

Chapter 11: Gong Tianhao

Inside Presidential Suite 888 at Marriott Hotel, a young man in a suit and black glasses reported to another man who was seated in a golden chair.

The man had a body of perfect proportions. He was very handsome. His facial features had flaws, but combined, the man exuded a sharp and oppressive aura. His eyes were dark and unfathomable.

At that moment, he was wrapped in a white bath towel. He grabbed another towel to dry his black hair. After Secretary Li reported his itinerary, Secretary Li looked hesitant.

Gong Tianhao glanced at him, and he uttered coldly, "If you have something to say, just say it! You're making it look like I'm bullying you."

Li Yuanhang smiled and said, "Tianhao, when I passed by the front desk, the front desk gave me a note. She said that a woman left it for you."

Li Yuanhang was Gong Tianhao's secretary but also his best friend. When they were in school, Gong Tianhao already invited Li Yuanhang to join the Imperial Palace Group to be his secretary.

Gong Tianhao looked at Li Yuanhang's raised eyebrow. He coughed and repeated, "A woman?"

Li Yuanhang adjusted his expression and nodded with more seriousness. "Yes, the woman told the front desk that she spent a night in this suite last night." Li Yuanhang asked with curiosity, "Tianhao, did you really spend a night with a woman yesterday?"

Li Yuanhang remembered that ever since the incident eight years ago, Tianhao became averse to women. Many women threw themselves at him, but none of them succeeded. So when Li Yuanhang heard that a woman had spent a night in Gong Tianhao's room, his interest was piqued. He wanted to see this woman who managed to make Young Master Gong change his principle.

Gong Tianhao's face darkened. He gritted his teeth. "Li Yuanhang, it seems like I've given you too little work. You're off chewing words like a common housewife and meddling into your boss' business! In that case, you're not going to have any work leave for the rest of the year!"

Li Yuanhang did raise a question in Gong Tianhao's mind. He had no idea what possessed him yesterday. He did see the woman in bed, but instead of chasing her away, he stayed with her.

But once he considered the sudden appearance of this mysterious woman, his expression darkened again.

He demanded coolly, "Who sent the woman here yesterday night?"

He had kept his journey to City Z a secret, but some people had found out. They would do anything to curry favors with him. Since he was a man, they often sent women his way.

Therefore, Gong Tianhao assumed the woman from yesterday night was another present.

Li Yuanhang was startled. He frowned and said with some doubt. "Tianhao, you weren't the one who invited the woman to the room? There were a few company bosses who wanted to send over women to you, but I have rejected all of them." Li Yuanhang knew how much Gong Tianhao disliked sexual bribes, so he would help his friend deflect all of them.

Gong Tianhao studied Li Yuanhang's face, and his cold face wrinkled slightly. He asked in puzzlement, "So where did this woman come from?"

Li Yuanhang didn't know either. He thought of something and took a note from his pocket and handed it to Gong Tianhao, "Tianhao, that woman used your name to get Manager Zhu to send her a video surveillance footage. She also left this note for you."

Gong Tianhao's face turned up with disgust. He said, "Throw it away, I'm not interested. Since she has left and taken the cheque I gave her, then we have nothing to do with her anymore."

Just as Li Yuanhang was about to say something, Gong Tianhao's phone rang.

When he saw the number, his expression immediately changed. He picked up and asked, "Doctor Huang, is there something wrong with my grandfather? Okay, I'll be back now!"

After hanging up, his expression was solemn, "Yuanhang, start packing. We're returning to the capital now. Grandpa is sick!"

Li Yuanhang became severe too. He asked worriedly, "Is the elder alright?"

Gong Tianhao shook his head and said, "It's hard to say! Doctor Huang said that his condition this time is not that optimistic!"

Li Yuanhang said, "Okay, I'll go and pack. We'll return to the capital immediately!" Li Yuanhang threw the note into the rubbish bin. As it floated through the air, the note opened. There were only two words on it. "Thank you!"

Neither of the men saw or cared about it.

Ten minutes later, a private plane took off from the roof of the Marriott Hotel.

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Back at Huiqing Group, Chen Ran's face darkened once he heard Yan Siming. He was livid. He shouted angrily, "Who the hell are you? Why do you have to be so nosy?"

Chen Ran gritted his teeth and hissed. "We're innocent!"

A mysterious smile appeared on Yan Siming's handsome face. "Oh, innocent? So you mean you and Young Miss Zhao don't have a secret affair?"

Both Chen Ran's and Zhao Wenman's faces were red. They were furious.

Chen Ran said with determination. "Of course. There is nothing between the Young Miss and me!"

Chen Ran could not admit his relationship with Zhao Wenman, or else they would lose their reputation. Plus, it would not be good for the company's image either. It was fine for Zhao Wenman, but Chen Ran would be blacklisted in the business circle.

Hearing Chen Ran's reply, Zhao Wenman frowned. She was dissatisfied. But she didn't say anything. She turned to glare at Xiao Lingyu and Yan Siming.

However, when Zhao Wenman took a more detailed look at Yan Siming, her pupils trembled, and she was shocked. Then she furrowed her brows further.

She thought for a moment and asked with some hesitation, "You-young Master Yan? You're Young Master Yan?"

If this man was really Yan Siming, then the bitch, Xiao Lingyu, was truly lucky. Compared to Yan Siming, Chen Ran was nothing. He was not even worthy of carrying Yan Siming's shoes.

But no, she would not allow such good luck to happen to Xiao Lingyu!

"Xiao Lingyu, stay away from him! Do you know who he is?!" Then Zhao Wenman took a proprietary step towards Yan Siming.

Chapter 12: Little Firecracker

When Yan Siming realized Zhao Wenman had recognized him, the first thing he did was to turn to Xiao Lingyu. He wanted to know how the girl would react when she found out he was the famous Young Master Yan, Yan Siming.

The result disappointed him.

An ordinary person like Xiao Lingyu didn't know anything about people in the upper echelon of City Z. Xiao Lingyu looked at Yan Siming with a puzzled expression. Then she turned to look at Zhao Wenman before turning back to Yan Siming.

Yan Siming curled his lips and revealed an evil smile. "Miss Zhao, is that desire I see on your face? Do you hit on handsome men and try to pounce on them whenever you see them?" Before Zhao Wenman could say anything, Yan Siming said with contempt, "Unfortunately for you, I am not Young Master Yan. I just look like him."

Zhao Wenman's face turned red and white. She was angry and embarrassed. She had never been humiliated like this before!

She glared at Yan Siming and cursed, "You bastard!"

She turned to the guards beside her. "Are you all blind? How can you allow this ruffian to enter the company? Throw him out now!"

The guards around Zhao Wenman paled. They ran to surround Yan Siming and demanded harshly, "Sir, please leave immediately. Otherwise, we would have to resort to violence!"

Zhao Wenman was so angry that her entire body was trembling. She could not believe that she had been humiliated by Xiao Lingyu's one-night-stand partner. She had to do something, or it would not quell the hatred in her heart.

Zhao Wenman pointed at Yan Siming and Xiao Lingyu. She ordered sternly, "Beat them up and throw them out!" She roared out the demand.

Since Xiao Lingyu already knew about her relationship with Chen Ran, letting her stay at the company would only make things worse. Xiao Lingyu wouldn't be the one who had her reputation ruined, but it would be herself and Chen Ran. Therefore, she needed to chase Xiao Lingyu and her man out. Then she would release more horrible rumors about Xiao Lingyu at the company to save her own face.

Yan Siming immediately shielded Xiao Lingyu behind him and asked sharply, "Beat us and throw us out? So this is how the famous Miss Zhao acts. I wonder if the other socialites know how vicious and brutal the daughter of Huiqing Group's Chairman really is."

Zhao Wenman glared angrily at Yan Siming, "Are you threatening me?"

Yan Siming shook one of his fingers as he said, "No. No. Miss Zhao, I'm not threatening you! Why would you think that?"

Zhao Wenman snorted and laughed. She said with disdain, "Even if that was a threat, do you think I'd be scared? Who do you think you are? A small company employee and a male prostitute. Who do you think will believe you? Don't overestimate yourself and think you can pose any threat to me!"

When Yan Siming was called a male prostitute, his face darkened. "A male prostitute? Zhao Wenman, you've really angered me this time!"

Without waiting for Zhao Wenman's reaction, Yan Siming took out his phone and dialed a number. Once the call was connected, he said, "Cancel all cooperation with Huiqing Group now! We will not cooperate with them anymore in the future! If anyone asked why, tell them their chairman's daughter has offended me!"

Then he hung up. Yan Siming turned to Zhao Wenman with a wicked smile. He sneered. "Well, didn't you call me a male prostitute? We'll see what kind of surprise this male prostitute can bring you today!"

After Yan Siming made the call, Zhao Wenman was puzzled, and then her face paled. She was extremely flustered.

When she asked him earlier, Yan Siming denied that he was Young Master Yan. Zhao Wenman also believed Yan Siming wouldn't lower himself to hang out with Xiao Lingyu. After all, Yan Siming was like an emperor at City Z. He was not someone approachable by Xiao Lingyu.

However, the most confusing thing to Zhao Wenman, was Xiao Lingyu was supposed to be raped by Li Yuanfa, so how did she end up with Yan Siming?

Zhao Wenman's plan was for Li Yuanfa to rape Xiao Lingyu, and then Zhao Wenman would disgrace Xiao Lingyu. After that, she would kick Xiao Lingyu out of Huiqing Group and then City Z.

By then, Zhao Wenman would receive everyone's blessing when she got engaged to Chen Ran. They would be the perfect couple. No one would call her a vixen who stole another woman's man.

But her plan was ruined by the appearance of this Yan Siming look-a-like. If the man was really Yan Siming, then Zhao Wenman had done the unthinkable by calling him a male prostitute.

In the business world, everyone knew that Young Master Yan appeared kind on the surface, but in reality, he was a ruthless and vengeful villain.

Zhao Wenman glanced at Yan Siming's phone, and her heart quivered. She prayed desperately that the man was just a male prostitute and not Young Master Yan.

Zhao Wenman pinched her palm until her fingertips were white. She sneered with forced composure. "Who do you think you are? At the very least, Huiqing Group is a famous company at City Z. Do you think with just a phone call, you can cause Huiqing Group to collapse?"

Yan Siming chuckled at Zhao Wenman's misguided confidence. He turned away from her to tell the girl behind him. "Don't worry, my little firecracker. I will help take revenge on this couple of scumbags!"

Xiao Lingyu looked at the man before her. After what Zhao Wenman said, things clicked in Xiao Lingyu's mind. She tried to pull up the image of the powerful Young Master Yan. She made a comparison and realized the man she pulled off the street to pretend to be her one-night-stand did look like Yan Siming!

Xiao Lingyu didn't know what to think. She couldn't tell if she was lucky or unlucky.

She didn't want to have anything to do with these rich people. She was not interested in their game of power.

Thankfully, he was just someone she met on the street. Even if he was the legendary Young Master Yan, Xiao Lingyu would not see him again after this. This would be the one time their paths crossed.

That was until Yan Siming called her his little firecracker.

"Your little firecracker?" Xiao Lingyu looked at Yan Siming suspiciously.

Chapter 13: Bankruptcy

Seeing Xiao Lingyu's confused expression, Yan Siming raised his eyebrows and smiled, "Don't be so confused, you're my little firecracker!"

Xiao Lingyu had black lines over her head. However, since Young Master Yan was on her side, she didn't argue with him. But that didn't mean he could call her whatever he wanted.

Xiao Lingyu pulled on her facial muscle. Her smile was as fake as it could be. She said, "Should I thank Young Master Yan for bequeathing upon me this nickname then?"

Internally she rolled her eyes. 'Little firecracker, where did he get that idea?'

If she had such an explosive personality, she wouldn't have been deceived so badly by Chen Ran in her previous life. She wouldn't lose her reputation and couldn't even stand up for herself.

Xiao Lingyu glanced at Yan Siming suspiciously. She grabbed a random man off the street to act as her shield. She didn't expect to strike gold.

She hadn't really taken actual revenge, but Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman had already done Xiao Lingyu's job for her... provided the man beside her was really that legendary Young Master Yan.

At that moment, someone's phone rang. When Zhao Wenman heard that, she panicked. She looked around and asked angrily, "Who-whose phone is ringing? Our company has a policy to turn off their phone to silent mode during work. Who is so stupid to violate such a simple rule?"

Everyone turned towards her. They looked at her expensive purse. It was clear that the ringing came from her purse.

Yan Siming smiled mockingly. "Looks like the company rules don't apply to the higher management. Miss Zhao, your tyranny has opened my eyes today!"

The insult stunned Zhao Wenman, but she quickly recovered. She turned to her branded purse. When she confirmed the ringing did come from her purse, her heart tightened. Her hands trembled as she opened the bag.

When she took the phone out of the bag and saw the caller ID, she almost threw the phone away.

She picked up the call hesitantly. "Hello, Dad..."

Then, an angry voice came from the phone.

Zhao Huiqing roared, "Zhao Wenman, you stupid woman, why did you go and offend Young Master Yan? Thanks to you, the Yan Corporation has broken off its partnership with Huiqing Group! Do you know how serious the consequence is? Let me tell you, in just a few minutes, so many other clients called to cancel their contracts with Huiqing Corporation!"

Zhao Huiqing was furious and shocked. Just minutes ago, he received a call from Yan Siming's secretary that Yan Corporation would cancel all partnerships with Huiqing Group. Before he could react, many other calls came in to withdraw the contracts with Huiqing Group. Now that Zhao Huiqing was on the way down, people didn't hide their mockery. They praised his bravery for offending Young Master Yan. Some even laughed in his face for raising such a wonderful daughter. She had the guts to go against Young Master Yan, truly a heroine.

Zhao Huiqing was angry and embarrassed. He had always doted on his daughter, but this time she caused such a big tragedy. Usually, no matter how crazy his daughter acted, Zhao Huiqing would protect her. But this time, she created a catastrophe. One that could make Huiqing Group go bankrupt!

Zhao Wenman tightened her grip on the phone, and her face turned pale. She asked in confusion, "Young Master Yan? Yan Siming?"

She looked at the man who was protecting Xiao Lingyu. Zhao Wenman was panicking.

A bad premonition arose in her heart.

'This is really Yan Siming? How is this possible? Why is Xiao Lingyu with Yan Siming? Did they really hook up yesterday night? Yan Siming slept with Xiao Lingyu, so he accompanied Xiao Lingyu to the company to seek revenge?'

A call from Yan Siming and the Yan Corporation did break off all ties with Huiqing Group.

Huiqing Group was a famous company in City Z but compared to Yan Corporation, it was nothing. They were like an ant and an elephant.

Even if Huiqing Group gave it their all, they couldn't even shake Yan Corporation. But if Yan Corporation even moved an inch, it could bury Huiqing Group easily.

Zhao Wenman's heart filled with fear, but when she looked at Xiao Lingyu, her eyes burned with hatred. Underneath that hatred was jealousy. She was resentful.

Zhao Huiqing was still cursing loudly on the phone. "Stupid girl, how can you be so dumb to offend Young Master Yan? You're going to be the end of the Huiqing Group. In fact, from now on, you're no longer my daughter. You are no longer a member of the Zhao Family." When Zhao Huiqing said that, his tone was ruthless.

Zhao Wenman's face was extremely ashen. She screamed, "Dad, no! Please listen to me... I didn't know he was Young Master Yan. It was not my intention to offend him..." She tried to explain, but Zhao Huiqing angrily interrupted her, "Zhao Wenman, I don't care if you did this deliberately or not. If you can't get Young Master Yan to forgive you and make him resume cooperating with Huiqing Group, you're not my daughter anymore. Miss Zhao, that means that you're not getting another cent from me, and stop calling me dad!"

Zhao Wenman was flustered. She nodded and cried, "Okay, dad. I will get Young Master Yan's forgiveness!"

Her heart was also filled with endless regret.

If only she had recognized Yan Siming at the start, then she wouldn't have purposely offended him. Then, this wouldn't have happened.

So for Zhao Wenman, this was all Yan Siming's fault. If he was Young Master Yan, why would he deny it? And now, he was using despicable methods to harm her and the Huiqing Group. The man was horrible.

Zhao Wenman gritted her teeth in anger. She leveled a poisonous gaze at Xiao Lingyu. 'This is all the bitch's fault. If she didn't bring Yan Siming to the company, none of this would have happened.'

Such is human nature. Zhao Wenman was the one who wanted to frame Xiao Lingyu, but her plan had backfired with the introduction of Yan Siming.

If Zhao Wenman didn't frame Xiao Lingyu, would Xiao Lingyu need to find a random man off the street and bring him to the company?

Moreover, if Zhao Wenman didn't act all high and mighty and call someone she didn't even know a male prostitute, would Yan Siming be so angered to take this retaliation on her?

So, in short, Zhao Wenman had brought this upon herself.

Zhao Wenman hated Yan Siming and Xiao Lingyu. But she knew that at that moment, the most important thing she needed to do was to seek Yan Siming's forgiveness and get the Yan Corporation to work with Huiqing Group again.

Xiao Lingyu might have Yan Siming on her side now, but Zhao Wenman knew the man wouldn't stick by her side forever. After this issue was resolved, Zhao Wenman would find other ways to seek revenge on Xiao Lingyu!

Zhao Wenman walked towards Yan Siming, bit her lip, lowered her head, and whispered with a flushed face, "Young Master Yan, I'm sorry! Please be magnanimous. You wouldn't fault me for my ignorance, right?"

Chapter 14: Young Master Yan

The moment the words left Zhao Wenman's mouth, the atmosphere tensed.

Everyone looked at the man Xiao Lingyu brought over with disbelief.

This meant that the man was really that Young Master Yan, the most eligible bachelor at City Z. Other than his wealthy background, Yan Siming was also extremely handsome and had a perfect body that could rival a male model. On top of that, he was only 28. But even at his young age, he was already an accomplished entrepreneur in City Z. He was the wealthiest man at City Z and even wedged his way into the global wealth ranking. Any one of these conditions could tempt a woman. Young Master Yan was the dream of every socialite at City Z.

Yan Siming had a reputation as a womanizer, but he was not uncouth.

All his female partners were willing companions. They had agreed on the terms before starting the relationship. When they were with Young Master Yan, they would be treated fairly. Even after they had a break-up, Young Master Yan would take care of them with a parting gift of money, houses, cars, and so on.

For an ordinary woman, that was enough to last her for a whole lifetime.

However, if the woman continued to annoy Young Master Yan after the break-up, then he would take back all the gifts and initiate revenge to show them the consequences of being greedy.

Even though most women knew Yan Siming would get tired of them after a while, they were willing to be with Yan Siming. Other than the stuff they'd get during and after the relationship, they prayed that they'd be the one who captured Yan Siming's heart.

The saying goes, an amorous person wouldn't be so easily moved by love, but once they were, they would stop at anything to solidify that love. Yan Siming was such a man. However, no woman was lucky enough to move his heart yet.

The people at Huiqing Group were shocked that they were in the presence of a legendary figure. To make things even more shocking, he was brought there by their company's most easily-bullied Xiao Lingyu. Their worldviews were subverted.

Yan Siming's one call had put Huiqing Group's future on the line.

Even though Zhao Wenman didn't put her call on speaker when her father called, the place was so silent that basically everyone could hear them clearly. Therefore, other than shock, the crowd was nervous and anxious.

Everyone knew that anyone who offended Young Master Yan would not end up with a good ending.

Just now, the chairman of Huiqing Group had personally called to say the Yan Corporation had cut off their cooperation with the company.

What did this mean?

It meant that Huiqing Group was not far from bankruptcy.

Once that happened, most of the people present would lose their jobs. Huiqing Group was a famous company in City Z. The employee treatment was not that good, but many people saw Huiqing Group as a training ground. They would gather experience here and then seek greener pasture elsewhere.

But for some, it would seem like that plan had to be pushed forward. This was because if Zhao Wenman couldn't get Young Master Yan's forgiveness, then the bankruptcy would become a reality.

Many employees were already plotting. They had written up their resignation and planning resumes in their mind. But of course, they would stay to witness the result of this incident first.

At that same time, more women glared at Xiao Lingyu with jealousy.

Xiao Lingyu was able to get Chen Ran's unconditional love. That had already made her the subject of envy for many female employees. Now Xiao Lingyu also got to know the most powerful bachelor in City Z. She even slept with him.

Judging from Young Master Yan's relationship history, Xiao Lingyu had transformed into a phoenix already. She found the perfect man, and a carefree life had landed in her laps. She would have a house, a car, and money.

Xiao Lingyu's luck was unreasonably good. All the women looked at Xiao Lingyu with envy. They had the urge to take her place.

None of them was worse than Xiao Lingyu in terms of looks and intellect. So why did Xiao Lingyu manage to get all the good men? First, there was Chen Ran and now, Yan Siming.

However, at that moment, the person who had to deal with the most complicated emotions was Chen Ran. He was overwhelmed by fear and anger.

He and Xiao Lingyu were childhood sweethearts. They were in the same class in primary, middle, and high school and were admitted to the same university.

He also did love Xiao Lingyu.

Since they became an official couple, Chen Ran protected Xiao Lingyu under his wings. To prevent other men from noticing Xiao Lingyu's beauty, he persuaded her to dress down and bought her the big ugly glasses. It was so that no one would discover her alluring beauty.

Chen Ran cared about Xiao Lingyu and checked on her daily because he needed to make sure that Xiao Lingyu wouldn't be able to survive without him.

However, no matter how strong the love, it couldn't resist outside temptation, especially when it came carrying money.

After entering the workplace, Chen Ran realized that the most important thing for a man was not love and relationship but money and power.

So when Zhao Wenman threw him a bone and lured him with money, Chen Ran caved. Nevertheless, he was still Xiao Lingyu's official boyfriend. Furthermore, their parents back in their hometowns had already agreed upon their marriage. So if he suddenly married another woman, it would damage Chen Ran's reputation.

Therefore, to protect his own hide, Chen Ran had no choice but to sacrifice his girlfriend. Zhao Wenman urged him to go for the kill. She needed Xiao Lingyu to be properly disgraced.

At first, Chen Ran didn't agree, but when Zhao Wenman threatened him by canceling the engagement, he had no choice but to go along with it.

Chen Ran felt guilty towards Xiao Lingyu, but he had to put himself first.

When he was planning the trap with Zhao Wenman, Chen Ran had already figured out the rest of the plan. He would send Xiao Lingyu back to their hometown. After he married Zhao Wenman, he would slowly take over Huiqing Group. When he succeeded, he would divorce Zhao Wenman and marry Xiao Lingyu.

Chen Ran was certain that Xiao Lingyu would wait for him.

But he was in for a surprise!

He never expected Xiao Lingyu to find out about the affair between him and Zhao Wenman. If Xiao Lingyu had kept the resentment to herself as a good woman should, it would be fine, but Xiao Lingyu had to make a big deal out of it. She pulled in another man, and he was the most influential person at City Z, Yan Siming.

To make matters worse, Zhao Wenman had to go and call Yan Siming a male prostitute. No one dared to imagine the consequences of offending Young Master Yan.

Chen Ran at least knew he had no power to speak. He could only pray that Zhao Wenman could be more sincere with her apology and Young Master Yan would be merciful. Or else, Chen Ran's plan would go up in bubbles.

That was something he could not accept. Chen Ran couldn't believe that he might end up losing both Zhao Wenman and Xiao Lingyu.

Zhao Wenman knew very well that she had to apologize, but it was very tough for someone with her upbringing to do so. This was no different from asking her to deny every fiber of her being. She felt like she had done everything she could by uttering the apology to Yan Siming.

However, the woman didn't realize the severity of the truth.

Her insincere apology might be accepted if she had offended an ordinary person. After all, no one dared not to take the apology of the chairman's daughter. However, was Yan Siming an ordinary person?

He was the young master of the wealthiest family in City Z and the president of Yan Corporation.

Therefore, he was not satisfied with Zhao Wenman's insincere apology.

Yan Siming sneered and mocked. "Miss Zhao, you're the daughter of a big company's chairman, and I'm just a mere male prostitute. Your apology is too heavy for me to bear." His tone was full of disdain.

Zhao Wenman's eyes trembled, and her expression froze. She looked shocked and humiliated.

Yan Siming didn't voice it aloud, but the implication was clear. He was not going to accept any half-hearted apology.

Zhao Wenman was heavily humiliated. She was the daughter of the Zhao Family. When had she been required to apologize to someone before?

But this time, she was forced to apologize because of Xiao Lingyu, and her apology was still rejected. Zhao Yuenman was pissed.

She lowered her head again and said in a slightly louder voice, "Young Master Yan, I'm sorry. I... I shouldn't have called you a... male prostitute. I'm sorry!" She bit her lower lip. The words of apology came out with incredible difficulty.

The corners of Young Master Yan's lips curled up. He turned a deaf ear to Zhao Wenman's apology and turned to the woman behind him, "My little firecracker, now that you know my identity, are you not moved? Shall we spend one more night together?"

Chapter 15: Dump the Scumbag

"Little firecracker?" When they heard Young Master Yan's nickname for Xiao Lingyu, those who knew Xiao Lingyu was confused. Even Xiao Lingyu's mouth twitched.

If her colleagues were to describe Xiao Lingyu, they would use words like delicate, fragile, weak, and easily bullied. So Young Master Yan, what was wrong with your eyes?

Xiao Lingyu turned to Yan Siming, who seemed to change into a different person. She rolled her eyes and said, "Young Master Yan, Miss Zhao is apologizing to you."

Yan Siming only shrugged and said, "She can apologize, and we can talk. They are separate things!" Yan Siming gave Zhao Wenman no face at all. Then again, he was Yan Siming. There was no one at City Z that he needed to give face to.

Yan Siming suddenly leaned his face closer to Xiao Lingyu. His face was only half a cm away from the tip of Xiao Lingyu's nose. Those who didn't know better would assume that they were kissing.

Yan Siming had a charming smile on his face. He whispered like a lover and said very gently, "My little firecracker, I'm very good in bed. I promise that you'd never find greater satisfaction. So what about it?"

Even though Yan Siming was suddenly dragged into this mess, he found himself becoming quite interested in Xiao Lingyu. From the general study of the situation, Yan Siming got the gist.

Xiao Lingyu and Chen Ran were a couple that everyone envied. However, the man fell in love with a woman far more powerful than Xiao Lingyu. For the sake of his reputation, Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman drugged Xiao Lingyu, set her up with an ugly man to ruin her reputation. They had taken some videos and photos to drive the nails into Xiao Lingyu's coffin. By then, everyone would be too busy scolding Xiao Lingyu to notice Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman had gotten together.

However, Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman didn't expect their target to know about their plan and affair. Xiao Lingyu even came to the company to directly expose their conspiracy.

Yan Siming's eyes traveled to Xiao Lingyu's neck. When he saw the hickey, a bright light flashed in his eyes. 'The little firecracker has indeed slept with someone last night, but that person doesn't appear to be the ugly man Zhao Wenman had gotten her. Otherwise, the firecracker wouldn't be so calm to deal with all these.'

When Xiao Lingyu heard Yan Siming and turned to see his approaching face, Xiao Lingyu subconsciously took a step back and said with a smile, "Young Master Yan, I've already tested your amazing skills yesterday night. But that is where our interactions end!" Internally Xiao Lingyu grumbled, 'How shameless! Who wants to experience your skill? After this, I will not interact with this man again! We'll go our separate ways!'

Chen Ran's face darkened when he heard Xiao Lingyu. He was livid. He was angry, humiliated, and shocked.

He cursed furiously, "Xiao Lingyu, you shameless bitch! How can you say such things in public? You slut!"

Chen Ran thought he knew Xiao Lingyu very well. Xiao Lingyu, in his eyes, was a delicate flower that had to be protected by her master. She bloomed for her master, and when her master was not around, she'd wilt and die. Chen Ran was her master. Xiao Lingyu could not live without him.

But, over one night, Xiao Lingyu had changed into a different person. She didn't fall into his trap. Even when she came back to the company and faced the gauntlet of accusation and humiliation, she was able to respond calmly. Even more shocking was the fact that she had brought her one-night-stand with her. The man turned out to be Young Master Yan and brought them a hell lot of trouble.

If Chen Ran didn't solve this problem, then everything he had worked for would be in vain.

Moreover, if Yan Siming decided to take revenge for Xiao Lingyu, then Chen Ran would be blackballed at City Z with Yan Siming's single word. His future would be up in smokes.

Chen Ran never thought that Xiao Lingyu would retaliate with such ruthlessness.

And now she was even openly flirting with another man in public!

Chen Ran had always seen Xiao Lingyu as his property. He was pissed when he realized his property had betrayed him.

Chen Ran couldn't vent his anger at Yan Siming, so he directed his indignation at Xiao Lingyu.

When Xiao Lingyu heard Chen Ran call her a bitch, her face darkened. She walked up to him, raised her hand, and gave Chen Ran a hard slap. Her eyes were frigid and sharp.

She announced openly, "Chen Ran, you scum! Yes, I might be shameless, but that is because you forced me to be so! Furthermore, in the competition of shamelessness, I am no match for you, Chen Ran. I won't blame you if you want to fight for a better future. If you want to have a secret affair with the chairman's daughter, be my guest. As long as you openly break up with me, I wouldn't even beg you to stay. On the contrary, I will give you my blessing."

Xiao Lingyu's anger gushed out from her heart. Her hatred for Chen Ran erupted like a volcano. She gritted her teeth, "But instead of acting like a man, you want to have the cake and eat it. You want my reputation to be ruined so that your own reputation can be spared."

She also shot a sharp shot at Zhao Wenman as she said this.

The crowd was stunned. Only then did they realize Xiao Lingyu was not as stupid as they thought. If anything, she was brilliant. They had all underestimated Xiao Lingyu. Then again, it made sense. Xiao Lingyu came from a prestigious university, so how dumb could she be?

Chen Ran was stumped by Xiao Lingyu's words. His expression froze. He couldn't process what she said. His face colored with embarrassment. Finally, he opened his mouth to say, "Yu 'Er, listen to me... I...."

Xiao Lingyu interrupted him and said sharply, "Shush, I don't want to listen to more lies. Chen Ran, don't treat me as a fool. Do you think you've really managed to keep everything a secret from me? If you didn't want to be found out, then don't do it! But so be it."

Xiao Lingyu looked around and raised her voice. "Everyone, listen up! I need you to be my witness. I, Xiao Lingyu, am officially dumping Chen Ran. From now on, we have nothing to do with each other. Chen Ran, you are now free to pursue your happiness and true love. I will not stand in your way anymore."

Xiao Lingyu then turned to Zhao Wenman. A smile appeared on Xiao Lingyu's lips.. "Today, Chen Ran, you shall have your wish. I wish you a lifetime of happiness with Miss Zhao!"

Chapter 16: Internal Strife

Once Xiao Lingyu was done, everything became quiet again. Everyone had different expressions.

If Xiao Lingyu had made this statement without Young Master Yan by her side, probably no one would have cared. So what if Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman had an affair? Who would dare to point fingers at Zhao Wenman? She was the chairman's daughter!

In fact, most of the employees would side with Zhao Wenman to mock Xiao Lingyu for her inability to keep her boyfriend. It was Xiao Lingyu's fault for failing to compete with Zhao Wenman.

However, when Xiao Lingyu had Young Master Yan's support, things were wildly different. Regardless of the relationship Xiao Lingyu had with Young Master Yan, at that moment, Xiao Lingyu had his support, so her words couldn't be underestimated.

Xiao Lingyu just dumped Chen Ran. Chen Ran knew he would end up with nothing unless he could get Xiao Lingyu's forgiveness. He wouldn't get the bright future he had with Zhao Wenman as well as the love he shared with Xiao Lingyu.

Yan Siming broke the silence by clapping. He added with a smile. "My little firecrackers, since they have feelings for each other, you should let them be together. I agree with you. You are so generous. You should be qualified to get an invitation to their wedding party. Wouldn't you agree?"

Yan Siming added with ridicule. "After all, if you continue to block their path, they'd only keep on bullying you. Can you blame them for setting you up? You were a blockage in the middle of the lovebirds!"

Someone in the crowd burst out laughing.

Yan Siming was being sarcastic. He chided Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman for their shamelessness and disloyalty.

Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman's faces burned with shame. Their bodies trembled.

Chen Ran gritted his teeth and said, "Young Master Yan, that's enough!"

Yan Siming raised his eyebrows and said with an evil smile, "That's enough? Manager Chen, have I said anything wrong? Don't you and Miss Zhao have feelings for each other? My little firecracker doesn't want to stand in your way anymore. How is that wrong? So why are you so angry? Am I not telling the truth?"

Everyone, "... Well, he was telling the truth. Then again, everything Young Master Yan said would be the truth.

Chen Ran, "... Chen Ran clenched his fists tightly, and the veins on his wrists were throbbing as if they were about to burst.

Chen Ran raised his eyes to study Xiao Lingyu. Yan Siming stood protectively beside her. Then he looked at Zhao Wenman, whose face was red from being forced to apologize to Yan Siming. Yan Siming didn't even look Zhao Wenman's way. Instead, he was still teasing Xiao Lingyu. At that moment, Chen Ran's eyes flashed, and he made up his mind.

Chen Ran faced a predicament, one he had encountered before. A choice between bread and love. In the past, he chose bread over love but now that bread had gone stale. The choice was obvious.

Chen Ran couldn't do anything to Yan Siming, so he focused his attention on Xiao Lingyu. He said sincerely, "Yu 'Er, I was wrong. I know my mistake now. But please, believe me, I still love you. It was Zhao Wenman who seduced me. She offered me the position of company president in the future. I... I am just a man. I fell for her temptation."

Chen Ran bowed and said with penitence. "Yu 'Er, I merely made a mistake every man would make. You can understand my difficulty, right?"

Xiao Lingyu glanced at the expressions of everyone present, especially Zhao Wenman.

“Understand your difficulty? You have to be kidding me!” Xiao Lingyu roared. “Then why did you drug me and offer me to that ugly, perverted man?”

Chen Ran’s expression stiffened, and then he added, “That was Zhao Wenman’s idea. She said she couldn’t stand that I have once loved you. She said you were as disgusting as a pile of shit. Therefore, she needed you out of her sight. She wanted to kick you out of City Z. It was Zhao Wenman who set up everything. She provided the drug, found the man, took the pictures and videos to ruin your reputation! This is all her fault!”

Xiao Lingyu could not take it anymore and gave Chen Ran another hard slap. She demanded sternly, “Chen Ran, are you still a man? How can you push all the responsibility to Miss Zhao?”

But honestly, Xiao Lingyu was not really mad at Chen Ran. She was mad at herself. She was Chen Ran’s lover for ten years, and she did not even realize how selfish and cold-hearted this man was.

Chen Ran could frame his girlfriend of ten years for the sake of a better future. Now that Zhao Wenman couldn’t provide him with a promising future anymore, Chen Ran didn’t even blink and pushed all the blame onto Zhao Wenman without any hesitation.

Chen Ran’s selfishness, ruthlessness, and coldness scarred Xiao Lingyu deeply. She felt so sorry for herself in her previous life.

Because of Chen Ran, Xiao Lingyu hated Xiao Tong. After giving birth to Xiao Ling, Xiao Lingyu never once cared about Xiao Tong because, in her eyes, Xiao Tong was the reason she lost Chen Ran and her reputation.

Xiao Lingyu ran away from home for five years to avoid seeing Xiao Tong. Now, the weight of the guilt pressed down on Xiao Lingyu. She owed Xiao Tong so much. And the culprit behind this was her lover of a decade.

Xiao Lingyu hated Chen Ran so much that she wished he’d die on the spot. Xiao Lingyu scolded, “Chen Ran, you’re a real bastard! I must be blind to have fallen for a scumbag like you!”

At the same time, Zhao Wenman raised her head abruptly. Her expression was full of shock and disbelief.

The crowd was not dumb. They all realized that Chen Ran wanted to push all the blame onto Zhao Wenman. Instantly, Chen Ran’s loyal friend and lover image crumbled. More and more people sided with Xiao Lingyu.

Chen Ran was a real bastard.

After riding over the shock, Zhao Wenman was incensed.

She took a few steps towards Chen Ran and raised her hand to give Chen Ran a big slap. She growled viciously, “Chen Ran, you are not pushing everything onto me! If I fall, I will drag you down with me!”

Zhao Wenman sneered. “You’re right.. I was the one who got someone to drug Xiao Lingyu and found the ugly man to rape her. But I couldn’t have done that without your permission, Chen Ran! You approved everything I did! Now you want to shift all the blame? In your dreams!”

Chapter 17: Young Master Yan's Offer

Chen Ran was fuming from being hit by two women consecutively. Furthermore, he was already storing a lot of anger.

He swiped his hand and returned the slap at Zhao Wenman. He claimed, "Bitch, aren't you the one who seduced me? You offered me the post of the president!"

Zhao Wenman was humiliated. Her face turned multiple colors. She gritted her teeth and cursed, "Chen Ran, you shameless bastard! If you really love Xiao Lingyu, you wouldn't have succumbed to my seduction. In the end, you're the one who is hypocritical, selfish, and greedy. Who are you going to blame for that?"

Everyone looked at Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman. The couple had turned on each other.

"What a wonderful show!" As if worried that the world hadn't burned enough, Yan Siming sidled closer with a smile. Then he put his arm around Xiao Lingyu's shoulders. She tried to struggle, but she couldn't shake him off. In the end, Xiao Lingyu let him be.

Yan Siming lowered his head to whisper into Xiao Lingyu's ear. A warm breath rushed over, and Xiao Lingyu's face turned slightly red.

Yan Siming looked at the red-faced Xiao Lingyu, and his gaze deepened. The corners of his lips curled up slightly, and his mouth moved closer to Xiao Lingyu. However, his eyes were still looking at Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman, and he asked, "My Little Firecracker, did you enjoy the show?"

She smiled coldly and said, "Of course. Why wouldn't I?" Xiao Lingyu's original plan was to expose Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman's secret affair. Xiao Lingyu did not expect the random guy she pulled off the street to be the most powerful man in City Z. The extent of the damage went beyond her expectation.

According to her original plan, Xiao Lingyu knew the expose would only make a joke out of Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman. What happened now was beyond her wildest expectation.

Xiao Lingyu thought she couldn't care less about Huiqing Group's bankruptcy or Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman's ending. She just wanted to redeem herself from her previous life. She needed everyone to know the truth. But now...

Seeing how Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman had turned on each other, Xiao Lingyu turned to Yan Siming's handsome and thanked him sincerely, "Young Master Yan, thank you!"

But Yan Siming was quite a cunning and sly person. He smiled. "My Little Firecracker, if you want to thank me, be my woman!"

Xiao Lingyu rolled her eyes and said firmly, "In your dreams!" Xiao Lingyu then stood on tiptoes to whisper into Yan Siming's ears. "Young Master Yan, I've paid you 2000 RMB to pretend to be my one-night-stand. That is where our transaction ends. Young Master Yan, you're a good businessman. You should know transparency and honesty are crucial in a business transaction!"

Xiao Lingyu was quite nervous when she said that. She was honestly worried that Yan Siming would force her to submit. After all, a man like him probably hadn't been rejected by a woman... ever.

However, Xiao Lingyu didn't think she had any charm to attract Young Master Yan. On top of that, Xiao Lingyu only wanted to be a common person. She was not interested in money or power.

After being rejected, there was no disappointment in Yan Siming's eyes. If anything, the interest deepened.

He lowered his head and whispered beside Xiao Lingyu, "I know women like to play hard to get. If it were any other woman, I would not bother. But you, my little firecracker, you've aroused my interest. Why not consider being my woman? Don't worry. I will not mistreat you. Jewelry, money, cars, houses, I can give you anything you want."

Spoken like a true young master, everything could be bought with money. In his mind, these were the things a woman could ever need. Since he was interested in Xiao Lingyu, he was willing to splurge on her. Yan Siming refused to believe that a normal woman wouldn't be moved by his offer.

Young Master Yan planned to use these things to trap Xiao Lingyu in his gilded cage until he was tired of her.

Honestly, Xiao Lingyu in her previous life might have been tempted. After all, it was not every day that she would attract the attention of the most powerful man in City Z. This was the chance to turn her life around. Xiao Lingyu was just a woman of the everyday world.

However, after being reborn, Xiao Lingyu's life focus changed. She only wanted to give birth to Xiao Tong, raise him well, and then have an ordinary life.

Xiao Lingyu looked around. There were surprised gazes, envious gazes, and angry gazes. Xiao Lingyu calmed down and replied in a low voice, "Young Master Yan, I'll give you an answer after this show is over. What do you think?"

Xiao Lingyu knew that Yan Siming would continue to pester him if she had rejected him outright. She was not playing hard to get, but it had left that effect on Yan Siming. People always want what they can't have.

Xiao Lingyu was afraid that more rejections would lead to an opposite effect, so she delayed giving her reply for now.

Yan Siming frowned when he heard this. Then a look of disgust flashed in his eyes. 'I knew it. Women are all hypocrites. She rejected me a moment ago, but now she's reconsidering it? That's no different from her agreeing to be my woman.'

Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman glared at each other with fires in their eyes. Then they turned towards Xiao Lingyu, who was flirting with Young Master Yan. Zhao Wenman glared at Xiao Lingyu with such hatred that the intensity of her enmity was palpable in the air.

Zhao Wenman swore internally, 'Xiao Lingyu, I will repay the humiliation you've given me today a thousand times over in the future! Just you wait and see!'

Perhaps sensing Zhao Wenman's venomous gaze, Yan Siming suddenly turned towards her. His eyes glinted, and then his lips curled upwards. Yan Siming told Xiao Lingyu. "My little firecracker, this is your show. How about I give you a chance to take further revenge?"

Zhao Wenman's face shifted as a bad feeling rose within him. The next second, she heard...

Yan Siming said, "How about you decide whether Yan Corporation shall continue to collaborate with Huiqing Group or not? Just say the word, and I'll make the call to resume the two companies' collaboration!"

The crowd couldn't believe what they heard. The fate of the company now rested in the hands of the person whom everyone at the company had bullied. Xiao Lingyu alone decided the destiny of everyone who worked at the company.

Once Zhao Wenman heard this, she staggered back twice.. Her face turned white from panic.

Chapter 18: Line Them Up

The legends of Yan Siming were endless in City Z. Yan Siming had a robust background, ability, and good looks. He was willful and arrogant. He was the king. With a wave of his hand, he could cause instant destruction of a large company.

In the business world, everyone had a tacit agreement. Anyone who valued their lives shouldn't offend Young Master Yan because those who did would have their families wiped out!

However, if something or someone entered Young Master Yan's good book, a person's life could be raised to the heavens instantly. But such lucky individuals were scarce.

Xiao Lingyu found herself to be one of those lucky individuals. Young Master Yan had just handed the fate of a large company to a woman he had a one-night-stand with.

It sounded like a joke, but it was the truth.

Both men and women looked at Xiao Lingyu with jealousy. They wished they could have her luck and be favored by Young Master Yan!

She could single-handedly decide the fate of tens of thousands of people. It was glorious.

However, these same people also looked at Xiao Lingyu with anxiety because they were the ones whose fate was in her hands.

Personally, Xiao Lingyu didn't think this was in any way glorious. It was nothing to gloat about. If anything, Xiao Lingyu felt like Yan Siming didn't seem to really want to help her. This felt more like a test.

In any case, regardless of his intention, since Yan Siming was willing to hand her the weapon, Xiao Lingyu was going to take it to take revenge for everything she had suffered in her past life.

Her lover betrayed her. She was framed, raped, and finally disgraced and chased out of City Z.

With this new start, Xiao Lingyu promised not to waste her life anymore. She wanted to live an honest life. However, this didn't mean that she was a pushover. She was not going to forgive those who intended to harm her.

In her past life, she was blinded by love. She was partially responsible for what happened to her. However, she needed the adulterous couple to take responsibility in this life. She wanted revenge!

Xiao Lingyu's eyes curved like a crescent moon. She smiled so beautifully. Her sparkling eyes were like a whirlpool sucking in the souls of every man present, including Yan Siming.

Yan Siming's eyes narrowed slightly. He started to understand why Chen Ran had done everything to keep Xiao Lingyu for himself.

Xiao Lingyu's facial features were not perfect, but when combined, they were very pleasing to the eye. Moreover, Xiao Lingyu's beauty was one that would stand the test of time. It was like a bottle of good wine. It would taste better with time.

Xiao Lingyu couldn't be bothered with what the others thought. She just smiled. "Young Master Yan, thank you for the offer. I shall take it then."

Yan Siming heard this, and his interest was piqued. He smiled and said, "My little firecracker, be my guest!"

For Yan Siming, Huiqing Group was nothing more than a toy. He was very curious about what Xiao Lingyu would do with such great power.

Xiao Lingyu nodded. She walked towards Zhao Wenman, who was glaring at her with hatred. Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Miss Zhao, is that dissatisfaction I see in your eyes?"

Zhao Wenman's expression froze. Then, a raging fire erupted in her heart. Just as she was about to counter, Xiao Lingyu said evenly, "I am lucky because Young Master Yan has awarded me this perfect chance to take revenge on you."

Everyone saw Xiao Lingyu's face. Xiao Lingyu was being matter-of-fact, but people interpreted it differently.

Yan Siming raised his brow. He saw a queenly presence on Xiao Lingyu. Xiao Lingyu looked perfect being at the top of the food chain.

However, not everyone saw the same thing.

"Xiao Lingyu, you're going too far! How despicable!" Lin Xiangyu shouted at Xiao Lingyu. She was so jealous that she was going crazy. 'Why is Xiao Lingyu always so lucky? Where does she find these men?'

Chen Ran was one thing, but Xiao Lingyu was lucky enough to win the favor of Young Master Yan. How was that possible?

When Lin Xiangyu found out the man was the famous Young Master Yan, she shrank back in fear and didn't dare make a sound. However, when she saw how smug Xiao Lingyu was, Lin Xiangyu couldn't hold herself back anymore. She needed to find a channel to vent her envy and anger.

Lin Xiangyu's face was red. "Young Miss Zhao has already apologized to Young Master Yan, so what more do you want? Are you only to be satisfied when Huiqing Group goes bankrupt? How venomous can you be? Don't you realize that thousands of employees rely on this company for their livelihoods? You're going to destroy so many people's lives for your own selfish motives? How do you even sleep at night?"

Lin Xiangyu spoke with righteousness. She painted Xiao Lingyu as an unpardonable sinner.

It was worth noting that Lin Xiangyu purposely chose this moment to stand out. It was for Young Master Yan to notice her. In terms of looks and figures, she was better than Xiao Lingyu. If Xiao Lingyu could gain Young Master Yan's favor, why couldn't she?

In fact, Lin Xiangyu believed her chances were better than Xiao Lingyu.

However, people really shouldn't dream in the day.

Lin Xiangyu had walked out representing the employees of Huiqing Group. She had the halo of the people's heroine. However, Yan Siming did not even glance at her.

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, "Such righteousness and what a performance. But to think they'd come out of your mouth, Lin Xiangyu. That's quite amusing.

"One, Miss Zhao offended Young Master Yan, so shouldn't she apologize? Two, did I force Miss Zhao to apologize to Young Master Yan? Three, so she did apologize to Young Master Yan, but what does that have to do with me? Has Zhao Wenman apologized to me?"

Xiao Lingyu shot a glance at Lin Xiangyu. "Speaking of, Lin Xiangyu, if you want to stay in Huiqing Group, you better apologize to me now!"

"What?" Lin Xiangyu widened her eyes in surprise. She rejected the demand instantly, "Xiao Lingyu, I didn't do anything wrong. Why should I apologize to you? You have to be reasonable!"

"Lin Xiangyu, I know you're not that stupid." Xiao Lingyu smiled. "A wise person submits to the circumstances, isn't that your life principle? So why are you playing dumb now?"

"Huh?" Lin Xiangyu was not pretending. She really had no idea why she should apologize to Xiao Lingyu. In the past, Lin Xiangyu had bullied Xiao Lingyu a lot at work. However, in Lin Xiangyu's mind, Xiao Lingyu deserved to be bullied, so Lin Xiangyu had nothing to apologize for.

Xiao Lingyu pointed out. "Fine, Lin Xiangyu, let me ask you this. Where did you get that photo of me at the hotel? Don't tell me you happened to be at the hotel at the time." Xiao Lingyu chuckled sarcastically.. "I am not that pig-headed to believe such a blatant lie."

Chapter 19: Shoot Them Down

Lin Xiangyu's face paled instantly being questioned by Xiao Lingyu. Lin Xiangyu's voice weakened, and the powerful aura she generated earlier disappeared. She stuttered, "But... that was the truth. I was having dinner at the hotel and saw you... with a man. So... I stayed to look after you."

Xiao Lingyu chuckled mirthlessly, “Lin Xiangyu, can you hear yourself? The Marriott Hotel is a five-star hotel, and the minimum expense is not low. You’re telling me you were having dinner there with your current salary?”

Lin Xiangyu’s face turned red, but she retorted, “If you can afford it, why can’t I? It’s one thousand RMB a meal, I decided to splurge on myself yesterday night!” Lin Xiangyu’s monthly salary was only several thousand, but obviously, she didn’t pay for her meal yesterday night.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. “Lin Xiangyu, you’re a clever person, so why are you acting so dumb? I already said it was Manager Li who invited me to join him, so I wasn’t paying the tab. What about you? Furthermore, if you’re as righteous as you paint yourself out to be, why didn’t you jump out to accuse me when you saw me being carried away by that man? You could have stopped him or called Chen Ran to catch me red-handed.” Xiao Lingyu paused to glance at Zhao Wenman and Chen Ran. “But you didn’t. Instead, you hid in the corner and took those pictures. Once you arrived at the company this office, you shared the pictures with everyone, didn’t you?”

“How did you know?” Lin Xiangyu blurted out the words before she could stop herself. Her eyes widened, and then she immediately tried to take back her words. “I mean... You’re lying!”

However, her explanation was weak. Everyone had heard her clearly. Most were shocked by the truth. In fact, some had been wondering why Lin Xiangyu had access to these pictures in the first place. So it was part of the set-up.

Xiao Lingyu pressed, “Lin Xiangyu, now you know why you need to apologize to me? I don’t even want to pursue what you’ve done to me in the past. But you have ganged up with others to ruin my name and destroy me. I will never forgive that!”

Xiao Lingyu’s eyes cut through Chen Ran and Zhao Wenman. She eventually settled on Zhao Wenman, “Miss Zhao, you like Chen Ran, so you seduce him. I have nothing to say since you managed to get him to betray his 10-years running girlfriend. I’ll accept my loss. But you could have just told me. I would be glad to surrender Chen Ran to you. In fact, I’d even leave City Z as you wished. You can enjoy couple-time with Chen Ran, and I wouldn’t have cared.”

Xiao Lingyu paused before continuing with sharp hatred, “So Zhao Wenman, why did you choose the vicious path? After you stole my boyfriend, why couldn’t you just let me be? Why did you have to ensure that I lost my life and reputation? Why did you have to do that? Can you tell me why?”

This had been bothering Xiao Lingyu for two lifetimes. She couldn’t understand Zhao Wenman. She had already snatched Chen Ran away. They even had a secret engagement, so why did Zhao Wenman still come after her?

Zhao Wenman snickered and said, “Because even when Chen Ran is with me, he still loves you. So I need to destroy you. I, Zhao Wenman, am the only woman that can live inside his heart.”

At that moment, the proud lady revealed a rare bitter smile. She said self-deprecatingly. “I know that Chen Ran says he likes me and agrees to marry me, but he only has you in his heart. Whenever we have sex, he will call out your name. How can I allow my man to love another woman? Therefore, I need to find a way to evict you from his heart.”

At this point, she looked at Xiao Lingyu with a mocking expression and continued, "I heard from Chen Ran that even though you two have been in love for ten years, you two never went beyond touching hands. You haven't even kissed, let alone had sex. It was because you have an agreement to preserve your purity for the wedding night."

Then it dawned on Xiao Lingyu.

"So you planned to ruin my purity so Chen Ran wouldn't be so hung up on me anymore?" Xiao Lingyu questioned.

Zhao Wenman didn't deny it. "That's right!"

Xiao Lingyu was overwhelmed by fury. She walked forward and rewarded Zhao Wenman with two great slaps. She scolded loudly, "Zhao Wenman, you evil witch! You wanted to destroy me for such frivolous reasons?"

The two slaps did nothing to quench the anger within Xiao Lingyu. Because of her fancy, Zhao Wenman had kick-started a chain event that ended in Xiao Tong's life. Xiao Lingyu was consumed by the despair and the pain from her previous life. She wanted Zhao Wenman to pay for Xiao Tong's death.

Xiao Lingyu kicked at Zhao Wenman's calf. She grabbed her bag to hit Zhao Wenman. She was acting crazy.

The crowd was dumbfounded.

A cornered rabbit would fight back.

Xiao Lingyu was always soft and weak. No one really noticed her. So this came as a surprise to many people.

Zhao Wenman didn't expect this either. The blows were already coming before she could shield herself. She was slapped twice and then kicked. Before she could call out in pain, another thud landed on her head.

Zhao Wenman shielded her head and shouted, "Xiao Lingyu, have you lost your mind?"

Xiao Lingyu didn't stop hitting. "Yes, I have lost my mind. All thanks to you!"

Then she grabbed Zhao Wenman's long hair.

Zhao Wenman couldn't do anything since Xiao Lingyu had a firm grasp on her hair. She tried to retaliate, but she was no match for Xiao Lingyu, who was possessed by grief.

Zhao Wenman's shrill screams echoed in the hall. She cursed. "Xiao Lingyu, you lunatic, let go of me now! Help me, come and pull this bitch away!"

The crowd looked at each other in dismay. A few men hesitated before they moved to help Zhao Wenman. After all, Zhao Wenman was still their chairman's daughter.

As they made their first move, they heard a sudden cough.

The men looked over and immediately pulled back.

Chapter 20: You Are Xiao Lingyu?

Zhao Wenman continued to be thrashed since no one came to stop the fight.

The party that grabbed the hair had the upper hand in a catfight. Xiao Lingyu did not hold back as she punished Zhao Wenman.

After Yan Siming warned those men, he stayed back to watch with interest. 'She is truly a firecracker. She explodes in a fight.'

However, when Yan Siming saw the expression on Xiao Lingyu's face, he was confused. There was anger, pain, and despair. Xiao Lingyu was set up so he could understand the anger. But what about the despair?

Earlier, Xiao Lingyu did not even rise to the taunts from Lin Xiangyu, and she was unfazed by the insults from the whole company. When Xiao Lingyu heard Chen Ran's betrayal, she only showed disappointment.

However, when she found out Zhao Wenman's reasoning for setting her up, Xiao Lingyu exploded in despair and pain. Something didn't sit right.

'Supposedly, something else happened yesterday night...' Yan Siming raised his brow. He became even more interested in Xiao Lingyu's story.

Since Xiao Lingyu had the upper hand, Yan Siming decided he'd only stand up to protect her if needed.

Zhao Wenman was beaten so badly that she curled up on the ground. She covered her head, but she did not stop cursing. "Xiao Lingyu, you crazy lunatic! Why are you taking this out on me? At the time, Chen Ran agreed with the plan too! So why didn't you go after her?"

Zhao Wenman had already lost hope on Chen Ran. Plus, why should she suffer alone when they were both responsible?

Xiao Lingyu was about to respond when an anxious voice shouted, "Stop! Stop right now!"

The owner of the voice ran over to shove Xiao Lingyu away. His eyes burned with anger as he shouted at Xiao Lingyu, "Who the hell are you? How dare you hit the daughter of Huiqing Group's chairman?!"

When Zhao Wenman heard the man's voice, she broke down. She lay on the ground and cried, "Dad, Dad, save me. This woman is crazy. She was about to beat me to death!"

Zhao Huiqing's secretary immediately pulled Zhao Wenman up and asked with concern, "Miss, Are You Alright?"

Zhao Huiqing's secretary scanned the surrounding crowd, and she demanded. "What were you all doing? Your young miss was assaulted. Why didn't any of you come out to help her?" Eventually, her gaze settled on Xiao Lingyu. The secretary frowned. She questioned, "Who are you?"

The secretary could remember anyone from the company, but she had no impression of Xiao Lingyu.

By then, Zhao Huiqing also turned his gaze to Xiao Lingyu. His brows were tightly furrowed, and he looked puzzled.

Zhao Huiqing demanded, "Who are you? How dare you cause trouble at Huiqing Group and hit my daughter?" His sharp gaze was laced with fire, but he hid it well. He examined Xiao Lingyu critically.

After Zhao Huiqing arrived, Xiao Lingyu calmed down. She patted down her messy hair and smoothed down her clothes.

She then smiled at Zhao Huiqing, "Chairman, I am Xiao Lingyu, an employee of the Huiqing Group!"

"You are Xiao Lingyu?" Zhao Huiqing was a little surprised hearing Xiao Lingyu's name. He knew who Xiao Lingyu was because he had heard Zhao Wenman mention this name before.

Apparently, she was Chen Ran's ex-girlfriend. However, Zhao Huiqing heard that Xiao Lingyu was only an Ugly Betty. But the woman standing him, while not being a supermodel, was quite stunning.

Xiao Lingyu smiled. "The chairman knows a small employee like me?" This verified something for Xiao Lingyu. Zhao Huiqing knew about everything his daughter did.

And that was the truth.

Even though Zhao Huiqing disapproved of Chen Ran, he wouldn't meddle with his daughter's relationship. Furthermore, Chen Ran was a good person and a hardworking worker. Zhao Huiqing also heard that Chen Ran had a girlfriend of ten years, and she also worked at the company.

Since Chen Ran was loyal to the same girl for ten years, then he should be loyal to his daughter too. Therefore, Zhao Huiqing allowed his daughter to steal Chen Ran from his girlfriend.

Zhao Huiqing nodded and admitted, "I have indeed heard of you. You are Chen Ran's ex-girlfriend!" Then he reprimanded, "Xiao Lingyu, I don't care how much you love Chen Ran. That is already in the past. Since you have already broken up, then don't come to pester him anymore. He has chosen my daughter over you! So how can you come to the company to assault my daughter? This is your fault! I will sue you for personal assault. I hope you enjoy staying in prison!"

The bad apple didn't fall far from the rotten tree. Zhao Huiqing resorted to threats.

Since Xiao Lingyu was just an insignificant employee at his company, Zhao Huiqing was not afraid of her.

Xiao Lingyu chuckled. She asked plainly. "Chairman, Chen Ren and I are exes? Who told you that?"

Zhao Huiqing was dissatisfied with Xiao Lingyu's brusque attitude. He frowned. "Of course, it's Chen Ran!"

Xiao Lingyu's sharp gaze shot directly at Chen Ran. The man covered his face in shame. The flame of anger flickered again in her heart.

Xiao Lingyu turned back to Zhao Huiqing with a sarcastic smile. "Chairman, I'm afraid you've made a mistake. I only just dumped Chen Ran. You said Chen Ran told you I'm his ex? When did he tell you that?"

Only then did Zhao Huiqing realize there was something he wasn't told about the love triangle between his daughter, Chen Ran and Xiao Lingyu. But ultimately, Zhao Huiqing sided with his daughter.

Furthermore, the news of Zhao Wenman and Chen Ran's engagement had already been released. If people found out that Zhao Wenman had cut into Chen Ran and Xiao Lingyu's relationship when they were still together, it would make Zhao Wenman a homewrecker.

Zhao Huiqing would not have a homewrecker as a daughter. That would ruin the Zhao Family's reputation!

Zhao Huiqing sneered and announced sternly, "It didn't matter when he told me. The important thing is that you and Chen Ran have already broken up.

"So stop pestering Chen Ran and my daughter in the future.

"You are fired from Huiqing Group. I will have the finance department pay you two months' salary.

"However, I will seek reparation since you have beaten up my daughter. My lawyer will send you a letter, be prepared for the court's summons!"

Xiao Lingyu combed her hair with her fingers, and she laughed. "Chairman, I still don't think you understand the situation. Never mind, I'll explain it for you." Xiao Lingyu's tone turned sharp.. "Young Master Yan just handed the future of Huiqing Group to me."