

Chapter 601: Dust!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Even Lin Qian and Tong Yan were stunned beyond words. Tong Yan might not be a doctor, but she knew the design's value and it came from Xinghe and Lu Qi's hands!

Tong Yan's face was as dark as Lin Qian's because she knew her face-slapping was coming. This was the first time she had faced such a grievance in her life.

She glared at Xinghe with shame and anger. For some reason, Tong Yan felt Xinghe was laughing at her internally even though Xinghe didn't give a flying f*ck about her presence. This riled her up even more.

Different from her, Lin Qian's eyes shone with a shadowy light. After Lu Qi finished his explanation, the room remained in stunned silence.

He smiled. "That's the theoretical basis behind our design, are there any questions?"

"Is this really your design?" someone stuttered.

Lu Qi nodded firmly. "Yes, Miss Xia and I designed this together."

"..." This is crazy, how could they possibly design something as impossible as this?

"But can you really make this a reality? This design looks fine but creating it is impossible!" a doctor yelled recalcitrantly.

As if to prove they were not worse than Lu Qi, others followed. "That's right, theory-wise it might be successful but building it will be impossible; the technique will be too demanding and there is a lack of necessary materials."

"Indeed, you two will not be able to overcome these two problems!"

The more they yelled, the more confident they felt about themselves. They silently sighed in relief because this proved that they were not as bad as they thought. Lu Qi had only

finished the design and creating it was a whole other issue, so their level was not far away from Lu Qi's.

Even Lin Qian and Tong Yan released the breath they were holding. Just as the smug smiles started to reappear on their faces, their hope was ground into powder!

“Who said the technique will be an issue?” He smiled confidently. “Regarding this, there's no need to worry because Miss Xia is the top talent in this field. If we could not overcome the technical difficulties, we would not have come up with this design. The prototype you see on screen is all Miss Xia's handiwork. As a doctor, I can only provide her with the medical knowledge; in the technical aspect, she was the undeniable expert.”

Therefore, the physics, mathematics, and electrical circuiting issues were all resolved by Xinghe!

The room was given yet another shock. They all stared at Xinghe like she was a monster. This woman which they assumed was a useless Mr. Nan Gua was such a genius? She was so young and was only a woman, how could she be so good at her work?

Impossible...

As if reading their thoughts, Xinghe said calmly, “If you have any questions, feel free to ask me anytime.”

She wasn't afraid of their questions or tests because this was really her handiwork!

“Xinghe,” Madam President grabbed her hand and said with teary eyes, “I didn't know you are so good at what you do, no wonder Lu Qi wanted you to come help him. Now you've completely won me over.”

Madam President became even kinder to her.

For other people, the slaps on their faces sure stung.

However, Xinghe maintained her usual aloof countenance.

Chapter 602: The Lin Family Is in Trouble

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Madam, it’s good that you believe me because your trust is the only one I need.”

Madam President understood what was left unsaid, she turned around and lectured the room, “From this moment on, no one is allowed to doubt Miss Xia’s capability anymore. Do not entertain yourself with baseless rumors; if you have time to do that, you might as well focus on your own research.”

“Madam is right.” The shame-faced doctors smiled. “We misunderstood Miss Xia, since she is so capable, of course we won’t doubt her in future.”

“Miss Xia, you’ve proven yourself with this design so why didn’t you show us this from the beginning? We would have avoided all the unnecessary drama.”

“That’s right, Miss Xia, why didn’t you show us your design earlier?”

Xinghe didn’t answer but turned to look at Lin Qian. The answer was obvious; she had to be guarded around the Lin family!

Lin Qian met her sharp gaze and her heart skipped a beat. Could Xia Xinghe have seen through our plan?

No matter what, she had to return quickly and inform her grandfather of this latest development. Trouble was brewing for the Lin family...

After Xinghe and Lu Qi’s shocking show, the doctors had lost all interest in their work; they surrounded the duo, discussing their design endlessly. Even Madam President was caught up in their discussion.

However, even though the theory and technique were no longer issues, there was still the material to find. However, they were optimistic that they would find the necessary material soon. Utilizing the entire power of the government, they believed the material would be found soon after.

They had no idea finding the material was actually the biggest hurdle. Xinghe and Lu Qi didn't lead them into the knowledge much less reveal the energy crystal. Just as the room crowded around Xinghe and Lu Qi, Lin Qian snuck out of the room.

After she left, Tong Yan caught up to her. "Sister Lin Qian, where are you going?"

Lin Qian turned around and her pale face showed. "I'm not feeling so well so I have to go home for some time."

Tong Yan thought she was feeling sad from being pressured. She consoled her immediately. "Sister Lin Qian, don't be sad. That Xia Xinghe is still so useless, so what if she knows how to draw? Plus, she must be doing this on purpose since she hid the design from everyone else! She must have purposely made us misunderstand her and then made use of the chance to shame us!"

Tong Yan was too conceited to admit she was at fault, so the fault had to be with someone else, and that someone had to be Xia Xinghe!

Lin Qian's eyes shone slightly, and she added angrily, "You're right, that woman is such a snake. She must be doing this because of me, how unlucky our Lin family is that we attracted the ire of someone like her."

Tong Yan was made even angrier by her words.

"That's right, she is really an awful human being. She killed Sister Lin Yun, sabotaged Sister Lin Jing, and now she's even coming after you! No way! I will not let her win!"

"Little Yan, you do treat me the best..." Lin Qian immediately offered an appreciative smile.

Tong Yan smiled smugly. "Naturally, after all, we'll be family in the future."

"If Lin Xuan were to hear that, I'm sure he'd be over the moon," Lin Qian said meaningfully.

The mention of Lin Xuan turned Tong Yan's mood around.

"Sister Lin Qian, I want to follow you. I've not seen Brother Lin Xuan for days already."

“Okay, he’ll be glad to see you...”

Just like that, they both left. No one other than Xinghe noticed their disappearance.

Chapter 603: Finally Made Their move

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe's lips curved into a smile as she glanced at the door that Lin Qian and Tong Yan had left through. Lin family, your move.

...

The Lin family was indeed shocked when they heard this news, but in front of Tong Yan, they took the news with pleasant surprise.

“Who would have thought they can come up with an amazing design like that? There is finally hope for the president,” Elder Lin said with deep appreciation. He looked and sounded like a kind elderly, and that was the impression Tong Yan had of him, a kind and loving elder.

“Grandpa Lin, they only have theoretical success; it is another issue whether the thing can be realistically built or not.” Tong Yan pouted. “However, it's still good that they can build it because then my uncle can be saved. Regardless, whether they can do it or not, that Xia Xinghe sure is annoying!”

“The president's health is more important than personal feuds,” Elder Lin said understandingly. Beside him, Lin Xuan chimed in coldly, “Grandfather, should we just forget about Xiao Yun's death and Jing Jing's loss?”

“What else can we do when the girl is capable of saving the president?”

Lin Xuan's face darkened, and he stood up suddenly saying, “You guys have fun, I have something else to attend do, so I'll leave first.”

Since he was leaving, Tong Yan had no reason to stay.

“Brother Xuan, where are you going? Wait for me...” Tong Yan stood up and quickly told the rest, “Grandpa, Uncle Lin, I also have to leave; I will come see you another day.”

Elder Lin nodded with a kind smile. “Okay, go ahead, remember to come visit us when you have time because we

will miss you.”

“No problem!” Tong Yan immediately rushed to catch up to Lin Xuan.

Elder Lin was still smiling kindly watching Tong Yan’s retreating shadow. Lin Kang noticed this and realized what his father was thinking. He told Lin Qian, “Xiao Qian, why don’t you leave us be? I have something to discuss with your grandfather.”

“Yes, Uncle.” Lin Qian moved to oblige. This was the rule of the Lin family; whenever the men needed to discuss something, the womenfolk had to make themselves scarce. The women were on a need-to-know basis.

After everyone left, only Elder Lin and Lin Kang remained in the living room.

“Hmm, Kang, in the blink of an eye, Little Yan has gotten so big,” Elder Lin lamented.

Lin Kang nodded. “Indeed, several decades have passed. Father, we’ve waited for so long.”

The kindness immediately disappeared from Elder Lin’s eyes. “We’ve indeed waited for too long, so long in fact that I’m at the end of my patience.”

“Success was already in front of our eyes and the Xi family had to appear and ruin our plan!” Lin Kang said through gritted teeth. “And that b*tch, if we’d known she would be such a roadblock, we should have killed her in the very beginning!”

Elder Lin chuckled darkly. “Do not worry, her death is a guarantee, but now is not the time...”

“Father, if not now, then when? For the sake of this plan, we’ve sacrificed too much! Xiao Yun, Jing Jing have already been sacrificed. That woman has ruined too many good deals we had going! Therefore, she has to be removed! We mustn’t let them complete the mechanical heart research as well.”

Elder Lin said with authority, “Do you think I don’t know that? These people have to be removed, but not by our own

hands.”

Lin Kang was shocked. “Father, what do you mean by that?”

Chapter 604: Force the Lin Family's Hand

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Lin berated him for his stupidity. “All those years floating about the political world were really wasted on you; you’re even blunter than Little Xuan. Why do you think he leads Little Yan away?”

Comprehension dawned for Lin Kang. “We’re sending Little Yan out?”

“She’s the perfect candidate,” Elder Lin said confidently. “We cannot allow this to be traced back to us, so we have to borrow someone else’s hands to do this, as long as that person is not from the Lin family.”

Lin Kang started to get worried. “Won’t this harm Little Yan? If this thing were to be exposed...”

Elder Lin laughed. “Have you not considered Little Yan’s identity? Who dares to do anything to her? At the end of the day, it’s just a dead woman, there’re many ways to cover that up.”

Indeed, if anything happened to Tong Yan, the Shen family and Tong family would definitely intervene. Combined with the good words from the Lin family, the president would definitely forgive her. Therefore, nothing would befall Tong Yan, thus she was the perfect candidate to do the Lin family’s dirty work.

Lin Kang finally understood, and he joined in with the laughter. “Father, I suppose this is what they meant by train an army for a thousand days to use it for an hour.”

Elder Lin laughed even harder. “Indeed, we sowed the right seed so many years ago, it’s finally time for us to sow our reward!”

...

“You’ve revealed the information about the design now, aren’t you afraid that the Lin family will do something against you?” Lu Qi asked Xinghe with worry after they sent everyone away. Needless to say, Xinghe had already considered that.

She replied, “Now is the time to force the Lin family to tip their hands and make a mistake.”

“But, this is still too risky. You are completely unprepared, and this is City A. If they launch an attack against you, I’m afraid you will not be able to defend yourself.”

Xinghe raised her eyes slightly. “Who said I’m unprepared?”

“You’ve taken precautions?” Lu Qi was pleasantly surprised.

Xinghe nodded. “However, I do agree that this is highly risky. However, only by revealing our research will we be able to force them into action, or else if we just carried on with our design and cured the president, nothing would have happened. The Lin family have been waiting for this for years, they won’t mind waiting for a few more. However, in a few years’ time, everything will be too late! Plus, my patience can’t last that long.”

“That might be true, but still, I worry about you. It’s good that if this is successful, but if not, it’ll only expose our weakness to them...”

Xinghe shook her head and determination filled her eyes.

“This is a step that I must take, I’ve done everything I could, so I leave the rest to fate. However, I believe firmly that the Lin family will not be able to escape their comeuppance this time! Karma is a nasty b*tch!”

Furthermore, if this plan was a success, their end wouldn’t be that far away.

...

To give the Lin family the chance to get her, Xinghe requested to have a few days off from the president’s house. The reason she gave was she wanted to visit Mubai. After all, she had been away from home for quite some time and worried about him.

Madam President understood how she felt so approved of her holiday and had the guards escort her to the airport.

Xinghe accepted her kindness and the car soon left the president’s house.

Inside the car, Xinghe immediately called Ali and the rest.
“I’m on the move, wait for me at the old place.”

Ali, who Xinghe had planted at City A earlier, replied, “Okay, we’ll wait for you then.”

Ever since she arrived at City A, she had thought of a lot of ways to deal with the Lin family, but no matter the plot, she would need manpower.

Chapter 605: Miscalculated

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Therefore, she had already arranged for Ali and the others to hide in City A, and she was on the way to go meet them. After they reconvened, they would wait for the Lin family to strike. However, Xinghe miscalculated one person, which was Tong Yan.

She didn't expect the girl would be so intractable and come after her on behalf of the Lin family. A royal heiress but dumb enough to do other's dirty laundry. That... Xinghe didn't expect...

However, Xinghe would know all of this much later.

...

When Xinghe realized something was wrong, the car had already strayed far away from the allocated route.

"This road doesn't lead to the airport," she said to the security guard in the car.

He responded in a serious tone, "This is a shortcut. Miss Xia, do not worry, we will send you to the airport safely."

Xinghe felt suspicious but she didn't voice it. After all, these were Madam President's men; she had no reason to harm her. However, the car strayed further and further into the countryside...

The president's house was already pretty isolated, away from the city but even after so long, there was still no trace of human activity around them. Xinghe's suspicion grew bigger, something had gone wrong.

When she tried to surreptitiously send an SOS message, she was spotted by the trained security.

"Miss Xia, I advise you to put away your phone. Don't worry, we will not hurt you," the security told her with a sharp glance.

Xinghe was not surprised and asked calmly, "What are you up to?"

The security was impressed by her calm reaction. This woman is indeed a character.

“Someone wants to meet you, so we’re taking you to her.”

“Who is she?”

“You’ll know soon enough.”

Xinghe could attempt her own guess. It was either the Lin family or Tong Yan, only they were powerful enough to buy out the security. However, it came as a surprise to her that security at the president’s house could be bought...

She was too careless. However, she couldn’t sit there and do nothing!

Xinghe pressed rapidly twice on her phone and the triangulation software within sent out her phone’s signal.

The security thought she was going to violate his warning and make a call but when he saw that she was merely touching it, he didn’t do anything.

The car soon arrived at their destination. Other than another parked car, there was nothing else but nature.

The security stopped and told Xinghe, “Miss Xia, you can get out now. That car over there will escort you to the airport.”

Xinghe stared at the security coldly. “Do you sincerely think I will reach the airport in one piece?”

The security was honestly shocked. “Of course.”

“You will pay dearly for your stupidity.” The moment Xinghe said so, the door was pulled open. Two men in black dragged Xinghe out of the car roughly and clamped their palms over her mouth.

The security was beyond shocked; this was different from what they’d told him!

He rushed to help Xinghe but one of the men held him back and tossed him a phone. “The boss wants to have a word with you; if you have any questions, you can ask her directly!”

The security guard picked up the phone and Tong Yan's condescending voice drifted through from the other end. "If you still value your life, then follow my directions closely. Remember, after Xia Xinghe descended from your car, she disappeared from your sight and you have no idea where she went. However, you think you saw her get into a car that you could not identify."

Chapter 606: Fend for Herself (End of the Heart mini arc)

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“This was all arranged by her, and you had nothing to do with it. Do you understand?”

“Miss Tong, why you are doing this? You just told me...”

“Who are you to question me? If you don’t follow my orders, I can’t guarantee what will happen to you, after all, you must know that I am above the law,” Tong Yan said smugly and that chilled the security.

At that moment, he remembered Xinghe’s final words to him. You will pay dearly for your stupidity...

Indeed, how stupid he was!

He was tricked by Tong Yan. Ultimately, he had no choice; Xinghe had already been taken away and the culprit was Tong Yan. If he didn’t follow her orders, the result was only death. His only hope was to follow her demands. Even if the Madam President believed him, he would be fired for sloppy work. Regardless, as Xinghe had said, he was going to pay one way or another...

He could only hope that the payment wouldn’t be too huge.

...

Tong Yan’s men went about their work rapidly. Even though the kidnapping was sudden, Xinghe didn’t show any trace of fear. Weirdly enough, this was not her first time being kidnapped.

The men in black were unsettled by her unusually calm demeanor. However, since Xinghe was already tied up, she couldn’t do anything even if she wanted to. Her cooperation was probably out of resignation to her fate.

That was not completely wrong because Xinghe did realize resistance would be futile. They had tied up her four limbs and had masked her eyes. She couldn’t move or see. Only thing she could do was ascertain their location through audio cues.

However, compared to Tianxin's men, these people were professionals. They didn't give Xinghe any opening and along the way, she didn't pick up any worthwhile clues.

Finally, she was pulled out of the car and tossed into a basement. She knew it was underground because of the mildew smell and the height that she had fallen into. The men disappeared and left her there.

Xinghe had assumed the culprit would appear to personally kill or laugh in her face so she was really surprised when they just deserted her there.

In other words, they were going to shutter her up and let her die from starvation?

...

Xinghe had disappeared!

Ali's group waited for her for a very long time, but she didn't make an appearance and her phone was unreachable.

They realized the triangulation system on her phone had been activated for a short period of time before the signal got cut off. Therefore, something must have happened to Xinghe!

They started to get worried. Sam immediately went into action. "Ali, you stay here to wait for Xinghe. Cairn contact the Xi family now and inform them about this. Wolf and I will go find her."

"Okay!" Then they separated carry out their tasks. Sam and Wolf led the security to search for Xinghe.

Cairn contacted Elder Xi because if something really happened to Xinghe, the Xi family needed to know because they were probably the only ones who could save her.

When he received Cairn's phone call, Elder Xi's face dimmed. It was the thing he feared, something bad did happen to Xinghe!

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Now that the stage has been set, it's time for the show. The upcoming arc is rather long but it is my fav arc and the arc I personally feel is the best this story has to offer. Sit tight and enjoy the ride. The Fall of Lin family, 607-669; Mubai's Return, 607-620; The Dinner, 621-635; The Counter, 636-645; The Engagement Party, 646-650; Lin Family's End, 651-662; Wrapping Things up, 663-669.

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<https://discord.gg/5fsVhEc>

Chapter 607: He's Coming!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Xi's tone reflected his depressed mood. "Okay, I understand. I'll figure out a way to save her soon. If there are any updates, call me."

"Okay," Cairn promised before hanging up.

When Elder Xi prepared to call the president, another call came in for him. It was from the hospital. Elder Xi's heart stopped, afraid that it would be bad news about Mubai. He pressed the accept call button with a shaking hand.

The doctor's cheerful voice drifted out. "Elder Xi, congratulation. Young Master Xi is awake!"

Elder Xi stood up from sheer joy. "What did you say?"

"Young Master Xi is awake; he's finally awake!"

...

This was a wonderful news for the Xi family. They immediately rushed to the hospital and a conscious Mubai greeted them.

Even though he had just woken up, his eyes were as sharp as a tack. He leaned on the bedrest, his spirit as one just woken up from a fruitful sleep. It was as if the past few months didn't even happen for him.

Mrs. Xi broke down and hugged him. "Mubai, you're finally awake! Mommy has been waiting for this moment for so long."

Mubai's eyes scanned the crowd rapidly but he didn't see Xinghe among them. Even though Xinghe was saved from the explosion, he still couldn't stop worrying until he saw her in person.

"Where is Xinghe?" Mubai opened his mouth to ask.

Elder Xi said with difficulties, "Since you've awakened, then you have the right to know. Just moments ago, something happened to her."

Mubai's pupils widened and his tone dropped for several degrees. "Grandfather, what did you say?"

"Mubai, many things happened while you were out of it..." Elder Xi filled Mubai in on all the recent development.

When he finished, he sighed. "There's nothing we could do but let her go to City A alone, we didn't think she would suddenly disappear like this. We suspect that she has been kidnapped, but don't worry, I've contacted the president and he has promised to send his men to go look for her."

Even so, Mubai couldn't rest his beating heart. He sat up and pulled off the covers.

Mrs. Xi stopped him immediately. "Mubai, what are you doing?"

"Going to City A!" Mubai answered with fierce determination. This shocked everyone there.

"You cannot do that. You've only just woken up, you cannot put too much pressure on your body so soon. We will figure out a way to solve Xinghe's issue, you just need to stay put," Elder Xi advised him.

Mubai's dark eyes met him and these forceful words tumbled out of his mouth, "Grandfather, you yourself have said something bad has happened to her, so how can you expect me to sit idle here in the hospital? I have to go to City A. I will not allow anything to happen to her or else giving me back this life would have been a waste!"

What?

Elder Xi and the rest were stunned beyond words. If something were to happen to Xinghe, Mubai would surrender his new lease on life as well...?

They finally understood his conviction and didn't stop him anymore. Mubai called a private jet and flew to City A.

Xinghe had no idea he was coming; she was still struggling to find a way to save herself.

The Lin family had no clue he was coming as well.

A storm was going to rage at City A. However, it was unknowable who would remain when the clouds cleared and who would disappear in the storm...

Chapter 608: Looking for Xia Xinghe

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Even though Elder Xi had retired, the president still valued his contribution. Furthermore, Xinghe was the engineer behind the mechanical heart, so her disappearance was high on the president's priority list. He had ordered all of his men to go look for her.

Not only that, many other people were also helping out with the search.

Sam's group was looking for her. The Gu family and Yan family also were also looking for her.

Gu Li's and Yan Lu's families were both based in City A. When they heard the bad news from Munan, they immediately reached out to their home to ask for help. Even the business world in City A was out and about in search of Xinghe; this was Mubai's influence.

In other words, the whole of City A was out looking for Xinghe. Tong Yan didn't expect that the whole city would be mobilized just because Xinghe had disappeared for half a day. Even Lu Qi sent his men out to aid in the search...

The scale of the search rescue didn't make Tong Yan feel uneasy, instead she was pissed. Who was this simple woman that she deserved so many people's attention?

In this world, no woman was allowed to one-up her! This steeled Tong Yan's determination to starve Xinghe to death!

After all, she was sealed off from the world and as long as the security didn't say anything, no one would find Xinghe. One week later, after Xinghe had died, it would all have been too late.

Regarding the consequences for killing Xinghe, Tong Yan was not at all worried. She was confident that no one was able to judge her, because the Shen family and Tong family would do everything to save her. Xia Xinghe's death would be covered up and no one would find out the truth.

After all, Tong Yan was raised in a life where mistakes had no serious consequences. She was the treasured princess of the whole world; no one was able to judge her. She was several stations above everyone else. Definitely no one would fault her even if they found out she was responsible for the death of a common woman like Xia Xinghe.

Instead Tong Yan started imagining the happiness on Lin Xuan's face when he found out she had helped him remove such a huge enemy. He would be deeply appreciative of her help. Just like childhood, every time she helped him take care certain people, he would be ecstatic and willing to accompany her for a few days.

This time, he would be overjoyed by her accomplish and perhaps would be happy enough to agree to be her boyfriend.

The rescue mission for Xinghe continued while Tong Yan was lost in her sweet dreams.

...

However, no matter how hard they tried, they couldn't find any trace of Xinghe!

The security guard was detained. He swore on his life that Xinghe requested to get out of his car on their way to the airport and hopped into another car. Therefore, he also had no idea where she had gone.

Several interrogations later and his testimony was still the same. He didn't dare to tell the truth, because if he did, he would have Xinghe's death on his hands. They wouldn't punish Tong Yan and he would be perfect scapegoat. Therefore, he wouldn't reveal the truth, no matter what.

He had already taken the wrong first step and the way back had been removed so he could only continue on this path of sin while ignoring his conscience. They were not going to get any clues about Xinghe from him.

Night had fallen but Xinghe was still nowhere to be found.

Other than the Lin family who celebrated behind closed doors, everyone else was incredibly worried. Even Madam President felt that way. She was worried about the talented woman's

safety, and she felt guilty about it. After all, it was her own security that lost Xinghe.

The president noticed her anxiousness and consoled her, “Don’t worry, the police are conducting a thorough search as we speak; they will definitely find her.”

Chapter 609: Charging into the President's House

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Let's hope so...” The moment Madam President said that, the president's phone rang. It was his secretary; apparently Xi family's Xi Mubai was there to meet him.

The president was shocked. “Xi Mubai?”

“Yes, and he said that if you refuse to see him, he can't guarantee what he will do,” the secretary reported anxiously. Mubai was openly threatening the president; he sure was brave. If not for his unique identity, the secretary would have called security on him. The president was understandably shocked; Xi Mubai dared to threaten him...

However, he wasn't offended, instead he ordered, “Let him in.”

“Okay.”

“Who is it?” Madam President asked, and the president sighed.

“It's Xi Mubai from the Xi family.”

Madam President was shocked. “He's already awake? He must be here for Xinghe.”

“That should be it.”

Mubai was quickly led in by the security. He came alone and in a wheel chair, pushed into the room by the security, behind him were ten more security guards. They were afraid he might do something stupid.

Mubai was unfazed by the heightening security; his expression was calm and presence strong.

The president and his wife sighed when they saw him. This young man sure has courage and vigor to dare to charge into the president's house on his own.

Mubai greeted them calmly and said, “I'm sorry, it is not my intention to disturb but my fiancée has disappeared after she arrived here, so I am a bit worried.”

The president nodded understandingly. “I can understand your feelings, but you shouldn’t have barged in here without invitation. This time, I’ll forgive you by giving face to your grandfather, but it had better not happen again.”

“Don’t worry, as long as Xinghe is safe, I will not do anything,” Mubai answered nonchalantly.

The president and his wife were shocked. In other words, if something happened to Xinghe, he would do something to harm them...

“Xi Mubai, do you understand who you are threatening?” the president questioned gravely.

Mubai didn’t show any sign of fear. He smirked. “I know very well what I’m doing, therefore, Mr. President, I hope you can locate Xinghe soon. I only have one request: she must return safely.”

“We also hope that she is safe,” Madam President relented. “Don’t worry, I’m sure the police will find her soon enough.”

“But there’s still no news even though half a day has passed,” Mubai voiced his disgruntlement. “Therefore, I came in person, hopefully to hear for myself what has really happened.”

Madam President understood his point of view so told him in detail everything that happened. He knew something was wrong with the security guard when she finished.

His eyes chilled as he said, “Please allow me to see that security guard; I have a few questions for him.”

The president and his wife looked at each other before yielding to his request. The security guard was soon led to the room.

He started to get nervous when he saw the president and his wife, but he steeled himself to face the interrogation. He had no choice but to lie, since truth would only lead him to death.

Mubai, sitting in the wheelchair, suddenly asked in a chilling tone, “You’re the one responsible for escorting Xinghe out of the president’s house?”

Chapter 610: Asura from Hell

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The security guard met his eyes and he unconsciously averted them again. It was a pair of eyes he hadn't seen before. They were cold and dark; the security felt like he was staring into the eyes of an Asura from hell.

Even though the security was well-trained, facing Mubai's chilling gaze, he started to squirm. However, he quickly collected himself.

"Yes," he answered calmly.

Mubai didn't look away from his stare and demanded, "Then tell me what happened in detail, including your conservation, don't leave out even a word."

The security had told this story many times before and now he repeated the same story. "After I fetched Miss Xia from the compound, she requested that I take another route. After some distance, she said she had reached her destination and wanted me to go back alone. Then she got out and got into another car."

"You didn't say anything when she demanded to get out in the middle of the journey?"

"I did ask her why and she said she had something to do, and it was fine for me to leave her there."

"So you allowed her to get out."

The security replied calmly, "Yes, she insisted on getting out, so I couldn't do anything to stop her."

"You're a trained elite right, what kind of car she did she into and what was the car plate number?"

"The car was a black cross-country vehicle, but I was unable to catch the car plate."

Mubai scoffed. "You were unable to catch the plate number?"

"That's right," The security answered confidently.

Mubai's gaze immediately darkened. "I'll ask you one more time, what is the car plate number?"

"I already told you, I couldn't get a good look, I have no idea."

"You're lying!" Mubai growled vehemently, "Xinghe started the triangulation app on her phone before she left your car. However, the signal only appeared for a little while because I suspect her phone was destroyed the moment she was pulled out of your car. In other words, she had found out something suspicious about you when she was in the car and activated the app. Do I need to provide you with the proof?"

The security was stunned; he had no clue about the triangulation app.

"I'll ask you again, who took Xinghe away and who did you allow to take her away?" Mubai demanded with great aggression, like a beast ready to swallow his prey.

The security's eyes started to dart around nervously but he still denied it. "I really have no idea what you're talking about, why I would harm her..."

"If you continue to lie, I will kill you now!" Mubai stood up suddenly as he pulled the gun from the waist band of the security that stood beside him. The room was shocked; he was too quick for them to even have time to react.

The security guard who got his weapon swiped was speechless; his speed and reactions were already fast from years of training, but Mubai was even faster than him.

"Protect the president and Madam President!"

The group of security guards instantly formed a barricade around the two of them.

They also pulled out their guns and pointed them at Mubai.

"Put down the gun!"

Mubai ignored them and focused on the security guard before him. The barrel of the gun touched the security guard's temple; he could see Mubai's finger over the trigger. The security guard was confounded; he hadn't expected that Mubai would do something like this.

Mubai's eyes were flashing with murderous intent. "I'll ask you again, who took her away? If you still refuse to answer, bid farewell to your life!"

"You will not escape if you commit murder in front of the president..." the security guard warned him with a shaking voice.

Mubai laughed. "Do you want to know what I prepared before I come here?"

Chapter 611: Xi Mubai Is Crazy!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“ ... ”

“Both City A and City T’s economy lifelines are in my hands; if I’m unable to walk out of this place alive, the economy of both cities will collapse! I’m sure you know what that means.”

The security was stunned. Even the president and his wife were baffled. Mubai dared to use the nation’s economy to threaten them!

City A and City T were Hwa Xia’s biggest and most developed cities. City T was practically the country’s economic and business hub. The Xi family had a chokehold over City T’s market and half of City A’s market. If Mubai really lost his mind and tore down these two cities’ economy, the whole country would be sent into absolute chaos!

Not only that, this would give other countries the opening they needed to infiltrate Hwa Xia and international war could break out...

In conclusion, the economy was too important; if ruined, the consequences would be unimaginable!

No wonder Xi Mubai dared to break into the president’s house, he had come completely prepared.

“So tell me, do you think I will be able to walk out here scot-free after I kill you or not? Furthermore, I’m only killing someone that deserves to die!” Mubai glared at the security with eyes that showed he wasn’t messing around.

He really will kill me; he’s not kidding. The security guard had been in war before and he knew perfectly well whenever someone was bluffing about killing. If he didn’t reveal the truth, he would die.

However, he still refused to admit the truth, betting that Mubai wouldn’t dare commit such an atrocious crime in front of so many witnesses!

“You wouldn’t dare, you wouldn’t dare kill me here...”

“Is that so?” Mubai sharpened his gaze and pressed down hard on the trigger.

The moment the gunshot rang out, the security bent down and cowered down on the floor on reflex. Everyone was shocked; Xi Mubai was crazy!

He really fired the bullet!

Mubai didn't seem affected by the fact that he just shot at someone. The security who barely escaped death was breaking out in cold sweat. If he didn't evade at the very last minute, he would be dead.

Mubai was really... going to kill him...

“Why did you hide?” The gun pointed at him again. Mubai glared down at him with emotionless eyes and his lips curved into a devilish smile. His words were deliberate and slow, but his every word sent a chill down everyone's spine.

“If you're so afraid of death, then I can keep you alive, however someone else will have to suffer on your behalf. I'm sure you have a family, right? Why don't we start with them? I will make sure suffering will consume their lives. Your parents will have to collect their children's bodies because I will start by eliminating your brothers and sisters. Finally, I will keep you alive to see your parents suffer, and every bit of their suffering will be because of you. So, if you still refuse to tell us the truth, you'll not only harm yourself but also everyone that you care about! Don't think I will not live up to my words, if anything happens to my woman, you can start preparing to buy coffins in bulk—”

The security widened his eyes in fear. This Xi Mubai is scary and crazy! He has lost his mind. Just because I refuse to tell him the truth, he's going to make my family suffer...

Furthermore, this is the president's house, where did he find the guts to do this in front of the president?

Mubai was scary like a messenger from hell, but he did finally get his point across, for the sake of Xinghe, he would stop at nothing.

Chapter 612: Tong Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The security guard actually did have a conscience, but it was silenced by fear. He didn't dare reveal the truth, but since he was threatened thusly by Mubai, his determination broke.

“Just kill me now, this thing has nothing to do with my family! It is all my fault, I've failed Miss Xia! Miss Tong ordered me to bring Miss Xia to her because she wanted to discuss something to her in private. I thought they were going to have a discussion, but who could have known she was planning a kidnapping? The person who forced me into silence was also Miss Tong; she said that if I refused to cooperate, she would have me set up to take the fall, because she is above the law! I know I've done wrong, so punish me but leave my innocent family out of this!”

The security guard's sudden confession startled everyone. The Madam President yelped, “What did you say, it was Little Yan who kidnapped Xinghe?”

The president was equally shocked. The security guard nodded as he crumbled into a sniveling mess; he knew he had made enemies out of both the Tong and Shen families. His life was over. “Yes, it was her...”

Mubai smiled chillingly, he turned to look at Madam President. “Madam, then I can only hope that you bring Xinghe back safely.”

Madam President was angered beyond words; she didn't think Tong Yan would stoop to such a level. “I'll go demand that she lets Xinghe go immediately. If she's really the culprit, I will not cover for her!”

“The only thing I want is for Xinghe to return safely. Madam, I'll follow you.” Mubai sat slowly back down in the wheelchair and he tossed the gun aside. One of the guards quickly took the gun off the floor, while the others still pointed their guns at Mubai. However, no one moved forward to arrest him because there was no order from the president...

In fact, the president had signaled for them to not shoot. Furthermore, they didn't dare to really do anything after hearing Mubai's threat. Who knew what would happen to the country's economy if he died? He was capable of creating the biggest depression Hwa Xia had ever seen.

"Go along with the madam; go and save the girl!" The president ordered firmly, they would have to deal with Mubai later. Mubai's insolence at the president's house had to be punished somehow, but for several reasons, he knew nothing serious could befall Mubai because this involved too many crucial figures within Hwa Xia.

...

Madam President and her men quickly arrived at the Tong family's residence. Her sudden arrival shocked everyone.

"Sis, why are you here?" Tong Yan's mother, Shen Ru, asked in surprised when she saw her.

Shen family's patriarch only had two daughters in his lifetime, they were the Madam President and Shen Ru.

Madam President was at least ten years older than Shen Ru, so Shen Ru looked to be in her thirties at most. However, there was a great difference between the two sisters. Madam President was born with the blessing of grace and beauty; Shen Ru couldn't hold a candle against her. People wouldn't expect them to be sisters from their looks alone.

Even Mubai was surprised when he saw Shen Ru. He didn't expect the sisters would look so different.

However, Madam President had always cherished this younger sister of hers. This time though, even facing Shen Ru, her face was expressionless. She asked coolly, "Where is Tong Yan?"

Shen Ru's eyes jumped noticing the great amount of guards behind them. She could read the situation and asked cautiously, "Sis, what's wrong? Did Little Yan do something to make you unhappy?"

Chapter 613: Stubborn

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Where is she?” Madam President repeated coolly.

Shen Ru knew she had to come for something serious. “I think she’s asleep upstairs in her room.”

“Get her down here!” Madam President ordered one of the maids. Of course, the maid wouldn’t dare to object.

Shen Ru got nervous instantly. “Sis, what kind of mistake did Little Yan make for you to be so angry? You already know that she’s still young; she’s bound to make some careless mistakes, so you shouldn’t be so stern with her.”

Madam President said with obvious pain, “If I don’t get stern with her now, then she’ll just ruin herself!”

“Why?” Shen Ru’s heart skipped a beat, her anxiety increasing drastically. What kind of mistake did Little Yan make? It sounds so serious.

“Auntie, why are you here?” Tong Yan bounded down the stairs happily while staring curiously at the man in the wheelchair. However, when she met his eyes that were devoid of warmth, she shivered uncontrollably. That man looks like Xi Mubai; I’ve seen him on TV...

After she recognized him, a bad feeling cropped up in her heart. Could it be that the kidnapping has been exposed?

Madam President saw her and demanded angrily, “I’m here to ask you, where you have taken Xinghe? Quick give us her location now.”

It really was exposed! Tong Yan faltered for a bit before calming herself down. She blinked innocently and said, “Auntie, what you talking about? I don’t understand it. How am I related to Xia Xinghe’s disappearance?”

“You still refuse to admit it? The security guard you threatened has confessed to everything; you’re the one who kidnapped Xinghe. I really didn’t expect you would do something so stupid.”

“Kidnapping?” Shen Ru’s face immediately fell. She knew some woman had disappeared, and she was related to the Xi family and the whole of City A was looking for her. She didn’t expect the culprit was going to be her own daughter.

After she understood the gravity of the situation, she immediately asked Tong Yan, “Yan, tell mommy the truth, is it you who kidnapped her?”

“It was not me!” Tong Yan retorted indignantly like she was really wronged. “Why would I kidnap her? It’s really not me, Mommy, Auntie, you have to believe me.”

Shen Ru smiled in relief. “Sis, Little Yan says she is not related to this, so I’m sure she’s innocent. There must be some kind of misunderstanding.”

“Misunderstanding? Why would the president’s security frame her?” Madam President didn’t believe Tong Yan; she demanded seriously while glaring at her, “Little Yan, we must learn to correct our mistakes. Quick tell Auntie, where is Xinghe? If you let her go now, this situation can still be salvaged. If anything happens to her, it’ll be troublesome for you too.”

From feeling wronged, Tong Yan switched to anger. “But it’s really not me, how come you refuse to believe me?”

“You still refuse to admit your mistake at a time like this?”

Tong Yan wouldn’t not admit her mistake no matter what; she would die before she admitted she was at fault.

“Auntie, the security guard is framing me. He must have cooperated with someone else to kidnap Xinghe and decided to blame it on me. However, I really didn’t do such a thing, I’m innocent. Auntie, you have to believe me.”

Madam President shook her head with absolute disappointment. She replied, “All this while I thought you’re just a willful child, but to think you would have the courage to do something illegal and still refuse to admit your mistake. Tong Yan, you think as long as you don’t admit anything, I’m powerless before you?”

Chapter 614: He Will Remember This Slight

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Tong Yan started to get anxious. This was the first time her auntie had ever spoken so coldly to her. She had thought everyone would cherish and love her forever because that was her birth right. However, because of one Xia Xinghe, her auntie turned on her. She felt intensely wronged and angered.

Unable to suppress her indignation, she grumbled angrily, “How can auntie treat me like this? So what if it’s me who kidnapped her, she’s just a nasty, common woman; she’s incomparable to someone as important as me! Even if I kill her, it is because she deserves it...”

Madam President delivered one fast and harsh slap to the girl’s face. Tong Yan and Shen Ru both were stunned.

“Sis, what are you doing?” Shen Ru screamed as she moved to protect her daughter. She demanded angrily, “Little Yan already said that she’s not responsible, so how can you not believe her? She’s your only niece; how can you raise your hand against her?”

That’s right, where did she find the heart to do something like that?

Tong Yan’s eyes were swirling with tears and disbelief. She had never been physically punished before in her life; they didn’t even dare to speak harshly against her; everyone had been fighting each other to win her favor. However, her auntie dared to slap her. At that moment, Tong Yan felt her world crumbling; it suddenly felt so strange and absurd.

Madam President glared regretfully at her and said, “It is because no one dares to teach her a lesson that she had become so arrogant and wild. Security, turn her things inside out, her phone and computer, leave no stone unturned!”

“Yes, Madam!” The security immediately mobilized.

“Sis, what is the meaning of this...”

“Stop, none of you have the right to touch my things! I’m Tong family’s first heiress; I will exact punishment on those

that dares to touch my things!” Tong Yan warned severely, but it was useless. Under normal circumstances, none of the security guards dared to defy her, but with Madam President there, her threats were like air, completely harmless.

Tong Yan failed to understand that the reason why people were afraid of her and had to acquiesce her every request was not because of her power but her background. However, if the person behind her was not on her side anymore, she was nothing.

The Tong family didn't dare to object to Madam President's orders. Even Elder Tong and Old Madam Tong who had already gone to bed came out to check the commotion. They instantly tried to stop the chaos, but it was to no avail. When they found out about Tong Yan's little mistake, they too were shocked beyond words.

“Little Yan, quickly tell us, where is the woman? Don't worry, if she's still safe, Grandpa will cover for you,” Elder Tong advised Tong Yan hurriedly. Even at a time like this, he was still deeply protective of his granddaughter. From his perspective, this was nothing serious. If the person was found safe in the end, it could be easily settled.

Mubai, who was left forgotten in the commotion, smirked suddenly. Cover for her? No one is able to cover for this woman.

She had to pay dearly for kidnapping Xinghe!

It might not be now, but one day, justice would be served. This slight, he, Xi Mubai, would remember forever.

With Elder Tong's and Old Madame Tong's kind intervention, on top of her mounting fear, Tong Yan finally revealed the truth. “I didn't do anything to her, I just want to teach her a lesson. I did lock her up, but I really didn't do anything to her...”

“Where is she?” Madam President demanded.

...

Xinghe was deserted in the basement of an abandoned countryside villa.

Chapter 615: I'm Fine...

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After they got the address, Mubai and the rest quickly rushed to the location. When Mubai saw the site, his face was as cold as winter's. The door to the basement had been taken down and in its place was a newly built wall!

The cement was still drying so it seemed to have been recently built. This was the little lesson Tong Yan talked about?

There was a need to seal up the basement for just a little lesson?

It was obvious that she was aiming to kill and hide the body!

Mubai's fingers and voice were shaking as he ordered, "Knock it down! Knock it down immediately!"

He was really afraid something horrendous had already happened to Xinghe; he was afraid to see what the broken wall would reveal...

The thought made Mubai's breathing quicken and visions of black exploded in his eyes. If something really happened to Xinghe, he swore he would pull everyone into hell to accompany her death; not a single one of them was going to be safe!

Mubai's heart was burning with fury strong enough to swallow the world.

Madam President, who stood beside him, started to worry. She could sense Mubai's chilling presence, so she was worried something had really happen to Xinghe. The fact that Tong Yan would do something so vicious made her shake her head with disappointment again. She really hoped Xinghe was fine, or else Tong Yan... would probably have to pay with her life and more!

Xi Mubai dared to threaten the president, so just imagine what he would do to Tong Yan.

Of course, aside from Tong Yan's sake, Madam President prayed sincerely that Xinghe was fine, or else City A's peace

would be shattered like it was hit by an earthquake.

Under everyone's nervous gaze, the wall was brought down quickly. The moment the entrance showed itself, Mubai, who was in his wheelchair, stood up suddenly like a healthy person. He dashed down into the darkness, almost tumbling down the stairs.

The police almost couldn't catch up to his speed. With the police's flashlight, Mubai noticed a shuttered room. He rammed his body weight into the door and yelled, "Xia Xinghe, can you hear me?"

A weakened Xinghe who leaned against the wall suddenly heard his voice and thought she was hallucinating.

That sounds like Xi Mubai? But how is that possible? Isn't he still unconscious?

"Xinghe!" Mubai screamed once more as he kicked heavily on the door. The door fell open and a few searchlights lit up the room.

They immediately saw Xinghe caught within the corner. Mubai stared at her unblinkingly as his eyes widened.

And Xinghe, facing the harsh searchlight, seemed to see his blurry silhouette. She was lost in the dark for so long that the sudden light stung her eyes.

She narrowed her eyes and croaked softly, "I'm fine."

I'm fine.

This short sentence made Mubai completely teary-eyed and melted the murderous air that he had been wearing like an armor.

He stepped cautiously towards Xinghe until eventually his huge body covered up the light and enveloped Xinghe in his shadow.

Xinghe could finally open her eyes to see clearly. It was really Xi Mubai; it wasn't her hallucination.

He's finally up on his feet again...

Chapter 616: Finally Safe

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe's watery eyes stared fixatedly at him. Mubai, too, was looking intensely into her eyes. Like a couple separated for a thousand years, they scanned every inch of each other's faces, not willing to waste even a second blinking. They were afraid the other would disappear into thin air should they blinked.

Xinghe tried to stand up, wishing to see him more closely. Yet the next second, she was swept into Mubai's arms; he was holding her tightly!

Mubai put extra strength into his hug, as if wishing to join his body to hers. Unconsciously, Xinghe hugged him back...

They stayed in that position quietly for quite some time. There was no need for words as they both took in each other's presence. Finally, their hearts that were working on overtime started to calm down.

Ever since the explosion, a hidden anxiety had been lodged in Xinghe's heart; she was afraid that something unexpected might happen to him. It was the same way for him when he found out about Xinghe's situation.

Finally, after making sure each other was safe, there was a collective sigh of relief.

Xinghe couldn't help but smile. She asked, "When did you wake up?"

"Today."

Xinghe's eyes trembled slightly. He woke up that day itself and the first thing he did was rush to save her. Just how did he manage something like that?

Xinghe started to worry that he was exerting pressure on his recently recovered body. She quickly pushed him aside and said, "I'm fine; let's get out of here."

"Okay!" Mubai held her hand tightly and led her out. The basement was indeed not a suitable place to talk. Furthermore,

he wished to take Xinghe to the hospital for a check-up; he was afraid if she suffered any injuries.

Xinghe left the basement with Mubai's guidance and it was then that she saw the broken-down wall. So, the culprit really did intend to starve her to death. However, her plan had failed!

It was of course time for revenge. A flash of fiery determination crossed her eyes, and the moment she saw Madam President, the name of the culprit came into her mind.

Madam President moved forward and asked with concern, "Xinghe, are you okay?"

Since Madam President was there personally, then the culprit could be none other than Tong Yan.

Xinghe answered softly, "I'm fine. Madam, who is the person that wanted to murder me?"

She used the term 'murder' to stress her point.

Madam President sighed. Even if she had the intention to shield Tong Yan, it was no longer possible. Who would believe the girl didn't have the intention to murder Xinghe?

Even the entrance to the basement was sealed up behind a thick wall. If this was not an attempt at murder, what was?

A flash of anger surged through Madam President when she thought about what Tong Yan did, but at the end of the day, that was her niece; she wouldn't wish eternal damnation on her...

"It was Tong Yan. The girl is too young to understand the severity of her actions. She said she wished to punish you a bit but none of us expected she would go to such an extent. However, do not worry because we will not condone this kind of behavior."

"So, it is Miss Tong. However, I'm curious, why would Miss Tong want to kill me?" Xinghe asked calmly, without any trace of obvious emotions. "I don't have any feud with her and she doesn't look like a malicious person. I don't understand, why does she hate me so much?"

Madam President was astonished. Xinghe was right; even if Tong Yan wanted to teach her a lesson, there was no reason for her to go to such lengths to make an attempt on her life...

Chapter 617: Shoot Their Own Feet

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Noticing Madam President's silence, Xinghe added, "Perhaps someone whispered something in her ears to make her misunderstand me and increase her hatred towards me. However, I do wonder who would hate me so much to purposely influence Miss Tong and pit her against me."

Madam President's face was immediately drawn. "You're right. There must be something suspicious going on. Don't worry, we will get to the bottom of this."

"Thank you, madam. We all hope to discover who the people pulling the strings behind the scenes are."

"Definitely!" Madam President promised. This party dared to make use of Tong Yan like that, so they had to hunt said party down. They had even influenced Tong Yan to do something as illegal as murder, so these people must be uncovered and punished.

After confirming that Xinghe was safe, Madam President returned to the president's house.

Watching her departing vehicle, Xinghe told Mubai, "The Lin family thought they could use Tong Yan to kill me and they would be safe from implication. This time, they will know what the meaning of shooting themselves in the foot is."

"You should leave the Lin family to me in the future; you don't need to toil so much." Mubai looked at her with love and concern. To help him with his revenge and to aid the Xi family, she almost lost her life. Mubai felt an immense guilt press down on him. He felt so useless, if he had woken up earlier, she wouldn't have gone through so much hardship.

Xinghe understood his meaning.

She shook her head and said firmly, "Please don't blame yourself, I volunteered to do all this. But you, you just woke up; you shouldn't be here."

"How can I be calm if I'm not here?"

“...” Xinghe understood what he meant; he was afraid something would happen to her just as she was afraid something would happen to him. His eagerness to come find her was similar to her eagerness to help him exact his revenge. They were peas in a pod, losing their rationality for each other’s sake.

“Let’s go home, I’m tired,” Xinghe said suddenly.

Right then, she wished to escape from the schemes and revenge; she just wished to spend some quality time with him.

“Okay,” Mubai replied with a wickedly handsome smile.

...

Mubai brought Xinghe to the house the Xi family owned at Hills Residence. The place was huge and was under constant care.

There was already a welcoming committee waiting when they arrived. There were Sam’s group and Lu Qi.

Xinghe had already given them a call to report her safety on the way there, so they had congregated at the house to wait for her.

“Xinghe, are you okay?” Ali asked worriedly when she saw her.

Xinghe nodded. “I’m fine.”

“Who dared to go after you?” Ali huffed angrily. “Tell us and we’ll go take this person out!”

“Let’s discuss it inside.” Xinghe then turned to Lu Qi. “Lu Qi, please check Mubai’s condition, he just woke up today.”

Mubai said instantly, “I’m fine, the one that needs checking is you.”

“No, you need medical attention more than me,” Xinghe retorted.

Lu Qi smiled watching their banter. “I will check on both of you. But from how I see it, other than exhaustion, Xinghe looks perfectly fine, so I will check on Mubai first.”

“Xinghe?” Mubai suddenly glared icily at him. “I had no clue you two had gotten so close that you’ve reached a first name basis already.”

Lu Qi was taken aback by the sudden hostility. “That’s to be expected since we spent this period of time working alongside each other.”

Chapter 618: Blinding Flashes

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Spent time working alongside each other?” Mubai’s tone had dropped several degrees.

Lu Qi was speechless. What is the meaning of this? Xi Mubai is jealous? Is this really... necessary?

“Tell the butler to get us a new doctor. Doctor Lu, please return to your responsibility of taking care of the president, commoners such as ourselves don’t dare to take Doctor Lu away from his important responsibility.” Mubai then pushed Xinghe into the mansion not giving her a chance to say anything.

Lu Qi called after them with a pained expression, “Mubai, I practically saved your life, is this the way to treat your life savior?”

Alas, Mubai didn’t even turn around to acknowledge him and Xinghe was hastily pulled along into the house.

Lu Qi grumbled disappointedly to Ali’s group, “Tell me, what is happening? Does Mubai need to be so jealous of something as small as this? Have you ever seen something as ridiculous as this?”

To his frustration, they nodded in unison.

“We have.”

“Worse than this in fact!”

“Yours is a small case.”

“Trust me, you’ve not seen the true extent of that guy’s jealousy.”

Lu Qi was struck speechless. God, tell me, am I crazy or what’s happening?

...

Under Mubai’s wintry gaze, Lu Qi was still charitable enough to take a look at their conditions.

“Miss Xia is perfectly fine,” Lu Qi concluded lightly, to save himself the trouble, he didn’t dare call her directly Xinghe anymore. “You, on the other hand, shouldn’t have exerted yourself so much when you’d only just recovered; you’re going to waste my energy in saving your life.”

Xinghe frowned. “Is his condition serious?”

Beside her, Mubai said in a matter-of-fact fashion, “I’m fine.”

Lu Qi huffed coldly. “You’re overworking your body. From this moment on, you have to take a good rest to recuperate. The period of convalescence has to be at least two months, or else I can’t guarantee how long you will be able to survive.”

“Looks like your medical skills are not as good as they say then,” Mubai retorted with a cold smirk. “I’m most familiar with my body and I know I don’t need to recuperate.”

“Listen to Lu Qi’s advice,” Xinghe interrupted and announced with authority. “From now on, you have to rest well for two months. Your life was saved by me, if you don’t cherish it, then there shall nothing to be discussed between us.”

“Okay—” Mubai promised easily. He hugged her waist and smiled gently. “I’ll listen to everything you say since you did save my life.”

Lu Qi widened his eyes in shock. Can the deferential treatment not be so obvious?

Even Ali and the rest had to avert their eyes because the constant flashes of romance were blinding their eyes. Even Lu Qi was getting increasingly annoyed at his insistence to be all lovey-dovey in front of the group of lonely singles...

Xinghe was actually somewhat overwhelmed by his attitude, but her years of spiritual training had helped her maintain a neutral face expression.

“Tell me now, how did you find me?” She changed the topic of conversation. Mubai also turned serious and enlightened them on what had happened.

Lu Qi and the rest’s jaws almost dropped to the floor when they heard he openly threatened the president. They studied

him closely, trying to determine whether he was bluffing.

Xinghe berated him lightly, “What you did was illegal.”

Mubai smiled. “It’s not my fault that they’re so bad at their job; I had to do what I did.”

“But that’s the president.” Lu Qi frowned. “Mubai, you’d better figure out a way to resolve this or they might have you arrested.”

“That won’t happen,” Xinghe concluded in a firm tone.

Chapter 619: Will Remember It for Now

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Why not?” Lu Qi queried.

“Because this time we will not pursue Tong Yan’s responsibility,” Xinghe explained softly.

Sam was the first to object. “Why not? She almost killed you!”

Lu Qi understood her thought immediately. “You plan to use this to offset Mubai’s offense?”

Xinghe nodded before turning to see Mubai’s response. His eyes were dark as he smiled wickedly. “Do you think I need to do something like that to escape criminal responsibility?”

“I know you don’t care about a criminal charge.” Xinghe looked him in the eye and continued, “But, our real enemy is the Lin family; we need to focus. Of course, this doesn’t imply that I’m letting Tong Yan off, but we don’t have time to deal with her now. After we take care of the Lin family, we’ll have plenty of time to straighten things out with her.”

Mubai’s eyes darkened further. “Don’t you feel wronged?”

Xinghe laughed. “Why would I? Tong Yan has helped us tremendously. She not only had hurt me but also sold the Lin family out. The president is not an idiot; the Lin family’s wild ambition will soon be discovered.”

The moment that happened, the Lin family’s plans would be ruined. The president would no longer support them and would instead find ways to suppress them. The Lin family’s plan had backfired this time.

If only Xinghe had died, then the president would have died soon after. Alas she survived. This meant that the Lin family’s days ahead would be extremely difficult. Furthermore, since there was hope for the president’s recovery, the Lin family would be getting increasingly agitated. This increased the chances of them making a mistake, just like this time.

No matter how careful they were, they would have to slip up eventually, and when that happened, their dirty laundry would be out in the open.

Of course, Mubai thought about all this as well. He looked at Xinghe lovingly and was impressed by her internal constitution. She was almost killed but still had the mental acuity to come up with such detailed analysis and plan without a word of complaint. How many people in the world could manage something like that?

Perhaps many men wouldn't like someone like Xinghe due to her independence and reluctance to depend fully on her man, but this was what Mubai loved about her. Regardless, her strength only made him worry about her even more and made him want to cherish her forever.

He took her hand and agreed. "This time, we shall let Tong Yan be, but this slight, I will remember forever."

Xinghe smiled slightly. "Me too."

She was no saint. Anyone that dared to harm her should prepare for retribution. She would not let injustice done against her go unpunished!

She understood how the world operated, the survival of the fittest. Being kind to your enemy is being cruel to yourself.

Therefore, Tong Yan's action... they would remember it for now but eventually the girl had to pay with added interest!

...

After the discussion, Xinghe helped Mubai back to his room to rest. From the moment he woke up, he had powered on with pure strength alone. Now that everyone else had left, his face finally showed traces of weakness.

Xinghe helped him with his medicine and tucked him in bed. "Do you want me to call Lu Qi for you?"

Mubai pulled on her hand and said with a smile, "Not necessary, as long as you're with me, I'm comfortable."

"Okay." To his surprise, Xinghe agreed. "Let me go take a shower first."

“I’ll join you,” Mubai blurted out without much thought.
Then, he started to blush from his misspoken words.

Xinghe stared curiously at him. Her clear eyes seemed to say,
Join me? Do you want to die?

Chapter 620: Wanton

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai coughed awkwardly and hurriedly backtracked. “I mean, I will also take a shower after you’re done.”

“You’d better rest or else I’m afraid you might faint in there,” Xinghe said before turning to enter the bathroom.

Mubai couldn’t refrain from laughing after watching her being uncomfortable. She was really hopeless when it came to this kind of intimate situation, but Mubai found that incredibly cute. He felt blessed that he was given a second chance to see her again, to give their relationship a second try. Thankfully, both of them survived...

He would be forever thankful that it was he who was hurt in the explosion and not her. Thinking about this, Mubai naturally connected the accident to Lin Xuan and the Lin family. Resentment and hatred flickered behind his eyes. He would make the Lin family pay a thousand times in return!

Therefore, the Lin family’s days were numbered.

At same time, when he thought about the sacrifice and effort Xinghe had made in her attempt to save him, his face split into a broad smile. Does this mean that my place in her heart has already taken root? Or else why would she come to City A alone to help me exact revenge? Therefore, she care about me in some way!

Mubai fidgeted in his bed. He sat up straight, and hearing the sound of rushing water from the bathroom, his body started to heat up.

He really wanted to barge in there, however, he knew he couldn’t. If he did without Xinghe’s permission, he would be chopped into pieces. Mubai lay back down on his bed and wiggled uncomfortably, praying that his torment would be over soon enough.

...

After Xinghe finished showering, she realized she had no clean clothes to change into. There was at least a bathrobe in

the toilet but wearing only a bathrobe seemed a bit too salacious.

Still, it was better than walking out naked!

Xinghe hesitated before shrugging into the bathrobe. She tightened the knot extra securely. After she dried her hair, she walked out of the bathroom and realized that Mubai had fallen asleep. He was in a deep sleep, probably too tired from his earlier exertion.

Xinghe knew he was still not feeling well, so she didn't disturb his sleep. She padded across the floor silently and lowered herself on the bed next to him.

The moment she lay down however, the man whom she thought was asleep suddenly rolled over and crushed her underneath his hug. Before she could react, a pair of lips smacked her on her lips!

Xinghe widened her eyes in shock and she stared right into Mubai's eyes that were completely devoid of drowsiness. If anything, she saw an intense fire burning within them.

He chewed on her lips wantonly like a man who, after wandering for days in the desert, finally found an oasis. This was the first time Mubai yielded so completely to his animal instincts...

It had definitely shocked Xinghe. However, this time, unlike before, she didn't pull away but close her fists and slowly opened her eyes. Sensing her permission, the fire in Mubai's eyes burned even brighter; she could feel his scorching gaze on her skin.

The kiss became even more intimate and intense like he was attempting to eat her up. His hands strayed uncontrollably over her robe...

When he touched her bare skin, Xinghe shivered minutely. It was barely discernible but Mubai still detected it. He stopped suddenly, and his kiss became a lot gentler.

However, that didn't decrease the intimacy of the moment. If anything, the air in the room seemed to have become heavier;

a sticky feeling pressed down on them, the sexual tension unfurling across the room...

Xinghe's brain was like a gooey mess, and she could barely summon the energy to move her body.

Chapter 621: Target the Lin family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Just when Xinghe thought he might take things further, he stopped. Then again, even if he didn't, she would have stopped it because his body might not be able to withstand the pressure.

Mubai rolled off of her and was still breathing heavily when he said, "I'll let you off this time, but when this thing blows over, we're getting married."

He didn't want to ruin everything before the sacred wedding night. He would give her a night she would never forget. However, the idea of marriage hadn't crossed Xinghe's mind. Now that he brought it up, she would think about it. To accept or not though was a discussion for another day.

"We can talk about that later, I'm sleepy." Xinghe turned away from him and closed her eyes; her cheeks were flushed red. The earlier unbridled passion truly had unsettled her.

Mubai smiled watching her reaction. He hugged her from behind and whispered into her ears, "Okay, next time then."

Taking in her scent, he finally closed his tired eyes. He was tired, but with Xinghe in his arms, he felt satisfied and safe.

In the future, he promised he would never leave her again, and he wouldn't make her worry about him.

That night, both of them had the best sleep ever since the explosion. With Mubai safely beside her, Xinghe's worry finally melted away.

All that remained was revenge against the Lin family!

Xinghe thought about the plan that she had already formulated.

...

The next day, they were again discussing what to do next.

"What is your next plan?" Mubai asked her with a hint of a smile. He loved watching Xinghe work her mind; it showcased

her brilliance and independence, like a queen dictating her country.

Ali's group was also curious what her plans were.

Xinghe smiled lightly. "Of course, to press charges against Tong Yan."

Ali was surprised. "But didn't you say to leave her be for now?"

"She is our opening to hit at the Lin family, so how can we leave her be?"

"But yesterday..." Sam was also confused.

Xinghe explained, "That's because, in the end, we won't be able to pursue any real charges against her. However, this doesn't mean that we are leaving her completely out of it. Only by targeting her will the Tong family, Shen family, and the president's ire against the Lin family be amplified."

Mubai couldn't help but smirk. "You plan to make the Lin family the public enemy?"

Xinghe nodded. "The Xi family alone might not be able to do anything against the Lin family, but if combined with the power of Shen family, Tong family, and the president, let's see if the Lin family can squirm their way out of this one."

"Xinghe, that's brilliant!" Ali looked at her with admiration. "I see what you mean now, you're going after them with a borrowed knife."

Xinghe nodded with a smile. "Bingo."

Cairn smiled. "The Lin family mustn't have realized they had handed you the right ammo when they plotted against your life."

Sam started to laugh. "Only you can make use of everything so perfectly. If the Lin family knew what you're planning for them, they would be vomiting blood from regret."

Mubai had actually thought of this plan as well but he also was happy on Xinghe's behalf. "It's wonderful that you could come up with such a great plan."

Xinghe blinked blankly at him. She felt the plan wasn't that hard to figure out. Then again, any other woman probably wouldn't have the ability to make use of her own situation to launch a counter attack right after a murder attempt on her life. Not only that, her plan even roped in all the forceful forces available in City A.

Chapter 622: Charging Tong Yan

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

These few forces were enough to topple the whole country. The bravery to come up with a plan to make use of all of them was commendable enough but for Xinghe, they were nothing but pawns in a bigger game.

After the plan was set, Mubai immediately found Xinghe a team of lawyers to draft and send a bill of complaint to the court. The accused was Tong Yan.

She was the heiress to the Tong family, the most powerful young lady in Hwa Xia and someone dared to charge her?

The moment the bill was filed, the court contacted the Tong family. The person who answered the phone was Shen Ru, and she was understandably incensed.

“My Little Yan only thought to teach her a small lesson and didn’t even lay a finger on her, yet she dares to press charges? Does she know who she’s dealing with?”

Elder Tong and Old Madam Tong were equally shocked. Old Madam Tong might have many grandchildren, but Tong Yan was her one granddaughter. She was furious when she learnt about this.

“The woman sure is insensible, since she is safe then she should have let things rest. She dares to charge Little Yan? Isn’t she afraid of crossing our Tong family?”

The Tong family was not a simple family, they were in-laws with the Shen family and were related to the president and many other powerful families in Hwa Xia. How stupid that woman must be to dare charge Tong Yan? Doesn’t she know this is going to make the most powerful families in the whole Hwa Xia her enemies?

Elder Tong was more cautious. “She has the Xi family behind her back; she’s not some random woman we should underestimate.”

“So what? She’s just the Xi family’s divorced daughter-in-law, they will not look out for her,” Shen Ru spat with derision.

“Even if she has the Xi family behind her back, can they fight with the collection of so many powerful families?”

“What does it matter if they can’t? It is the truth that Little Yan is in the wrong and even the president knows about this, do you think we can still cover that up?” Elder Tong sighed. “In any case, this time our weakness has already been exposed and the only solution is to have that woman rescind her charges.”

“I’ll personally go demand her do that now!” Shen Ru stood up and announced smugly. She thought she could personally pressure Xinghe into doing her bidding.

In the end, Xinghe didn’t even want to meet her. The guard told her that Xinghe was still traumatized by the earlier events and was unavailable to see anyone; it was the doctor’s order.

She then demanded to see Xi Mubai.

That was even more impossible. “Young Master Xi just woke up from his coma and has exerted himself from all the running and walking yesterday. His wounds have been exacerbated and unless Madam is willing to be responsible for his health, we cannot allow Madam to see him.”

This was the first time Shen Ru was shown the door. In City A, no, the whole country, who dared to treat her like this?

Even after she married into the Tong family, they were always respectful around her. She was the Shen family’s daughter, the Madam President’s only younger sister.

Others couldn’t wait to suck up to her, but Xinghe and Mubai had both refused to see her.

Shen Ru’s hatred towards them only increased. However, she was still clear-minded enough to know she couldn’t barge in as she wished.

Therefore, she changed tact. Since Mubai refused to meet her, then she would go search for Madam President’s help.

If Madam President wanted to see them, they had no choice but to oblige.

...

Shen Ru rushed to the president's house. After Madam President listened to her complaint, she said lightly, "It's only fair that they charged her, she has truly stepped out of line this time."

Chapter 623: Elder Xi Is Coming to City A

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Shen Ru immediately felt wronged. “But Sis, Little Yan didn’t really do anything. She only gave that woman a lesson because the woman has an annoying presence, how can you blame that on Little Yan? Is it really necessary for them to clutch onto this small offense so hard? It’s obvious that they are belittling our Tong family and Shen family.”

Madam President frowned. “Even at a time like this, you still refuse to see the child’s mistake. It is because of your overprotectiveness that Little Yan ended up in this state. If she didn’t give up Xinghe’s location, do you know what would have happened?”

Xinghe would have starved to death locked in the basement and this was premeditated murder since the basement was sealed to prevent others from finding her body. This couldn’t be overlooked simply because, thankfully, Xinghe was saved in the end.

Shen Ru knew her sister had always had a soft heart, so she started weeping. “Sis, I know that Little Yan has crossed the line this time and she really has learnt her lesson. She didn’t get a moment of sleep last night and walked about without a hint of a smile this whole morning. She really knows her mistake, and that’s why I feel like she should forgive her. Furthermore, she is still young, we shouldn’t ruin her whole life simply because of a small mistake...”

As she expected, Madam President softened her attitude. “If she really repents on her mistake then that’s great. However, I cannot do anything if the Xi family want to press charges. It is really not my place to ask them to rescind... Fine, I’ll help you contact them, but I will stay out of the negotiations. Whether they’re willing to forgive Little Yan, it all depends on Little Yan’s attitude.”

Shen Ru smiled immediately. “Thank you, Sis. Let’s go find them now. If you’re not on our side, I worry about what will happen to Little Yan.”

Madam President looked at her sister and felt a headache coming. Even though they say the sin of the prince and a commoner is equal, when the prince's sin is found out, it will still put the emperor in a tough spot.

Therefore, Madam President could only form the bridge, but how things go in the future, she was not going to get herself involved.

Madam President called Mubai. Her tone was soft and words not confrontational but artful. "I hear Xinghe is still recovering and the Tong family is really feeling sorry about that. This time it was indeed Tong Yan's mistake, so no matter what she should apologize personally to Xinghe. The Tong family would like to pay her a visit as well, so I wonder, when will the both of you be free?"

Of course, Mubai gave her face. "Since the Tong family has the intention to apologize, then we shall welcome it. However, both of us are still recovering, so if it's possible, can they come tomorrow since my grandfather will be in town then as well."

"Elder Xi will be there as well? Perfect. I will tell them to visit tomorrow."

"Okay."

Madam President continued the conversation for a while longer before hanging up.

"Sis, how did it go?" Shen Ru beside her asked anxiously.

Madam President explained slowly, "Tomorrow, Elder Xi will be coming to City A and you can all see them then. However, the key to the meeting is to placate Elder Xi, if you have his word that he will not pursue this any further then the Xi family will follow his order."

Shen Ru nodded understandingly, and a smug smile blossomed on her face. "Then I know what to do. I believe the Xi family will finally choose to put this to rest."

This was because she decided to involve her own father and grandfather. Facing both Elder Tong and Elder Shen, how could the Xi family not bend to their wishes?

Chapter 624: Better Force Her to Come Clean

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Xi might have held a high position in the past, but he chose to distance himself from City A and his influence naturally had dropped. That was how the world turned; no matter how high your glory, the moment you distance yourself from the center of it all, you would be forgotten at the fringes.

The Tong family and Shen family, on the other hand, had stayed in City A. Their grandchildren had grown up and taken root in City A, so their influence had only gotten bigger from before.

In other words, the Xi family was no longer a worthy rival. In fact, the Xi family had declined in their eyes. Therefore, with both the Shen family and Tong family there, the Xi family would have to yield.

Unless the Xi family didn't care about having no political future or wished to continue their decline, they would know what to do.

Madam President saw through Shen Ru's thoughts easily.

Noticing Shen Ru's smug smile, she reminded her, "Don't take this too lightly. No matter what, you should sincerely go and apologize tomorrow because it will depend on your sincerity whether they choose to put this behind them or not."

Her advice fell on deaf ears, Shen Ru nodded non-committedly. "Sis, don't worry, I know what to do."

Regardless, she had a hundred percent confidence she could bend the Xi family to her will. She started to get cocky.

Madam President still kindly tried to prompt her. "By the way, have you found out who was the person who influenced Little Yan to come after Xinghe?"

Shen Ru frowned in confusion. "There is no such individual. Little Yan swore on her life that it was out of her own volition that she decided to teach that woman a lesson because she couldn't stand that woman's face."

“Murdering someone is teaching them a lesson?” Madam President finally lost her patience. “You’d better force her to come clean soon or this will definitely happen again.”

“Alright, I understand.” Shen Ru nodded obediently. Madam President hoped she had managed to tease out the conscience within her sister.

...

After Shen Ru left, Madam President went to the bed chamber to check on her husband. His physical condition had been deteriorating.

Even though Lu Qi had tried his best to maintain his condition, but he couldn’t stop the illness from exacerbating.

However, the president maintained his optimistic attitude, death no longer pressured him as much as before.

When Madam President walked in, he was still working. Leaning against the bedrest, he was reading through some documents.

Madam President complained slightly when she saw this. “Why are you still up working? You should be resting.”

The president replied with a booming laugh. “I wish I could, but I can’t rest easily when I know there’s work needed to be done. Making me rest is only going to make me feel incredibly uncomfortable.”

“That’s not an excuse,” Madam President said before turning to the secretary. “Take the documents away. Next time, you must follow the doctor’s orders and not let the president work more than six hours per day.”

The secretary standing beside the bed nodded. “Yes, Madam.”

Then he moved to take away the document. The president wanted to stop him, but when he saw the serious expression on his wife’s face, he stopped himself.

“How’s everything with Tong Yan?” Since he couldn’t busy himself with his work, then the president decided to change the subject. Madam President sat down beside him and told him everything in a helpless tone.

“Hopefully, the Xi family will not pursue this to the end, but if they do, no one will be able to cover for Little Yan.” Madam President sighed.

President nodded slightly. “She deserves the punishment since she did commit something illegal.”

“I know, but...” Madam President didn’t finish her sentence but sighed instead. However, the president understood her implicitly.

The president finished her thought.

“But, the Shen family and Tong family will not allow that to happen, right?”

Chapter 625: Go Big or Go Home

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Madam President lowered her head in shame. The Shen family was used to shielding their own shortcomings. Her father was the worst for this, he would go to unreasonable lengths to protect his own. Tong Yan was his only granddaughter, he would sacrifice his life to cover up for her.

This was why Tong Yan could commit such an atrocious crime fearlessly.

Madam President worried that the Shen family and Tong family would quarrel with the Xi family over Tong Yan's crime and this would blow up to a ridiculous proportion. Her husband would be stuck between a rock and a hard place.

He might be the president, but he was also the arbitrator of many forces or else the country would be in complete chaos. However, he was still fighting his illness; she didn't want this to ruin his health.

The president understood her worry. He consoled her, "Don't worry, this will be settled quietly, and even it doesn't, it still won't kill me."

"Don't say things like that," Madam President berated him with a frown. "You will be fine. After Lu Qi finishes the mechanical heart, your illness will be healed."

The president laughed. "I will wait for that day to come. I believe I'll be fine, so you shouldn't worry so much. I'm still around, they won't dare to do anything."

"What if the Xi family refuses to back down?"

"Xi Mubai's criminal proof is still with us, so we'll just let them figure this out on their own for now. We'll intervene if necessary. In actuality, all of them are at fault, but the hegemony of power is now at a sensitive balance, the moment the scale tips, unimaginable tragedy might happen. Hopefully, they can settle this among themselves or else we'll just wrangle all of them into jail," the president said with a cold huff.

Madam President felt better after hearing her husband say that; she knew her husband would handle this well. For the sake of the country, he had suffered through and sacrificed a lot.

Sometimes, bending the law was necessary for the overall profit of the country and its people.

...

Elder Xi arrived at City A that night. Xinghe and Mubai personally went to the airport to fetch him.

His return to City A caused a mixture of emotions to rise up within him. "I've returned to this place again. I thought I would never see the back of this city in my life again."

Mubai smirked. "Grandfather, you've returned this time to perform a great deed; this is a glorious return for you."

Elder Xi laughed. "That's not for sure yet. No one can tell how this will end."

"There can only be one ending," Mubai responded confidently. "We will win, because we must win!"

"You're right! We must win!" A fire instantly flickered behind Elder Xi's eyes. That was the Xi family's spirit, to never give up.

"Come on, let's get in the car. You can tell me the details then."

"Okay."

Xinghe and Mubai accompanied him into the car and they drove towards their Hills Residence. In the car, Mubai relayed everything in detail to his grandfather.

Elder Xi nodded, satisfied. He turned to Xinghe and praised approvingly, "Your plan is brilliant. This is the way we should do it, to make use of other people's forces to attack the Lin family. It is indeed not wise to fight them head on."

"Therefore, Grandfather, we'll need your cooperation tomorrow," Mubai said with a slight smile.

Elder Xi replied confidently, "Leave it to me. I've known those two old farts from the Tong family and Shen family for

years. I can already see what kind of ploy they're going to use. I will never allow them to bully our Xi family. We will pursue this offense to the bitter end!"

Chapter 626: Apologize to Xinghe

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Xi was crucial if they wanted to maneuver the Tong family and Shen family to go against the Lin family. He might have retired, but he was still the spiritual center of the Xi family and the person with the greatest power in the family. Therefore, he needed to be there in the face-off against the Shen family and Tong family.

Xinghe had seen through Shen Ru's scheme from miles away. She thought that, with the Shen family and Tong family's elders there, the Xi family would concede.

Yes, the Xi family would eventually concede but with hefty conditions. Elder Xi was not as easily manipulated as they assumed. They had no clue everything they planned was all within Xinghe's predictions.

The Lin family, who thought they were safe behind so many walls, had no idea there was a big red target on their back!

...

That night, all the big wigs in City A gathered to discuss Tong Yan's transgression; she was the element that linked all these powerful forces together. This once more showcased her identity as Hwa Xia's number one female heiress.

She had landed herself in trouble and almost all the powerful families in City A mobilized to save her. This was a privilege that could be enjoyed by her alone.

However, just as everyone was figuring out a way to save her *ss, she was having her beauty sleep. There was no worry in her. After all, it was not her responsibility to worry about her life. Her only responsibility was to enjoy life and demand everyone's affection.

The next day, Tong Yan reluctantly followed the Shen family and Tong family to meet with the Xi family.

If she didn't go, the Xi family wouldn't rescind the charge and her reputation would be damaged. However, the damage would be so small that it was barely discernible. Regardless,

even if Tong Yan didn't think it was such a big deal, her family wouldn't allow any speck of a criminal history to sully her name.

Tong Yan might be a brat in front of others, but with her elders, she would occasionally show restraint and respect, that was why they treasured her so much. She finally relented and went.

At the same time, she swore if Xia Xinghe fell into her hands again, she would torture her ruthlessly and endlessly!

Tong Yan assumed that, as long as she apologized, the Xi family and Xinghe would have no choice but to be glad and accept her apology. Not only that, they would be honored to have received her apology. However, she would soon find out how naïve she was!

...

In the large living room, Elder Xi, Elder Tong, Elder Shen, Xinghe, Tong Yan, and Shen Ru congregated.

After the perfunctory greeting, Elder Shen immediately had Tong Yan apologize to Xinghe.

“Little Yan, come and apologize to Miss Xia. This time you've made a mistake, so don't pull such a prank in the future,” Elder Shen said with obvious intention to shield Tong Yan. He downplayed a murder attempt to become a prank, such shamelessness.

Elder Xi laughed half-heartedly.

Tong Yan went forth obediently and offered Xinghe a smiling face. “Miss Xia, this is my fault this time and I swear it was only meant as a prank, who knew it would become so serious? Don't be angry and forgive me for this once, okay? I swear I will not do this again, forgive me, yeah?”

This was the first time Tong Yan had apologized to someone with such ‘sincerity’.

Shen Ru smiled in relief and added, “That's right, Miss Xia, my Little Yan knows her mistake. Looks at how repentant she is, just forgive her this once, okay?”

Elder Tong and Elder Shen chimed in to help Tong Yan. They were all blessed with the gift of the gab. Someone blunt in the mind would be swayed by their words and accept the ‘apology’ just like that.

Chapter 627: Two Can Play That Game

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Alas, their opponent was Xinghe; her brain was akin to a supercomputer. She looked at Tong Yan lightly and spoke no words. She just stared at her.

Tong Yan was confused. “Miss Xia, what are you looking at? Do you not plan to forgive me?”

The smiles on other people’s faces disappeared and they all looked at Xinghe. The atmosphere in the room had shifted; Xinghe had ruined the good rapport purposely constructed by these people without even saying a word.

Only Elder Xi smiled inwardly. Bunch of idiots, dare to play such tricks on my grand daughter-in-law? You people are not qualified yet!

Xinghe didn’t answer Tong Yan’s question but asked lightly, “Miss Tong, are you really going to apologize to me?”

Tong Yan nodded. “Of course.”

Xinghe smiled lightly. “There must be sincerity in making apology. If this is your idea of an apology then you can save your energy.”

“What did you say?” Tong Yan’s usual attitude was flaring up but she suppressed it greatly and replied with a half-smile, “Miss Xia, I’ve been nothing but sincere, so how can you say something like that?”

Even Elder Tong frowned. “Miss Xia, both Elder Shen and I are personally here to give you face and our Little Yan has bowed so low to ask you for forgiveness. How can you say we do not have sincerity?”

“Elder Xi, you be the judge and tell us, is our sincerity lacking?” Elder Shen though chose to come after Elder Xi. “Both of us elders are here and have given so many gifts hoping to put this behind us. Can you really say we don’t show enough sincerity?”

“That’s right, our sincerity is plain for everyone to see!” Elder Tong added defiantly. They were obviously shielding Tong Yan and bullying the Xi family as well as Xinghe!

However, two could play that game!

Elder Xi chuckled under his breath but replied expressionlessly, “Want me to judge? Fine, my judgement is since Xinghe said all of you show no sincerity, then she must be right!”

“What?” Elder Shen was caught by surprise.

Elder Tong didn’t expect Elder Xi to be so shameless. “Elder Xi, what do you mean by that? You’re obviously protecting this Xia Xinghe and purposely opposing us!”

“Aren’t all of you doing the same thing with Tong Yan?” Elder Xi counter-attacked relentlessly. “If you want to bully my Xi family, then of course I shall strike back. You really think my Xi family is so easily bullied? At most, we’ll fight this to the very end and see who will come out on top!”

“You...” Elder Tong was angered beyond words. Even Tong Yan and Shen Ru gritted their teeth in anger.

None of them expected Elder Xi to be so insolent and ungrateful to not give them any face.

Who did he think he was, that he dared to talk to them that way?

Elder Shen, who was more cautious in his thinking, didn’t get mad but asked slowly, “Elder Xi, you said we bully your family, but I have issues with that. Tell me, how have we bullied you? We really came to apologize with sincerity this time.”

“Fine, then I will tell you!” Elder Xi announced with authority, his gaze sharp as tack. “Our Xinghe, out of the kindness in her heart, came to help the president with his illness. She was instrumental in the mechanical heart breakthrough, but what did she get? That girl from your Tong Family made an attempt on her life simply because she doesn’t like Xinghe, so tell me, if that is not bullying my Xi family, then what is? Or you

people think we from the Xi family are so useless that you can just humiliate and kill us Xis simply because you feel like it?”

Chapter 628: Not Easily Fooled

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Xi's last sentence unsettled Elder Shen and Elder Tong.

Elder Shen exclaimed hurriedly, "Elder Xi, you can't simply accuse something as serious as that. When did we humiliate or attempt to kill your people?"

"Elder Xi, this kind of accusation cannot be said easily! You have to take responsible for it!" Elder Tong also retorted.

Tong Yan also wanted to chime in but was pulled back by Shen Ru. She signaled for her to keep her mouth shut. This was not the time or place for her to speak. Her words would only make the situation worse and anger the Xi family even more.

They should leave this to the two elders and they need wait patiently and quietly for the result.

Tong Yan understood her mother's signal but her internal strife couldn't be suppressed. However, she was clever enough to know when to shut up.

Xinghe took in their interaction with her pair of clear eyes and a cold light flickered behind her eyes. Do you think not talking will solve your problem? Impossible!

Elder Xi continued his verbal assault. "Take responsibility for my words? Do you two think I'm just blabbing nonsense?"

He pointed angrily at Tong Yan and demanded, "She kidnapped my grand daughter-in-law and sealed her inside a basement to leave her to die. If that is not attempt at Xinghe's life, then what is? If not for my grandson, who went to great lengths to force her to give up Xinghe's location, that vicious girl would have starved Xinghe to death! The basement was sealed up completely and who knows how long my grand daughter-in-law would have been able to survive in there? This is a malicious attempt at her life and you two dare to tell me this is just a prank? You must be kidding! If so, then I will order my man to kidnap this girl, seal her up in an isolated location and then come and tell you, it's just a prank! Don't

think only your Tong family and Shen family are capable of that! My Xi family are capable of pulling off a prank like that as well! If you don't believe me, then you can just wait and see!"

Right then, Elder Tong's and Elder Shen's faces were drawn. They thought they could just sweep this under the rug with some sweet words, but the Xi family was not easily fooled.

Elder Xi had laid the whole event openly on the table so their plan to just go through the motions had failed grandly.

Since the Xi family had decided to see Tong Yan's actions as a murder attempt with the malicious intent to kill, then they wouldn't let this go to rest so easily. They couldn't continue parading Tong Yan's action as some kind of childish prank. There needed to be some show of real sincerity.

After figuring out all of this, Elder Shen sighed and announced, "Fine, then how do you propose we settle this thing? You name the condition, and if it's within our means, then we will do it."

Elder Tong heard Elder Shen and understood, the Xi family would not back down so easily. They would have to sacrifice some things to put this behind them.

"Elder Xi, we of the Tong family will offer the same condition. Name your price to put this behind us."

Shen Ru acted the part of a concerned mother and begged, "Elder Xi, I know this time my Tong Yan has done something horrendous, but she is my only daughter. She is not only the Tong family's only female heir but only the only heir our Shen family has. We really cannot let this ruin her, so name your condition and we'll fulfil it as long as you're willing to let her be."

Tong Yan took up the acting mantle and pouted with apparent sadness. "Grandfather Xi, I really know my mistake now. Please just forgive me this time."

Elder Shen changed tact to make use of the sentimentalities.

"Elder Xi, we've been family friends for so many years; this time, I'll admit we've crossed the line and have harmed your

family. But for the sake of our friendship that has lasted for so many years, can you please forgive the girl? Our Shen family and Tong family will remember this kindness forever.”

Chapter 629: Xinghe Is So Important

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Shen family and Tong family had humbled themselves to such servile manner, so any normal person would have gauged the situation and called it a day by then. However, Elder Xi was not your typical man.

He remained unmoved and said, “Why did you two tell me all this? On this issue, my grand daughter-in-law’s words are everything, how we’ll resolve this issue depends on her. If she refuses to accept your apology, then our Xi family will support her decision to the end.”

Elder Tong’s and Elder Tong’s faces dropped. Since when did this old fart becomes so shamelessly protective of his own? He wasn’t like this when he was young. He used to value the Xi family’s profit above all else. He wouldn’t have done this for anyone, much less someone who technically wasn’t part of the Xi family anymore! Furthermore, Xinghe was saved in the end, wasn’t she? So why is he doing this?

“Elder Xi, you’re the spokesperson for the Xi family so how come you’re not the one who will make the final decision in this issue?” Shen Ru asked with a face piled up with smile.

Elder Xi harrumphed coldly and said, “Because Xinghe hasn’t agreed to enter my Xi family’s doors yet, of course I cannot decide on her behalf. Our Xi family has to endear ourselves to her, because what if she suddenly decides not to marry into the Xi family in the future?”

This stunned the two elders. Since when did the Xi family have to endear themselves to a mere woman?

They were not idiots, now they could see the weight Xinghe carried within the Xi family. They thought the Xi family would ignore her after she was divorced from Mubai, but now they realized the Xi family still hoped for her to remarry into the Xi family. So much so that they were willing to surrender the decision making in this case to her.

Just what kind of capability did this Xia Xinghe have to be valued so much by the Xi family?

The lot of them had been looking down on Xinghe, but now, the way they looked at her finally changed. The person they thought was the least important was actually the most important. Their plan was wrong from the very beginning.

Tong Yan was also surprised by Xia Xinghe's importance, if she had known earlier... She wouldn't have acted so rashly. However, Tong Yan didn't regret what she did, she just regretted not planning more carefully.

"Miss Xia, Elder Xi is right; you're the victim, so it'll be in your hands if we ever want to put this behind us. Tell us, what kind of reparation do you want to forgive Little Yan? Don't worry, we will try our best to fulfil your request, no matter what it is," Elder Shen said in a kind but authoritative tone.

His impressive presence would normally demand respect from others and almost everyone would bow to his authority. However, Xinghe was unfazed.

"So, this time, are you willing to provide a sincere apology?" Xinghe asked lightly, her tone completely devoid of emotion.

Elder Shen's eyes lit up. This woman truly is something else.

He replied with a smile, "Definitely, the apology this time is definitely with utmost sincerity."

Xinghe turned to Tong Yan and asked, "Is that the same with Miss Tong?"

Suppressing her anger, she nodded. "That's right! I'm definitely sincere this time!"

Needless to say, she wasn't and Xinghe naturally could see Tong Yan's internal unwillingness. However, she didn't care about Tong Yan's apology, what she wanted was something else.

Xinghe nodded slightly. "Okay then, since Miss Tong is willing to show her sincerity, I only request that she answers one question."

"What question? Ask away." Tong Yan cooperated obediently for now.

Xinghe stared her down and asked calmly but clearly, “What is the reason for you coming after my life? I want to hear the truth.”

Chapter 630: Unaware of the Situation!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Tong Yan's gaze shook slightly. However, she quickly recovered and blinked innocently. "What are you talking about? It's true that I had some misunderstandings about you, and later on, you made me feel humiliated, so I just wanted to play a prank on you..."

Xinghe scoffed and stared sharply at her. "You wanted to kill me simply because of that?"

"I told you, it was meant as a prank..."

"Enough!" Xinghe interrupted her sternly. "Tong Yan, if you continue on with this attitude, then there's no reason for me to accept your apology. You won't even admit your mistake, so how do you expect me to forgive you?"

"When didn't I admit my mistake?" Tong Yan finally lost her cool. "Xia Xinghe, what kind of trick you're trying to play? Our Tong family and Shen family have openly begged you for forgiveness, so don't test our patience! You really think we're afraid of you? I'm telling you, we are just giving the Xi family face, so don't be a f*cking ingrate and press your luck or else you and the whole loser Xi family might find yourself dead in a ditch somewhere without even knowing why..."

"Shut up—" Elder Shen cut her off harshly. His sudden roar stunned Tong Yan. She stared at him in utter disbelief. She couldn't understand why her grandfather, who would normally pamper her to the heavens, would suddenly yell at her. How could he raise his voice against her?

Disappointment and anger made tears well up in her eyes.

However, that was not all. Elder Tong also berated her, "Tong Yan, who taught you to speak like that? Where are your manners! Also, who is the person that influenced you to do such a thing in the dark? Quickly tell us!"

The Tong family and Shen family wanted to know who was using Tong Yan because, with the person's identity in the

open, they could push the blame away from Tong Yan and onto that person. Alas, the girl refused to tell the truth.

Not only that, she was still unrepentant, hell-bent on making matters worse. Did she not understand that, if she didn't cooperate, her life would be over?

The Xi family had stated their position and they would not easily budge.

The girl was still so blunt. She still had no idea how to read the situation. Did she really think they could protect her unconditionally?

She had no clue that the Tong family and Shen family might be affected because of her. They had put many things on the line to save her, so how could she still be so dumb as to not understand their intentions?

Shen Ru might cherish her daughter, but she knew now was not the time to spoil her. If their opponent was any other common family, then they could indulge her unreasonable attitude, but their opponent was the Xi family.

If the Xi family decided to make a big deal out of this, none of them were going to escape unscathed.

The Shen family and Tong family might be powerful, but they were not powerful enough to harbor a murderer. They would crumble before public pressure. Therefore, they had to force her to reveal the truth.

"Little Yan..." Shen Ru pulled her in for a gentle hug and consoled her, "I'm sorry for putting you through this, just look at those tears. You're making mommy so sad."

Tong Yan cried even harder in her mother's arms. "Mommy, I hate all of you. How can you treat me like this? I didn't do anything wrong and I've apologized, so how can you do this to me? All of you are so awful, ganging up on me to bully me!"

Tong Yan really felt wronged and her tears fell like a waterfall.

Chapter 631: Used By the Lin family!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Like a spoiled princess, she continued to cry and argue unreasonably. She thought her family would pardon her unconditionally. Normally, they would, but the situation was different then, her tears could no longer solve all the problems.

“Little Yan, we know you’ve learned your lesson, but you have to tell us why you did this. Don’t worry, if you do, we’ll definitely forgive you,” Shen Ru advised and consoled her gently.

Tong Yan looked at her with teary eyes and asked with semi-disbelief, “Really? If I tell you the reason, all of you will forgive me?”

“Of course.” Shen Ru nodded firmly.

Elder Tong also promised, “We just want to know why you would do something like this, others are not important. Little Yan, Grandpa knows you’re an honest child, so if you tell us the truth, no one will blame you anymore.”

“Grandpa promises you the same thing as well!” Elder Shen added. The few of them kept on soothing Tong Yan like she was the most precious thing in the world.

Witnessing this, Elder Xi almost vomited. If any of his children or grandchildren acted the way this Tong Yan did, he would disown them on the spot.

Xinghe, who was only several years older than Tong Yan, watched all of this unfold with a cold eye. Finally, satisfied with the attention everyone lavished on her, Tong Yan decided to tell the truth.

She pointed at Xinghe and grumbled with great dissatisfaction, “Actually, it’s her own fault that I did this to her.”

“Grandpas, you also know I’m friends with the sisters from the Lin family. The Xi family not only killed Sister Lin Yun, but Xia Xinghe has also swallowed up Sister Lin Jing’s company. Even at the president’s house, she purposely came after Sister

Lin Qian. She is such an awful human being, so I just wanted to teach her a lesson on their behalf!”

The moment Tong Yan finished, everyone’s faces were drawn.

“Therefore, you came after me because you wanted to help the Lin family vent their resentment?” Xinghe asked lightly.

Tong Yan nodded. “That’s right, I’m good friends with them, so you cannot blame me for coming after you because I was just helping out my friends.”

“Then, the Lin family must have treated you very well.” Xinghe continued softly.

Tong Yan smiled smugly. “Naturally! The whole Lin family treats me very nicely, our Tong family and Lin family have always been close friends.”

Xinghe nodded. “Now I understand the whole picture.”

“I told you I didn’t do this on purpose, I have my reasons! This is all your fault, why did you have to harm the Lin family? They didn’t do anything to you, they were even gracious enough to not pursue your murder charge against Sister Lin Yun and yet you kept hounding them. So, this is really your fault for being so over the line and arrogant. They were too kind to do anything against you, so I had to help them. Therefore, you should learn to be a better person in the future and don’t be so cocky anymore,” Tong Yan lectured Xinghe like Xinghe was her student.

Elder Xi burst out laughing. “Elder Shen, Elder Tong, your little princess sure is pretty darn cute and innocent!”

And so incomparably foolish!

The two elders, of course, picked up the sarcasm in his comment. They were all top players in the political world, so they understood instantly, Tong Yan had been taken advantage of by the Lin family!

They knew she had always been close to the Lin family because she had a crush on the Lin family’s third young master.

Chapter 632: Time to Counter

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

All this while, the Lin family had been treating her so nicely but that was only because she still had her uses to them!

The two elders quickly thought back to many things that had happened in the past. Tong Yan had fallen in love with Lin Xuan a long time ago.

At the time, those second-generation young masters that dared to go up against Lin Xuan had been taught serious lessons by Tong Yan. Initially they thought that this was just Tong Yan being loyal to her friend, and since the mistakes weren't serious, they simply let her be.

But now, Tong Yan had gone to the stage of murder to aid the Lin family. This made them suspicious that Lin family had been constantly influencing and making use of her for a very long time.

They knew about the feud between the Xi family and Lin family. Tong Yan was told that the Lin family was too gracious to take any actions against Xinghe, how was that even possible?

They were simply making use of Tong Yan to attack Xinghe. Furthermore, the president's health was declining in recent months, so the Lin family had to keep a low profile. This made them suspect this whole shebang was simply because they didn't want to have blood on their hands, so they sent Tong Yan into the fire instead.

Furthermore, if Tong Yan's crime was exposed, both the Tong family and Shen family's reputation would be affected, then their chance of fighting for the president's position would be lost. Therefore, the Lin family was killing three birds with one stone!

Number one, they could exact vengeance without lifting a finger.

Number two, they could ruin the Tong family and Shen family via Tong Yan.

Number three, they could reap the benefits from the infighting and successfully nab the president's position!

The more Elder Shen and Elder Tong thought about it, the darker their faces became. Even Shen Ru had thought about the implications...

She turned to her father and father-in-law in fright. "Dad, what should we do now?"

Elder Shen suddenly told Elder Xi solemnly, "Elder Xi, it looks like we'll have to cut this meeting short. We have something more important to attend to."

Elder Tong also chimed in. "That's right, we do have something else more crucial to discuss."

Elder Xi was waiting for them to say this. He smiled brightly and said, "Understood, why don't we meet over tea one of these afternoons?"

"No problem, I'll have it arranged," Elder Shen promised.

"Then, this meeting is over," Elder Xi announced before glancing at Tong Yan with some measure of derision. "It's not our doing to trouble a little girl, plus this was not exactly her fault to begin with."

Elder Shen and Elder Tong were glad; finally, Tong Yan's misgivings were going to be put behind them. They had avoided a big catastrophe from occurring, and they had even found out about the Lin family's ambitions and schemes.

Thankfully, they had discovered it relatively early on or else it would have been too late. Now, it was time to strike back!

The Lin family dared to make use of them? They were courting death!

Elder Shen quickly took Tong Yan away. Tong Yan was still clueless to everything; she was just happy that she was forgiven. However, everyone else left the place with a heavy heart.

Tong Yan had no clue that the punishment waiting for her was house arrest. At least she was not to have any interaction with people from the Lin family anymore.

The moment they left, Mubai walked into the living room.

Elder Xi looked at him and laughed. “A job well done if I do say so myself. Let us see how the Lin family handles this.”

“They don’t have actual evidence against the Lin family. The most they can do is to suppress the Lin family,” Mubai said with a cold smile.

Chapter 633: Suppressing the Lin Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe added softly, “That’s more than enough. Our current mission is to stop the Lin family from getting the president’s post, the rest we can still slowly solve.”

“That’s right, this time, the Lin family’s ambition is definitely not going to happen!” Elder Xi said happily. As long as the Lin family didn’t win the presidency, there wasn’t much to worry about. There would be plenty of chances to deal with them in the future.

Now, the Tong family, Shen family, and even the president would find ways to suppress them. The Lin family would face assaults from all sides and there would be an opening. The chances of them committing a mistake would be higher, and when that happened, they would make sure that the Lin family was destroyed utterly and completely!

Just as Xinghe said, she was only afraid that the Lin family wouldn’t dare come for them. As long as they did, the Xi family would have the chance to counter-attack.

Thankfully, the Lin family had actively attacked this time or else they wouldn’t have been blessed with such a good opportunity.

Thanks to this mishap, they had found the Lin family’s weak spot. From then on, the Xi family and Lin family’s feud had reached its fatal stage.

...

After the Shen family and Tong family found out about the Lin family’s ambitions, they naturally went to report it to the president. After some investigation, the Lin family’s ambitions gradually surfaced.

Having ambition wasn’t wrong but making use of Tong Yan definitely was. Taking advantage of Tong Yan was equal to taking advantage of the Shen family, Tong family and the president. Of course, they would demand reparation!

The Xi family had also provided a lot of proof of the Lin family's unlawful actions, so the few families all gathered together to pressure the Lin family. It was easy for them to go after the Lin family. Troubles waylaid the Lin family at every turn, and nothing was going well for them.

For example, Lin Qian was moved out of the president's house and the medical team due to some random reason. Some power in Lin Kang's hands was taken away. Even the Lin family's businesses started to decline...

In other words, the Lin family was cornered from all fronts. The Lin family was not a house of fools; they understood the situation quickly.

"Looks like they've started to suspect us," Elder Lin said with a heavy tone.

Lin Xuan added softly, "I also cannot contact Tong Yan. I hear she is under house arrest; our actions were definitely exposed."

"Then, what should we do now?" Lin Kang frowned. A sense of unease pervaded the Lin family.

They didn't expect making use of Tong Yan would land them in such a quandary. They were no match for the combined forces of the Tong family, Shen family, and the president.

Many smaller families were also on the president's side. They were always looking to curry the president's favor; when they realized the president was suppressing the Lin family, they followed suit.

This was why the Lin family wanted the president's post so desperately. One would have access to many mindless followers eager to do one's bidding.

They were so close to the fruition of their plan.

Alas...

The Xi family came out to block their progress at the last minute!

If not for them, how would things have turned out like this?

Elder Lin berated Lin Xuan immediately, “I told you earlier that during a sensitive time like this, it is not the time to make a move against the Xi family. Now, this is just perfect! We have not only riled them up but also had found so many targets on our back!”

Chapter 634: Hard Days Ahead for the Lin Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Their plans had failed. Their chance to sit at the president's seat had disappeared. The worst thing was that this might be the beginning of the end for the Lin family.

Even though Lin Xuan was being lectured, his expression remained unchanged other than the viciousness that appeared in his eyes. "Grandfather, it is necessary for us to go after the Xi family. You also understand we're in need of money and the Xi family is the easiest target for us to get some."

"However, this mistake has completely undone all of our earlier efforts!"

Lin Kang also complained. "Ever since we decided to go after the Xi family, things started to go south for us. We sacrificed Lin Yun, Bao Hwa, and now we're being attacked from all sides. Can it be that the Xi family is really our kryptonite?"

"Regardless, we must survive this ordeal, or it'll be over for Lin family!" Elder Lin concluded harshly.

The group of Lin family men started discussing ideas, but what ways were there for them to get out of this trouble? They had lost the president's confidence, so how could they fix that?

The longer the Lin family remained in this situation, the worse their situation became. If this was allowed to continue, the Lin family wouldn't be around for long.

The Lin family tried many ways even trying to mend the bridges with the Shen family and Tong family, but it was to no avail. They had made use of Tong Yan, so it was impossible for them to get forgiven so easily.

The only thing the Lin family could do was to deny everything; they couldn't go admit their fault for taking advantage of Tong Yan. After all, if Tong Yan's mistake was traced back to them, it would only make things worse for them. However, denial was pointless; the Shen family and Tong family had seen through their façade.

It was a series of bad days for the Lin family and they were just holding the dam from breaking over. However, this was still not enough punishment in Elder Xi's eyes.

“This is not enough, how is this enough? The best outcome is to destroy every single Lin family member and make sure none of them have a good ending! Then, perhaps, that will be punishment enough!” Elder Xi vented angrily at home. The Lin family had almost ruined the Xi family and killed Xinghe. Until the Lin family received the biggest face-slap from karma, he would not stop hounding them!

Mubai accompanied him that afternoon. He took a sip of his tea and said, “Don't worry, Grandfather, their comeuppance will arrive soon enough, but...”

“But what?” Elder Xi coaxed.

Mubai's black eyes shone. “The Lin family should have a back-up plan. Removing them won't be so easy.”

Xinghe nodded. “I agree, they will definitely do something to salvage this situation.”

Elder Xi nodded. “Your worry is not unfounded. After all, if the Lin family were so easily taken down, they wouldn't have survived until today. I appreciate the fact that both of you haven't let your guard down simply because of a temporary victory. The day the enemy is completely destroyed is the only day we can truly breathe in relief.”

“Understood,” Mubai replied.

Xinghe added, “Now is indeed not the time to give up, if anything, it is the most crucial moment. We must prepare to strike the moment the Lin family shows their tail!”

“Well said, I believe in the both of you.” Elder Xi nodded with gratification witnessing their cooperation. Each of them shone brilliantly in their own right, but together, they were invincible.

He suggested, with a guffaw, “How about, when this thing blows over, the two of you remarry? Grandfather promises it will definitely be the wedding of the century!”

Chapter 635: Loss of Control

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

This offer came as a total surprise to Xinghe and Mubai.

Mubai was the first to laugh. “Perfect, I have no issue with that.”

“...” Xinghe was silent; was she supposed to accept it just like that?

Elder Xi didn't wait for her to answer and announced on his own, “Then, it's settled. We'll invite everyone to the wedding. It's been such a long time since our Xi family has celebrated something and this marriage is definitely something worth celebrating.”

Elder Xi petered off to a series of guffaws. There was nothing Chinese elders loved more than an auspicious event in the house. Mubai shared in his grandfather's excitement but frowned when he noticed Xinghe's lack of emotions.

After Elder Xi went to rest, Mubai held Xinghe's hands and asked, “Are you okay? Do you still refuse to marry me?”

“I just haven't thought about marriage, that's all,” Xinghe answered truthfully.

Mubai's nervous heart calmed down for quite a bit. “Why don't you think about it now? I won't force you. You can give me a hint after all these things are over and I will pop the question. With your permission, we will remarry, if you still need time, I will also respect your decision.”

He had always been too kind to her. But this only made her decision more difficult.

When Xinghe asked herself, there was really nothing that prevented her from saying yes other than her earlier marriage with him. She was satisfied with their current relationship and she was afraid marriage would change everything.

She wasn't afraid of being hurt or that Mubai would cheat on her, but she was afraid to lose control, to lose herself in the web of a committed relationship...

Xinghe was naturally an emotionally subdued person, she was really afraid she wouldn't be able to get used to a committed relationship. However, she also couldn't see herself picking someone else other than Xi Mubai to spend her life with, so rejecting his proposal didn't seem right either.

Xinghe nodded. "Thank you, I will give you an answer then."

She would make use of the time to mentally prepare herself first.

Mubai smiled wickedly as he pulled her in for a gentle hug. He spoke into her ear. "No problem, take your time to think about everything; there's no need to rush, and I don't want to pressure you into a decision. I hope you'll continue to be you. No matter your decision, I will accept it as long as it'll make you happy."

Xinghe lowered her head slightly, her heart bursting with warmth and kindness.

Mubai was willing to go to such lengths to care about her feelings so she should respond in kind. She would take his perspective into consideration as she tried to come up with an answer. Hopefully, it would be one that could satisfy them both...

...

As the Shen family and Tong family dealt with the Lin family, Xinghe and the Xi family finally had a chance for a breather. Xinghe was also given the time to work on the president's mechanical heart.

The Xi family had recently opened a lab in City A to expand their artificial limb business. This was where Xinghe spent her daily life. However, no one knew about this other than Mubai and Lu Qi.

Even the president thought they were still looking for the perfect material. The Lin family thought the president's illness was still going to claim him because all the materials they had found were incompatible after all.

The president's physical condition continued to deteriorate, and this was the only good news for the Lin family.

The pressure kept coming, but right before their breaking point, the Lin family stumbled across a solution to help them survive this unmitigated disaster.

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Bonus Chapter sponsored by BunnyCatWitch with her short story on Shu Mei. Want to read the short story? Sponsor a future chapter? Chat with other readers? Join us on Discord: <https://discord.gg/5fsVhEc>

Chapter 636: Meeting Old Madam Lin

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Let the mischief doer undo the mischief. Since their trouble began with Tong Yan, they would make use of the girl again to regain their foothold!

With a plan in place, the Lin family mobilized. Elder Lin really didn't want to use this plan but there was no other choice. If the Lin family didn't get over this hurdle, it would be over for them.

“Contact Shen Ru immediately, tell her we want to personally apologize to her,” Elder Lin ordered his wife.

Old Madam Lin, who was an astute person, realized her husband's plan right there and then. She nodded. “Okay, I'll call her now.”

Very soon, Shen Ru received the call from Old Madam Lin. Her impression of Old Madam Lin had always been good. She remembered receiving many gifts from her when she was young. She even presented her with a valuable set of jewelry when she got married.

Even though she was still angry that the Lin family made use of her daughter, she was willing to give Old Madam Lin face, so she agreed to the invitation to lunch. She didn't tell anyone that she accepted the invitation.

She agreed to the invitation because she was going to bid them farewell; she wouldn't associate herself with them in the future. Like mother like daughter it seemed, she was naïve to believe that.

...

The hotel the Lin family invited her to was safe and secluded. The Lin family had booked the whole hotel. When Shen Ru arrived, they were the only guests there. The waitress greeted her respectfully at the entrance and led her towards the box.

Her intuition kept telling her something was wrong. Even if the Lin family wanted to endear themselves to her, they didn't

have to book and clear out the entire hotel. However, she couldn't figure out what real purpose they had.

When the waitress pushed open the box door, she saw within it Old Madam Lin, Elder Lin, and even the Lin family's eldest son, Lin Kang!

"Xiao Ru is finally here, come in and take a seat," Old Madam Lin welcomed her with warmth.

Shen Ru walked in cautiously and commented with some derision, "Madam, didn't you say the lunch was just going to be between us? Why are Elder Lin and Mayor Lin here then?"

With a kind smile, Old Madam Lin replied, "Take a seat first. We have something important to discuss with you, so I had to rely on a little trickery. But don't worry, we will not harm you in any way, we just want to tell you some things."

Shen Ru laughed. "Of course you wouldn't do anything harmful against me. But I can tell you now, I'm not as easily fooled as my daughter so don't think you can make use of me like you did her!"

"Of course, we wouldn't do something like that," Elder Lin said with friendliness. He looked at her with gentle kindness, like a father looking at her daughter. This greatly unsettled Shen Ru.

"Then, tell me why you've called for me!" Shen Ru plopped herself down on the chair and told them, "I'll give you two minutes then I'm leaving."

Lin Kang looked at her and opened his mouth to say, "Xiao Ru, you can't leave, in fact, you cannot leave us even if you want to."

Shen Ru frowned. "Mayor Lin, what do you mean by that? What is the meaning of all this?"

"Father, you'd better explain this to her," Lin Kang looked at Elder Lin. Shen Ru did the same.

Instantly, limitless regret and guilt bubbled up in Elder Lin's eyes.

Shen Ru had a sinking feeling in her stomach. Suddenly Elder Lin claimed agonizingly, “Xiao Ru, you are one of us!”

Chapter 638: Benefits No One

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Then, Shen Ru turned to leave. She had to go immediately because she didn't want to see anyone from the Lin family anymore!

“Xiao Ru, if you don't believe me, we can go do a paternal DNA test now,” Elder Lin stood up and announced with an underlying threat. “I swear, you are my daughter, that is a fact regardless of whether you want to believe it or not. This means that you are part of this family, if it's over for us, then it's over for you as well. If the news that you're not the Shen family's second daughter is exposed, what do you think will happen?”

Shen Ru stopped in her steps and froze. A visceral fear gripped at her heart; she felt the sky falling and the ground beneath her feet shaking. Her life was turned upside down. Shen Ru understood the consequences there would be if her identity was exposed!

...

Shen Ru finally decided to do the DNA test with the Lin family. After she did so, she somehow wandered back home, and the maid reported to her, “Madam, the young miss refuses to eat again and has broken many things.”

Even since Tong Yan had been put under house arrest, she had been inconsolable. She wanted to go see Lin Xuan but no one in her family allowed it. Other than that, they kept her locked up like a convict and this made her beyond angry.

Initially, she swallowed the humiliation since she did do something wrong – sort of – but after some time, she lost it. When there was no one in the house, she started an anarchy.

She smashed many valuable things and threatened the maids and butlers, “Who do you think you people are to dare lock me up? Get out of my way this moment or I will kill you. I am the Tong family's young mistress; no one dares to have me judged under the law even if I kill all of you. If you still value your life, then get out of my face!”

The moment Tong Yan finished her speech, Shen Ru's cold voice rang out, "All of you can go now."

The workers all sighed in relief since she was finally home.

"Yes, madam." They filed out of the room immediately, refusing to spend another second with this spoiled brat.

"Mommy, why do you lock me up and refuse to let me go out?" Tong Yan grumbled with dissatisfaction. "The thing with me has been resolved and the Xi family even said they wouldn't pursue this any further, so why do you all still insist on locking me up? Mommy, let's go shopping or something, I'm going to die from boredom!"

Shen Ru studied her own daughter's face with a blank expression, her heart a twist of emotions.

She didn't have energy or time to console her daughter, she said softly, "This is for your own good. You'll be able to go out freely after some time has passed but not now."

"Why not?" Tong Yan demanded, she couldn't understand why they were doing this to her. "Mommy, I don't care, I need to go out today. If not, I'm going to starve myself to death since none of you care about me anyway!"

If earlier, with such a threat, Tong Yan would definitely have broken through her mother's defenses and been allowed to do anything she wanted, but now Shen Ru really didn't have the energy to entertain her outbursts.

"Then, go ahead, but this time you are not to step out of this house. If you refuse to listen, I'm going to send you to military school and you will not have freedom ever again."

Tong Yan looked at her mother with bulging eyes. She thought Shen Ru would console her and give in to her demands. She didn't expect Shen Ru to shrug her off like that and even threatened to send her to military school.

Chapter 639: Thankfully I Surrendered to You

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Military school was a place of nightmares, how could she threaten to send her to such a place? Tong Yan's eyes were welling up. "Mommy, you don't love me anymore, how can you treat me like this? All of you don't love me anymore, right? All of you have changed."

Shen Ru sighed, and she felt a headache coming. "I've told you, this is for your own good so stop causing a scene or I'll really send you to military school!"

Shen Ru dropped the ultimatum and stood up to leave. Tong Yan was shocked once more, but she was clever enough to change tact. She hugged her mother's arm and said pleadingly, "Mommy, okay, I will be good girl from now on so please don't be angry with me, but I'm really bored out of my mind, can you please let me go out? I promise I won't go anywhere but visit grandpa. I've missed him, can't you let me go see him?"

"No!" Shen Ru jumped like she was pricked with needle. Her unusual reaction startled Tong Yan.

Shen Ru suddenly realized how crazy she had reacted, so she made her tone gentler and said, "Your grandfather is very busy at the moment, so you'd better don't go disturb him. Don't you have some homework to catch up on? You can go do that instead."

"In that case, I want to go to the president's house to see auntie, that's fine, right?"

"No!" Shen Ru flared up again. She dropped the act and warned Tong Yan in a severe tone, "You are not allowed to leave this house and see anyone, or I will disown you as my daughter!"

Shen Ru then left, leaving behind a Tong Yan that was shocked beyond words. She was sad and hurt. What happened to Mommy? Why is she so angry at me? She is never like this... In fact, what is wrong with everyone?

Could it really be that they don't love her anymore because of her one small mistake? Wasn't she everyone's princess, the love of their life? How come they treated her so badly then?

Tong Yan felt angered and wronged. She needed to find someone to pin the blame on and Xinghe was the convenient target. If not for that Xia b*tch, none of this would have happened!

However, no matter how much Tong Yan hated Xinghe, she couldn't do anything about it since she was under house arrest.

Xinghe, on the other hand, was waiting for the Lin family to strike. However, so many days had passed, and the Lin family had made no moves.

"What are you thinking about?" Mubai asked in his magnetic voice.

Xinghe was pulled out of her reverie and replied, "Just wondering why the Lin family hasn't made their move."

Mubai smiled. "Don't worry, it'll happen soon enough."

"I know but I'm just curious as to why they would wait so long."

Mubai couldn't help but laugh. "So, you're hoping for them to come after us?"

A sharpness entered Xinghe's dark eyes. "Of course, how else are we going to make them fall into our trap if they don't make a move?"

Mubai's gaze on her became brighter. "Only you would wish for your enemy to strike."

Most would be afraid that their enemies would come for revenge but Xinghe was the complete opposite, she dreaded her enemies not doing that. She would only fight harder if there was competition. Therefore, her enemies would always end up in a regrettable state. Xinghe was someone who would never shy away from a challenge. Her indomitable will was truly a force to be reckoned with.

Mubai studied her carefully and intensely. He suddenly said with a sigh, "Thankfully I surrendered to you a long time ago

and campaigned relentlessly to join your camp.”

Or else, he probably would meet a horrible end after facing her.

Chapter 640: Finally on the Move

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Thankfully, he was powerless before her and had surrendered unconditionally. Then again, he probably wouldn't mind dying in her hands.

Xinghe looked at him curiously, wondering what nonsense he was talking about.

Mubai didn't explain but smiled to himself. This made Xinghe even more curious. "What are you smiling about?"

"I'm just happy."

"What are you happy about?" Xinghe suddenly realized that men's hearts are sometimes impossible to read.

"Happy that you didn't reject me..." Mubai leaned in slowly to plant a deep kiss on her lips.

...

Xinghe had been waiting for the Lin family to counter the pressure put on them.

Just as everyone thought the Lin family was going to die off, something incredible happened. On Shen Ru's boating trip, she accidentally fell into the ocean and almost drowned.

Coincidentally, the Lin family's third young master was around the area. He ignored his personal safety and swam deep into the ocean to save her. If not for him, Shen Ru would have died at sea.

This news soon spread across City A and surprised the Tong family and Shen family. Overnight, the Lin family became their saviors.

Therefore, it would be awkward for them to continue suppressing them.

Furthermore, Shen Ru wouldn't stop going on about how Lin Xuan had saved her life and praised the Lin family to the moon and back in front of the Shen family and Tong family, so

naturally, the suppression trickled to a stop. In fact, they became thankful of the Lin family's help instead...

In just a blink of an eye, the few families that were at war suddenly became each other's best friends. This sudden change startled many who were watching. Even the Xi family couldn't understand what was happening.

The Lin family's destruction was just around the corner but suddenly the plot progressed down a completely different path. Just how could they accept something that drastic?

This was a complete shift in expected plot!

Only Xinghe and Mubai sighed in relief.

"The Lin family is finally on the move," Xinghe said with a thin smile, her mood was rather bright.

Even Mubai joined in smiling. "Indeed, quite a good move they made."

Sam's group couldn't understand what was happening.

"The Lin family is now on their way up again, but why are the both of you so glad to see this development?" Sam asked with a curious expression. Ali and the rest had blank expressions on as well. When they heard this news, they almost blew up with rage!

It took so much effort to have the Lin family cornered, but now, all of that effort had gone to waste, so how could they not be mad?

So Xinghe's and Mubai's response was indeed unusual. They weren't disappointed or angered but glad!

What was there to be glad about?

Xinghe knew they didn't understand it so she explained calmly, "The Lin family is not so easily taken down. Suppressing them will not push them to extinction, if this had continued, nothing would have happened to them and we would not have been able to do anything. Therefore, only after they make a move will we be able to catch them off guard."

Ali still didn't get it. "So, you're wishing for them to take a move, but why? It'll only make them come back stronger. Like now, what are we going to do about them now?"

Xinghe smiled confidently. "That depends on what they are going to do next. What we need to do is to peel our eyes open and make sure no opportunities to strike slip through our fingers!"

Chapter 641: The Engagement

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“What if there’s no opportunity? If the Lin family doesn’t do anything, then we won’t be able to do anything either, right?” Ali asked worriedly.

Xinghe shook her head. “No, they will definitely not sit idle.”

Cairn got the gist and guessed, “It took great lengths for the Lin family to reach their current status, so they will not give up everything they’ve worked for so easily...”

“That’s right.” Xinghe nodded. “They have sacrificed too much to give up so easily. They will not give up until the very last moment.”

“What else do they need to do? With no one breathing down their necks, even if they do nothing, they should be able to rise up again,” Sam said with a frown.

Xinghe smiled thinly. “Impossible. At most this time the Lin family only managed to save their own hide. The Shen family only stopped pressuring them, there’s still efforts to be done before they revert to their earlier relationship. Furthermore, the president has started to get guarded around them. The Lin family will need to do more before they can recover fully.”

“That’s right!” Mubai’s lips curved into a smile. “So this is just the beginning, and they will definitely continue on with this momentum.”

“Therefore, all we have to do is to bide our time. Even if there is no opportunity, we will have to create one!” A cold determination flickered behind Xinghe’s gaze. This time they would crush the Lin family. This was their perfect chance, missing it would change everything.

After the Lin family fell, the whole power structure in City A would be changed. Therefore, this war would be the real deciding war. Both Xinghe’s party and the Lin family understood this. They were perfectly familiar with the things that hung in balance!

From that moment on, none of them dared to slip up. They paid full attention to their every move, afraid of accidents.

...

However, as cautious of Lin family were, they had to do something. They had to recover their earlier standing before the upcoming election. They had to mend the relationship with the other powerful families.

As Xinghe and Mubai expected, a big piece of news came out from the Lin family!

Lin family's third young master and Tong family's young mistress were getting engaged!

Those that were on the outside didn't think much about this pairing. After all, it was public knowledge that Tong Yan was in love with Lin Xuan, so they assumed he finally accepted her pursuit.

However, for Xinghe and the rest, this development was too suspicious. Tong Yan was just taken advantage of by Lin Xuan, and even if Lin Xuan did save Shen Ru, there was no reason for them to hand Tong Yan over to the Lin family. Furthermore, the timing of these events did raise a few eyebrows.

For Lin Xuan to get engaged to Tong Yan at the time like this, there had to be some bigger plan at play!

Xinghe couldn't understand why the Tong family would agree to this engagement.

The Tong family was essentially helping the Lin family get to the top. Why would they do that after they had already realized the Lin family's wicked ambitions?

Even Mubai and Elder Xi couldn't get it.

Elder Xi commented with a serious expression, "There must be something going on!"

"There is something wrong with the Tong family as well," Mubai suggested even though his tone was certain.

Xinghe nodded. “Indeed, the Tong family appears to be acting against their own interests, and I believe the key to understanding all of this lies with Shen Ru.”

Elder Xi and Mubai turned to look at her, waiting to hear her analysis.

Chapter 642: Shen Ru

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe explained slowly, “For one, the incident where Lin Xuan just so happened to save Shen Ru is too coincidental and curious. Now, not long after that, Tong Yan and Lin Xuan announced their engagement. This series of events seems to have been deliberately arranged. The point is, we know clearly this is part of the Lin family’s comeback, but without the Tong family’s cooperation, all of this would be impossible.”

“So, you think it is Shen Ru who is secretly helping them?” Mubai queried.

Xinghe nodded. “I do. She is the one Lin Xuan saved and Tong Yan is her daughter. She is too caught up in it to not be involved in some way. After all, without her permission and blessing as Tong Yan’s mother, Tong Yan couldn’t possibly marry Lin Xuan and thus improve the relationship between the Tong family, Shen family, and Lin family.”

“That’s right!” Elder Xi nodded and added, “I’m familiar with the two old men from the Shen family and Tong family, after realizing the Lin family’s problem, they wouldn’t have allowed their precious granddaughter to marry into that family of vipers so easily. Even if they do wish to complete this match, now is not the time. The Lin family still has plenty of homework to do before they can prove their sincerity.

“How long has it been since it was exposed that the Lin family was using Tong Yan? It has been less than a month, they forgave and forgot everything so quickly? Even if Lin Xuan did save Shen Ru, that would only balance everything out. The Tong family and Shen family wouldn’t have been so appreciative of their help that they practically gave Tong Yan to the Lin family.”

Tong Yan was the Shen family and Tong family’s precious baby, especially for the Shen family, she was more valuable than gold because she was Elder Shen’s only grandchild. Without Elder Shen’s permission, no one could marry Tong

Yan, in other words, this engagement had already received his blessing.

But why would he agree to that and so soon?

They knew Tong Yan wouldn't mind the arrangement, but this engagement wasn't something that could be decided by her. Therefore, Shen Ru was the prime suspect. She was Elder Shen's daughter, it would be highly effective if she was the one who did the persuading.

They wouldn't believe it if they were told Shen Ru was innocent!

However, Xinghe and the rest couldn't understand why Shen Ru would side with the Lin family.

...

To get to the bottom of this mystery, Elder Xi personally invited Elder Shen out for tea. That was just a front for him to vent his frustration. They had all agreed to pressure the Lin family, so what was the meaning of this?

The Xi family only decided not to pursue Tong Yan's murder charge because they agreed to stand on the same side to fight the Lin family.

If that was the case, the Xi family wouldn't need to honor their agreement anymore!

After all, Tong Yan's kidnapping incident was still an unsolved case, so the Xi family could still reopen the case and turn these few families upside down.

Elder Xi castigated Elder Shen left and right and the latter only sat there quietly like a schoolboy caught red-handed. Finally, Elder Xi concluded, "Oh Shen, if you don't give me a satisfactory answer today then this is going to be an all-out war! Because of Tong Yan, my eldest grandson has practically lost half his life and is still recovering. For the sake of fighting the same enemy, our Xi family decided to let that be but now... If you don't give me a good explanation today, then we will see you in court! So tell me, why did you decide to betray your honor and harm my Xi family who had been nothing but kind to you?"

Chapter 643: Lost to his Grandchild

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Shen was ashamed facing Elder Xi's interrogation. He sighed and said, "Elder Xi, to be honest, we really don't want this to happen, but the Lin family did save my daughter so how can I continue suppressing them?"

"So, you're so appreciative of their help that you couldn't wait to be in-laws with them?" Elder Xi questioned angrily.

Anger also showed on Elder Shen's face when they talked about that. "It is really not my intention that we become in-laws!"

"Tong Yan and Lin Xuan are getting married. Do you still want to lie to my face?"

"That is something that I can't help with." Elder Shen sighed helplessly. "Everyone knows that granddaughter of mine fancies that kid from the Lin family. Having her all cooped up recently probably had caused some resentment within her. She found a chance to slip out of the house and the first thing she did was to go find that Lin family kid, one thing led to another and... They ended up together! My Little Yan later told me she's already his woman and would marry no one other than him, so what other choice did I have? Furthermore, Xiao Ru agreed to this marriage, so how can I deny them anymore? Even the Tong family had no choice but to relent so what could I do?"

"You mean, the two of them..." Elder Xi frowned.

Elder Shen nodded as all the light of hope went out of his eyes. "That's right. If this didn't happen, I would do everything in my power to crush that despicable Lin family! How dare they scheme against us, scheme against the Shen family's only bloodline?"

However, what choice did he have?

The Lin family acted so despicably against Tong Yan but the girl was stupid and willing enough to be used by Lin Xuan, so

no matter how influential they were, they were powerless since Tong Yan had already given herself to Lin Xuan.

All the elders' hands were tied when it come to this girl, so they had no choice but to accept this engagement.

Agreeing to it would ruin her but refusing it would ruin her even more. Thankfully, due to Tong Yan's unique identity, she wouldn't be bullied too much even if she married into the heartless Lin family.

Alas, they had to give up their precious treasure just like that, they were really unwilling!

“Elder Xi, my Shen family's only heiress is Tong Yan. I know I've done wrong by you and the entire Xi family but I'm defenseless before the pair of mother and daughter.” Elder Shen sighed with obvious pain, it seemed like he had grown old before Elder Xi's eyes.

Elder Shen had worked so hard his entire life, made a name for himself and earned the country's respect, however in the end, he lost to his granddaughter.

He didn't have a son and both daughters weren't exactly blessed with children. He only had one granddaughter, but he was already satisfied.

Alas, Tong Yan kept making regrettable mistakes and now had ruined everything he'd spent his whole life building.

So what if he had tons of money and immense influence?

All of that would have to be left to his future progeny, and in this respect, Elder Shen had gotten the worst hand possible.

Discussing this only made Elder Shen envious of Elder Xi.

“In the end, you're the final winner. Even though you chose to bow out from the race so many years ago, your both grandsons are stand-up young men. With them carrying on your legacy, what is there for you to worry about anymore? But me, so what if I've spent my whole life in luxury and extravagance? The glory of the Shen family will perish with my eventual passing. Honestly, how can I trust Tong Yan? That the girl can

find her own happiness in life is already something I need to thank the heavens for...”

Elder Xi couldn't help but feel sorry for Elder Shen looking at him in his current condition.

Having a granddaughter like Tong Yan truly was equal to several generations of bad luck.

Chapter 644: Rush for Death

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Shen had done so much for the family since he was young. It was because of him that the Shen family could command the respect and influence the family had that day. Even his eldest daughter had done her best to continue the family's glorious legacy.

Alas, all that would go to waste when it came into Tong Yan's hands. There were so many guys in the world and she had to fall in love with that heartless thing from the Lin family. It was one thing if this was just a fling, but she had decided to surrender her whole life to him.

Did she really naively think she would still be cherished like she was now after she got married?

It wouldn't take long for the bunch of wolves from the Lin family to turn on her.

They might put up a smiling face around her now due to the Shen family and Tong family's influence, but the moment Elder Shen passed away and the president changed, her fate would change completely.

The Tong family on the other hand...

Unlike Shen family, Tong family was blessed with quite a number of children and grandchildren. She might be the young mistress of the house now, but in Chinese culture, a married daughter was no longer part of the house.

After her marriage, she would be a Lin, so the Tong family wouldn't waste time on her anymore and hurt their own people's prospects to help the Lin family. After some time, they would probably even forget Tong Yan existed.

Therefore, Tong Yan's latest move not only hurt herself but also the entire Shen family!

However, there was some positive sides to it as well, but they were all meant for the Lin family, since she practically sold herself and the Shen family out to help the Lin family accomplish their goals!

Furthermore, Tong Yan was originally on the winner's side. She could have stayed at the side line and watch the Lin family crumble, but now she willingly took on the Xi family's wrath. She could have enjoyed a life of peace, but she purposely chose the road of ruin. Therefore, Tong Yan not only had harmed herself and her family, she might not even end up with anything...

Elder Xi didn't pity Tong Yan, but he did feel sorry for Elder Shen.

...

When he returned home, Elder Xi sighed greatly when he explained the situation. He felt rueful for Elder Shen's situation.

"The old man is someone that deserves respect, but alas, his lifework is going to go to waste because of this defective by the name of Tong Yan. She's going to single-handedly bring down the whole Shen family," Elder Xi lamented.

Mubai didn't have time to care about another family's well-being, especially not one who once plotted against Xinghe's life.

"In other words, the Shen family at large still resents the Lin family? They didn't want to agree to this engagement?" he queried.

Elder Xi nodded. "That's right. Even though Tong Yan and Lin Xuan already did the deed, he didn't want to agree to it, but Shen Ru insisted that he say yes. With both Shen Ru and Tong Yan agreeing to this, what could an old man like him do?"

"Therefore, something must be wrong with this Shen Ru," Xinghe observed. "She knows perfectly well that marrying Tong Yan into the Lin family will ruin her daughter's life, but she didn't seem to worry about that. Therefore, there must be some shameful secrets between her and the Lin family."

"What kind of secret could it be?" Elder Xi asked no one in particular.

Xinghe replied, "It's still a mystery for now, but regardless, it will all come into the open eventually. They are going to have

an engagement party, aren't they? We should attend the party for reconnaissance."

Mubai smiled. "I feel the same way. Looks like we have to prepare a huge present; this engagement party is not one to be missed."

Xinghe smiled in return. "Naturally, because this party might be the party that will help usher in their death."

"In that case, care to be my date?" Mubai asked with a smoldering smile.

Chapter 645: Engagement Party

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Xi laughed heartily witnessing their banter. He was truly overjoyed. Even if the Xi family's vengeance hadn't been fulfilled, he could see hope for Xi family's future.

Compared to Tong Yan, Xinghe was brilliant and had been bringing nothing but good luck to the Xi family. He believed that if Xinghe married Mubai again, their lives would only get better because they were on the same level, and that would help inspire growth in one another.

Suddenly Elder Xi had the urge to gloat before Elder Shen. Elder Shen was wrong, not only were his grandsons perfect young men, even his grand-daughter-in-law was the best of the best!

Elder Shen would be so angry that he'd cough up blood if he knew about this...

...

To display their sincerity, the Lin family quickly helped Tong Yan and Lin Xuan host an engagement party. Every person of certain influence was invited, including the Xi family. The Lin family had to invite them because giving face was crucial in Chinese society.

The Xi family, in spite of the curious gazes, accepted the invitation. However, Elder Xi was absent, there would be only Xinghe and Mubai in attendance.

When they both arrived, there were knowing smiles on the Lin family's faces. They were laced with smugness. Wasn't your Xi family planning to ruin our Lin family? I'm sorry because, not only did we survive your attack, we are on our way up again. Therefore, your plan has failed, and in the future, it is hard to tell which family will be ruined!

The Lin family was confident this engagement party was going to turn their fate around. Their plan was back on track and they would have the world under their feet soon!

By that time, they would grind the Xi family into the ground. Therefore, their attitudes towards Xinghe and Mubai were full of arrogance. Almost all of the people who greeted them came to gloat.

Elder Lin asked pompously, “Why isn’t Elder Xi here? I assumed he would be here. Is he already too old to survive a party?”

The sarcasm wasn’t lost on Mubai. He was hinting that Elder Xi wasn’t there because he was too ashamed to show his face after the Xi family lost.

With a meaningful smile, Mubai replied slowly, “My grandfather said he will not waste time on futile showcases like this one since there is no telling whether the marriage will end in good grace or not.”

Elder Lin, of course, got the hint as well. Mubai was satirizing the purpose of this engagement party. It might all just be a show for naught.

Elder Lin’s calculative eyes glowed and said, “He’s right, nobody can tell what will happen in the future. However, certain things are already written in the stars so certain people should stop struggling and surrender.”

Mubai smirked. “It’s interesting that Elder Lin and I think the same way. Certain people should definitely just give up.”

Elder Lin guffawed. “Then we shall see whether we are right in our prediction or not, however, I do hope you take care of your body first or else I’m afraid you might not survive to see that day comes into fruition.”

Mubai countered, “Thanks for your concern, but at the end of the day, I’m still young; this body can still last me for many decades. If anything, I’m more concerned about Elder Lin’s physical condition.”

“Is that so? Then we shall see who will last the longest.” Elder Lin dropped his smiling face and walked away from them.

Mubai’s gaze was cold and unreadable.

Chapter 646: Don't Let Go of My Hand

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe commented softly, "Looks like the Lin family is confident that this union will be their grand comeback."

Or else Elder Lin wouldn't have been so gutsy to purposely come to gloat in front of them.

Mubai scoffed. "Their confidence is warranted. Marrying Miss Tong equals to drawing in the Shen family, Tong family and the Madam President to their side, so why wouldn't they be confident?"

"Alas, this was done through a despicable method and none of them are really willing to stand in their corner."

"At the very least, they will stop harassing the Lin family."

"This is indeed a good move."

Xinghe scanned the room and saw many people in the process of sucking up to the Lin family. The Lin family, via this engagement, had aligned themselves to many powerful families, thus raising their status a lot. Naturally, this meant a lot of people couldn't wait to get into their good books. This inflated the Lin family's ego greatly.

However, did they really think after Lin Xuan married Tong Yan, everything would go smoothly? Not while the Xi family was still alive!

Xinghe studied the room and spotted many hidden complications.

"Have you realized, the Lin family is not as united as we think. That man over there is a Lin, right? He doesn't seem too happy about all this."

Mubai followed her gaze and spotted a middle-aged man nursing his own drink and problem. Mubai smiled. "That's the Lin family's third young master, or rather, Lin Yun's father."

"Lin Qin? The most insignificant of Elder Lin's three sons? I hear he has not achieved anything in his life. He's only a small

government worker and is almost invisible in the Lin family power structure.”

“That’s right, you’ve done your homework,” Mubai praised. That she did, which was why Xinghe was adamant they go to the party that night. If there was a crack in the Lin family, then they would definitely make use of it.

“If Lin Qin knows it was Lin Xuan who killed his daughter, I wonder if he will turn on the rest of them,” Xinghe suggested knowingly.

Mubai rejected it. “But we have no proof.”

If they did, would the Lin family have survived until then?

“Actually, I’m curious, why would Lin Xuan carry a bomb on him? At the time, he had no clue Lin Yun was about to be arrested,” Xinghe observed. “Therefore, there must be something beyond the surface when it comes to this Lin Xuan.”

“I bet the whole of the Lin family has plenty of things to hide. Stay close to me and don’t wander off alone,” Mubai reminded out of concern. They were after all in the Lin family’s territory.

Xinghe nodded with a smile. “Don’t worry, Ali is with me, I’ll be fine.”

Ali came along as Xinghe’s secretary. She followed closely behind Xinghe like a real personal assistant, but she was really there as Xinghe’s bodyguard.

Xinghe turned to look at Ali and the latter winked playfully at her. Furthermore, Xinghe did know some karate, so as long as any complication didn’t involve a gun, she would be safe.

However, Mubai couldn’t stop worrying. He held on to her hand, protecting her like she was the most precious thing in the world.

“In any case, stay close to me and don’t let go of my hand,” he warned her kindly.

“Okay.” Xinghe wanted to laugh and say, You’re the one who doesn’t want to let go!

Ali, who followed behind them, rolled her eyes at another lovey-dovey showcase of theirs.

Chapter 647: You Do Know the Truth

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“That man is leaving,” Ali suddenly said. Xinghe and Mubai turned to look, and indeed, he was heading towards the back garden. The Lin family’s party was held at their own home, the place was huge, including their back garden.

Xinghe hesitated before saying, “Let’s go introduce ourselves.”

“Why not?” Mubai decided to play along. Since they were there to feel their enemies out, why not start with Lin Qin?

The trio of them slipped quietly to the back garden.

Lin Qin wanted to get away from the celebration because it had nothing to do with him. He didn’t want to see them happy because it only worked to highlight his own misery. Therefore, he chose to steal out to the back garden for some alone time. He didn’t realize people were following him.

“Mr. Lin Qin, is it?” Xinghe’s clear voice rang out behind him.

Lin Qin turned out curiously and his face dropped when he saw them. “It’s you people!”

He knew what Xinghe and Mubai looked like. However, other than a drawn face, Lin Qin didn’t show them much hostility. Xinghe had noticed this earlier. During the party, Lin Qin had already seen them, but he chose to ignore them; he didn’t direct any resentment or anger toward them.

This was a complete contrast to Xinghe’s first meeting with Lin Qian; the girl really wanted to kill her because she thought Lin Yun was murdered by Xinghe and Mubai.

If Lin Qian hated them so much, theoretically speaking, her father should treat them like his nemesis. However, Xinghe couldn’t see any malice behind his eyes. Her suspicion was suddenly confirmed...

Lin Qin asked them guardedly, “Why did you follow me? What do you plan to do?”

Xinghe smiled good-naturedly. “We just want to tell you something, don’t worry.”

“What is it? Tell me and then leave me alone!” Lin Qin grumbled impatiently.

Xinghe stared sharply at him and announced suddenly, “It was not us who killed Lin Yun—”

Lin Qin was startled. However, he didn’t show any signs of anger or desire to interrogate, his eyes darted around with complicated emotions.

“So, you have known the truth all along,” Xinghe whispered and studied every tick of emotion on his face. “Mr. Lin, you do know it was Lin Xuan who killed her, right?”

“I have no idea what you’re talking about!” Lin Qin retorted agitatedly. “You two are the ones who killed my daughter, so how dare you lie to my face! Since today is the Lin family’s auspicious date, I’m not going to pursue this any further, so please just leave me be.”

Lin Qin said his piece that seemed to have been memorized and left hurriedly, afraid that they would catch up to him.

Mubai and Xinghe looked at each other and the news was communicated silently. Lin Qin does know the truth.

He knew it was Lin Xuan who killed his daughter, but he chose to do nothing about it. There could only be one explanation, her death was ordered by Elder Lin!

Or Elder Lin approved of Lin Xuan’s decision to kill Lin Yun!

Since Elder Lin had already gave his stamp of approval, what else could Lin Qin do? In fact, even Lin Kang probably agreed to dispose of Lin Yun.

Lin Qin’s resentment was suppressed because he had no say in this family.

This Lin family was not only cruel to outsiders...

But to their own as well.

Chapter 648: Elder Lin's Daughter

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe and Mubai decided in unison, Lin Qin was the opening they needed. However, just as they turned to leave, they met the eyes of a woman who stood not far away behind them. She stared at them curiously. She seemed to have heard the whole conversation.

Mubai and Xinghe widened their eyes in shock.

“Who are you?” Xinghe asked, “What is your relationship to the Lin family?”

The fragile looking woman in luxurious garb chuckled eerily to herself and didn't answer.

Mubai narrowed his eyes and tested, “You're Elder Lin's daughter, right?”

“It's rare for someone to recognize me.” The woman offered with a weird smile before turning to walk away.

“Wait,” Xinghe called out to stop her but the woman seemed to have not heard her and walked further away. Xinghe ordered Ali, “Stop her.”

“Okay!” Just as Ali moved forward, Lin Xuan appeared around the corner with a few guards behind him. “What are you people doing here?”

His sudden arrival ruined everything. Ali stopped and went back to stand behind Xinghe.

Lin Xuan regarded them coldly and demanded, “Xi Mubai, why aren't you people out there in the hall enjoying the party but hiding out in my back garden?”

Mubai glared back at him and chuckled. “Why, is there something not suitable for public eye in your back garden? Why the need to be so cautious around us.”

“There is no such thing in my house, but this is the Lin family's private space and we do not welcome the likes of you,” Lin Xuan said rudely. “So do return to the hall and stop wandering around someone else's house.”

“That’s fine, since the Lin family doesn’t seem to welcome us here then there’s no reason for us to stay. Let us go,” Xinghe said. They immediately made themselves scarce because they had something important to check out.

Studying their retreating backs, Lin Xuan narrowed his eyes suspiciously and whispered to his guard, “Go investigate what have they done in the back garden and who have they met.”

“Yes, sir!” The guard nodded. However, the investigation came up with nothing. Xinghe and Mubai didn’t seem to have done anything or met anyone, but for some reason, Lin Xuan felt something was wrong. However, he just couldn’t pinpoint what.

...

Xinghe and Mubai climbed into the car after they stepped out of the Lin family’s door.

Mubai immediately tossed Xinghe a laptop. “Here.”

“Thank you!” Xinghe said as she started working on the laptop.

Ali, who sat in the front, noticed the nervousness in the air and asked curiously, “What’s going on? Did something important happen? How come I didn’t notice anything?”

Xinghe answered without taking her eyes off the screen, “Something did happen, but we need more information.”

“On what?”

“That woman just now.” This time it was Mubai who answered her.

Ali was still lost. “What about that woman? She did act a bit weirdly but there’s nothing objectively wrong with her.”

But, oh yes, there was something incredibly wrong with her. Xinghe was too busy to explain everything to Ali because she needed to find out everything about this woman as soon as possible.

Chapter 649: Special Treatment

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

She might be the key to unravelling the Lin family!

Lin Shuang was Elder Lin's only daughter and the runt of the family. She had been a sickly child since she was born and was sent out to be taken care of by the Lin family's relatives in the country side as a young girl. When she was 18, she moved to City T to attend university.

After graduation, she returned to the country side and she was only moved to the Lin family five years ago. She had a ghost like existence in the family, not many people knew of her.

The only reason Mubai could attempt to guess at her identity was because he heard Elder Lin's daughter had a frail constitution and spent her days cooped up in her room to take care of her illness. Other than that, they had already met the other important womenfolk in the Lin family, so she was the only one left they hadn't met. However, there was indeed something about Lin Shuang that surprised Xinghe and Mubai. She looked suspiciously familiar...

Xinghe's research brought up nothing beyond the basics. However, when they returned to Hills Residence, Elder Xi provided them with some more information.

"Why do you ask about her? That daughter of his is like non-existent, no one has really seen her. She was sent away since she was a baby, I hear it was because she needed the fresh air of the country side to aid in her sickness. None of us have seen her and she has flown way below everyone's radar until we all assumed the Lin family only had three sons and had no idea he still has a daughter. Why, is there something wrong with Lin Shuang?"

Xinghe nodded. "There are indeed curiosities about Lin Shuang, but I don't understand, how come the Lin family doesn't seem to care about her existence? The only daughter of the family has fallen sick, but instead of finding her the best doctor in Hwa Xia which would be in City A, they sent her away to the country side and made her stay there?"

Even though Lin Shuang had returned to the Lin family five years ago, she still looked as pale as ever. One had to be suspect how Lin family treated her for her to end up in a state like that.

Elder Xi answered, “Ol’ Lin heavily values boys over girls, but you’re right, he shouldn’t have ignored her like this. He values profit above all else so keeping the daughter around for even a good marriage is more beneficial than the way they currently treat her. I also don’t understand why they are so adamant on pretending like she doesn’t exist.”

“It is indeed very weird. All the girls from the Lin family are given a good education, even Lin Yun was arranged to join the national intelligence agency, so the Lin family’s treatment of Lin Shuang is indeed very unusual,” Xinghe observed.

Mubai nodded. “It is, if only we knew why.”

Ali who had been listening raised her hand hesitantly. “Maybe I know why.”

“Why?” Xinghe and the rest looked at her in surprise. Even Sam’s group was shocked. How could she know the reason?

Ali coughed and explained, “Maybe she is the same as me. I was abandoned by my parents when I was a baby because I was born during an inauspicious date. They worried I would bring ill fate to the family, perhaps, this Lin Shuang shares a similar fate as me.”

Xinghe nodded slightly. “You have a point.”

Mubai smirked coldly. “I have to say, for a family like the Lin family, it is not surprising that they will do something like that. Those that bring ill fate will have to be removed, like Lin Yun...”

Elder Xi shook his head and laughed. “Unlikely, the Lin family is not that superstitious. Plus, how come I didn’t hear people say that the Shen family’s second daughter was an ill-fated woman? At the end of the day, Ol’ Lin will only see people, even his children, as profit-makers, but he is not a superstitious person.”

Chapter 650: Same Birthday

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe and Mubai suddenly looked at each other. Mubai asked cautiously, “Grandfather, what does this have to do with the Shen family’s second daughter?”

Elder Xi explained, “Oh, I forgot to tell you that Lin Shuang and Shen Ru were born in the same hospital and on the same date...” At this point, Elder Xi’s face fell. The shock was mirrored on Mubai’s and Xinghe’s faces as well. They looked at one another because their train of thought led them to the same horrifying conclusion!

Xinghe stood up suddenly, her eyes blazing with excitement. “This Shen Ru does have secret dealings with the Lin family!”

Elder Xi said with a serious expression, “But is this possible? Would the Lin family really do something this inhumane?”

“We’ll find out soon enough!” Xinghe turned to Mubai and said, “We need Lu Qi’s help.”

“I’ll contact him now.” Mubai moved to oblige. Xinghe then turned to make a request of Ali’s group. “I need one of you to go back to City T to fetch someone for me.”

“Who?” they asked.

“The girl we saved from Country Y.”

As comprehension dawned on Ali, she stuttered excitedly, “I think I understand what Lin Shuang’s problem is! She and that girl, they...”

Xinghe nodded with a smile. “That’s right, they look uncannily similar.”

In this world, there might be many that looked similar to one another, but Xinghe felt there couldn’t be so many coincidences. The girl was found in IV Syndicate’s main base, this meant that her identity was definitely something important.

Perhaps she was really related to Lin Shuang. If she was, then didn’t this mean the Lin family was related to IV Syndicate as

well?

The more Xinghe thought about it, the more suspicions she found regarding the Lin family. This time, she predicted they would not only ruin the Lin family but also exposed many hidden conspiracies!

Xinghe's intuition had always been crazy sharp, since her suspicion was already on the Lin family, then she would pursue them to the end of the world. Mubai shared her sentiment.

They contacted Lu Qi and revealed to him certain information in confidence. Lu Qi agreed to lend his aid.

Sam and Wolf returned to City T to fetch the girl.

Now, they only needed to wait. After the answer was revealed, a raging storm would ravage through City A with the Lin family at the very eye of the tornado!

...

After Lin Xuan and Tong Yan got engaged, Lin Xuan would take her to visit Shen family, Tong family, and even the president and Madam President.

Lin Xuan was a dashing young man with a way to get into people's hearts. Through his efforts, their prejudice towards the Lin family slowly lightened. Furthermore, this was the happiest they had ever seen Tong Yan, so they gradually convinced themselves perhaps this was not a bad idea for Tong Yan to marry Lin Xuan.

Their impression of the Lin family slowly improved.

Shen Ru praised the Lin family in front of them daily and slowly they felt that perhaps the Lin family was not as bad as they thought. After all, on many incidents, there was only suspicion and no solid proof. They had been friends for so many years and they had shown nothing worth suspecting. So perhaps... the Lin family was really innocent?

Other than helping the Lin family clear their name, Shen Ru even worked extra hard to push the blame onto the Xi family. It was because the Xi family wanted to take revenge on the

Lin family that they would come up with so many lies to frame the Lin family.

All of them were led astray by Shen Ru's misdirection. They slowly become confused, but it was true that they had started mending bridges with the Lin family and distancing themselves away from the Xi family.

Chapter 651: President... Is Dying

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

All these changes were good news for the Lin family. Good things kept happening for them, one after another. Elder Lin was satisfied; the set-up he did so many years ago finally paid off handsomely.

After the Lin family won the presidency, Shen Ru would find a reason to cancel Tong Yan and Lin Xuan's engagement. By then, Tong Yan would lose her position, so they wouldn't need a useless girl like her to muddle their gene pool.

Of course, nothing really happened between Tong Yan and Lin Xuan, it was all a front. Tong Yan was heads over heels in love with Lin Xuan, so she didn't mind the rumors ruining her name as long as she could be together with him. Lin Xuan didn't mind the fake engagement as well since they would never really get married.

Their relationship bordered on incestuous, but it wouldn't be found out. All of this was for the Lin family's future.

The president's body was deteriorating, and the Lin family fidgeted about anxiously. Victory was just around the corner. They wished desperately for the president to announce his resignation and start the next election cycle...

However, at the last minute when everything was right before their grasp, Lu Qi suddenly announced that the mechanical heart research was completed!

The president was going to be saved!

This news landed like a physical blow on the Lin family. This news came to them from Shen Ru.

"Lu Qi really finished building the heart?" Elder Lin was in disbelief. "Didn't they say they couldn't find a suitable material?"

"They've found it. According to Lu Qi, the Xi family has helped him locate the material and then Xia Xinghe has constructed the machinery!" Shen Ru spat with hatred and

derision. “How come that b*tch keeps doing things in the dark?”

It was the same with the mechanical heart design. She kept doing stuff behind the scenes, giving away no information of her current progress.

Elder Lin’s face was drawn. “That woman has to be removed! She has foiled our plans again and again!”

Lin Xuan narrowed his eyes dangerously, he didn’t expect the woman to be so capable either. When she consumed Bao Hwa, he thought she was only a shrewd businesswoman, he didn’t think she could accomplish something like a mechanical heart...

They had truly underestimated her.

“Grandfather is right, I will find a way to take her out and ruin the mechanical heart in the process,” Lin Xuan stood up and announced like a hellish angel.

However, at that moment, Elder Lin’s phone rang. It was from the Madam President...

Elder Lin answered the phone with a curious heart, “Hello, Madam, why do you call?”

“Elder Lin, I have something important to discuss with all of you, can you all come to the president’s house now? Bring along Mayor Lin and the rest,” Madam President replied in a distressed tone.

Elder Lin was alerted. “Madam, what is this you wish to discuss with so many of us?”

“It has to do with the president’s health. Come over now and I will tell all of you.” Then she hung up.

Elder Lin closed his phone and told the room, “The Madam wants all of us to go to the president’s house, she said she wishes to discuss the president’s health with us.”

Lin Kang was confused. “She wants all of us to be there?”

Elder Lin nodded and right then, he received another phone call. It was from Shen Ru. The Madam President also called

her and asked her to come to the president's house.

Shen Ru put down the phone and said to herself, "Could it be that the president... is dying?"

Chapter 652: The Skies Are Changing

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

This thought excited everyone from the Lin family.

“This is not impossible.” The excitement in Elder Lin’s eyes couldn’t be suppressed. “She wouldn’t have called all of us there otherwise.”

“I’ll call home to ask!” To confirm their suspicion, Shen Ru gave Elder Shen and the Tong family a call. They were all invited.

Even Elder Shen suspected that the president was dying. It was the only reason all of them would be invited, they were the closest to the president. If the president suddenly died, this would be a national crisis!

The Madam President must have called them all to ask for their aid. After the confirmation, the Lin family couldn’t contain their elation and hurried to the president’s house in droves. Even the Shen family and Tong family were in full attendance.

It was their expectation that the power structure of Hwa Xia would change tomorrow. Their feelings were complicated, some were nervous, others melancholic.

When Elder Lin saw Elder Tong and Elder Shen, he even put on a pretense, acting like he really cared about the president’s health. Elder Shen said, “No matter what, let’s not stay here and make guesses. Let’s go in, maybe something else has happened.”

“You’re right,” Elder Lin replied a bit too excitedly. Who could blame him?

If the president was dying, then the country would begin another election and the Lin family had the biggest chance to win, therefore, the Lin family couldn’t wait to trample over the president’s dead body into their bright future.

However, when they stepped into the meeting hall, they realized that the Xi family was also there!

Not only were Elder Xi and Mubai there, even Jiangnian and Munan were there in their imposing military outfits. Noticing them, the crowd's suspicion was further confirmed.

Right then, Madam President was led into the room by Lu Qi and Xinghe.

Tong Yan was the first to ask in a hurry, "Auntie, did you call us all here because the president is dying? What happened, how did this happen so suddenly?"

"Little Yan, watch your manners," Shen Ru berated her softly but she too asked with concern, "Sis, why did you call for all of us?"

Madam President looked at the pair of mother and daughter, and for some reason, Shen Ru could see disappointment and other emotions behind them. However, her sister seemed to be trying very hard to hide it.

The Madam President sighed. "You will find out soon enough."

"The president is dying, right?" Tong Yan blurted out rudely again. "But didn't they say Xia Xinghe has finished constructing the mechanical heart and the president was saved? So why is this happening..."

At this point, Tong Yan flared up again and went after Xinghe. "Xia Xinghe, if anything happens to the president, then you're dead! Why didn't you say you've found the material and insist on doing things behind everyone's back? Are you so desperate to claim this credit? I'm telling you, this time you've not only failed to do that but you're going to die without even knowing why!"

Elder Lin also added pointedly and severely, "Your Xi family surreptitiously built the mechanical heart, so it is not out of question that you people harbor some malicious intention. If what you did harm the president and something really did happen to him, then your Xi family will be the nation's traitors!"

Chapter 653: Waited For So Long

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“That’s right, Xia Xinghe, you’ve been unwilling to reveal the information about the material so there must be something fishy about you!” Shen Ru interrogated her, “You plan to hurt the president and betray the country, isn’t it? You traitor!”

Xinghe could only laugh facing their various accusations. Her dark, cold eyes stared them down and said, “That’s right, our Xi family purposely didn’t want to announce the research progress, but not because we have malicious intention, it was to guard against you people that have vicious goals!”

Elder Lin was shocked before he narrowed his eyes dangerously. “What do you mean by that?”

“Xia Xinghe, what are you blabbering about? If you don’t make yourself clear, we are going to see you in court for slandering our name!” Now that Tong Yan was the Lin family’s daughter-in-law, her ‘our’ no longer referred to the Tong family or the Shen family but the Lin family. She wanted Xinghe to know that she, Tong Yan, was now on the Lin family’s side. If she was there, she wouldn’t give Xinghe any chance to bully the Lin family!

Xinghe shook her head witnessing her idiotic performance. She said with derision, “Heiress Tong, I think you will soon see that you are not as important as you think.”

“What are you talking about? What do you mean by that?” Tong Yan demanded. The Lin family’s, including Shen Ru’s, faces darkened. What Xinghe said made their heart shake from unease...

“What do I mean? Ask Elder Lin’s only daughter, Lin family’s fourth daughter and you’ll understand.” Xinghe scanned the rest of them and asked with a raised eyebrow, “By the way, where is the fourth miss, why isn’t she here?”

A flash of deep anxiety flashed across Elder Lin’s eyes. He calmed himself down and demanded, “What does have to do with you which of the Lin family’s members came? Madam,

why did you summon us here? Don't tell me it's to make us listen to this woman's mad ravings!"

"That's right, Daughter, why did you call us?" Elder Shen was equally confused, so was the rest of the room. However, they felt the purpose might have nothing to do the president but plenty to do with the Lin family...

Madam President plopped down in a chair and sighed. "The reason I summoned all of you is because I have something to announce. Xinghe will give you the details so everyone please sit and listen quietly."

The anxiety in the room heightened. They sat down with serious expressions, only the Xi family was as cool as ever.

Xinghe stood motionless. Madam President shared a signal with her and said, "Go ahead, I trust in you."

Xinghe nodded. She knew that Madam President at that moment must be incredibly tired, she couldn't bring herself to tell the truth.

However, Xinghe was more than willing to take up the responsibility to expose the Lin family in front of everyone!

This was the revenge she had been waiting for so long. Ever since Mubai's accident, she had been planning and waiting for this moment. It had finally arrived.

The Xi family had long anticipated this as well. For this moment, they had sacrificed so much and waited so long.

Thankfully, today, everything was coming to an end!

With a measure of finality, Xinghe looked at the Lin family with a pair of eyes that were chilled to the core with hatred. She made sure everyone there saw it. A giant feeling of unease cropped up in everyone's heart, especially the Lin family's. They wanted to escape for some reason.

The royal troublemaker, Tong Yan, who was the youngest there, yelled out impatiently, "Xia Xinghe, what is it that you want to announce? Get to the point quickly!"

Chapter 654: The Lin Family Has to Die Now

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Your wish is my command so listen well. Your Lin family’s scheme has been exposed!” Xinghe announced the loudest she could as she pointed directly at the bunch of weasels.

Everyone in the Lin family’s hearts definitely skipped a beat! Everyone whipped their heads around to look at her. Elder Lin’s face quivered uncontrollably facing Xinghe’s penetrating gaze.

The other people from the Lin family didn’t have a presentable expression as well.

The Shen family and Tong family were shocked. Lin family’s scheme... What scheme?

“Preposterous!” Elder Lin slammed on the table and glared at Xinghe like he was going to swallow her alive. “Such an insolent little girl, do you know who you’re talking to? If you dare to say such slanderous words again, I will make your life a living hell. Even if you have the Xi family behind your back, I will not let you off the hook so easily! I’m warning you, Xi family, if any of you dare to come up against us, my Lin family will fight tooth and nail until the end of times!”

Elder Lin thought he could scare them off with threats but Xinghe and the Xi family were not afraid of him. Xinghe would let them know, when facing their enemies, they would never retreat and would only become more ruthless than them!

“There’s no need to fight until the end of times because your Lin family will have to die now,” Xinghe enunciated word by word. “I believe that, not only will our Xi family want you people dead, the Shen family will want that as well!”

Elder Shen was befuddled. “What does this have to do with our Shen family? Xinghe, what have you been talking about?”

Xinghe turned to look at him and said directly, “Elder Shen, you might not know this, but your second daughter is not your daughter but the Lin family’s daughter. For the purpose of their own scheme, the Lin family traded their daughter with yours so many years ago. So, the daughter you’ve been raising

for so many years is actually the Lin family's real fourth daughter."

"You're lying—"

"What did you say?"

Shen Ru and Elder Shen exclaimed in unison. Old Madam Shen and the Tong family were stunned beyond words.

The Lin family was mortified. How did Xia Xinghe know about this?

Tong Yan was appalled. What is this b*tch talking about?

"Xia Xinghe, you are talking nonsense! If I'm not from Shen family then what am I? Xia Xinghe, you've crossed the line, how can you slander my name like this? Security, detain her immediately! Sis, quick get the men to capture her!" Shen Ru yelled agitatedly like a mad woman. No one was listening to her.

Xinghe glared at her and said, "Shen Ru, you've known about your identity for some time already, that's the only reason why you've been so willing to help the Lin family all of a sudden. Although, I must say, I didn't expect you to pimp out your own daughter to save this situation. Cousins getting married, if this is not incest, I have no idea what is."

"You're lying! This is slander!" Shen Ru was shaking from both anger and fear. "B*tch, how dare you talk to me like this? I'm going to kill you!"

Shen Ru charged at Xinghe violently. Xinghe easily side-stepped out of her way, causing Shen Ru to trip and fall to the ground.

"Mommy—" Tong Yan rushed to help her mother. She glared with intense hatred at Xinghe. "B*tch, you're going to pay for treating my mother this way!"

Like her mother, Tong Yan, who harbored an equal measure of anger and fear in her heart, also charged at Xinghe...

Chapter 655: DNA Test

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai, who stood at the ready, pulled Xinghe away and launched a precise kick on Tong Yan's ankle. Tong Yan crumbled to the floor with a pained scream.

“Enough!” Madam President suddenly roared. She glared severely at Shen Ru and Tong Yan. “This is the president's house so behave accordingly. Create a disturbance again and I will have all of you detained!”

“Auntie...” Tong Yan's eyes were watery from being scolded. “This is not our fault, it's Xia Xinghe's. She slandered our name like this so how can we stand there and do nothing? Auntie, you have to help us!”

“Sis, you have to help me straighten this out because I will not suffer such an insult!” Shen Ru yelled angrily.

Elder Shen suddenly pushed through the crowd and stared intently at Xinghe. “Who told you to say those things, where is your proof? Who had you say those things?”

Elder Shen was shaking both in his words and in his body. Xinghe knew he was having trouble accepting this reality but she powered on. “No one told me this, I discovered this myself, and I've done a DNA test, Shen Ru is indeed Elder Lin's daughter.”

What?

Xinghe's statement was another bomb. The Lin family and Shen Ru's faces were filled with disbelief. She has done a DNA test...

Lu Qi suddenly stepped forth and passed a document to Elder Shen. “Elder Shen, this is the test result. Shen Ru is definitely Elder Lin's daughter, we got all the information from the DNA bank.”

Looking at the report in Lu Qi's hands, Elder Shen's face was blanched. He didn't even dare accept it.

Elder Lin's and Shen Ru's faces were equally white. They could see dark in front of their eyes. They didn't expect things to turn out like this. When did the Xi family notice the discrepancies? How come we didn't notice anything?

"No, that is a fake! I'm not a Lin, I'm the Shen family's daughter! How can I be one of the Lin family's people, that is falsified! Father, you mustn't believe them..." Shen Ru yelled as she climbed up and prepared to charge at the document and tear it apart.

However, the moment she wanted to do that, Elder Shen suddenly turned to look at her, his eyes were pools of black holes. Shen Ru stopped and was frozen to the spot.

"Father..." She asked with a shaking voice, "Don't you believe me?"

Elder Shen looked at her with immense pain in his eyes. He asked, "Is this why you have been helping Lin family? Tell me honestly, have you known the truth all along?"

"No! I haven't been helping them, I didn't... Father, you have to believe me, I'm really your daughter, how could I not be your daughter?" Shen Ru explained in a hurry. However, this only made her look more suspicious because she was never good at acting!

Furthermore, Elder Shen had raised her, so how could be unable to tell when she was lying?

He stared at her and said, "Xiao Ru, tell me honestly, when do you learn the truth? If you're willing to come clean, then perhaps I can still forgive you. If you still refuse to confess, then you are no longer my daughter!"

Chapter 656: She Has Seen Through Everything

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Dad?” Shen Ru took a startled step back, what should she do?

Should she deny it or admit it?

No, she couldn't admit it, but what else could she do?

She didn't have the guts to admit it...

Shen Ru was shaking from head to toe but no words came out of her mouth. Tong Yan suddenly rushed over and took her arm, yelling, “Mom, why are you hesitating? Quickly tell Grandpa that this is a fake, you are not the Lin family's daughter. Do it, quick!”

“...” No matter how Tong Yan forced her, Shen Ru couldn't find the words. She also wanted to say she wasn't, but what was her evidence?

Tong Yan's heart filled with fear looking at her mother acting this way. “Mommy, you are really the Lin family's daughter, you're not grandpa's daughter? Tell me this is not real, Mommy, she is lying, isn't she?”

“...” Alas Shen Ru still didn't answer. Tong Yan looked around the room for help and her eyes settled on her fiancé.

She rushed to his side and begged, “Brother Xuan, tell everyone this is not real! How can my mother be a Lin? We are not cousins! Brother Xuan, tell me this is all wrong, it has to be, right?”

To her despair, Lin Xuan's only reply was his drawn face.

Tong Yan let go of him and stumbled a few steps back. Her body was shaking as she spoke to herself, “No, this is not true, someone tell me that none of this is real...”

How could she not be the Shen family's granddaughter and, worse than that, be Lin Xuan's cousin? This had to be fake!

“This is all real.” Just as Tong Yan was trying to convince herself, Xinghe's clear voice rang out, shattering the safety bubble she was building for herself. “Shen Ru is a Lin. The

Lin family was vying for the Shen family's power and influence so many years ago, so their devious plan started then. They wished to use this connection to get to the highest office in this country. The president is down with illness and their plan was close to fruition, but at the last minute, I appeared to ruin their plan and so they made use of Tong Yan to remove me. Alas their plan failed and backfired. To regain their status, they made use of Shen Ru, to use her to resolve the hatred so many families had against them. They even allowed Tong Yan and Lin Xuan to get engaged to strengthen the ties between all the families even though they are cousins. They did all these simply because they want to be president! For that position, they were willing to sacrifice everything, their own daughter so many years ago, Lin Yun early this year, and Tong Yan now. As long as they can get to the top, even their own flesh and blood will be sacrificed and used! Elder Lin, am I right or wrong?"

Elder Lin's pupil narrowed, and his gaze was as dark as the starless night sky. He glared viciously at Xinghe. If possible, he would snap her neck there and then!

Everyone from the Lin family that knew the truth all looked at her the same way because she had ruined everything; she had wasted all of their effort that went back years!

However, they wouldn't give up just like that, not without a fight.

Elder Lin chuckled darkly. "Where is your proof? If there is no proof, then these are nothing but slander! Our Lin family will never forgive you, and you will soon find out what the consequence of crossing us is!"

"You still need proof?" Xinghe grabbed the DNA report from Lu Qi's hands and tossed it at him. "This is best proof there is!"

Chapter 657: Done on Purpose

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The report landed by his feet and Xinghe questioned, “How can you explain the fact that Shen Ru is your daughter? Don’t think all of us are dummies who will think the things that happened recently are really coincidences! Shen Ru has been openly helping you people and now I think everyone here can understand why.”

The Shen family and Tong family were shocked, but now that they thought about it, Shen Ru had been incredibly suspicious. She was bending over backwards to aid the Lin family. No one could believe she didn’t know about the truth. Furthermore, with the DNA report there, they had confirmed Elder Lin had known about the fact that Shen Ru was his biological daughter all along.

Shen Ru’s husband wasn’t in City A, so he wasn’t there that day. Therefore, it was her father-in-law, Elder Tong that demanded, “So you really did cooperate with the Lin family to help further their scheme?”

“I didn’t...” Shen Ru denied it unconsciously. Then again, what choices did she have then but to push all the blame onto the Lin family?

“Father, you have to believe me! I didn’t willingly work with them, I also only recently found out the truth! It was them who forced me to work for them or else they would expose my identity and ruin my life. Father, I was too afraid, so I was forced into helping them. I really didn’t harbor any ill intentions. Sis, I really didn’t...” Shen Ru explained in a hurry, at the same time selling the Lin family out, proving the validity of Xinghe’s claim.

Shen Ru was going to be the Lin family’s trump card, which was why they made the swap so many years ago!

Elder Shen suddenly turned to Elder Lin and roared, “Lin Zhenghwa, where is my daughter? How have you treated my daughter for so many years?”

His face changed the moment he finished his question because the answer came to him immediately. The sickly Lin family fourth daughter, the one who was sent away since she was born, could she be his real daughter?

It had to be. No wonder the Lin family hid her from public eye for so many years. They were afraid the truth would be exposed!

Elder Shen felt unspeakable rage assault his heart when he realized his own daughter had been treated like dirt for decades while he had been helping the perpetrator raise his daughter in luxury!

The emotions were so sudden and intense that he could see spots of darkness blossoming before his eyes.

“Father...”

“Elder Shen!”

Madam President and Lu Qi who were closest to him quickly went to support him. Elder Shen calmed himself down in their arms and grabbed Madam President’s arm and wheezed out painfully, “Daughter, you mustn’t let them get away. You need to force them to hand over your sister; we mustn’t let her suffer anymore.”

Madam President nodded and said, “Father, I understand.”

Then she turned to look at Elder Lin and demanded, “Lin Zhenghwa, now that the truth is out there, what do you have to say for yourself?”

Elder Lin had been seething since Xinghe exposed them, but he was someone who could plan for decades ahead so why would he surrender so easily?

He closed his eyes to make a decision. He said, “That’s right, I’m guilty as charged! However, this was all my idea, it has nothing to do with other people from the Lin family. Plus, my crime is out of a parent’s compassion, I just didn’t want my daughter to suffer with the Lin family, so I had to make the switch so many years ago. There was no greater motive. Everything is my fault, and my fault alone!”

They were surprised with how prepared he was. He was willing to shoulder the whole blame and had already come up with his defense. Elder Xi scolded him for his despicability.

Chapter 658: None of You Are Escaping!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Befitting of the name family of weasels, none of the other people from the Lin family said a word. This way, no one could tell whether they had known about this before or not. The Lin family was indeed not simple. Even under such circumstances, they managed to regain their footing with such expedience and lower the damage to the bare minimum.

The others couldn't help but be spooked by their scheming minds. Everyone knew that all of them were equally guilty, but there was no way to pin the crime on all of them. They only had the DNA test as evidence and Elder Lin had shouldered all the blame on his own, so it was impossible to ruin the whole Lin family in one fell swoop.

Elder Shen pointed at him, shaking with anger. "Lin Zhenghwa, you are such a despicable human being! All of you from the Lin family are the same; every single one of you is guilty!"

"That's right, all of you knew about this all along. Don't think you can shoulder all the crime on your own and muddle the investigation with a simple reason. All of you will have to undergo interrogation and investigation!" Madam President announced with authority.

Elder Lin said with apparent repentance and regret, "Regardless of whether you believe it or not, what I said is the whole truth. We of the Lin family have been upstanding citizens, and there is no scheming of any kind. I admit my mistake for switching the babies at birth so there is nothing I can do about that. I'm willing to accept any and all punishments you're going to give me."

"Such an eloquence performance." Xinghe suddenly scoffed and stared straight at him. "Elder Lin, your crime is so big that there is no need for due process because we all know the result. I have to say, you've come up with a Band-Aid solution quite expediently, but you really think this can save the rest of

your Lin family? Think again because none of you Lins are going to escape unscathed!”

Xinghe then turned to Madam President and said, “Madam, I still have an important witness. I ask that you allow us to bring her in.”

Madam President was first shocked but announced quickly and with anticipation, “Quick, get her in here!”

Xinghe shared a look with Munan and the latter walked out of the room.

Anxiety cropped up in Elder Lin’s heart again. It was the same for the rest of the Lin family. Who is this witness Xia Xinghe is referring to?

Lin Xuan’s fingers twitched involuntarily as he narrowed his gaze at Xinghe. He wanted to kill all of them there, especially this Xia Xinghe, he would torture her first!

However, he realized with a start, he had no weapons on him. That was the protocol when entering the president’s house. Lin Xuan noticed, perhaps this was Xinghe’s plan all along, to have Madam President lure them to the president’s house because they couldn’t do anything there.

Therefore, the only thing they could do was to escape as gracefully as they could, or else it would really be over for all of them!

Elder Lin came to the same conclusion, which was why he was so ready to shoulder all the blame. As long as the rest of the Lin family could leave the president’s house safely then they still had a chance.

They might even have a chance at revenge to pay back everyone there!

Therefore, no matter what crimes they pulled out that day, Elder Lin was going to shoulder them all. No one was able to harm the rest of the Lin family while he was still there!

The Lin family thought the same. As long as Elder Lin was there, they would eventually escape unscathed.

However, when they saw the woman Munan brought in, the Lin family's faces dropped immediately.

Chapter 659: Elder Lin's Granddaughter

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Especially Lin Xuan, his face showed obvious shock!

This extremely calculative man had never exposed his inner emotion before, but now, he could no longer hide the surprise and consternation within him because the woman Munan brought in was someone who couldn't possibly be there! Why is she here? How did the Xi family find her?

Lin Xuan was mortified and clueless. Elder Lin shared a look with him and plain disbelief was communicated between them.

The rest of the people were confused about this young girl's identity. Only the Lin family seemed to know who she was...

The girl stepped forward and glared fiendishly at Elder Lin and Lin Xuan. Noticing their pale faces, she laughed satisfactorily and said, "Grandfather, cousin, surprised to see me? Didn't think I'm still alive and kicking, right?"

Grandfather? Cousin? Everyone else widened their eyes in shock. This was Elder Lin's granddaughter? In other words, Lin Shuang's daughter?

But they had never heard of the news that Lin Shuang was married and had a daughter.

Elder Shen and Old Madam Shen studied the girl closely, attempting to gleam some information from her. It was the same for Madam President. All of them wanted to know if she was really Elder Lin's granddaughter!

Elder Lin pointed at her with a shaking finger. "How can you be here? Impossible, you shouldn't be here!"

"What is happening?" Lin Xuan asked no one in particular.

The girl glared at them and smirked. "That's right, I shouldn't be here because you people sent me to a faraway country for your cruel experiments. The experiment lasted for five long years! You almost killed me because I was put under so many drugs that I was like a living zombie, so yes, I shouldn't be here because I should be dead! However, the Gods have eyes,

I've recovered! And now, it's my time for revenge because I'm going to expose everything that you've done!"

Elder Lin and Lin Xuan were beyond mortified, they saw despair there and then. It was truly over for the Lin family...

"What experiments? What did they do to you?" Madam President anxiously.

Being reminded of her past, the girl suddenly had tears in her eyes. She hissed through gritted teeth, "Human experimentation, they used me in human experimentation!"

Everyone there was shocked, even those who really didn't know from the Lin family. Human experimentation... How was that possible?

The word alone made the hairs on several people rise. The Lin family really did such a thing on another human being...

How could they do that to Elder Lin's granddaughter?

No, wait, Tong Yan was Elder Lin's real granddaughter. So, this girl was actually Elder Shen's real granddaughter?

This possibility changed the faces of everyone there. Their hatred towards the Lin family reach a new feverish height. How could they do something like this to someone else's stolen granddaughter?

Elder Shen asked the girl with his body visibly shaking, "You're my real granddaughter, aren't you? Why did they choose you for their experiments? Child, you have to tell me everything today because I will help you find your justice. The whole Lin family is coming down, believe me, I will make them pay dearly for what they did to you!"

Chapter 660: IV Syndicate's Leader

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

This was news to the girl as well. She asked blankly, “Your granddaughter? You mean I’m not the Lin family’s...”

“You are most definitely not!” Elder Shen said excitedly. “The despicable Lin family switched my daughter away when she was born, so your mother is probably my biological daughter! We only just found out about this truth, child, I’m your real grandfather!”

“What...” was all the girl could say. She glared at Elder Lin and hatred filled tears flowed freely down her cheeks. “No wonder you people had the heart to treat me like this! I was wondering how you can do such a thing to your own bloodline, so my mother is not even your daughter, how despicable, how cruel!”

Elder Lin no longer cared about this, he only wanted to know how all of this happened. He stared viciously at the girl and demanded, “You still haven’t said why you are here? What is happening? Who found you?”

This was the only thing he cared about because it was related to the Lin family’s survival.

“Naturally, she can be here because we brought her here,” Xinghe opened her lips to say. Elder Lin and Lin Xuan looked at her disbelievingly.

“You?” Elder Lin stuttered, “You, how...”

“How could we bring her from Country Y?” Xinghe finished his thought for him. This shocked Elder Lin and Lin Xuan yet again. Others were confused, what did this have to do with Country Y?

Xinghe scanned everyone there and explained clearly, “Everyone, you probably don’t know this but there are many things the Lin family have been doing behind the scenes. This is probably going to sound unbelievable, but Lin Xuan is actually the leader of IV Syndicate. The Lin family have been

profiteering from sales of illegal military munitions and have been wreaking havoc all over the world!”

“What?!” The room gasped in unison. This was such an absurd revelation. The Lin family was selling military munitions and Lin Xuan was the boss of an international crime syndicate!

Those from the Lin family who didn’t know were shocked as well. They assumed Elder Lin’s main target was only Hwa Xia’s presidency, they had no clue his ambitions went deeper and wider than that. However, if this was true, the Lin family was truly over!

“That’s right! Lin Xuan is definitely related to IV Syndicate because it was he who locked me up in IV Syndicate’s main base to be experimented on. If not because the base was destroyed, I would have been kept there like a guinea pig for who knows how long. All those crimes that Miss Xia said, I can be the witness! I was there all along, I’ve heard everything!” the girl claimed excitedly. She couldn’t wait to bring the whole Lin family down, to give them the punishment they deserved.

“Preposterous, our Lin family did no such thing. This girl is spouting nonsense because she thinks our Lin family doesn’t treat her well enough!” Elder Lin retorted weakly. It was obvious his footing was shaken because the reason was so laughable.

“I’m not lying, Miss Xia and Mr. Xi can be my witnesses,” the girl claimed angrily.

Elder Lin smirked. “You people belong in the same group, so who knows if you people have collaborated to frame our Lin family?!”

“Then had Country Y’s president also collaborated with us?” Mubai commented with derision.

Elder Lin was stunned. Why did he bring up Country Y’s president?

However, Lin Xuan already had everything figured out.

Chapter 661: Revenge was Finally Theirs

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He stared directly at Xinghe and asked in a hair-raising voice, “You’ve been to Country Y, right?”

“Not only that...” Xinghe stared him down and spat out, “We cooperated with Country Y’s president to ruin your base!”

Lin Xuan was physically stunned. It was them who ruined IV Syndicate? How is that possible?

“If not for that, how could we have saved Miss Xie? Thankfully, we did or else your crimes wouldn’t have surfaced today.”

Lin Xuan was still in disbelief, he couldn’t believe it was her who destroyed IV Syndicate and he had absolutely no clue of that happening...

Not only him, everyone was also shocked that Xinghe was capable of destroying IV Syndicate. However, now that they thought about it, wasn’t Xinghe the one who brought the evidence to expose Feng Saohuang’s crimes at the court?

So, it wasn’t just a coincidence that the evidence turned up then. The period Xinghe had disappeared from Hwa Xia, she spent gathering evidence in Country Y and had destroyed IV Syndicate in the process...

None of them there could have done something as amazing as this, but she did. At that moment, the way they looked at her changed. No one dared to underestimate her and treat her like a simple woman anymore...

“Impossible!” Lin Xuan narrowed his eyes dangerously. “That was definitely not your doing! How could you possibly destroy my organization?”

“I’m not here to convince you of that fact,” Xinghe replied.

Mubai added, “That’s right, we’re here only to expose all of your sins.”

Whether Xinghe did those things or not was no longer important, the point was it was the end for the Lin family!

“Lin Xuan, I have to inform you that you’re an international fugitive. Hwa Xia will not harbor you, neither will Country Y or the rest of the world. It is over for you and the rest of the Lin family!” Xinghe announced severely, releasing the hatred that had grown in her heart for so long.

Vengeance was finally theirs!

Just as Lin Xuan tried to struggle for one last time, Munan ordered, “Men, detain him!”

Instantly, a group of soldiers rushed in through the door.

“Take down every Lin there is!” Madam President added. About twenty pistols were pointed at the Lin family. “Don’t move!”

They were surrounded immediately, and none of them dared to move a muscle. The Lin family’s faces changed into masks of despair. Initially, they had come with the hope that the presidency was finally going to be theirs, so this was an unexpected development. Who could have known things would change so drastically overnight?

The Lin family was ruined. All of them were captured, there was no more hope for them. Their dreams, plans, hopes, and effort all went up in smoke!

Only despair and destruction waited them...

The Lin family was thus escorted away. Even Elder Lin and Lin Xuan were ushered out like the criminals they were. No matter how powerful they were, at this moment, they were the lowest of prisoners.

In this world, there was no eternal winner.

Chapter 662: Their Turn

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

No one would escape karma. Even a family as powerful as the Lin family could be toppled overnight. Witnessing this ending of the Lin family, the rest weren't relaxed but more alert and reflective.

They had learnt to watch their steps or else they would end up like the Lin family!

With the Lin family taken care of, the Xi family's danger was finally over.

Madam President was appreciative of their help. "If not for your contribution, the Lin family's crimes wouldn't have been exposed so soon. If their plan had been allowed to go ahead, this country would have been in jeopardy with them at the helm."

Indeed, if the Lin family won the presidency, Hwa Xia would probably be a country of hell. Since the Lin family would allow Lin Xuan to manage IV Syndicate, this meant that they had no moral guidelines when it involved profits.

Elder Xi sighed. "Actually, we didn't expect Lin Xuan to be IV Syndicate's boss. No one really expected him to be so directly related to IV Syndicate."

"There must be a lot more that was not revealed today. I will have my people pry it out of them," Madam President said with determination.

Elder Xi nodded. "Then, we will leave the rest to Madam President since our mission has been accomplished. If you need the Xi family's help in the future, please do not hesitate to ask."

"Thank you."

"Then, we shall take our leave," Elder Xi said tactfully. He understood it was time for them to deal with family business. Shen Ru and Tong Yan understood it was finally their turn...

The series of happenstance shocked them both. Up until now they felt like they were still dreaming. If anything, they hoped that it was a dream, but that was impossible.

The Xi family shuffled out of the room leaving only the Shen family, Tong family, and the girl Xinghe brought along, Xie Xiaoxi, in the room.

Elder Shen looked at Shen Ru and Tong Yan with pained expression. He announced solemnly, “There’s no need to say anything now and I will not do anything harmful to both of you! To ensure the validity of the situation, we will repeat this DNA test! We will discuss how to move forward after the truth reveals itself.”

A feeling of thankfulness rose up within Tong Yan. Perhaps Lu Qi’s DNA test was fake, and her mother was really the Shen family’s daughter. If that was the case, she would still be the Shen family’s granddaughter and the Madam President’s niece!

Her identity wouldn’t change, and she was still the most powerful heiress in Hwa Xia. Tong Yan started to smile again; her heart was brimming with excitement and anticipation.

However, when she saw how Elder Shen spoke to Xie Xiaoxi, she felt depressed and heartbroken.

“Child, you will follow us home and we will go fetch your mother. Now that the Lin family’s dark secrets have been exposed, the days of suffering for you and your mother are over,” Elder Shen looked at Xiaoxi and said with heartfelt emotion.

Even though it still wasn’t confirmed they were his kin, but after hearing their life story, Elder Shen couldn’t help but want to be kind towards them. Of course, if Lin Shuang was really his daughter, he would do everything he could within his power to apologize for all the misery that his carelessness had put them through.

Xiaoxi’s eyes turned red from feeling such warmth for the first time in her life. She nodded and said chokingly, “Thank you, I also sincerely hope that we are really family!”

Chapter 663: Still Many Secrets

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Shen also hoped that they were really family. Of course, he hoped Shen Ru and Tong Yan were his flesh and blood as well, but the wish was wishful thinking. One of them had to be real and the other fake...

But for now, the answer was still unclear.

Shen Ru and Tong Yan hoped desperately they were still the Shen family's people because they understood clearly, without the Shen family, they were nothing. Even if Tong Yan was still from the Tong family, her position would not be as powerful as before. Furthermore, the Lin family had become the nation's traitors...

The thought of being roped into such a life made Tong Yan shiver all over.

Now she realized how lucky she was.

She didn't appreciate the treasures she was born with. If she had made something out of herself, and didn't go around making enemies, she wouldn't have to rely so completely on the families behind her. Even if she didn't have the Shen name, she wouldn't have ended up with nothing.

Alas, it was too late for regret. Certain things, after they had been lost, would not be recovered so easily again.

However, the question remained: Had she learnt her lesson?

...

After Xinghe and the Xi family left the president's house, they sped away in their car.

In the elongated Lincoln, Elder Xi said happily, "It's finally over for the Lin family! Finally, I can rest easy tonight!"

Munan added with a laugh, "Grandfather, not only tonight, you can sleep without worry from today onward."

Elder Xi laughed happily. The Xi family was overjoyed after having resolved this difficult enemy, the Lin family. They

couldn't wait to celebrate this victory.

Jiangnian harrumphed. "It is because of the Lin family's own actions that they have such an ending. However, it is really surprising that they did so many heartless and despicable things."

Trading babies with the Shen family, killing Lin Yun, and even experimenting on an innocent girl.

They deserved much greater punishment than what they would get because the things they did were so atrocious!

Jiangnian suddenly posed a question, "But why would they experiment on that girl? What is the purpose of their experiment?"

Naturally, the question was directed at Xinghe and Mubai.

Mubai averted his eyes surreptitiously and answered, "We have no clear idea as well, but all of that is now in the past."

"He's right, these are all things of the past and don't concern us anymore, so there's no need to worry about them..." Elder Xi sighed deeply.

However, Xinghe and Mubai didn't really think so. This thing hadn't really reached the conclusion yet and they were still knee-deep in it. The girl's identity and her relation to the energy crystal was still a mystery. The Lin family probably still had many secrets that they had no clue about.

Therefore, they had to be vigilant in order to find out more!

However, the most pressing matter was to clarify the real identity of Lin Shuang and Xiaoxi. That was the most important thing on the Shen family and the president's mind.

Actually, in spite of what they said, Xinghe and the Xi family were also curious about the result.

Chapter 664: Not Elder Shen's Daughter

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

All of them assumed that Lin Shuang must be Elder Shen's daughter. Since Shen Ru was a Lin, it was only natural that Lin Shuang was a Shen.

However, to everyone's surprise, neither Shen Ru nor Lin Shuang were related by blood to the Shen family!

The Xi family found out about this the next day. The Shen family purposely invited them over to discuss this. Even Xinghe was surprised by this revelation. "It's not her?"

Elder Shen seemed to have grown old overnight. "It isn't, the DNA tests have been done twice; it really isn't her."

Elder Xi was shocked. "If neither one of them is your daughter, then where is she?"

"The police are interrogating Lin Zhenghwa as we speak. He demands that we allow them freedom in exchange for the girl's location!" Elder Shen spat with derision mentioning that family of weasels. "He sure knows how to dream! I would rather die than submit to his demands after what he did to my family!"

"However, if we don't give in to them, they will never give up our poor daughter's location," Old Madam Shen said with tears in her eyes.

Since yesterday, she and Elder Shen had not been feeling well. Their anxiety was slightly assuaged when they thought that Lin Shuang was their daughter, but in the end, she wasn't!

Worried about the possible fate of their estranged daughter, they were distressed. It was like a knife was hovering over their hearts.

Elder Xi was enraged. "Damn this Lin Zhenghwa, where is his heart? The fact that he swapped the children aside, he again traded the girl for another orphan and treated the adopted Lin Shuang like a dog. All of the Lin family deserve to die, none of them have a heart!"

The Lin family's cruelty really knew no bounds. Since they refused to raise their enemy's daughter, as the Shen family had done with Shen Ru, they tossed the Shen family's baby girl out for another. How could they manage something like that?

"I also wish death on all of them!" Elder Shen hissed, "And I treated them like family friends for so many years, but they have been eating me alive all this while! I was truly blind to not see their true faces. If not for your discoveries, I probably wouldn't have known how badly I've failed at life! I would die not knowing my real daughter is still out there suffering and I was raising that coyote's daughter as my own; I even planned to leave everything I have to her after I die..."

Elder Shen was angry enough to want to cough blood. He would haunt the Lin family even after his death.

His resentment was targeted at Shen Ru and Tong Yan as well. He had lavished so much of his love on them for so many decades, but he didn't think it was appropriate for him to treat them as kin anymore. The contrast was simply too hurtful for him to bear. He had given them everything he had, but in return, his own daughter was sold like a commodity by the Lin family...

Elder Shen felt his heart pained thinking about the years he had wasted on the people who came from the family that had done everything they could to sabotage the Shen family.

Elder Xi consoled him, "Elder Shen and Madam Shen, please don't give up hope. You have to take care of yourself to locate the real Shen family's second daughter. Don't worry, our Xi family will help in the search as well. If she is still alive, we will definitely find her."

Elder Shen nodded.

Chapter 665: Need Your Cooperation

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“You’re right, we have to be alive to see her return. But, where in the world could she be?”

Xinghe said suddenly, “Continue interrogating them, there are so many people in the Lin family, someone must know something!”

Elder Shen looked at her and nodded. “The girl’s right, we mustn’t give up and the Lin family will never use this as leverage. We will find our daughter on our own and we will demand for their lives as well!”

Xinghe nodded internally. She agreed with Elder Shen. They would never be cornered into a negotiation with the Lin family!

To let them go so easily? Impossible!

They continued the conversation a little while longer and Xinghe requested to meet with Xie Xiaoxi. Elder Shen was a good person. Even though it had been proven that Lin Shuang and her daughter weren’t his kin, he was more than willing to open his arms to welcome them. He even took Lin Shuang in as his adopted daughter.

Now, the mother and daughter resided in the Shen family. They needed a lot of time to recuperate.

This was especially true for Xie Xiaoxi. Her body was damaged beyond repair, even Lu Qi said she probably wouldn’t live over 40. Elder Shen empathized with their suffering and decided to raise them as his own with Old Madam Shen. They did this hopefully to cultivate some good karma for their estranged daughter as well.

Xinghe initially thought Elder Shen was unreasonably protective of his kin but now she realized he did all that because he cared about them. She saw this quality mirrored in herself, therefore, her impression of them had improved a lot, especially when in contrast to the Lin family who truly were the scum of the world!

Since Xinghe was also looking for her mother, she knew the pain of missing one's family. She wouldn't wish that fate on anyone, therefore, she decided to help the Shen family locate their second daughter. Hopefully, they could be a complete family soon.

...

When Xiaoxi heard Xinghe wanted to meet her, she agreed happily. They retreated to the Shen family's back garden.

Sitting in the shade of the veranda, Xiaoxi thanked her profusely. "Miss Xia, really, if not for you, I would probably still be stuck in that godforsaken lab and died an unknown death. And my mother, we wouldn't have meet up with each other without you. She would have left the world without me at her side. You are our life saviors."

Xiaoxi couldn't help but have tears in her eyes. "Miss Xia, you are really our life saviors, so if you have anything you need of me, even if it is my life, I will give it to you!"

This were words from her heart and she meant every single one of them.

Xinghe listened to her quietly and replied softly, "I do not need you to repay us with your life, if there's anything that I demand from you is that you live your life to the fullest. That is how you can repay me."

Xiaoxi looked at her blankly and tears flowed freely from her eyes. "Don't worry, I promise you, we will definitely do that! No matter what happens in the future, we will only face our lives with smiles and make the best out of it!" she promised.

Xinghe nodded with a smile, then she changed the subject. "However, I do need your cooperation with some things."

Chapter 666: I'm Not Normal

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Tell me!” Xiaoxi nodded hurriedly. “No matter what it is, I will give my full cooperation.”

“Why did Lin Xuan experiment on you? What kind of secrets does your body harbor?” Xinghe asked directly. Xiaoxi was startled; she hadn't expected this question.

Although people had asked her this yesterday, she didn't think Xinghe would be interested. She didn't provide any answer to other people, but this was Xinghe...

“Why, is it something you can't say?” Xinghe pressed when she saw the difficulty apparent in the girl's face.

Xiaoxi shook her head. “No, it's because I don't know how to put this. I'm afraid you won't believe me because it sounds too unbelievable.”

“Try me,” Xinghe replied firmly.

Xiaoxi felt the confidence Xinghe put in her. She had been carrying these secrets for so many years, she had been hoping to find someone to share them with and Xinghe looked to be the best candidate. Xiaoxi made an immediate decision.

She looked around to make sure they were deserted and began slowly, “Miss Xia, there are indeed many secrets with my body because I am not someone normal!”

She thought Xinghe would be shocked by this revelation, but Xinghe wasn't; in fact, she seemed to have expected it.

“Please continue,” Xinghe encouraged. Xiaoxi was emboldened and the pressure on her decreased.

“I said I'm not normal because of my father. He... he is a very good biologist who is very good at genetic modification, and my body has been genetically improved by him...”

Xiaoxi snuck a look at Xinghe, but to her surprise, she was still as unaffected as before. It was as if she was listening to some normal conversation.

“Genetic modification is not something new,” Xinghe explained.

Xiaoxi nodded. “I understand, but my father was different; he mastered the technology so many years ago and what he did was to engineer my lifespan, making it longer. Furthermore, he said that he was not of this world, even though I still have no idea what he meant by that. However, he did disappear from the world soon after. Several years after his disappearance, my mother and I were discovered by the Lin family. I was still young at the time, so I blurted out my father’s secrets and you know what happened next, they captured me to be experimented on... To see whether my father’s handiwork could be replicated and used on themselves! Alas, after so many years, they have not reached a breakthrough.”

Not only that, her body was damaged in the process. If not for her father’s work on her genes, she would have died from the torture so long ago. Hatred returned to Xiaoxi’s eyes thinking about the years of experiments the Lin family had cruelly put her through.

Xinghe stared at her and asked suddenly, “Your father disappeared about twelve or thirteen years ago, right?”

Xiaoxi widened her eyes in shock. “How... how did you know?”

“He also left you with a black rectangular metallic object, yes?” Xinghe asked again.

Xiaoxi looked at her with something akin to fear. “How did you know about that? Did the Lin family tell you that? Only me, my mother, and the Lin family know about this...”

Chapter 667: Not That Different

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Let’s just say we are not that different,” Xinghe answered slowly. Xiaoxi’s jaw was dropped to the floor. What is she talking about? How are we not that different?

“Your... your father...”

“It’s my mother,” Xinghe answered softly. “She disappeared about 13 years ago, and just like your father, she said she was not of this world.”

Xiaoxi was shocked beyond words. She didn’t expect Xinghe to have gone through the same experience as she had. She thought she was the only one with such an experience in the world.

“I had no idea you are like this too...” Xiaoxi wheezed out in disbelief.

Xinghe nodded. “Initially, I thought I was the only one too, but I’ve met many ever since, including myself, you are the sixth.”

“Sixth?” Xiaoxi gasped. “There are at least six of us?”

“That’s right. I wish to find our parents, and to do that, we need to figure out their secret. Tell me everything else that you know.”

That was what Xiaoxi wanted as well, to locate her father. With Xinghe’s help, her wish probably would come through. Her instincts told her that Xinghe was someone she could rely on. She managed to destroy the IV Syndicate and topple the Lin family, what couldn’t she do?

Furthermore, since Xinghe was someone like her, her reservations all went out the window.

“Miss Xia, actually there’s not much that I know, I only know that my father is someone special. He left the mysterious, black metal, telling me it will help me escape death in the future. He said that with it, I’ll be able to escape a giant catastrophe that will happen sometime in the future. I have no clue about the rest, perhaps my mother will know more. I’ll

ask her for you, and when I get more information, I will return to you.”

“Thank you.” Xinghe nodded. “No matter how small the details, remember to pass them over to me because I fear the threat of an earth-shattering natural disaster might not be fake.”

Xiaoxi nodded with a severe expression and promised, “I will ask her as soon as possible! If you still need my help, do come and get me.”

The world’s safety wasn’t her responsibility, but she would wish to contribute even just a little to maintaining its safety. She wouldn’t want anything bad to happen to Elder Shen and Old Madam Shen who gave her a new chance at life...

...

Xinghe and the Xi family didn’t stay at the Shen family’s residence for long. However, they did gain plenty of new information from this trip.

As fate would have it, they stumbled across Shen Ru and Tong Yan who were arriving when they were going to leave.

The sudden encounter startled both parties. The moment Shen Ru saw them, she pulled Tong Yan along as she dashed through the entrance.

The butler, who personally escorted the Xi family out, saw their movement and hurried to block them. “You two cannot go in. Elder Shen has said he doesn’t wish to be disturbed by anyone so please return.”

Tong Yan pointed at Xinghe and demanded, “But these people just got out from within; why are they allowed to disturb Grandpa then?”

The butler frowned at her lack of decorum and sighed. “Elder Shen is tired from meeting with them, so he doesn’t wish to see any more guests. Please return...”

“How can he refuse to see us? This is not even our fault and yet we’re here to apologize. No matter what, Grandpa raised us, he will not ignore us like this! Get out of my way, we have

to see him today. I will not believe that he is capable of ignoring us like this!”

Chapter 668: No Hurry to Get Married

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Miss Tong, Elder Shen really doesn’t want to be disturbed, please leave!”

“I am his granddaughter, so how can you say we’re going to disturb him? You didn’t even go and ask him, so how did you know he doesn’t want to meet us? Furthermore, Lin Shuang and that girl are in there, so I have more right than them to step into the house. You must be doing this on purpose. I’m telling you, I’m still the Tong family’s eldest heiress, so you are not someone who can refuse my demands!” It looked like Tong Yan hadn’t changed a bit.

The Xi family was not interested in their skit, so they got into the car and left.

Elder Xi harrumphed with derision. “That girl still hasn’t learned her lesson, even at a time like this, she still hasn’t seen the error of her ways!”

Mubai added coldly, “If not for the Tong family, I would definitely make sure she is squatting in prison alongside the Lin family!”

Even though Tong Yan was no longer affiliated to the Shen family, she was still related to the Tong family. Giving the Tong family face this time would benefit them in the long run.

Of course, this was all Xinghe’s suggestion. She had no interest in pursuing justice for Tong Yan’s actions. Her future would be a lot more difficult after losing her two largest backers, the Shen family and Madam President. That was punishment enough. Furthermore, the reality of life would be Tong Yan’s biggest lesson.

Making someone like her spend the rest of her life in mediocrity was not bad revenge as well.

Xinghe would never kick someone when they were down because they no longer deserved her attention!

She had her own future to worry about. After her vengeance, those people would disappear from her mind, leaving behind

no trace. For example, Tong Yan and the Lin family were, for her, already things of the past. She was always looking forward.

Her next goal was to figure out Project Galaxy. She wanted to know what this catastrophe that everyone seemed to speak of was. For some reason, her instincts told her that this was something important and she had to get to the bottom of it. There would be an unmitigated disaster if she didn't!

Thinking about all of this, Xinghe stole a look at Mubai.

This man who was ever sensitive to the movement in her emotions asked gently, "What's up?"

Before Xinghe could answer, Elder Xi who sat in front chimed in happily, "We will start arranging for your wedding when we get home! This time, we must celebrate it nicely. This will be a good chance for both of you to take a rest as well. Why not take a break for one or two years, this can be your honeymoon?"

However, Xinghe rejected it.

"Actually, I still don't feel like entering marriage," she said softly.

Elder Xi was confused. "Why not?"

From his point of view, she had mended bridges with Mubai and had been through so many after that. It seemed logical and appropriate for them to tie the knot. Furthermore, she didn't say anything when he brought up the idea of marriage earlier. So why did she change her mind then?

"This is actually my idea!" Mubai explained before Xinghe could answer. "Grandfather, neither of us are in the rush to get married, we can talk about this later when we're both more comfortable with the idea."

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

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Also for this week, we are polling for your favourite character in the story, if we get more than 100 responses, a bonus chapter will be released next week. Vote for your fav now:
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Chapter 669: Ask Him to Marry

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Xi knew when to step back, so he nodded. “Alright, this should be your decision anyway. Grandfather believes in both of you.”

“Thank you.” Mubai replied with a smile, appreciative of his grandfather’s understanding. Xinghe looked at Mubai, her eyes seemed to speak of her appreciation as well. She appreciated his understanding of her refusal, without demanding a reason from her.

Mubai grabbed her hand and leaned in and whispered in her ear, “I’m not that generous, you’ll have to explain everything to me when we get home later, okay?”

Without a valid explanation, he would not relent so easily. Staring at Xinghe, Mubai purposely gave a wicked and dangerous grin.

Xinghe merely nodded in return with a smile. She felt like she did owe him an explanation.

...

When they reached the Hills Residence, Mubai pulled Xinghe to the bedroom.

“Tell me, why don’t you want to get married? What did you discuss with Miss Xie today?” Mubai stared at her and asked directly. He was not dumb, he knew this probably had something to do with Xie Xiaoxi. Xinghe must have found out something from her. Xinghe nodded and explained everything to him.

Mubai’s face was drawn. “You really believe this doomsday talk?”

“Initially, I didn’t much of it, but now, I don’t think I can brush it off so easily. Ye Shen mentioned it and now Xie Xiaoxi has mentioned it, therefore, this deserves a more in-depth looking into.”

“I agree, since it seems to be related to the energy crystal which does require a lot more research,” Mubai concurred.

Xinghe continued, “Therefore, I need to get to the bottom of this as soon as possible, or else I’m afraid something seriously bad might happen. It’ll be too late to do anything against it then. Furthermore, I also wish to locate my mother.”

“Okay, I will help you do all that!” Mubai promised without a shred of hesitation, even though he himself hadn’t completely bought into the sci-fi talk. However, if this was something she wanted to do, he would support her fully.

Xinghe was thankful of his trust and support. She hugged him and said, “When this is over, we will get married.”

Mubai shivered all over. This was the first time Xinghe actively brought up the idea of marriage.

He grabbed her shoulders, pushed her back slightly and gazed into her eyes. “You’re not kidding, are you?”

Xinghe nodded. “Of course, I’m not kidding.”

“Since you’ve promised that, you can only marry me as long as you may live, no backsies!” Mubai demanded both childishly and proprietarily.

Xinghe couldn’t help but laugh a little. “I will not, as long as you won’t regret this decision.”

Mubai’s face split into a broad smile. “Why would I regret the greatest decision I’ve ever made in my life?”

Then, he pulled her back into the hug and kissed her deeply. Earlier, his heart was crowded with fear and anxiety, but now, that had all dissipated.

He believed Xinghe to be a woman of her word. Since she had promised to marry him, then she wouldn’t take it back.

Finally, he felt a heavy stone being lifted from his heart because she was finally his, he could feel his heart settle into a pool of happiness.

The more he thought about it, the more excited he got and the deeper he kissed. He wished to kiss every inch of her body, but

right at that moment, Xinghe's phone rang!

Chapter 670: He Lan Family (End of Lin Family Arc)

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai resisted the urge to snatch her phone and snap it in two. Who dared to ruin such a precious moment with a phone call?

He pretended the phone wasn't ringing but Xinghe shoved him away. There was resentment and unwillingness swirling in his eyes when their lips parted.

"Who is it?" he asked nonchalantly, even though his eyes were glowering darkly.

"It's Xie Xiaoxi," Xinghe replied as she answered the phone.

"Hello, is this Xinghe? It's me, Xiaoxi. I've asked my mom about my father," Xiaoxi said cautiously on the other end of the phone.

Xinghe treated it with equal seriousness. "What did you find out?"

Xiaoxi trusted her completely so she revealed everything. "My mother said that my father once mentioned this family by the name of He Lan. It sounded like they were right in the middle of this Project Galaxy. However, my father had tried many years to locate this He Lan family, but it was to no avail. Other than that, he told my mom, Project Galaxy is bigger than we can possibly imagine because it relates to the survivability of the entire planet. However, he was afraid that telling my mother too much would put her in harm's way, so that was all he said, and that was all I could get from my mother."

"He Lan..." Xinghe repeated the unfamiliar name and after a short pause, continued, "Thank you, your information has been incredibly helpful, leave the rest to me. I will keep you updated if we manage to get any information on your father."

"Okay! If you still need our help, please do say," Xiaoxi replied.

"I will." Xinghe hung up her phone and looked at Mubai seriously.

"What did she say?" Mubai asked in a low voice.

Xinghe explained, “Xiaoxi’s father said, this Project Galaxy is related to a family by the name of He Lan and the project is very important as it relates to the fate of the entire planet. That’s all she got. By the way, have you heard of this He Lan family?”

Mubai shook his head. “No, it’s my first time hearing about them.”

“Xiaoxi’s father was looking for this family as well, and he turned up no results. Looks like this is one elusive family. Locating them will probably lead us one step closer to the truth!” Xinghe concluded with confidence.

Mubai nodded. “Leave this to me then, I’ll try my best to look for this family. Don’t worry, they will be located before you know it.”

Xinghe nodded and she decided to take part in the search herself. With the goal in mind, Xinghe started scouring the internet. There were many that had the surname He Lan, but none were the one she was looking for.

Since the He Lan family she needed was related to Project Galaxy, they had to be of a certain stature, but the ones Xinghe found were all normal citizens. However, to be safe, she still went through them all. Mubai was also helping her to the best of his ability.

This search was conducted in secret by the both of them. They still didn’t think it was safe to reveal such a big secret. The time was not yet ripe. Who knew what would happen if the news was leaked?

The two spent days unearthing many He Lans, but there were none that fit their criteria. Xinghe suspected this family was highly secretive and outsiders wouldn’t be able to find anything on them.

In other words, unless there was a fresh opening, they weren’t going to come up with any results.

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

The Search Arc: 670-757; Arc breakdown: He Lan Family:
670-683; Old Friend and Family: 684-700; Tong Yan's Swan
Song: 701-731; Friend or Enemy: 732-757

Chapter 671: News About the Second Daughter

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Otherwise, Xiaoxi's father would have found them all those years ago. Therefore, such a blind search was not serviceable, they had to come up with another idea.

Just as Xinghe and Mubai were stuck on their search, the police got the Lin family to talk. Elder Shen was still eager to find his daughter, so he told the Lin family that he would release the person who provided the police with the information about Miss Shen. Of course, the offer wasn't extended to important criminals like Lin Zhenghwa, Lin Kang and Lin Xuan.

There were many who wished to take up the offer but not everyone was close to the center of Lin family's power structure and information center. However, there was one exception; he was not only close to the center but also had pretty much nothing to do with the Lin family's criminal activities, Lin Qin!

Elder Lin's third son, the useless child. It was because of his unique position that he was able to know everything without getting involved in anything. He was not part of the crime syndicate because he was of no use to Elder Lin.

Even though Lin Qin was Lin Zhenghwa's son, weirdly enough, the Shen family and Xi family couldn't find it within themselves to hate him. Perhaps it was because he hadn't done anything and showed no ambition. If anything, he was also a victim in the Lin family's grand scheme.

Theoretically, Lin Qin should side with the Lin family, but they betrayed him first by cruelly sacrificing his daughter. Since the Lin family could no longer hold him back, he decided to stop sacrificing himself for the sake of a family that had done nothing for him.

To save his other daughter, he decided to cut all ties with the Lin family and Lin Qin chose to cooperate. However, he didn't know much; he only knew that the Shen family's second daughter was indeed sent away.

To prevent a possible threat in the future, Elder Lin sent the girl to an oversea organization that dealt specifically with orphans. The organization accepted many orphans from Hwa Xia that year and the Lin family sent the girl over as an orphan.

Unfortunately, Lin Qin didn't know the name of the organization. The only person who knew that information was Lin Zhenghwa.

However, the vicious Lin Zhenghwa refused to give up the name, since he was in misery, he refused to let others enjoy happiness. Hence, the trail stopped again.

Other than it being an oversea organization that accepted orphans, they had no other information to go on with. However, the organization did arrive at Hwa Xia 47 years ago, so there should be some records of that.

The president treated this seriously as well. However, he had just recovered from his surgery and was recovering, so he left everything to the care of his vice president. The vice president aided the Shen family to locate that organization to the best of his ability, and after some time, they finally came up with some valuable information.

This information gave Xinghe and Mubai the shock of their life!

47 years ago, when the country's economy was on the rise, indeed many overseas investors came to look for business opportunity. Other than that, there were nationals that returned from overseas as well to aid the country.

One of the families chose to open an orphanage to welcome all the orphans, they planned to bring these orphans overseas, giving them a new life in a better environment.

That year, this orphanage accepted many children, so it was not unlikely that the Shen family's second daughter was one of them. However, this information was not the shocking one; the real shocking news was that the family behind this charity organization was He Lan family!

Chapter 672: Problematic Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

When they saw this, the first conclusion Mubai and Xinghe came to was that this was the He Lan family they were looking for. However, if that was true, what was the relation between Project Galaxy and collecting orphans?

Xinghe and Mubai couldn't come up with a valid explanation. They could only wait for more news to come from the Shen family. However, with the president's help, the investigation on the He Lan family would progress much smoother.

Very soon, they found out more about this He Lan family. The He Lan family was indeed from Hwa Xia, but they later migrated to Country R. It was when they were at Country R that their business really took flight and they became one of the richest families there. After that, the He Lan family started to get involved in charity work and they built the biggest orphanage in Country R.

To repay their country of origin, they purposely chose to select orphans from Hwa Xia. However, contrary to normal rich families, they didn't promote their charitable activities. In fact, over the last twenty to thirty years, news about them had dwindled to a standstill, so much so that the public had forgotten about them. No wonder Xinghe and Mubai couldn't find out anything about them.

Even the Shen family had not heard of this He Lan family. If not for this investigation, they wouldn't have known such a mysterious family existed in the world. However, this was not important to the Shen family, they just wanted to look for their lost child.

Alas, even after gaining contact with the charity organization, there was still no lead on the Shen family's second daughter. Even after the president personally asked Country R's government for help, the information was still seriously lacking.

This was because a great fire engulfed the charity organization thirty years ago. It had burnt all the information, and it almost

caused He Lan family to go bankrupt.

The He Lan family could no longer afford to take care of those children, so some of them were adopted by families, some were sent to other orphanages, and others chose a life of independence. Unfortunately, at that time, the He Lan family was so busy salvaging their own business that they didn't have the time or energy to record the movements of these orphans.

Several decades later, the He Lan family had changed a lot and now, and no one seemed to even remember they had such a charitable past before.

The Shen family couldn't provide more information to make the search for the girl easier, so looking for her was like looking for needle in a haystack. Therefore, the investigation ground to a halt once more!

This brought great sadness and disappointment to the Shen family. Xinghe felt sorry for them as well. She'd also assumed that this would lead them directly to their long-lost daughter, but in the end, it was a futile effort as well.

However, Xinghe was more concerned about the He Lan family and Project Galaxy. For some reason, she felt that this family was more complicated than they appeared to be.

Mubai agreed. "I've done my own investigation. Even though they did contribute to many different charities, their focus has always been on this orphanage. But strangely enough, there would be some eyebrow raising incidents involving the orphanage annually. There had been a constant stream of accidental child deaths, but there were no records. There was a rumor circulating around Country R saying that the He Lan family's orphanage was cursed, but that was only hearsay and those that really believed it were only a handful. Eventually, even the rumors died out. However, there is no smoke without fire, perhaps this He Lan family does deserve a closer look."

Chapter 673: Helpless

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe was surprised. “You found out so much?”

Mubai nodded. “Yes, I happen to have some friends in Country R; it’s easier for them to find out things from the inside compared to us. According to them, the He Lan family has a good reputation in Country R and is a very big family. However, they have always kept a low profile, so they are known only to their fellow countrymen.”

“Therefore, it will be difficult for us to investigate them,” Xinghe concluded.

“Indeed, even Country R’s media doesn’t report much about them since they don’t do much in the public eye. It will be difficult for us to find out more about them.”

“Why don’t I personally go pay them a visit? It will be incredibly difficult to investigate them without close contact,” Xinghe said firmly. “I’ll go on behalf of the Shen family; that reason should be official enough.”

Mubai’s first response was to deny her request. “How can you go alone? I will not let you do that.”

Xinghe looked at him and said, “But I have to. I have to be there to get closer to the mystery of Project Galaxy. Staying here will get us nowhere.”

“But...”

“I will be representing the Shen family, so it’ll be fine. Plus, I promise you I will not take any unnecessary risks,” Xinghe promised. Mubai looked into her eyes that shone with determination and he knew he couldn’t talk her out of it. No one could talk Xinghe out of her goals. She knew what she wanted, and no one was going to stop her from achieving them.

Mubai still worried about her but he had to relent. “Okay, but you have to promise me you will call me immediately should anything dangerous happen.”

“Okay.” Xinghe smiled slightly. Mubai also smiled watching her smile. He was so wrapped around her finger that he was unable to say no to her every demand. He was afraid that one day, she might ask to leave him, and he wouldn’t be able to say no even then...

He knew that was his bottom line, he would agree to anything on the condition that she stayed by his side forever...

After the decision was made, Mubai and Xinghe went to discuss this with Elder Shen. The elder was pleasantly surprised. “You wish to go to Country R personally to aid in our search?”

Xinghe nodded. “But that’s not all, actually I have some personal interest in the He Lan family, and since our goals coincide, I hope Elder Shen will grant me the permission of going to Country R to help search for Elder Shen’s second daughter.”

“Why are you interested in the He Lan family?” Elder Shen queried.

Mubai answered, “Forgive us but we still cannot reveal certain information yet, but it also has to do with a search for someone. We suspect that this He Lan family is responsible for many secretive operations, so we wish to make use of this opportunity to get to the bottom of this.”

Elder Shen nodded and sighed. “To be frank, I was preparing to send someone over to Country R, but I have no good candidates in mind. If it’s the both of you, then, it’ll be perfect! I believe in your ability, and if you’re willing to help me search for my daughter, I will be forever grateful.”

A happy smile descended over Elder Shen’s face like a veil.

Xinghe smiled in return. “Does this mean you’ve agreed to our proposal?”

“Of course!” Elder Shen answered easily.

Chapter 674: Part of the Shen family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Why would I give up on such a good opportunity? I’m already in my twilight years and this is my only hope left, if you can help me fulfil it, of course I will agree to it.”

“Thank you, I will do my best to help you locate your daughter!” Xinghe promised seriously. Touched by her sincerity, an idea cropped up in Elder Shen’s mind.

He studied Xinghe closely and couldn’t help but ask, “Child, who else is there in your family? Are your parents still around?”

Xinghe was mildly startled; she had no idea why Elder Shen would ask this. However, she answered truthfully, “My father has been dead for years and my mother has disappeared for almost as long, until now, I have no clue where she is. However, I do have an uncle and cousin with me.”

Elder Shen was inwardly overjoyed when he heard this. Her current situation allowed him to propose the following.

“Since both of your parents are not around, how about this? I’ll adopt you as my step granddaughter,” Elder Shen suggested with a smile. Xinghe and Mubai were shocked!

“Why?” Xinghe was surprised.

Elder Shen replied smilingly, “Didn’t you say you want to represent our Shen family to go Country R? Then you’ll need a valid identity, if you’re my step granddaughter, then it will be authentic, wouldn’t you agree? Of course, it’s also my personal interest to take you as my granddaughter. You are so capable and have helped us fulfil our revenge, so we’re all deeply appreciative of your help and all of us adore you. You have also saved the president’s life so I’m sure Xiao Yu is more than willing to take you as her stepdaughter.”

Xinghe was startled. “But why would someone as important as Madam President take me as her stepdaughter?”

Elder Shen understood her reservation and shook his head to say. “She would love to have you as her stepdaughter. After

all, Xiao Yu has no children of her own and she will just be a normal civilian after the president retires. It's her gain taking you as her stepdaughter. If you agree, then this thing is done! So please agree, all of us really like you and I'm serious with this proposal."

"..." Xinghe didn't know what to say and she unconsciously turned to look at Mubai.

Mubai smiled happily. "You should agree! This is a good thing; wouldn't you like to have more family to love you?"

Xinghe's gaze shuddered slightly. That's right, isn't that what I'm looking for?

Furthermore, after spending some time with the Shen family, she realized she felt indescribably close to them. Therefore, she wasn't averse to being adopted by them.

"Okay, I agree!" Xinghe nodded and promised seriously.

"Good, good!" Elder Shen laughed happily. "From today onwards, you will be part of the Shen family, you are Shen Houde's granddaughter! If anyone dares to bully you in the future, tell Grandpa and I will help you take care of them!"

Xinghe didn't think he would be so kind to her. She was touched, but beyond that, it was a complicated mess of feelings in her heart. However, she promised that if the Shen family really treated her well and sincerely, she wouldn't mind responding in kind. Having more family wasn't a bad thing after all.

Just like that, Xinghe became Elder Shen's step granddaughter.

Elder Shen immediately informed Madam President of this news and she was overjoyed to take Xinghe as her stepdaughter.

Chapter 675: Replacement

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Shen invited many people for the ceremony. Elder Xi was there as witness so were many of Elder Shen's influential friends. They viewed this ceremony with extreme gravity, after all, Xinghe was going to become Madam President's stepdaughter.

Other than that, she was going to be Madam President's only daughter. Elder Shen didn't have any other granddaughters, other than Xinghe and Xiaoxi. Xinghe was older than Xiaoxi, so overnight, Xinghe became Hwa Xia's number one heiress. This news swept across City A's upper society quickly.

When Shen Ru and Tong Yan heard about this, they were stunned beyond words. What the f*ck happened? How did Xia Xinghe suddenly become a Shen and Madam President's adopted daughter?

It was Xinghe's fault they had landed in such an awkward situation. From their perspective, Xinghe had completely ruined their lives. How could such a vicious and evil person end up as the ultimate victor? Tong Yan refused to accept this reality. She couldn't believe that the Shen family would value Xinghe more than her.

With utmost resentment, Tong Yan demanded an explanation from Elder Shen. She couldn't accept that her beloved grandfather had replaced her. Not only that, her aunt, who treated her as her own daughter, had also found herself another new daughter, and the person who replaced her on both accounts was Xia Xinghe, the single person that she hated the most in the world!

Tong Yan couldn't stomach this no matter how hard she tried. How can they treat me like this? How could they hurt my feelings so badly?

In conclusion, she demanded that they stay away from Xia Xinghe, cancel the ceremony, and return to her the love and respect Xia Xinghe had stolen away from her!

Tong Yan's unreasonable demands only got her Elder Shen's disappointed looks.

"Even at a time like this, why are you still so hung up over your old identity?" Elder Shen asked with a sigh.

Tong Yan was taken aback and grumbled, "But Grandpa, I'm your real granddaughter. I'm your family, not that Xia Xinghe! It's that woman who ruined my life and took everything away from me! All that you're giving her logically belongs me, how can she steal them away from me?"

Elder Shen sighed. "Tong Yan, I should take some responsibility for how you've turned out, so I don't blame you or your mother, but it is time for you to learn some lessons. Only by hard work can you achieve something in life. We've pampered you for so many years, and that should be more than enough. You'll have to rely on yourself from now on, and don't rely on other people anymore, for your own good. If you can take this lesson to heart, you will still be my granddaughter. However, if you're still so stubborn, then there's nothing left to be said between us. Okay then, please go back home now and stop coming in the future. What you need to do now is to cherish the fact that you're still the Tong family's young lady and you should really start to act like one. That is my advice to you."

Then, Elder Shen stood up and left. No matter how big of a scene Tong Yan made, he didn't return.

It was not that he was being cruel but looking at her just reminded him of the misery that the Lin family had put him through, and yet, Tong Yan, in her selfishness couldn't understand what Elder Shen needed from her was actually a little space and time. How could Elder Shen not be disappointed in her?

Earlier the Shen family was willing to ignore her faults because she was precious to them. However, after the truth had come out, her importance to them had taken a major hit because she no longer represented the Shens but the Lins. In Chinese society, bloodlines could decide many things.

Chapter 676: Her New Journey

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Tong Yan had never understood that relationships needed hard work from both parties. One hand couldn't clap, and it was the same for relationship, be it friendship, love, or family ties.

She still assumed she deserve all the love they used to lavish on her simply because she was Tong Yan.

So, the question now became: Will she learn her lesson before it is all too late?

...

Xinghe didn't have time to deal with Tong Yan's outbursts. She was preparing to leave for Country R. It was going to be a brand-new journey for her; she had no idea what would be in store for her in the future.

However, she would give it the best she got. Mubai helped her prepare everything and even personally escorted her to the airport.

He wished to go with her, but he really couldn't extricate himself. He had not returned to Xi Empire ever since his accident. Even though the company was running fine, it was only temporary. The company couldn't go on forever without him.

Furthermore, Xinghe was going to Country R on Shen family's behalf, so it was useless for him to tag along. And most importantly, Xinghe didn't want him to ditch his work because of her...

He had to return to the company now or he was afraid he might follow her into the plane.

"Remember to take care of yourself and watch out for any danger. I will come to meet you when everything's settled over here," Mubai kept telling her.

Xinghe smiled slightly. "Am I that worrisome to you? Plus, I won't be gone for long, I'll be back soon."

“That would be for the best, but if you need anything, please call me. Don’t take on everything on your own.”

“Okay.”

Mubai caressed her hair and demanded gently, “Also, don’t forget to remember me.”

“I will,” Xinghe promised with the hint of a smile, but Mubai couldn’t help but laugh. Then he pulled her in for a deep hug. It wasn’t until right before the departure time that he allowed Xinghe to break away from him.

Xinghe bade him farewell with a heavy heart and climbed into the cabin. The plane soon took off...

Xinghe sat beside the window and saw Mubai, who was still standing at his spot, watching her leave. Their eyes sought each other out and they locked eyes until the other couldn’t be seen anymore.

Sam’s voice piped up beside her. “Is this really necessary? This is only a week.”

Ali also chided, “Plus, it’s only a two-hour plane trip away, we’re not going somewhere far.”

“If Mr. Xi really wants to, he could fly back and forth between the two countries every day,” Cairn suggested softly, even though his tone was also laced with jealousy and levity; he was also getting tired of the lovey-dovey displays.

Wolf opened his mouth and said, “It’s easy for us to say because we do not understand their feelings.”

“Hey, whose side are you on?” Sam glared at him.

Ali also grumbled, “You’ve ruined the team formation.”

“Traitor,” Cairn berated him with a straight face.

Wolf retorted, “I’m just telling the truth. We, who are singles, definitely don’t understand what they’re feeling!”

“How about I let you feel death?”

“I second it!”

“Get him!”

The trio piled on him, and a tussle broke out. Xinghe couldn't help but smile as she watched their antics.

At the same time, Mubai finally pulled his gaze away from the gaze. He went into his car and sped away. He wouldn't mind these temporarily partings too much, because like Xinghe, he was also a goal-orientated person.

Chapter 677: My Name Is Xia Xinghe

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

His goal in life was to be strong enough to hold up the sky for those that he cared about, especially for Xinghe.

If she was an eagle born for the open skies, then he wouldn't be the chain that bound her, but he would patrol the skies to allow her to fly uninhibited!

...

Country R was Hwa Xia's neighbor. They had the same origin and were even culturally similar. Therefore, even though they were in Country R, it felt as if they hadn't left Hwa Xia. The only thing that tipped them off was the difference in spoken and written language.

However, this was not an issue for Xinghe because to her pleasant surprise, Ali and the rest were fluent in multiple languages.

Smiling, Ali explained, "I guess you can say this is our pride. There's not much you can learn at Country Y, but weapons knowledge and languages are like free lessons if you pay close enough attention."

Since Country Y was a war-torn country, they had a complicated population which allowed them to interact with people from multiple nationalities. This made things a lot easier for them.

However, she still didn't have an exact plan laid out. Her rough goals were to locate the Shen family's second daughter and to investigate the relationship between the He Lan family and Project Galaxy. She would decide what to do as the events unfolded.

The plane soon reached Country R. The He Lan family was informed of their arrival by the Shen family, so they had people waiting for them at the airport.

However, Xinghe didn't expect that the person they sent would be so important.

“I am the He Lan family’s first young master, He Lan Qi. I represent the entire He Lan family in welcoming everyone to Country R.” The tall and handsome man introduced himself politely to Xinghe’s group.

They were surprised that the He Lan family would send their future head of the house to come fetch them. He was almost their age, probably several years older. His appearance at the airport highlighted the importance the He Lan family accorded them.

There was less of an awkwardness since they were of similar age. Xinghe also introduced herself politely, “Mr. He Lan, nice to meet you, I am Elder Shen’s step granddaughter. I’m here on his behalf to look for his long lost daughter. We will be relying on your help a lot, so thank you in advanced.”

He Lan Qi smiled kindly. “So, you are Miss Xia. Please call me by name in the future, Mr. He Lan sounds so awkward and it makes me uncomfortable. But how shall I refer to Miss Xia, may I know Miss Xia’s full name?”

Before Xinghe arrived, she told Elder Shen to give them her surname and not her full name. She was waiting for this moment.

Xinghe’s eyes met his and she said the following slowly, “Xinghe, my name is Xia Xinghe.”

Xinghe saw a streak of shock and surprise flash across He Lan Qi’s eyes!

However, he recovered quickly, in fact, he played along the surprise and gasped, “You have such a unique name. I haven’t heard of anything like it before. However, the name suits you, especially since I can see the glittering galaxy in your eyes.”

He Lan Qi was born with the gift of the gab. Combined with his handsome features and unique background, if he wanted to, he could seduce any woman. This was what he did even though he had just met Xinghe.

Chapter 678: Unique Name

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, Xinghe was not just any woman. She was unfazed by He Lan Qi's purposeful ingratiation.

“Mr. He Lan, in any case, we will be quite a disturbance on this trip, hopefully you can help us find our family as soon as possible. Of course, if this trip is successful, the Shen family will repay your kindness generously.”

He Lan Qi noticed how indifferent she was, so he quickly switched off the tricks that he would use on common women. “Of course, we will help to the best of our ability. It is our honor that you came to us for help.”

“Thank you.”

“You're welcome. For now, please get into the car, I will take all of you to He Lan Villa first,” He Lan Qi said politely and then moved to help Xinghe with the car door. They hopped into his car and sped towards He Lan Villa.

Along the way, He Lan Qi introduced to Xinghe the many cultures of Country R passionately. He even invited Xinghe to prolong their stay there so that he could fulfil his responsibility as a good host.

Xinghe deflected his advances expertly every time. No matter how passionate he was, her attitude was the same, she was as unfazed as before.

This meant that He Lan Qi wasn't able to read her easily, he couldn't see into her heart. He Lan Qi had met many women in his life, and he had to admit, Xinghe was the first woman he wasn't able to read.

Regardless, that would change when he got her into his bed. He had confidence in his seduction skills. He kept trying to get physically and emotionally close to Xinghe, but she was like a stone, unmovable no matter how hard he tried.

Finally, they reached He Lan Villa. He Lan Villa was a sprawling estate. It was situated at Country R's most valuable

estate and had the best security. No wonder the published news about them was so little.

The houses in the villa were huge as well. The impressive buildings and landmass spoke volumes about the He Lan family's giant influence and power. The He Lan family's current leader, He Lan Qi's father, He Lan Chang, personally came to welcome them.

When he heard Xinghe's name, he also responded with surprise. "Miss Xia's name sure is unique, it reminds one of the vast galaxy. If you don't mind me asking, what is the inspiration behind your name? How did your parents come up with such a melodious and unique name?"

Xinghe met He Lan Chang's grinning face but she could pick up the deep interest hidden behind his eyes. He Lan Qi even added with curiosity, "That's right, how did they come up with such a name?"

They were being a bit too obsessed with her name, it really tipped Xinghe off to their real intentions.

"There's not much of a story behind it," Xinghe answered. "My parents met during a galaxy show at the observatory, so that's how they came up with the name."

"It's wonderful story," He Lan Chang observed with a laugh and he visibly relaxed. "It's a beautiful name that sets Miss Xia apart from the rest. Now I understand why Hwa Xia's Madam President took you in as her step daughter."

It was due to her unique background that they treated her so courteously, but they did it in such way that it was just short of obviously sucking up. So, it had to be said, this He Lan family was indeed a family filled with crafty people.

Chapter 679: He Lan Qi's Intentions

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe's request to start the search immediately was easily accepted as well. They gave the impression that no matter how unreasonable her request was, they would accept it. They were giving off the impression that they would play the best host and Xinghe's group were their esteemed guests.

However, Xinghe thought otherwise. She expected as much from them. She would not let her guard down in front of them and think that they were actually looking out for her. If anything, they only made her extra cautious around them.

After even more back and forth, neither party seemed to be able to read the other.

After discussing the details of the search, Xinghe made her intention to leave clear. No matter how hard the He Lan family tried to make her stay at their guest house, Xinghe politely rejected their kindness. She insisted on staying at the hotel; the He Lan family had no choice but to yield to her wishes.

He Lan Qi even personally sent them to the hotel. He kindly helped them find and settle into the best hotel before leaving. Even an idiot could tell he was trying his greatest to endear himself to Xinghe.

The moment he left, Sam said snidely, "This man really think we're that dumb to not see his intentions?"

"He must be smitten by our Xinghe's beauty, and that's why he has been so hardworking!" Ali added with derision.

"You have to be careful around him. No matter his intentions, it's better to stay away from him," Sam kindly reminded Xinghe.

Ali also reminded her, "Don't be lured by his beautiful words."

Xinghe laughed. "You guys really think I'm that easily tricked?"

“...” The gang was silenced. Indeed, Xinghe was so clever, so how would she fall for He Lan Qi’s childish tricks? Furthermore, she had a man as fetching as Xi Mubai waiting for her. This He Lan Qi was not bad looking, but in terms of family background and personality, he was miles behind Mubai!

Mubai’s devotion towards Xinghe alone could wipe out all the competition. Ali and the rest were worried for nothing.

Xinghe wasn’t someone that needed people to worry over her. She was more trustworthy than most people, so He Lan Qi’s little effort was destined to go to waste!

Sam and the rest assumed that He Lan Qi’s interest in Xinghe was because he was personally attracted to her, but Xinghe thought otherwise. He Lan Qi could have any woman he wished, so his obvious attempt at ingratiation must have a hidden purpose behind it. Most likely it was due to her unique identity...

After all, the identity of the Madam President’s daughter was still quite weighty. However, what use he had for her identity she still hadn’t found out. Regardless, there was one thing Xinghe was certain, this He Lan family was indeed suspicious!

She was seventy to eighty percent sure they were related somehow to Project Galaxy or else they wouldn’t have reacted so obviously to the revelation of her name.

The purpose of her going there personally was to use her name as a test, and as she expected, they took the bait.

Now that she was sure they were suspicious, it was time to weed out their actual intentions. Xinghe didn’t rest and started investigating the He Lan family. Alas, like before, the information she could gather was pitifully little. The He Lan family was too low-key, there was practically nothing in the news about them.

Chapter 680: Raising Flags

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The little news was incredibly official. The He Lan family hid themselves from the world. However, Xinghe didn't give up. As long as there was dirt on the He Lan family, she would eventually unearth it.

Thankfully, she was not short on time, she could pursue this slowly. She was going to stay at Country R for a while, so it should be enough for her to get to the bottom of things.

...

Early the next morning, He Lan Qi arrived at the hotel. He contacted Xinghe's group and had booked the breakfast buffet for them at the hotel. When Xinghe and the rest arrived at the lobby, he already stood there waiting.

When He Lan Qi saw them, he approached with a smile and asked with apparent concern, "Miss Xia, how was your sleep yesterday? If there's anything bothering you, please do not hesitate to inform me."

"The accommodation is not bad, thank you, Mr. He Lan, for your arrangements," Xinghe replied matter-of-factly.

He Lan Qi laughed out of the corner of his mouth. "I wish you would call me by name. If you still wish to use honorifics, why don't you call me Big Brother He Lan then?"

Sam, who was walking behind them, mimicked vomiting surreptitiously!

Even Ali shivered involuntarily. Can this He Lan Qi please stop being so disgusting? He wants Xinghe to call him Big Brother He Lan? Such shamelessness!

Xinghe maintained her composure and pretended she didn't even hear him. She continued, "Mr. He Lan, let's finish breakfast quickly and get to work. I wish to find the person as soon as possible."

"Okay." He Lan Qi shrugged with a pampering smile, like she could do no wrong in his eyes. His gentlemanly demeanor

could melt the hearts of many women, but alas, Xinghe was not one of them.

During breakfast, no matter how often and how hard he tried to pamper her, Xinghe didn't give him any response. He Lan Qi initially thought she was playing hard to get, but he finally realized she was really not interested in him. This discovery didn't anger He Lan Qi, instead it only made him more intrigued in Xinghe.

He loved a challenge and breaking an ice queen like Xinghe was the greatest thrill.

He Lan Qi had the whole thing planned out, he even went so far as setting the target date for himself, the period he would need to wear Xinghe down before he got her twirled around his finger.

Alas, reality would teach him a cruel lesson. Not every woman was interested in him!

...

After breakfast, He Lan Qi brought them to the police station to compare DNA. Xinghe brought along Elder Shen's DNA sample to match with Country R's DNA database. However, the chance of success was extremely low, after all, not everyone gave their DNA sample to the police.

Xinghe, of course, didn't put much hope in this method. Her plan was to broadcast the missing person advertisement across the internet, television, and newspapers, to convince the Shen family's second daughter to come and show herself.

He Lan Qi was taken aback when she told him her suggestion. He wasn't expecting such a wide-scale search.

Xinghe didn't miss the change in his expression. She said lightly, "Mr. He Lan, do not worry, we will support the fees for the media ourselves. We will not be troubling you this time."

Chapter 681: All the Media

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“It’s no trouble,” He Lan Qi immediately said. “Xinghe, you’re acting too foreign to us again, we’ve promised to help you with the search, so naturally, we will keep to our promise. We will definitely help you until the search is concluded.”

“It’s not necessary, after all, this is our problem...”

“No, your problem is my problem! Leave this to me,” He Lan Qi promised firmly, in fact, it sounded like he would agree to every demand Xinghe made. Xinghe didn’t continue to stand on ceremony, if He Lan Qi wanted to help them for free, then she was not going to deny him.

At the same time, she wanted to see how far they were willing to help them. Perhaps this could be where the He Lan family slipped up.

He Lan Qi, to his credit, was a man of his word. In less than half a day, the missing person advertisements were all over the media. Every single publication in Country R was broadcasting it!

Even the most popular news show was reporting it. This surprised Xinghe’s group. They had no clue that the He Lan family’s influence was so broad and so deep.

“Looks like this He Lan family is indeed not simple, they managed to get so much media exposure in such a short amount of time. No wonder there is so little news on them, these people in the media are probably on their side as well,” Cairn analyzed rationally. Sam and the rest agreed with him.

Ali suddenly said happily, “Since they can make use of the media so well, this means that we will get news on the Shen family’s daughter soon.”

“Let’s hope so.” Xinghe nodded slightly without elaboration. She wouldn’t say a hundred percent that the person could be found, but the chances of that did increase tremendously.

The power of media was strong, and the advertisement was extremely clear with the details. They were looking for an

Asian woman at around age 45 who grew up in the He Lan family's orphanage. Individuals that fitted these criteria were only a handful, so this did lessen their workload.

However, to their headache-inducing surprise, a lot of random woman who had nothing to do with He Lan family's orphanage came to test their DNA!

In other words, pretty much all the women around the age of 45 came to try their luck. If they were lucky, it would be like hitting the jackpot!

After all, in the advertisement, it was stated that a rich family was looking for their family member, and that alone was enough to attract many. For two straight days, the hospital that was entrusted by the He Lan family to process this affair had seen innumerable people walk through its doors.

Xinghe was there personally to handle the crowd. She rejected many applicants even before they started the test. The Shen family had good genes, Elder Shen had been fit and handsome when he was young and Old Madam Shen was still a graceful and gorgeous lady. Madam President was blessed with their good genes, she looked like an ancient lady walked out of an ink painting.

Therefore, the Shen family's second daughter must be quite a looker as well. Of course, that wasn't everything Xinghe based her rejections and decisions on.

Chapter 682: Accidents

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Among those who came, there were some who were so far away from matching the criteria it was laughable. For example, there were grannies over the age of 45 and young girls in their teens. There were even men!

Sam's group couldn't help but frown upon witnessing this group of people who would go against their own common sense for the sake of money.

"The four of us are orphans, if there wasn't the no criterion of being raised in an orphanage, I guess we'd be at the front of the line," Sam said jokingly.

"It's already stated that the Shen family's second daughter is around 45 now, do all these people really not know how to read?" Ali frowned.

Xinghe answered softly, "They do, but they just couldn't silence the greed within them."

Greed could do wonders in silencing common sense, this was only human nature. Many who came to try their luck were shown the door before even starting the test. However, two days had passed and there was still no match. The number of candidates had even breached the three digits...

Theoretically speaking, such a wide-scale search should turn up something, but there was nothing. Even the police had no news.

This was out of Xinghe's predictions; she hadn't expected that the search for a single person would be so difficult.

On the third day, the people who came to do DNA matching had dwindled to single digits. In other words, those who wanted to come had already been there.

Unless the Shen family's second daughter lived in an area completely blocked from external news, or something had happened to her, she would have seen the news and gone to do the test. The fact that she didn't made Xinghe believe that some accident had befallen her.

...

Even He Lan Qi was surprised by the lack of progress.

“Who would have thought even after so many candidates, there is still no progress? Miss Xia, do you think Miss Shen has left Country R and thus hasn’t seen the news? Or god forbid, something bad has happened to her?” He Lan Qi suggested with a heavy frown, he gave the feeling that he cared deeply about this.

Over the past few days, he had been extremely helpful. This made Xinghe suspect her earlier conviction. Could it be that the He Lan family really is innocent?

Why else would He Lan Qi help them to such a degree? He was willing to go to any lengths to help them.

However, her intuition told her that there was still something wrong about all of this, but she couldn’t pinpoint exactly what.

Xinghe took a look at him and her gaze shuddered slightly.

“Whether that is true or not, the search will have to continue. This is just the beginning, we will not give up so easily.”

He Lan Qi smiled. “Naturally. Don’t worry, we will continue to expand the scope of the search; I will help you finish your mission even if it takes my life.”

“Thank you, Mr. He Lan for your help. I’m very thankful for it, should you need any help in the future, we will definitely repay your kindness,” Xinghe replied politely.

He Lan Qi smiled helplessly yet charmingly. “Xinghe, you’re still treating me like stranger. I promise I’m helping you out of my own volition, so please don’t feel pressured.”

Chapter 683: Lost Patience

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Regardless, I’m here representing the Shen family and we are indeed thankful for your help.” Xinghe verbally distanced herself from him and ignored his purposeful attempt at seeking favor with her. His few days of continuous effort did nothing to change her attitude towards him. She was still as indifferent to him as ever, like he was a stranger she passed on the street.

He Lan Qi gave himself maximum three days to break Xinghe, but she was obstinate. He Lan Qi’s patience was at its breaking point and coldness and impatience grew within him. However, they only appeared fleetingly.

“Then, I will continue to figure out ways to help you. If there’s any progress on your side, please do inform me,” He said with a passionate smile.

“Okay.” Xinghe nodded slightly, her eyes glowing like a slate of clear mirror. She saw the earlier coldness in He Lan Qi’s eyes clearly. Finally lost your patience?

Xinghe studied his retreating back and her own gaze became dark.

Sam sidled up to Xinghe and grumbled with annoyance, “How dense is this person? Couldn’t he see Xinghe is not interested in him, why is he so stubborn?”

“That’s right, Xinghe is obviously not interested in him, so he should stop being so obvious with his advances,” Ali added with a frown.

In truth, they didn’t think there was anything inherently wrong with He Lan Qi, but they just couldn’t stand how he insisted on grinding against Xinghe. They were not averse to people hitting on Xinghe, but for some reason, they felt this He Lan Qi had ulterior motives behind his actions.

His interest in Xinghe seemed to go beyond purely romantic attraction. Even the group of guys who were rather blunt to matters of relationships could feel it, so nothing needed to be said about Xinghe noticing it. Xinghe’s guard was up after

sensing his hidden motives. Even now, Xinghe felt he was up to something, even though on the surface, he seemed so kind to help them with the search.

“Xinghe, it has been three days. Do you think the Shen family’s second daughter will appear?” Ali asked with some worry.

Cairn said with hesitation, “Actually, I feel like this search is futile.”

“I agree with you.” The honest Wolf nodded. It was not out of place for them to feel that. The news was broadcasted over the country and there was still no trace of the person, so the trace of her appearing was very low.

Xinghe commented, “I don’t think you guys are wrong. Come on, waiting here is not going to bring us any progress.”

Xinghe stood up to leave but at that moment, a physically-impressive man strode into the registration room. Deep shock assaulted Xinghe when she saw him!

“So, it is you,” the man said with a toothy smile when he saw her.

Xinghe was really surprised to meet Ee Chen there!

Ever since last year, she could no longer locate him; she didn’t expect he would reappear at Country R.

“Why are you here?” Xinghe asked with apparent surprise.

Ee Chen laughed good-humoredly. “I wanted to ask you that as well. In fact, Miss Xia, do you mind coming out for coffee with me? Let’s catch up as old friends.”

“Sure, let’s go now.” Xinghe accepted the invitation easily because she had plenty of things to ask him as well!

Ee Chen’s parent was related to Project Galaxy, so his appearance there would probably help her confirm the He Lan family’s involvement with Project Galaxy.

Furthermore, Ee Chen was, to her knowledge, the one who knew the most about Project Galaxy. Since she’d been given this chance, she was going to pry the information out of him.

Chapter 684: Whipped to a New Height

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

She wanted to know everything he knew!

Xinghe found them a quiet café for their coffee break. Ee Chen wanted to talk to Xinghe alone and that was Xinghe's intention as well. They shared a table at the far corner of the café where no one could eavesdrop. Ali and the rest stayed a distance away to observe them, or more specifically, they were observing Ee Chen, afraid that he would harm Xinghe.

Ee Chen snuck a glance at them and laughed. "They're your friends? They don't look like bodyguards to me."

"Yes, they are my friends," Xinghe answered softly and asked, "Tell me, why are you here? Why did you come find me?"

Ee Chen didn't answer immediately but took the time to study the length of her frame. "Miss Xia, it's only been a year, but you've gotten so much more beautiful. By the way, how has the past year been for you?"

"Not bad, but I think we don't have the luxury of catching up," Xinghe said. She went straight to the point, "Ee Chen, I want to know everything about Project Galaxy. Don't go drawing circles around me and maybe this time we will be able to cooperate."

Ee Chen's lips curved into a smile. "Miss Xia is still such a straight-shooter but are you sure you want to cooperate with me? The cooperation will be based on..."

"I have this many, is that enough?" Xinghe extended four fingers and Ee Chen's originally uninterested eyes became sharpened immediately.

He was stunned and asked unsurely, "Are you talking about that thing?"

"What else can it be?"

"You must be joking; how could you locate so many of them?" Ee Chen gasped in surprised shock. After all, he spent

one whole year to locate another, making the total in his possession two.

Within the same time frame, Xinghe had found four! How could he believe something like that?

Xinghe took another leisurely sip of her coffee and said slowly, “Do you think I would lie to you?”

“...” Ee Chen’s gaze turned serious. He believed Xinghe wouldn’t trick him. If this was someone else, he would be suspicious, but Xinghe had already surprised him twice in the past year alone when their path crossed. She didn’t need to lie to him...

Ee Chen suddenly realized how useless he was. Compared to her, he felt so incompetent. He thought he would finally be on the same level as her after one whole year, but he realized the distance between them had only grown further.

Ee Chen grumbled helplessly, “Miss Xia, can’t you give other people some chances? How can you find so many within just a year?”

“It’s all just a coincidence,” Xinghe answered truthfully. Indeed, it was like the events were already written in her favor and the benefits just kept falling into her lap.

Ee Chen felt like coughing blood. Xinghe was not only talented but also had luck on her side, not cooperating with her sounded like the dumbest decision he could come up with.

“I will cooperate with you!” Ee Chen announced firmly his decision to join her camp. “So, you must cooperate with me as well, even if you don’t want to, I will stick to your side forever.”

Xinghe was speechless. “My original plan was to cooperate with you, now can you tell me everything you know?”

Chapter 685: I Thought It Was Your Mother

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Okay!” Ee Chen had become more cooperative and serious.

He stared at Xinghe and asked, “However, before that, I want to know... how did you end up entangled with the He Lan family?”

Xinghe asked in return, “How did you know I am working with them?”

The public didn’t work it was the He Lan family who were aiding this search for the Shen family’s second daughter. The fact that Ee Chen knew meant that he was following He Lan family’s movements.

Ee Chen’s answer confirmed that. “Because I’ve been investigating them. Plus, so many media outlets have been mobilized; it’s not hard to figure out who is pulling the strings.”

“You’re right, they are the one influencing all of this. My involvement with them is because I’m looking for a woman and that woman was a child at the He Lan family’s orphanage,” Xinghe answered honestly. “And she comes from a unique background which is why the He Lan family have agreed to help.”

“Who is she to you?” Ee Chen maintained eye contact and asked.

Xinghe was taken aback by this curious question but she still answered, “She has no relations to me, but as I’ve said, she has a unique background.”

Ee Chen was surprised. “I thought that she must be have something to do with you, like it being your mother or something. But if she has nothing to with you, how come it is related to the He Lan family?”

Xinghe was further shocked. “What do you mean by that?”

Ee Chen noticed this and realized she was still clueless to many things.

“Do you not know that Project Galaxy is related to the He Lan family?” he queried.

Xinghe nodded. “I do, but I have no idea in what way.”

“Then why the search?” Ee Chen was lost. “I thought it was because you have some information and that’s why you’re here to conduct a search.”

“You’ve lost me.” Xinghe frowned in confusion. “Why don’t we start from the beginning? What is wrong with the He Lan family?”

“What is not wrong with them?” Ee Chen’s eyes darkened. “They were the originators of Project Galaxy and our parents were arranged to join this project when they were very young.”

Xinghe was shocked, but the next second, everything started to fall into place. “You mean, they arranged for the orphans from their orphanage to join this project?”

“That’s right.” Ee Chen nodded, he was still impressed by her comprehension skill. “The purpose behind their orphanage wasn’t one bit charitable! The charity was just a front for them to select suitable orphans to join Project Galaxy, and that was how our parents were selected.”

This was a truth Xinghe didn’t expect. Even though she had no clue what Project Galaxy really was, she was sure that it wasn’t anything good!

“What exactly is Project Galaxy? What is its objective? And how do you know all of this?” Xinghe fired off a series of questions.

Ee Chen shook his head this time. “Unfortunately, I can’t tell what the actual goal of the project is either. I only heard from my father that it is unbelievably cruel. He had been searching for the He Lan family all those years, but he couldn’t find them, and now I know why. It was because he thought that the He Lan family was in Hwa Xia, but they were hiding in Country R all along.”

Chapter 686: Orphans

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“I also spent a long time tracking them down. It was only after many investigations before I became certain that it is indeed this He Lan family we need to focus on. I’ve been spending my time trying to get to the bottom of the truth, but my progress has been lacking. I saw you through the missing person notice. Initially, when I saw that, I was shocked; I assumed you already knew something, so that was why you came to Country R to conduct the search. But if that was true, it couldn’t explain your decision to align yourself with the He Lan family. Now, it looks like everything was just a coincidence. You have no idea what really happens with them and the woman you’re looking for just so happens to be from their orphanage.”

“Are you sure everyone related to Project Galaxy comes from this orphanage?” Xinghe stared at him seriously to double check.

Ee Chen nodded. “That is what I suspect. How else can we explain their purpose behind opening the orphanage? Let’s say that it was really for charity purpose, then how do you explain the many missing orphans? Even now, there are still orphans that go missing once in a while in their currently operating orphanage, therefore it’s only logical to believe that they select their candidates from their own orphanage. It’s the only way to do all of this without raising the public’s suspicion.”

Xinghe’s eyes shone slightly. She didn’t expect to find out her mother was once a resident at the orphanage and she was selected to join Project Galaxy when she was a child...

Then, perhaps the Shen family’s second daughter had been selected to join Project Galaxy as well!

Or else, how could they have come up with no news?

Xinghe asked severely, “What is the He Lan family’s main business? How come my mother hasn’t told me about any of this?”

Ee Chen sighed. "I'm not sure about the He Lan family's financial background, but I think your mother didn't tell you any of this is because she didn't want to involve you in it."

"But why did they appear in City A? And how come they couldn't find the He Lan family?"

"According to my father, the first city they went to after their escape was City A. However, since they had no valid identification, they didn't dare wonder beyond City A. Furthermore, at the time, information was hard to come by, so they couldn't have known that the He Lan family had moved overseas. Of course, this is just my own speculation; my father didn't tell me everything. I think he was conflicted, on one hand, he wished I would one day save him, but on the other hand, he didn't feel like putting all that pressure on me."

Xinghe chose to believe Ee Chen, because his experience was similar to hers. Her mother brought her to hide overseas as if afraid that they would be discovered. However, at the same time, she didn't reveal to her the reasons why. Simultaneously, she tried to teach Xinghe everything she knew, so her thoughts must have been rather similar to Ee Chen's father.

So many years had passed but Xinghe still hadn't found a trace of her mother. Whether she was alive or not was a mystery in itself!

Xinghe feared to continue on with this train of thought, since she didn't want anything bad to happen to her mother!

She only wished to find her as soon as possible!

Whatever Project Galaxy was, it had nothing to do with her; she just wanted to save her mother. However, to do that she first had to deal with the He Lan family, who, according to Ee Chen's side of the story, threatened her mother's and those other orphans' existences!

There was determination in Xinghe's eyes when she promised Ee Chen, "Then we will start by cracking open the He Lan family. Eventually, the truth will be exposed to us."

Chapter 687: Not From the Orphanage

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Ee Chen was startled. “You mean to go after the He Lan family?”

“That’s right.” Xinghe continued matter-of-factly like she was talking about the weather, “Only by having them cornered can we get the information we want from them.”

Ee Chen was further shocked, not by her confidence but her willingness to trust him so easily. Didn’t she worry he was lying to her?

Ee Chen gasped. “You believe everything I said?”

“Why wouldn’t I?” Xinghe asked curiously.

“Aren’t you afraid I was just spinning yarn and it’ll cause you to harm a family of innocents?” Ee Chen voiced the worry in his heart. It was normal for him to have those thoughts, anyone would.

However, Xinghe’s answer did surprise him. “I have my own judgement. Since I’ve chosen to cooperate with you, naturally I have a certain degree of faith in you.”

“But, I did betray you once before...”

“If I didn’t deem you as trustworthy, we wouldn’t be having this conversation.”

Ee Chen looked at her bluntly and smiled. “Actually, I was under the assumption that you wouldn’t trust me anymore, so I’m really thankful for your trust.”

She wouldn’t trust just anyone, especially after that someone had betrayed her like he did, so he was really appreciative of her willingness to believe in him again.

“However, this is also the last chance I’m giving you,” Xinghe added softly.

Ee Chen nodded in promise. “Don’t worry, I will not let you down this time!”

If he did, he would no longer be allowed to be a part of her life, and to be around someone as radiant as her was an opportunity Ee Chen felt he shouldn't give up. Therefore, Ee Chen swore to be completely loyal to her from then on. They continued discussing for some time, sharing their information.

After that, she started to plot against the He Lan family. She couldn't wait anymore; she had to get to the bottom of everything as soon as possible. She wanted to locate her mother and the missing Miss Shen!

She would find them both!

After bidding Ee Chen goodbye, Xinghe led Ali and the rest back to the hospital. She took away all the information of the people who came to do the DNA test and returned to their hotel.

Ali asked, "Xinghe, why are you investigating these people? Their DNA didn't match the one you brought, didn't it? Or do you suspect that the Shen family's second daughter is indeed among these people?"

Xinghe shook her head. "No, definitely not that."

"Then why are you doing this?" Ali pressed.

"I can't say for now, but I will find out after I'm done," Xinghe's answer befuddled them but they didn't doubt or disturb her because she had always proven herself to be right every time. Therefore, she must have her reasons for doing these things.

Over the past few days, there had been over a hundred women who came to do DNA matching. Xinghe didn't go through them one by one but picked a few at random, and the results confirmed her suspicion.

None of the women she investigated were raised in the He Lan family's orphanage!

Chapter 688: Their Purpose Exposed

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, when they came to do the test, they all said they were raised at the orphanage, even though none of them were.

Some even had parents and came from a normal family. The real orphans were only a handful. They all lied about something to fit the criteria. It could be written off as greed if there were isolated cases, but when it was every single one of them, something must be going on!

If Xinghe didn't meet up with Ee Chen that day, she probably wouldn't know what their purpose was. But she did, and she saw through their ploy easily. This was all to cover up suspicions against the He Lan family. They shifted the focus away from the orphanage.

He Lan Qi almost got Xinghe and the rest fooled with this sinister plan of his. He must have thought if the search turned out no results, they would give up and leave. He didn't foresee Ee Chen's appearance or that Xinghe would personally go through these women's background.

Now, Xinghe understood why he was so passionate and willing to help them. It was to make it easier for him to fool them.

Right then, Xinghe finally realized what the curiosity she sensed at the hospital was. If these women were indeed raised in the same orphanage, how come they didn't greet each other or even talk about their shared childhood?

Xinghe couldn't believe she didn't see through these women's lousy acting. She berated herself for her carelessness.

"This is not your fault, after all, none of us spotted this anomaly," Sam consoled her but continued in a dark tone, "But why did this He Lan Qi go through so many hoops to create this show to trick us? What is his angle?"

"Is there really something questionable about this family?" Ali added.

Cairn nodded firmly. “There has to be, why else would they do this?”

“Indeed, there is something very questionable about them,” Xinghe said icily. “There is one issue about them that is very suspicious, and I have to come up with a more intricate plan to deal with them.”

“What issue is this?” Sam was shocked.

“Their orphanage. Something bad has probably happened to the second Shen Miss, and my mother and her both are related to that questionable orphanage,” Xinghe concluded in broad strokes, she didn’t bring up Project Galaxy. It was not that she didn’t trust them, but she didn’t want to put them in danger.

Before she had the whole thing figured out, she had to be extremely careful or there would be accidents. Therefore, she would not reveal anything before then.

“Your mother?” Ali was taken aback, “Xinghe, is that what you said? How is your mother related to this orphanage?”

“That’s right, what was that about your mother?” Sam and the guys were confused as well.

Xinghe looked at them and said, “I also just found out about this today, my mother was once a child at this orphanage, but she has gone missing. I suspect her disappearance has plenty to do with He Lan Chang and his family. Other than that, I discovered the He Lan family is not as clean as they appear on the outside. Therefore, to get to the bottom of the truth, to find my mother, and the second Shen miss, we have to deal with the He Lan family first.”

Chapter 689: Maybe She's Your Mother

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“What, your mother also came from this orphanage?” Ali and the rest were stunned with shock.

Xinghe nodded. “Yes.”

“This is such a coincidence! How could such a thing happen? Your mother and the second Shen Miss came from the same orphanage. Do you think they know each other?” Ali's interest was piqued.

Xinghe's eyes shuddered slightly. “I can't say for sure whether they know each other but they were of the same age, so it wouldn't be that far-fetched to be true.”

“They were from the same orphanage, they had to know each other! This is incredible...”

“Xinghe, is it possible that your mother is the second Shen Miss?” Cairn said suddenly. This caused everyone to go completely silent.

Sam burst out saying, “Cairn might be right!”

“Xinghe, let's check, she might be your mother!” Ali was sold on this interesting development. Cairn and Wolf looked at her expectantly. For some reason, Xinghe's heart also started to beat faster...

How could it be? Her mother is the Shen family's second daughter? That would be such an absurd coincidence. However, she couldn't stop herself from thinking that way.

In the end, she decided to entertain the possibility because it was after all, not completely zero. Xinghe told them after she came to her decision. “Okay, we will go check tomorrow.”

“Xinghe, if your mother is really the Shen family's second daughter, then you are truly a part of the Shen family. Elder Shen will be your biological grandfather and Madam President your biological aunt, wouldn't that be wonderful? I think I'm starting to wish your mother is really the person we're looking for,” Ali said excitedly.

“If this is true, then the world is truly a miraculous place,” Sam said happily but added with a smug smile, “We’ll see what that Miss Tong has to say to challenge your position then!”

“That’s right, she has been using her bloodlines as leverage to bully you, so after we have this confirmed, we shall go back to face-slap her with the truth, make her understand what the meaning of karma is!” Ali also chimed in, she couldn’t wait for that chapter to arrive, because she wanted to see Tong Yan’s slapped face so badly.

Xinghe couldn’t help but laugh. “This is still not confirmed so don’t think so far ahead. If this is not true, then the joke’s on us.”

“It has to be true!” Ali claimed with confidence. “And don’t doubt a woman’s intuition.”

“Does your mother look or feel like a Shen?” Wolf asked.

Xinghe was quiet as she went deep in thought. Actually, she couldn’t remember much about her mother, but she did picture her as a very intelligent and graceful woman. Her presence was similar to those of the Shen family and even their looks...

However, all of that couldn’t be used as proof. Xinghe decided to push it out of her mind for now. Until she had concrete evidence, there was no use building sand castles.

She would have to do her best to investigate this possibility, after all, anything is possible, but what if they were indeed one and the same...

Xinghe’s emotions became complicated again just thinking about it.

...

Every night Mubai would call Xinghe to chat, and it was no exception for that night.

Xinghe told him everything that had happened that day.

When Mubai heard that possibility, there was surprise and anticipation in his voice, “Could they really be the same person?”

Chapter 690: 36 Hours

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe replied in a low voice, "I don't know, so I have to make sure first."

Xinghe and Elder Shen could not do paternal DNA testing because it was meant for parents and children only.

However, she could do a bloodline test. If the result was indeed positive, then her mother was indeed the Shen family's second daughter. After all, she had Elder Shen's DNA with her, she could get the result tomorrow.

Mubai agreed with her decision. "This does need to be confirmed, if they are indeed one and the same, then this He Lan family is more dangerous than we thought."

If their identities overlapped, it was a clear sign that something was wrong with the He Lan family and they were involved in Project Galaxy somehow. In fact, the He Lan family would become her opening to get to the truth and perhaps even locate her mother. Of course, the premise was that Xinghe's mother was the Shen family's second daughter.

Xinghe didn't expect much from this, but the more she thought about it, the more anxious she became.

"Once it is confirmed, I will return to Hwa Xia," Xinghe promised with a firm voice.

Mubai thought the same way. "After the confirmation, there is indeed no reason for you to overstay your welcome, you have to come back then, and we'll come up with a solution to deal with the He Lan family."

"Okay," Xinghe replied without hesitation.

However, Mubai still advised her, with a tone laced with worry, "You have to be more careful when you're around the He Lan family after you've confirmed their suspicions. Don't hesitate to come to me, don't shoulder everything on your own, that'll only make me worry about you."

"I understand," Xinghe replied softly.

Mubai thought about it and added, “Why don’t you come back to do the DNA test? After all, as you’ve said, there has been no progress with the search.”

“That’s not necessary, I’ll do the DNA testing here. Don’t worry, I will take care of myself,” Xinghe promised, and then turned to enquire about him, “How about you? How’s your recovery?”

There was apparent joy in Mubai’s reply. “I’m doing well. The plan was to go visit you after two more days, but since you’re coming home soon, then I think I shall remain at Hwa Xia.”

Xinghe couldn’t help but smile on the other end of the phone. “How about Lin Lin? How is he holding up?”

“He’s just fine, but he did say he miss you, he misses you every second of the 24 hours in every day were his exact words,” Mubai replied slowly in his magnetic voice.

He meant for the words to bring Xinghe warmth, but she could only feel sadness. She too wished to be by Lin Lin’s side because she too missed him that much...

“I will return as soon as possible,” Xinghe promised.

“Okay,” Mubai replied softly and continued in a sexy drawl, “He also said, after you come back, he wants to go on dates with you, to spend some alone time with you, to go to bed by your side, in any case, he thinks about you every day and has many plans and activities he wants to do with you, so you have to come back soon to not disappoint him...”

“Wait, are you sure Lin Lin said those thing?” Xinghe frowned with confusion.

Mubai, on the other end, said shamelessly, “Of course not, those are my selfish thoughts.”

Xinghe was speechless.

“Xinghe, I really miss you,” Mubai suddenly confessed. “If a day had 36 hours, I would use all 36 hours to think about you.”

Chapter 691: Blood Relatives

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

So, all along, he had been talking about himself. Florets of sweetness and bliss blossomed within her. She was not an emotional person; she was averse to showing her real emotions, but Mubai's occasional confessions would always get her heart moving.

She had admitted he did know the way to her heart. His attempt at romance would always stop before she got uncomfortable. It was passionate yet not pressuring. In this relationship, Mubai had done wonderfully, but Xinghe realized that relationships were give-and-take. She shouldn't expect Mubai to contribute everything. She should respond in kind.

However, she was still couldn't bring herself to say the types of lovey-dovey words, so she added gently, "I understand, actually I wish to return as early as possible myself."

As someone who knew her well, Mubai understood the words that she didn't say. She missed him too. He didn't wish for flowery words because the fact that she had him in her thoughts was more than enough for him.

Mubai said in a satisfied and happy tone, "Okay, I will wait for you, take care of yourself over there."

"Okay, then I'll hang up now, don't stay up too late."

"Good night," Mubai said lovingly. After Xinghe hung up, he put the phone down with a broad smile on his face. Xinghe on the other end, was also smiling.

However, her thoughts immediately went to the DNA test. What if Mom really is the second Shen Miss?

Even someone as ingenious as her couldn't answer that confidently.

...

Xinghe and the rest went to DNA lab to conduct the test the next day. Xinghe chose the fastest test, one that could have the

result in just hours. They stayed at the lab to wait for the result.

While they were waiting, He Lan Qi called Xinghe to enquire about her location and invite her to lunch but Xinghe rejected him. This He Lan Qi was only using helping her as pretense to lead her progress astray. Xinghe had seen through his ploy so she was extra guarded around him.

After she hung up on He Lan Qi, Xinghe received a call from Ee Chen.

“Miss Xia, where are you? I need you, can you come out now?” Ee Chen said directly.

Xinghe was curious. “Is this really important? I’m in the middle of something I can’t extricate myself from easily.”

“I’m sorry for interrupting then, my thing can wait, why don’t you call me when you’re done with yours?”

“Okay,” Xinghe promised before she hung up. She had no idea why Ee Chen need her, but she really couldn’t leave at that moment. She had to wait for the result and see it for herself. So subconsciously, she was worried and anxious about this.

Ali’s group was more pronounced with their interest.

Finally, several hours later, the result was out!

The doctor walked towards Xinghe with the test result in his hand. For some reason, Xinghe felt she could tell the result when their eyes met.

As she expected, the doctor stopped before her and said, “Congratulations, the two samples are blood relatives, grandparent and grandchild relationship to be precise.”

Chapter 692: One and the Same

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe widened her eyes in shock. “What did you say?”

Even though she had mentally prepared herself, when it was confirmed, she still felt utter disbelief. She was really related to the Shen family!

Her mother was the Shen family’s second daughter. Xinghe was stunned beyond words.

“Is this for real?” Ali exclaimed in pleasant surprise. Her surprise was shared by the rest.

The doctor nodded in confirmation. “It’s real. They are blood relatives, here is the result.”

The doctor passed them the result which Xinghe accepted and quickly read...

It was true, she was related to Elder Shen by blood. He was her grandfather and she was his granddaughter. Her mother was the second Shen Miss.

She finally found out more information about her mother, everything felt so surreal to Xinghe.

“Xinghe.” Ali looked at her with concern. “Are you alright?”

Xinghe recovered from her shock and replied softly, “I’m fine.”

“Are you unhappy?” Ali asked her because her reaction was too calm, they really couldn’t tell what she was feeling.

Xinghe smiled slightly. “No, I’m happy. It’s true.”

“Good, ’cause I feel happy for you.” Ali laughed.

Sam chimed in. “Xinghe, congratulations! You’ve found your family.”

“That’s right, congratulation,” Cairn and Wolf added with sincerity.

“Thank you, all of you,” Xinghe said with a curved smile. “If not for your brilliant idea, we wouldn’t have done this.”

If she was doing this alone, she wouldn't have suspected her mother was the Shen family's second daughter, after all, that would have been such a lazy cliché. However, sometimes life was weirder than fiction.

Perhaps everything was already written in the stars for Xinghe to be on this journey to find her mother and uncover the truth. With the result in her hands, Xinghe's determination to locate her mother increased!

After all, the person she was looking for was no longer only the Shen family's second daughter but also her mother—

Xinghe announced with some excitement, “We will return to Hwa Xia tomorrow, we have to inform Shen family about this.”

“Agreed!” Ali and the rest nodded. No matter what Xinghe decided, they would follow since they were there on Country Y's president's order to protect her at all cost.

In other words, Xinghe was not only Country Y's stepsister but also Hwa Xia's Madam President's niece. She was truly one of the most powerful women in the world, as well as the cleverest.

However, to Ali and the rest, she was more than that. They were glad to have made such a friend. Even without the president's explicit order, they would have given their life to protect and help Xinghe.

They had decided to help her find her mother and deal with the He Lan family in the process.

Chapter 693: The Ugly Side of the He Lan Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

No matter the risk, they were willing to be in her corner. Xinghe, for her part, would remember and cherish their friendship for life.

After confirming that her mother was the Shen family's second daughter, Xinghe wasn't apparently excited. Instead, she brought Ali and the rest to meet up with Ee Chen. She had no clue why Ee Chen needed her, but she was sure it had something to do with the He Lan family.

They soon arrived at the designated spot where Ee Chen already stood waiting. As she descended from the car, Ee Chen dashed over and greeted her naturally.

Xinghe asked, "Why are we here?"

"Shush, follow me first!" Ee Chen ordered mysteriously as he led them towards a skyscraper. Xinghe's group was confused but they followed him obediently. They went up to a very high floor. Ali's group was cautious of Ee Chen and his mysterious ways, but Xinghe followed behind him confidently, not afraid that this was some kind of trap.

Finally, Ee Chen stopped in front of a door and Xinghe asked softly, "What is this place?"

"Come in and you'll find out." Ee Chen pushed open the door and strode in first. The rest of them followed, and realized the room was normal, there was nothing unique about this.

After closing the door, Ee Chen explained, "This is my hideout. The reason I asked you guys to come here is because there is something I need you to see later on."

"What is it?" Xinghe pressed.

With a smirk, Ee said coldly, "The He Lan family's ugly side."

Xinghe's eyebrow was raised.

Sam asked impatiently, "What ugly side?"

“Follow me.” Ee Chen led them into a room, which looked like his bedroom. After entering, they noticed a telescope by the window.

Ee Chen parted the curtain slightly and adjusted the telescope as he said, “From here, you can see the Angel Orphanage managed by the He Lan family. Over this past year, I’ve been observing the place and have witnessed much of their ugly side. Today, I called you here so that you can see that for yourself.”

Xinghe walked over and Ee Chen naturally vacated the space. Xinghe lowered her head to look through the telescope and as a large orphanage about several hundred meters ahead slightly to the left.

The orphanage was large and beautiful. The grass field had plenty of children playing on it. The workers at the orphanage were busy with their chores, Xinghe could even see the children studying in classrooms. She took a wide scope of the area but could spot nothing suspicious.

If there was anything out of place, it was that by the side entrance of the orphanage there was a large carrier van. The back of the van was open and there was plenty of thing inside even though it was only half full.

However, no one seemed to care about the remaining things in the van. Even there were workers around, they stood around chatting rather than unload the rest. This did arouse Xinghe’s suspicion.

She stood up straight and asked Ee Chen, “Something wrong with that van, right?”

Ee Chen stared at her with utter shock and gasped. “How... how did you know there is something wrong with that van?”

Chapter 694: Children's Bodies

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe answered matter-of-factly, "Instinct."

Ee Chen was spooked. He laughed worriedly. "Are all women's instincts that accurate or is this unique to you?"

"I can only say that van attracts my attention. Tell me, what exactly is wrong with that van?" Xinghe asked.

Ee Chen answered truthfully as his face fell, "The van has nothing wrong with it per se because the issues lie with the orphanage! The van is used to help the orphanage transport supplies, it will come once every month and the time of arrival will be different, but it will spend one whole day at the orphanage every time. On the surface, this looks like there is plenty of supply, so they need one whole day to unload, but as you can see, that is not the truth. The van will stay overnight because they need the cover of the night to carry away certain things and those things are the ugly side of the He Lan family!"

"What are these things that are carried away from the orphanage?" Xinghe pressed; her questions were always straight to the point.

"Children's bodies!" Ee Chen sighed heavily. This revelation shocked everyone.

"What did you say?" Ali demanded, she thought she heard wrongly.

Ee Chen continued calmly, "That's right, the van is there to carry away bodies of children, and they are all orphans from this orphanage. Originally, this eluded my attention as well and it took me a long time to realize there was something suspicious about the van. After that, I tried to follow the van, but it was after multiple attempts I managed to see them leave towards a crematorium. They unloaded bodies of children from the van and they were taken care of at the crematorium, to cover up their tracks. Today, I noticed that the van has arrived again and that's why I called you guys over to see it for yourselves."

Ee Chen's revelation pressed down hard on her heart. This was a hard news to stomach. Ali's group, who were all orphans, was totally angered.

Ali demanded angrily, "Didn't you capture pictures or videos of their crimes?"

Ee Chen explained, "Of course, I did try that, but it was lucky or unlucky, depending on how you see it, the workers were careless, so I managed to spot the children's bodies. After that, they didn't slip up anymore, so I couldn't take down any proof. Furthermore, their security is incredibly tight; there are no cameras around the orphanage and crematorium for me to hack into and there are constant patrols and guards. I couldn't collect any evidence on my own, and even if I did manage to compile evidence against them, the He Lan family will just suppress it, so there's no point for me to reveal my presence to them. But now, with your help, hopefully we will be able to gain evidence and uncover the He Lan family's real ugliness."

He had faith in Xinghe and her friends.

Ali promised confidently, "Leave the evidence collecting to us! We will catch them in the act tonight and ruin this despicable He Lan family!"

"That's right, we will gain their criminal proof tonight. Leave this to us," Sam added with a cold smile.

Xinghe suddenly asked, "How did they die?"

Her question was directed at Ee Chen and he shook his head. "I wish I knew, but the orphanage is too well-guarded, I cannot conduct an investigation."

Chapter 695: Satellite Surveillance

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Does the cargo contain bodies every time?” Xinghe asked again.

Ee Chen nodded. “It should be since the van goes to the crematorium every time.”

“When will they leave?”

Ee Chen looked at his wrist watch and said, “In about 3 to 4 hours.”

Xinghe nodded. Her gaze fell on the orphanage and ordered softly, “Get me a laptop.”

Ee Chen was confused. “Why do you need one? There is no surveillance system in the orphanage.”

If there was, he would have hacked into it a long ago and gotten away with the He Lan family’s criminal proof.

Xinghe answered, “I know, but even so, there are ways to get information.”

“What ways?”

Xinghe glanced at him from the side and said clearly, “Satellite surveillance.”

Ee Chen’s jaw fell open. How could he forget about such a thing?

However, normal satellites couldn’t see the details like people or even buildings. However, there were high accuracy satellites, but those were reserved for the nation’s highest security body. Normal civilians would have nothing to do with it. Even Ee Chen didn’t dare to hack into such systems because if found out, there would be hell to pay.

Could Xinghe be so magnificent to get in such a high security system and not get found out?

Ee Chen wasn’t sure, but he trusted her, and since she’d brought it up, it meant that she had confidence. He hesitated for a split second, before handing her his laptop.

Ee Chen placed the laptop on the table, opened it and reminded her worriedly, “Miss Xia, you have to be careful not to get found out.”

Xinghe nodded but didn't say anything. She started operating the laptop. Even though they already knew how good she was, whenever they saw her work in front of the computer, they would still be duly impressed, especially after witnessing how easily she hacked into the country's satellite system.

Xinghe needed less than a minute to hack into the system, locate the orphanage's coordinates, and zero in on the activities within. They almost bent over from sheer admiration.

Even Ee Chen was impressed and his eyes glowed with motivation. “Miss Xia, your ability has once again opened my eyes! In fact, you're making me feel like becoming your student.”

“This is nothing,” Xinghe replied softly and she was telling the truth. However, it was such a painful prick to Ee Chen's heart. If this is nothing... then what will that something look like?

Ee Chen suddenly felt that his ability, which many people were impressed by, was child's play when compared to Xinghe's capability.

Sam clapped him on his shoulder and said consolingly, “I know how you're feeling but don't feel sad. Since Xinghe is a limit none of us are able to cross no matter how hard we try, might as well learn to be happy with what we have.”

Ee Chen was speechless. Is this supposed to be a consolation or discouragement?

Thankfully, he was taught a lesson by Xinghe a long time ago and had learnt to face the truth.

Ee Chen smiled wickedly. “Even though I can't surpass her, I can learn from her. Miss Xia, why don't you take me as your student?”

Xinghe replied without taking her eyes off the screen, “If there's such a chance, why not?”

Ee Chen was excited!

“I will take that as a yes, after this thing is over, I shall honor you as my master!”

Chapter 696: The Opening

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe looked at him and suggested kindly, “Actually, you’re quite good already, there’s no need to do all this.”

“But I’m still less than you. Don’t worry, I don’t mind calling you teacher if it can help improve my ability,” Ee Chen said openly without any trouble or pretext. He was a broad-minded person, he didn’t mind learning from his peer if it could enrich himself. Unlike many other characters in this book, he didn’t feel envious or annoyed by Xinghe simply because she was better than he was.

Xinghe nodded. “Okay, we can discuss this later.”

That was as good a promise as any for Ee Chen. His lips curved from elation and promised to treat her like he would treat a respectable teacher. Ali’s group felt oddly envious watching Xinghe take Ee Chen as her student. They also wanted to be her students!

However, they understood that their computer skills were indeed too lacking to qualify as her students. Thankfully, they were good friends and comrades with her and that knowledge did soothe their jealousy quite a bit.

Xinghe wasn’t aware of the little humorous power struggle with her at the center, so she went back to focus on Angel Orphanage. If the place was out in the open, she could see it, but it was a different story for things that happened inside the buildings. However, this was sufficient for what they needed.

Time slowly passed, and it was soon night. Xinghe’s group all focused on the movement within the orphanage, and soon, they discovered that people had started action.

While the orphanage quieted down for the night, a woman carrying a child in her arms came out from one of the buildings and headed straight to the van. Then, two guys holding a crate between them intercepted her.

They placed the child into the crate and sealed the crate. Then the crate was tossed into the back of the van. After everything

was secured, the van's engine started up, and they drove away. Their every action was recorded by Xinghe.

Ee Chen whispered, "What shall we do now?"

"Let's go hijack that car!" Sam suggested in a severe tone. They were furious seeing this for themselves. Now, they believed many orphans had died an unknown death in that orphanage.

They couldn't imagine the things these children had gone through before they died, but it must have been some cruel torment. If possible, they wanted to level this sick orphanage and demolish the entire He Lan family!

Xinghe kept her cool head and rejected them. "There's no need to be get personally involved, we should call the police."

"That's right, we should report them to the police!" Ali agreed.

Ee Chen though was dubious. "The He Lan family is too powerful, I don't think that law enforcement can harm them in any way."

"Then, what's the point of hijacking their car?" Xinghe asked.

The rest of them were silenced. Indeed, if law enforcement couldn't do anything against them, then what was the point of stopping their van?

They temporarily wouldn't be able to harm the He Lan family and the only thing they could do was report them to the police and at least light a small fire under them.

This was Xinghe's purpose, to find themselves an opening to deal with the He Lan family.

Thus, Xinghe immediately sent the video to the nearest police station. Not only that, she also posted the video online and soon her video became a trending topic!

Chapter 697: Chaos in the He Lan Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Overnight, Angel Orphanage's crime was exposed to the world. There was a palpable rage when people saw the child being sealed in the crate and tossed into the van.

Very quickly, a large group of police and media mobilized. Charity groups also joined in to intercept that van, they wanted to save the child. Of course, the He Lan family received the news at the first notice as well. They were shocked, they had no idea how their secret was leaked. He Lan Qi immediately called someone to have this handled.

When the van driver knew he had been exposed, he was shot with fear. He tried to turn around and run but the police were already tracking his movement; no matter where he tried to run, the police would be tailing him. Combined with the roadblocks, the van driver was like a caught fly.

Even He Lan Chang's influence couldn't suppress this anymore. No one dared to come to his aid. Everyone knew about Angel Orphanage's problem after the video was leaked. The police didn't dare to openly shelter the He Lan family anymore, after all, the whole country was following this story closely!

Unless they had a death wish, no one dared to get themselves involved. Therefore, the He Lan family could only stand helplessly as the car was pulled over, the passengers in it were detained, and the child in the back of the car was discovered. The fact that a child was sealed into a crate to be taken away was too suspicious, so no matter what excuse the He Lan family came up with, it was no use.

Just like the Xi family in Hwa Xia, the taller one stood, the greater the number of people that wanted you to fall. Therefore, when something like this that threatened the He Lan family's position happened, many hidden enemies of theirs surfaced!

In just one night, news about the He Lan family appeared like mushrooms after a spring rain. Multiple media outlets were

reporting on them, and the internet was abuzz with discussion on this mysterious family.

The mysterious veil that had protected the He Lan family for decades was rudely taken away, and they were thus exposed to the world. Many knew of the existence of the He Lan family because of this.

They were shoved directly into the public eye, and from then on, every one of their movements would be under public scrutiny. They couldn't maintain a low profile anymore, and they had to be extra careful to not let their weaknesses be exposed or it would be over for them.

Chaos swept through the He Lan family like a tornado, and this was exactly what Xinghe wanted.

Witnessing this, Ee Chen was overjoyed. "Miss Xia, your idea is brilliant, let's see how He Lan Chang handles this catastrophe!"

"It's best if the police throw all of them in jail; they don't deserve to live among the decent public!" Ali hissed through gritted teeth.

"Xinghe, let's find a way to destroy them!" Sam and the guys were equally incensed. This was because they realized the girl from last night was not dead. In other words, the He Lan family planned to burn a little girl that was still alive!

The girl was paralyzed but she was still alive. They planned to cremate her alive, so how could that not anger anyone that had a heart?

When they saw the news that morning, Xinghe's group was at their anger limit. Earlier, they thought the child in the crate was already dead, but in reality, she was still alive.

Chapter 698: Leaving Country R

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The fact that they were heartless enough to cremate a living little girl made chills run down everyone's spines. If not for the anonymous tip, the girl's ending would have been indescribably torturous. Thinking about that made Ali's group yearn to snap all of the He Lan family's necks!

Xinghe shared their anger but she understood the importance of keeping a cool head.

"There is no way to destroy them yet," Xinghe answered coldly. "This might bring them some trouble, but they'll have plenty of ways to deal with it. It is not enough to destroy them."

"Then what can we do? Let them continue these atrocities? Who knows how many innocent children they will continue to kill? In fact, perhaps those children bodies they have cremated were not bodies but living children!" Ali said in a tone that oozed with hatred. It lit up the hatred in everyone's hearts.

A flash of severity appeared in Xinghe's eyes. "Of course, they will have to be punished. Don't worry, I will make sure they pay for this! But now, we will have to wait."

"Wait for what?" Ee Chen was curious.

Xinghe replied softly, "For an opportunity."

"An opportunity that is better than this?" Ali's group was confused; they couldn't understand what she meant.

Xinghe nodded. "That's right. We're waiting to see how they will respond and this will give us a chance to gauge the depth of the He Lan family's influence. At the same time, we will find out how many people are out to get them. So, we will need to wait for the perfect time to strike."

"What if there is no such opportunity?" Ee Chen was worried.

Xinghe smirked. "Opportunities are everywhere, it is a question of whether we can identify and grab them. When the

opportunity presents itself, we will strike hard and the way to destroy them will reveal itself.”

“Xinghe, we believe in you!” Cairn said confidently. Everyone put their faith in her as well, because she was none other than Xia Xinghe.

She was not going to let any opportunity slip through her finger and would launch the fatal blow when the time was right. She had a trail of success behind her and they were confident it wouldn't be any different this time. They believed in her ability and talent.

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The He Lan family landed in hot waters, troubles were chasing them around so much so that they didn't have time for Xinghe anymore. He Lan Qi no longer had the luxury of harassing Xinghe since he needed to save his own ass first.

Xinghe made use of this opportunity to leave Country R. She had spent about ten days in Country R, but she had been through a lot and found out so much. It was still a surprise to her that her mother was the second Shen Miss. Other than that, she managed to confirm the suspicions about the He Lan family.

For personal and humane reasons, she was going to destroy this family and exposing the orphanage was only the first step. The next time she returned to this country, she would have come prepared to destroy them!

She would let them simmer in this trouble for a while because this was when she could collect the most information she needed!

Chapter 699: Rush to the Shen Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Only with a wealth of information could Xinghe devise a plan to completely destroy them!

Of course, even after she had returned to Hwa Xia, she could continue to come up with ways to deal with them, but the most important thing she needed to do then was to rush to the Shen family, to inform them of the truth, especially, the fact that her mother was the Shen family's second daughter.

Therefore, Xinghe's plane didn't land in City T but in City A. After landing, she rushed to the Shen family's house. Only Ali followed her on this return. Sam and the guys stayed in Country R to protect and assist Ee Chen collecting more information on the He Lan family.

In the car, Ali was overly excited like it was her who was related to the Shen family and not Xinghe. "Xinghe, do you think Elder Shen will faint from sheer joy when he finds out you're his biological granddaughter?"

Xinghe smiled slightly. "I hope he doesn't."

"I know he will be very happy and love you even more. He already treats you so nicely even though he doesn't know you two are related by blood, so this will be such good news for him. The world is so small, I'm sure no one could have predicted that you are really related to them..." Ali sighed happily; she was very happy for Xinghe. Perhaps influenced by Ali, Xinghe also started to get a little excited and anxious. Honestly, she had no idea how Elder Shen and the rest of the Shen family would react...

She knew she was happy because she finally found her mother's kin and she would have more family to care about in the world. She would treat the Shen family like she treated Xia Zhi and her uncle. Many things were unstable in the world, but family ties would always be an exception because blood is thicker than water.

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Finally, they arrived at the Shen family's door. To Xinghe's surprise, there was another guest that day. It was Tong Yan!

Like in the movies, their cars came from opposite ends of the road and stopped together in front of the entrance. Xinghe descended from her car and saw Tong Yan exiting her own car. She had beside her a young and beautiful woman who Xinghe had not seen before.

Resentment immediately bubbled up in Tong Yan's eyes when she saw Xinghe. After Madam President accepted Xinghe as her stepdaughter, Tong Yan had nothing but jealousy and resentment towards Xinghe. Xinghe not only ruined her life but also had assumed her role, so how could she live that down?

Therefore, Tong Yan would never forgive Xinghe as long as she had a breath in her and would do everything she could to make Xinghe's life difficult.

Someone as fiery and unreasonable as her naturally couldn't suppress her anger and resentment when she noticed Xinghe. "Just returned from the overseas and the first thing she does is to come suck up to our Shen family. Xia Xinghe, don't you ever think simply because Auntie accepted you as her stepdaughter, you are really a part of the Shen family. You'd better take a good look at yourself and realize that you are not qualified to bear the Shen name! If you're clever, you should take your commoner's ass far away from my family and stop trying to affiliate yourself to us, because it's very humiliating for us!"

The first thing that came out of her mouth was something so unsightly, so Ali retorted angrily, "Who do you think you are that you dare to talk to Xinghe like this?"

Chapter 700: Who Is the Fake?

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Humiliated by Ali, Tong Yan glared angrily at her. “And who the hell are you? I am the Tong family’s first heiress. I’m teaching this arrogant pretender to the throne a life lesson, so how dare you to interrupt me?”

Ali blurted out laughing. “This is so ironic, you have no clue who the real pretender is. Let me tell you, Xinghe...”

“Stop.” Xinghe raised her hand slightly to stop Ali from continuing. Ali didn’t know why Xinghe would stop her, but she clammed up obediently.

Tong Yan thought she finally had them cornered so she scoffed with derision. “Why did you stop? Don’t tell me you plan to say Xinghe is the biological daughter and I’m not? Don’t make me laugh, I might not bear the Shen name, but my mother is the Shen family’s real daughter and that makes me more qualified to be here than Xia Xinghe, the faker. So don’t show up here anymore because you don’t have the right to take away everything that belongs to me! I will never allow you to do that!”

“Are you done?” Xinghe asked calmly. She was not at all affected by Tong Yan’s slanderous words; she didn’t even deign to look the little girl in her eyes.

Tong Yan glared openly at Xinghe. “That’s right, I’m done! So get lost, the Shen family doesn’t welcome you. Grandpa, Grandma, and Auntie are all mine; they have nothing to do with you! So stop being so shameless to come and steal my family! They are not yours so get lost!”

Tong Yan thought she could shame Xinghe into leaving, but Xinghe’s eyes didn’t even acknowledge her existence. It was as if Xinghe was listening to a mad dog bark.

“If you’re done, then leave. Regardless of whether I am qualified to be a Shen or not, you are definitely not,” Xinghe said softly before striding into the door.

“What did you say?” Tong Yan glared at her back. “Xia Xinghe, you b*tch, how dare you talk to me like this? Ying Ying, look at the way she treats me; she is the one who takes everything away from me. She has not only ruined my life but has also stolen everything away from me. It is because of her that Grandpa refuses to see me!”

Tong Yan started bawling from feeling wronged. She was sad...

Chui Ying who stood beside her quickly consoled her, “Little Yan, don’t be sad. Someone like her definitely doesn’t deserve to be your competition, don’t worry, I will help you this time.”

“Ying Ying, thank you! You are so good to me.” Tong Yan squeezed out a smile and hugged her friend.

Chui Ying smiled thinly and purposely spoke in a volume meant for Xinghe’s ears, “There’s no need to thank me, after all, we’re friends. It’s my responsibility to stand up for you. Come on, let’s go in. Just wait and see, I will definitely help you take your revenge.”

“Okay!” Tong Yan nodded excitedly and there was smugness in her eyes. Xia Xinghe, this time I will make you suffer! How dare you claim everything that belongs to me? I will make you return them to me with interest! Everything in the Shen family belongs to me; I will make you see that truth!

To fulfil her plan, Tong Yan dragged Chui Ying through the door anxiously. Of course, Ali and Xinghe had heard their conversation.

“Xinghe, that woman with Tong Yan doesn’t look like a simple character,” Ali reminded her softly.

Xinghe nodded slightly. “I know.”