his Muse?

'Muse' was a term used by head designers. It referred to someone who was capable of bestowing them with inspiration.

Back then, Franklin chose to retire because he had lost the inspiration of creation. It was only after he encountered Shen Ruojing overseas and was stunned by her icy demeanor did many designs suddenly start flowing into his mind. His inspiration was bursting.

Sadly, Shen Ruojing found things too troublesome and fled.

After that, Franklin searched for her for many years and finally found her in China.

Currently, he had forgotten the resentment he felt due to being forced by Chu Cichen. He was so excited that he was jumping about.

But at this moment, Shen Ruoqing poured a basin of cold water on him. "No. After all, my demeanor doesn't match your brand's ideology."

Franklin. "..."

He turned furiously and glared at Lada's brand manager before shouting angrily, "Who are you? How is Dai Si doing things?! Tell him to rush to China immediately and apologize to my Muse! Goddess Muse is the only person out of all my Muses that can grant me inspiration. She is my only Muse now! Her entire body brims with a mysterious yet icy aura; she is simply like a bed of creativity and inspiration for us designers! But you actually dare to say her demeanor is like a country bumpkin's?"

Shen Ruoqing slowly continued, "Yup, they even said that my aura is as promiscuous as a whore's."

Franklin. "...This is simply nonsense. Your demeanor is filled with a sense of forbidden beauty, akin to a divine goddess that everyone in the mortal world can only look up to and not blaspheme. This little manager knows nothing at all about fashion! Goddess Muse, don't be angry!"

Shen Ruoqing glanced at Manager Liu. "Oh, but only Manager Liu feels my demeanor is fashionable and is willing to make dresses for me. However, her brand was removed from the fashion circle."

"Which turtle son of a bast*rd did it? In the entire fashion industry, only Manager Liu has the same level of judgment as me! Yafang is simply like the leader of the fashion world!"

After Manager Liu heard this, she was so excited that her body began trembling.

They had worked hard for so many years and barely managed to enter the fashion circle, but they could only rank last. And this time around, they were actually removed from it.

She had thought that her path was at its end, but it somehow turned around!

Once they were praised by Franklin, Yafang's status in the fashion world instantly elevated to the same level as that of Lada. In the future, Yafang was definitely going to be viral!

Manager Liu now checked the surroundings and discovered that those customers who mocked and canceled their orders were now showing intense regret in their eyes!

Yafang was going to be extremely popular now!

On the other hand, the reaction of Lada's manager was a direct contrast.

...

Her face was ashen as she coldly looked at everything. She suddenly shouted with reluctance, "Mr. Franklin, earlier you asked who said that her background isn't good. Did she tell you her background is very good? You were swindled by her! She is from an ordinary family and...her father is merely a small-time actor!"

Sometimes, one's impression of others was very important.

If one said that he was an affluent second generation at the first meeting, one would only feel that person was amiable if he dressed casually. So, Lada's manager wanted to make one last gamble.

As she said this, Shen Jiayi immediately took a step forward. "Correct, you must have been swindled by her."

Franklin frowned and looked at them before speaking in astonishment, "What the hell are you guys talking about? Her background isn't good? Do you all even have any idea who she is?!"

Chapter 397 Face Smacking Again!

Lada's manager was stunned. "What is it?"

Didn't they already check? Shen Ruojing's mother was a small businesswoman, while her father was a small-time actor. Could it be that she still had some kind of hidden background?

Franklin's lips twitched.

Of course, it was Divine Doctor Jing!

Franklin was so respectful toward Shen Ruojing because other than her being his muse, Shen Ruojing had helped him cure his chronic illness.

Someone like her was the most top-notch existence in the medical world, and she herself was an existence that others admired. What other background would she need?

However, he knew that Shen Ruojing didn't like to reveal her identity as Divine Doctor Jing and rarely mentioned it to others. Therefore, he merely sneered. "You don't need to know! Given Goddess's disposition, even if she was walking on the streets, I'd believe it even if she said that she was Country Y's princess!"

After saying that, he looked at Chu Cichen. "Mr. Chu, why aren't you chasing away someone as impolite as her? Are you trying to disgust my muse by keeping her here?"

Chu Cichen raised his brows.

The reason he kept that person here was clear.

He naturally had to keep Lada's manager present because he wanted her face smacked due to what she had said to the public. Right now, his aim was completed, so Chu Cichen waved his hand and the security guards immediately entered!

They dragged Lada's manager along and headed out.

Lada's manager was furious. She put up a struggle and shouted, "Mr. Franklin, you've retired. You're no longer Lada's designer and have no rights over me. Our Lada will definitely not cooperate with Shen Ruojing!"

Franklin paused slightly and sighed.

He wanted to personally come and explain things, also to give Lada a way out of the situation. However, he hadn't expected Lada's manager to have such a narrow perspective, pulling Lada into the abyss!

It was over for Lada to have offended such a big shot.

He let out a silent sigh again and shook his head. Forget it, he had retired and Lada's future had nothing to do with him anymore. He only needed to follow his muse and continue on with his own works!

—

Outside the door, Lada's manager was thrown out from the back door, so that the guests coming in from the front door wouldn't be affected.

She was thrown harshly to the ground.

Lada's manager spat at Chu Manor's gate. "Who does the Chu Family think they are? Do they really think they are part of the four great families? Even the four great families can't interfere in our headquarters! We're an overseas brand!"

Almost at the same instant as she finished saying these words, her phone suddenly rang.

She picked up the call and the voice of her shop assistant rang out. "Manager, this is bad. The mall's manager came to inform us that they won't be renting the shop to us anymore. They've thrown out all our stuff and even smashed the shop..."

Lada's manager was stunned. "Why?"

The shop assistant cried, "The manager said it's because you offended the owner of the mall!"

Lada had opened a shop in the most reputable mall for luxury products in the capital, but they were being driven out now?

By the mall's owner?

Lada's manager was stunned for a moment before she reacted to things. She turned to look abruptly at the Chu Manor and frowned. "The mall actually belongs to the Chu Family?"

She clenched her teeth. "Even so, we don't have to be afraid. This is all the Chu Family can do to take revenge on us. Our headquarters is based overseas!"

She had just said this when her phone rang again.

Lada's manager took a look and saw that it was a call from their overseas headquarters.

So, she quickly picked up the call and heard Dai Si speaking in English. It was clear that he was enraged. "My god, who did you offend in China?! Do you know that our headquarters has been chased out by the building's owner? They say that they won't rent to us anymore! Moreover, most of our shops across the world have been forced to close down! Our Lada brand will have to say goodbye to luxury malls from now on! You're Lada's sinner!"

Lada's manager. "??"

At this moment, she finally noticed how horrifying the Chu Family was. She gulped and her body trembled uncontrollably.

To be able to accurately deal a blow to Lada overseas... This was definitely not something that could be done by an up-and-coming influential family!

Who... just who did she offend?

—

“What background does she have?”

Everyone was discussing things in the banquet hall.

Franklin’s words earlier caused everyone to start discussing. However, at the same time, the women from distinguished families who had looked down on Shen Ruoqing no longer dared to do so anymore.

Some even went to curry up to her. “Miss Shen, your qipao looks really beautiful!”

“That’s right, that’s right! I wanted to say that earlier, but I was worried that Lada would say that I was a bumpkin, so I was holding it in...”

“There’s no need to be scared now. Miss Shen is the muse of the father of the fashion world. Earlier, I was saying that Miss Shen had such a good disposition that Lada was speaking blindly.”

“...”

At the same time, Manager Liu was also surrounded by people.

“Yafang’s manager, I wish to order a qipao. I want the one that Madam Shen is wearing!”

“I like the white one that Second Madam Chu is wearing. I want to order one too...”

“Yafang’s manager, I’m sorry. I paid a deposit a few days ago. Do you think we can continue with that order?”

“...”

Shen Jiayi clenched her fists angrily after seeing Shen Ruoqing being basked in the limelight.

She then bit her lips and glared at that group of people before she headed angrily toward the banquet hall.

Right now, there were a lot of guests, and people were gradually taking their seats. The people who headed for the banquet hall were all politely led to their seats.

Shen Jiayi, Shen Zhong, and Shen Chong had just entered the banquet hall when the butler pointed to the seats on the second table and said, “Mr. Shen, Miss Shen, your seats are over there.”

Shen Jiayi’s countenance immediately sank. “Do you know who we are?”

...

The butler immediately wiped the cold sweat off of her forehead.

People from the four great families wouldn't take seats that weren't at the main table.

This was unless seniors from their families came along. They'd then take the initiative to move to the second table.

But who from the four great families wouldn't give a reply to invitations if they were attending a banquet?

It was already strange that these three people would come to attend the banquet today. So how could the Chu Family have made arrangements for their seats in advance?!

Even an additional chair had been added to the main table. As a result, the Chu Family really couldn't arrange for the three of them to sit there as well!

However, Shen Jiayi had walked up to the main table. She took a look at the nameplates placed there and sneered, picking up Shen Ruoqing's nameplate. "It's fine if Matriarch Chu and Chu Cichen were to sit together with us at the main table. We from the four great families won't take it to heart. After all, they are from the host family. But who is she to sit at the main table with us?!"

After saying that, she threw Shen Ruoqing's nameplate on the floor and stepped on it a few times!

She then sat down at Shen Ruoqing's spot without standing on ceremony!

If they were to chase Shen Jiayi away under everyone's eyes, it'd be not giving the Shen Family face.

Although Shen Zhong, Shen Chong, and Shen Jiayi did not have a good relationship with the Chu Family, the Shen Family had indeed given the Chu Family such great help in terms of business. Furthermore, the three of them were guests, and it would be bad to be neglectful toward them...

...

The butler suddenly felt an immense headache.

When Shen Ruoqing, who had just walked over, saw the butler's expression, her gaze sank and she suddenly smiled. "I'll sit at the second table."

"I'll sit at the second table too! There aren't enough seats at the main table anyway!" Bai Shanshan echoed quickly.

When the butler heard their words, she immediately heaved a sigh of relief.

With Shen Ruoqing and Bai Shanshan giving up their seats, she could just add another chair to the main table to solve the problem.

Shen Ruoqing and Bai Shanshan walked over and sat down at the vacant seats at the second table.

Shen Jiayi sneered and then spoke in a slightly louder voice, "Don't be too smug! No matter how people speak well of you, it won't change your background! A wild chicken that has flown up to a branch still can't be compared to a real phoenix! Just like how things are now, you'll always be suppressed by me!"

Shen Ruoqing gave her an indifferent look and suddenly smiled. "Is that so?"

Shen Jiayi raised her chin slightly. "Of course. Our Shen Family is the number one family in the capital! Moreover, I'm currently the only young miss in the Shen Family!"

"You mean from the branch family, right?" Shen Ruoqing purposely hit her where it hurt. "Only Old Master Shen's biological children would be considered to be from the main branch."

As expected, Shen Jiayi was enraged. "My granduncle doesn't have any children, and he treats me as he would his biological granddaughter! I'm considered to be from the main branch!"

She had just finished saying this when a commotion suddenly broke out at the door.

Everyone turned and saw Chu Cichen personally leading Shen Yuansong, Old Master Bai, Matriarch Bai, and the other guests who should be seated at the main table.

Shen Yuansong walked at the foremost, and everyone else had to make way for him, letting him take the lead.

After Shen Jiayi saw that, she said proudly, "Do you see that? My granduncle is so amazing! This is how amazing our Shen Family is! All these people are leading figures in the capital, and only I have the right to dine together at the same table as them. Shen Ruoqing, you'll never be able to compete against me!"

After saying that, she stood up, wanting to greet Old Master Shen.

However, before she could say the words "Granduncle", she saw Old Master Shen suddenly walking past her and continuing on with a beaming smile on his face...

Chapter 398 Her Identity!

"Grandfather!"

Shen Jiayu was stunned. The tone of her voice instantly elevated and became shrill.

Shen Yuansong paused slightly as though he had just discovered her now. After that, he frowned. "What's the matter?"

Shen Jiayi pointed at the main table. "Grandpa, this table is the main table."

!!

Main table?

Shen Yuansong didn't care about these things. He was just a little excited after seeing Shen Ruoqing, so he walked in her direction. Even so, Shen Ruoqing was the Chu Family's future matriarch, yet the location she was seated in was not the main seat.

Upon thinking of this, Shen Yuansong's brows started furrowing.

He had initially thought that it was enough if the Shen Family helped taking care of the Chu Family's business.

But he was simply too naive.

He pursed his lips and stared unhappily at Chu Cichen.

Now that the Chu Family's status was rising, did Chu Cichen begin to despise his granddaughter's background?!

Just when he was thinking about this, Chu Cichen's countenance also changed. The man's expression turned cold as he unhappily looked at the butler. "What's going on?"

The butler was frowning. "The two sirs and young miss came suddenly and we didn't manage to make prior arrangements..."

"But even so, you cannot let the family members of the host sit at the second table!" Before Shen Yuansong and Chu Cichen could speak, Bai Wei and Matriarch Bai were already infuriated.

Matriarch Bai took a step forward and bypassed Shen Yuansong. She then stood beside Bai Shanshan and held her arm. "Shanshan, stand up. Let's go to the main table with grandma. The daughters of our Bai Family had no precedence in sitting at the second table even if they were married out!"

Bai Wei also frowned unhappily as he looked at Chu Cichen. "Mr. Chu, what do you mean by this? You have no regard for S... for my Bai Family?"

Shen Ruoqing was the big shot's daughter, yet she was arranged to be seated at the second table? This was simply ridiculous!

Even the four families had to respectfully address her as 'Young Miss!'

The butler at the side hurriedly spoke, "I did ask Miss Bai to go to the main table earlier, but she refused to...Miss Bai, I think it's better for you to go there."

Bai Shanshan spoke, "My eldest sister-in-law is here. I cannot do so."

After her words rang out, Bai Wei immediately spoke, "In that case, get your sis-in-law to go to the main table too!"

If Shen Ruoqing sat at the second table, Bai Wei wouldn't dare to sit at the main table. Although the big shot didn't flaunt his identity in public, Bai Wei knew what was appropriate and what was not!

As he said this, Shen Jiayi immediately spoke out in hypocrisy, "Grandpa Bai, there are not enough seats at the main table. We can't possibly all squeeze at the main table, right?"

A table was usually only for ten seats.

The main table already had an additional chair placed there. If Bai Shanshan and Shen Ruoqing went there now, they would have to add even more chairs. It would simply be too squeezey!

Doing so would make the Chu Family's banquet look like a joke.

Everyone pursed their lips respectively.

Shen Yuansong looked at Shen Chong and Shen Zhong as his gaze sank. "The three of you came here uninvited. Don't you understand the rule of being guests? All of you are to move to the second table now!"

Hearing this, Shen Zhong and Shen Chong immediately revealed looks of embarrassment and anger on their faces.

Originally, when Shen Yuansong came over, they already stood up. However, now that they heard these words, they only felt a feeling of shame.

After their management positions were removed, the two of them lost a lot of face.

So, if they sat at the second table now...how would they still be able to mingle around with their peers in the future?

Hence, the two of them exchanged a glance, and Shen Zhong replied, "Uncle, we didn't come uninvited. The Chu Family sent us the invitations personally. Is this how the Chu Family is going to treat their guests?"

Chu Cichen's gaze sank. He looked at the butler and asked, "What's going on?"

The butler immediately replied in a low voice, "They did have the invitations when they arrived."

Their interactions attracted the attention of the Shen Brothers.

Shen Chong sneered. "CEO Chu, you are the one who personally gave the invitations to Jiayi, but you are going to lie now? Was the Chu Family inviting us for the sake of pranking us?"

After he finished speaking, Chu Cichen furrowed his brows and looked at Shen Jiayi. "I personally gave you the invitations?"

Shen Jiayi's eyes gleamed as she looked at him. She then lifted her chin slightly before intentionally looking at Shen Ruoqing. "Correct. Bro Chu is the one who personally gave them to me, and you even thanked the Shen Family for taking good care of the Chu Family's businesses..."

After saying that, she sneered. "I'm not like someone who has a weak matrimonial background that cannot provide any assistance to the Chu Family!"

Her voice was very loud and arrogant.

This immediately caused everyone in the surroundings to break out into a discussion.

"My heavens, what did Miss Shen mean? Could it be that she and CEO Chu have already...that?"

"Seeing how Miss Shen's eyes are constantly fixed on CEO Chu and how CEO Chu is rich and handsome, I remember that Old Master Shen did have plans to recruit him as a son-in-law for his grandniece!"

"Right now, the Chu Corporation's business is improving daily, but if they want to become the fifth great family of the capital, they still lack a marriage alliance with one of the four families. If Miss Shen really gets together with CEO Chu, his weakness of having a wife with no matrimonial background would be resolved."

"But Madam Shen is a little pitiful...she gave birth to three kids for him and has always been staying in the Chu Manor. I thought they were already married. But in the end, they aren't officially married yet. Does that mean she won't be able to become the Chu Family's matriarch?"

“...No one can say for sure.”

“...”

As everyone was discussing, Shen Ruoqing’s gaze sank slightly as she subconsciously looked at Chu Cichen.

Chu Cichen was frowning and explained with no hesitation, “I didn’t do such a thing.”

Shen Jiayi immediately shouted, “Bro Chu, what do you mean by that?”

Chu Cichen heavily replied, “I didn’t send the invitations to you, and I didn’t meet you in private. Miss Shen, please don’t sully my innocence or my fiancée would be unhappy.”

Shen Jiayi bit her lips. “YOU!”

She hadn’t expected that Chu Cichen would choose not to give the Shen Family face and say such words in public to smack her face! Wasn’t he afraid of offending the Shen Family?!

...

Shen Jiayi involuntarily glanced at the surroundings and saw that those people, who were initially glancing at Shen Ruoqing with pity, were all looking at her now. She could even faintly hear words such as ‘so she’s the one who is clinging to him’ and ‘shameless’.

Now, Shen Jiayi was so angry that she was clenching her fists tightly, feeling like a clown.

However, Shen Yuansong actually gave an order right now. “Why are you still in a daze? No matter if there’s a problem with the invitations or not, the three of you are to immediately go to the second table!”

Shen Zhong and Shen Chong both shared a glance. The two of them didn’t move and turned to look at Shen Jiayi.

As expected, Shen Jiayi was badly enraged. She angrily sat down and shouted agitatedly, “Grandpa, I’ve always been seated at the main table no matter which banquet I attended. You actually want me to give up my seat for this woman right now? Who the hell does she think she is? She has not married CEO Chu yet, so she cannot be considered a woman of the Chu Family. Based on family backgrounds, I’m vastly superior to her! She is just a country bumpkin that has no status or power, so why should I give my seat up to her?!”

“Who said that she doesn’t have a background?” Shen Yuansong grew angry.

His biological granddaughter was actually despised by a granddaughter from a mere branch family?!

Chapter 399 Family!

At this moment, Shen Yuansong suddenly didn’t know why he had been working so hard for so many years...

He had led the Shen Family to become increasingly stronger but ended up having to leave everything to these few ingrates.

To make things worse, his biological granddaughter was now looked down upon and humiliated by them...

As a result, this old man, who had seen the vicissitudes of life and no longer felt strong emotional fluctuations, was now so angry that his hands were trembling.

!!

He even had an impulse to put aside everything and be acquainted with his granddaughter right away!

However, before he could finish his words, Shen Ruoqing interrupted him, "Old Master Shen, it's just a seat. This place is quite good too."

The meaning behind her words was for him to not continue anymore.

Hearing this, Shen Yuansong furrowed his brows tightly, but the anger between his brows gradually relaxed. He then looked at Chu Cichen.

If Chu Cichen were to leave his granddaughter to feel aggrieved just like that, he was definitely going to bring her away!

He had just thought of this when he heard Chu Cichen say, "It's true that this seat is quite good."

Shen Yuansong. "?"

His heart sank.

He admired Chu Cichen as a businessman. But at this moment, did Chu Cichen really lower his head before power? For the success of tonight's banquet, was he going to cause Jingjing to feel aggrieved?

Did that mean that he would also allow Jingjing to feel aggrieved for the sake of the Chu Family's development?

The more Shen Yuansong thought about it, the angrier he became. He let out a snort and was just about to scold Chu Cichen when the latter walked past him and sat down next to Shen Ruoqing. "I'll sit here too."

Shen Yuansong. "?"

Feeling stunned, he looked over, only to see his granddaughter suddenly turning and giving Chu Cichen a faint smile. It was as if she had expected his choice long ago.

"..."

Shen Yuansong fell silent for a moment and then suddenly smiled.

For so many years, he had been wondering what love was. Back then, how did things turn out that way with that woman from the Yun Family?

Now, looking at the two youngsters, Shen Yuansong suddenly felt that his understanding of love was still too narrow-minded...

Love should be trust, understanding, acceptance, and the courage to jointly take on everything together!

When he found out that he had a daughter, he felt both elated and full of regret. However, after thinking about it carefully, he understood why that woman from the Yun Family had made such a choice.

Now though, he felt that both of them were wrong.

What would happen if, back then, both of them had the courage to tackle all difficulties together just like these youngsters?

Then his daughter wouldn't have had to look for such an unpopular actor to marry into her family...

His granddaughter would also stand above others... having a greater say in the Chu Family.

At the thought of this, Shen Yuansong suddenly let out a long sigh. He walked over to Shen Ruoqing's other side and sat down, saying, "That's right, this place is quite good! I'll sit at this table too!"

Bai Wei and Matriarch Bai exchanged a glance. Bai Wei then laughed heartily and sat down next to Bai Shanshan together with Matriarch Bai. "Then we'll sit at this table too. It's true that this table is quite good."

"..."

Everyone was stunned and silence filled the place.

Everyone looked in the direction of their table in disbelief.

Seeing this, Matriarch Chu and the butler exchanged a glance and then immediately went over with smiles. They started making arrangements for the guests who were previously seated at the second table to relocate them to other tables.

The first and second tables instantly became spacious.

Matriarch Chu smiled and sat down at the second table too. She then said loudly to the butler, "Alright, serve the dishes!"

Exquisite dishes from Sea City were served in turns. With the delicacies presented, the atmosphere finally became less solemn, and the sounds of chatting gradually rang out in the banquet hall.

Everything seemed to have become more cheerful.

However, Shen Jiayi, Sheng Chong, and Shen Zhong, who were at the first table, felt uneasy. They felt as if they had become the joke of the banquet!

It was because clearly, at this banquet, the guests who were sitting at the first table were not distinguished enough.

Wherever Shen Yuansong and Bai Wei were seated, that table would be the main table!

"I've seen your mother."

Shen Ruojing was focused on having her meal when an aged voice suddenly rang out next to her ear. Instantly, her hand that was holding onto chopsticks paused before slowly placing a piece of abalone into her mouth. Only then did she turn and see Shen Yuansong looking at her.

The old man was like a child. He lowered his voice and sighed. "She resembles your grandmother a lot."

Shen Ruojing pursed her lips. "You didn't try to tell her who you are, did you?"

Shen Yuansong's gaze turned dim. "I didn't."

After saying this, he picked up the teacup from the table and took a sip.

He had just sipped his tea when he heard Shen Ruojing say, "It's fine even if you did. Otherwise, my mother would keep having the impression that her biological father was paralyzed in bed, with his children and grandchildren ignoring him. She thought that he'd be pitifully waiting for death!"

"Pffft!" Shen Yuansong immediately choked and coughed badly.

Seeing this, Shen Ruojing quickly put down her chopsticks and pressed gently on his back. Only then did Shen Yuansong's urge to cough subside.

Shen Ruojing raised her brows. "You can't handle some teasing."

Shen Yuansong glared at her. "You're just too playful!"

Since their attitude toward each other seemed very intimate, the gaze of Chu Cichen, who was at the side, darkened a little.

Shen Ruojing then said, "Your constitution doesn't look too good. Let me take your pulse."

Upon hearing that, Shen Yuansong's pupils contracted and he immediately withdrew his hand. "No need."

...

However, at the next moment, Shen Ruojing grabbed onto his wrist.

Shen Yuansong wanted to fling her hand away, not wanting to let his granddaughter worry for him after they had just recognized each other.

However, after Shen Ruojing's fingers pressed onto his wrist, it was futile regardless of how much he struggled.

Shen Yuansong couldn't help but lower his head and look at her hand.

His granddaughter looked like such a dainty young lady, so how was she so strong?

"Keep a calm mind."

Shen Ruojing ordered and Shen Yuansong immediately stopped struggling.

After that, Shen Ruojing closed her eyes, planning to observe his pulse carefully...

She had always known that her grandfather was in bad health. Recently, she had also been preparing medicine that was suitable for him. However, she had to ascertain his condition first...

After taking his pulse, Shen Ruoqing discovered that her grandfather's constitution was too weak, much worse than she had expected.

Just as she was in her thoughts, a sharp voice suddenly sounded, "What are you guys doing?!"

...

Shen Ruoqing opened her eyes abruptly and saw Shen Jiayi standing next to them, her gaze landing on Shen Ruoqing and Shen Yuansong's hands. "Shen Ruoqing, why are you guys having your hands on each other in public?!"

After saying that, Shen Jiayi's eyes suddenly widened and she scolded angrily, "Are you so shameless? My granduncle is already in his seventies, but you're actually s*ducing him?!"

Shen Ruoqing. "???"

Everyone at the banquet looked over.

Shen Yuansong frowned. "Shen Jiayi, what rubbish are you spouting?!"

Shen Ruoqing tidied her sleeve slowly and retracted her hand. "Why are you so agitated? I was just taking Old Master Shen's pulse."

"Taking his pulse?!" Shen Jiayi sneered. "Do you take me for a fool? If you were taking his pulse, why weren't you doing it openly but instead chose to be so sneaky about it?"

Shen Yuansong bellowed, "Shut up!"

"Why do I have to shut up?" Shen Jiayi was fuming to the extent that she was out of control. She no longer cared for Shen Yuansong's dignity and shouted, "If you guys dare to do something like this, why are you stopping others from talking about it?"

"Granduncle, I finally understood it now! I was wondering why you're so biased toward Shen Ruoqing and have been so defensive of her. During this time, you even gave away our Shen Family's businesses to the Chu Family! Turns out it's because the two of you have gotten into an illicit relationship?"

After saying that, she then looked at Chu Cichen. "Brother Chu, do you see that? Shen Ruoqing is just a wh*re amongst the rich!"

Chu Cichen stood up abruptly, his expression cold and his gaze filled with a murderous aura. He shouted, "Shut up!"

Shen Jiayi was so scared that she took two steps back, her heart palpitating. At that moment, she even felt unprecedented horror and anxiety.

However, she regained her composure very quickly.

She asked, feeling perplexed, "Bro Chu, you should have seen what happened earlier, right? Why don't you believe me?"

After saying this, she seemed to have suddenly understood something. She pointed to Shen Ruoqing and shouted, "I understand it now! I see it now! No wonder you don't dare to break up with her! Turns out that the Chu Family's businesses have to rely on this woman! You know of the dealings she has with my granduncle!"

"Bullsh*t!" Chu Cimo was enraged too. He knew Shen Ruoqing's identity as a doctor and shouted, "My sis-in-law isn't such a person!"

Shen Jiayi sneered. "She isn't such a person? Even a doctor and their patient won't get so close together! Unless it's with a family member, who would get so close to a man?!"

Her words had just finished when she heard a cold voice sounding, "You're right about the family part."

Chapter 400 He Has Appeared (1)

This voice was as cold as jade yet also wrapped in anger.

It was Shen Ruoqing.

Shen Jiayi furrowed her brows and looked at her. "What are you talking about?"

Shen Ruoqing stared fixedly at her. "I said that he is my..."

!!

Before she could finish, she was quickly interrupted by Shen Yuansong. "I've acknowledged her as my god-granddaughter."

Shen Ruoqing. "..."

Although she didn't wish to publicly acknowledge their relationship, that was only because she found it troublesome. She had never been afraid of the unknown consequence.

But since Shen Yuansong was so afraid, she decided to keep quiet.

Shen Jiayi frowned. "God-granddaughter?"

"That's right," Shen Yuansong said, "Shen Ruoqing is Qingdai and her zither skills can treat my sickness. Also, I have a deep connection with the Chu Family and already felt a sense of closeness toward her from the first time I met her. This is why I decided to take her in as my god-granddaughter. Why? Do you have an objection?"

The old man's countenance was strict as he stared sharply at Shen Jiayi.

Being stared like this made Shen Jiayi feel as though someone was pouring a basin of icy water down her head. This caused her to feel so cold that her heart was trembling.

She finally understood how foolish her words and actions were...

Shen Jiayi gulped down a mouthful of saliva.

Her status as a granddaughter of the direct line of descent was something Shen Yuansong had given her. So, a single sentence from Shen Yuansong could also take back everything.

Although the other branches of the Shen Family were leading very good lives as well, their statuses were definitely not as noble as someone from the direct line of descent.

Shen Jiayi immediately lowered her head and no longer dared to speak.

She bit her lips tightly and was so angry that she felt like exploding. However, she didn't dare to challenge Shen Yuansong's prestige again.

She could only squeeze out some words from the gap between her teeth. "Grandpa, I have no objections."

"In that case, sit down and eat then. How can girls from the Shen Family not be cultured and aware of the customs expected of a guest?" Shen Yuansong's tone held a heavy hint of reprimanding within.

Hearing this, Shen Jiayi didn't dare to argue.

After that, the banquet became much calmer.

All the way until they left, Shen Jiayi no longer dared to pull any tricks.

Also, because there were so many incidents at the Chu Family's banquet, everyone had a deep impression of it. And even after the banquet ended, they were still discussing the matters in small groups of twos and threes.

Overall, it could be considered a pretty successful banquet.

Chu Cimo and Bai Shanshan were responsible for sending the guests off. As for Shen Ruoqing, because she was already publicly acknowledged as Shen Yuansong's god-granddaughter, she was openly accompanying him.

When Chu Cichen was sending off the other distinguished guests, Shen Yuansong looked at Shen Ruoqing and said, "You can inform Chu Cichen about our relationship and make him clear about the situation. It is all because of you that the Chu Family is receiving help from the Shen Family. In addition, I can arrange many more profitable avenues for the Chu Family in the future. Jingjing, even if we cannot acknowledge each other in public, half of the Shen Family's fortune will be left for you and your mother in twenty years."

Shen Ruoqing was stunned. "What about the Shen Family..."

Shen Yuansong laughed. "In the past, I felt that family was more important than a single person. But now that I think about it, this is why your maternal grandmother chose to break up with me... to protect our daughter. Also, after living an entire lifetime, I discovered that humans are innately selfish. Twenty years later, I will no longer be around, so even if the Shen Family declines, what has it got to do with me?"

The Shen Family rose to glory and became the wealthiest family in his hands.

As he had left behind sufficient wealth for Shen Chong and the others, it should be alright.

However, Shen Ruoqing lowered her eyes and said, "Actually, I don't lack money."

“Would anyone ever feel that they have too much money?” Shen Yuansong laughed before he stood up. “Alright, I should leave.”

When Shen Yuansong was walking to the entrance, he suddenly turned and looked at Shen Ruoqing again. “Remember my words. No matter what happens, as long as it doesn’t cause danger to your relationship with Chu Cichen or your life, you must never admit that you are my biological granddaughter. Just let everything end with me.”

After he was dead, everything would transform into harmless mist and smoke.

Or so he thought it would be at this moment. He had never imagined that the two of them would acknowledge each other using their real identities three days later, and the acknowledgment was done using ‘that method’...

Shen Ruoqing pursed her lips. “I understand.”

She then personally sent Shen Yuansong out.

As the two of them went down, they already maintained an appropriate amount of distance between them.

Chu Cichen hurriedly walked over. Just when he was about to speak, Shen Yuansong suddenly spoke, “Little Friend Chu, how about sending me off a while longer?”

Chu Cichen nodded and followed behind him.

The two of them then walked to the car park, and Shen Yuansong said, “Ruoqing is my biological granddaughter, so you don’t have to be suspicious about the benefits that the Chu Family is receiving. All of that is what I want to give to my granddaughter.”

Chu Cichen lowered his eyelids. “As expected.”

Shen Yuansong started. “You guessed it?”