

Trial Marriage Husband: Need to Work Hard Novel Chapter 36 To 40

Chapter 36: A Desire to Control Artists

“Although I debuted in France...back in the days when I appeared on the runway, I got to know a lot of European and American supermodels: Heidi, Wengna and others. The editor of the American Royal Magazine was also my mentor for half a month. However, they may not remember me now. Back then no one knew my Chinese name – they knew me as Kira,” Tangning explained calmly.

Hearing Tangning mention the names of famous European and American personalities, Long Jie and Lin Wei blinked their eyes in surprise.

“I know Han Ruoxue wants to get rid of me as soon as I’m of no use and is using me to boost Mo Yurou. Especially now that I’m in the US, she thinks I stand no chance.”

“Hmmph, shameless!” Long Jie grunted.

“I’m also familiar with the editor of the American Royal Magazine. Would you like to catch up with your mentor?” Mo Ting, who had been quiet for a while, suddenly asked.

“Mo Ting, I’ve said it before, I don’t want you helping me.”

“Just treat it as a private get-together,” Mo Ting smiled while one side of his perfect face shone charmingly under the sun.

“Hmmm...OK,” Tangning nodded. Of course, she would never have expected, this private get-together would end up being the deciding factor in the fight between her and Mo Yurou.

Mo Ting owned his own manor in the US, so there was no need to stay in a hotel. The pure American-style rooms were warm and cozy – more comfortable than any hotel suite. As it was a bit far from the Secret Headquarters, Mo Ting had already instructed Lu Che to find out the schedule for Secret. Lu Che was well prepared, he even knew what time they would be

having dinner. Tangning found this very impressive, while Long Jie and Lin Wei couldn't help but to reflect on themselves.

After having a quick shower, Tangning stood by the window and looked out. At this time, Mo Ting approached her wearing a black robe – his black hair was dripping wet with water.

Tangning naturally took the towel out of his hands, stood on her tiptoes and started to dry the beads of water from his hair. Meanwhile, Mo Ting stared at her with a serious expression.

“What do you want? You are looking at me with so much focus...”

“I was thinking, since it's daytime, whether I should do something I shouldn't...” Mo Ting hooked onto Tangning's chin and gently kissed her on the lips – their tongues danced together. Afterwards, his soft lips slowly made it's way next to her ear as he whispered seductively, “On board the plane, I wanted to keep kissing you...”

Tangning glanced out the window, worried people outside would see them, however, she couldn't resist Mo Ting's teasing as she found herself losing control of her body. She was weak in his arms.

Their robes somehow found it's way onto the floor as they faced each other in their most vulnerable state. Losing control, they quickly found themselves on the soft bed.

Because the lighting was bright, Tangning could clearly see Mo Ting's figure – it was comparable to a Western model. His body was not thin and weak like a typical Asian man, his body was firm and built with perfectly sculpted muscles. His skin glowed a healthy bronze – seeing his body drove Tangning crazy...

Mo Ting was pleased to see her scanning his body – he too was impressed by hers.

Tangning's body met international model standards; perfectly proportioned at 178cm tall, with measurements that were just right and a beautiful pair of pale long slender legs, it was hard to resist temptation around her.

The two figures were like a pair of perfect bodies coming together; this was a gift from heaven and meant to be.

Mo Ting laughed, “If we keep our figures like this for the rest of our lives, our chances of divorce would be zero.”

Tangning also responded with a laugh. She gently lifted her left hand and brushed Mo Ting’s right ear, “I love this mole of yours the most, it’s like you were born with an earring.”

Mo Ting could no longer hold back his burning passion as he leaned over and pressed his lips against Tangning’s. His warm palms also could not be controlled...

Tangning released a quiet moan of pleasure as she reciprocated by passionately kissing Mo Ting’s ear.

The two continued affectionately. When they finally got tired, they embraced each other and fell asleep. After they woke up, they leaned against each other and whispered sweet words before affectionately doing what they wanted to do. Of course, as usual, they did not complete the last step of their intimacy, but Tangning still wished life like this would stand still – it was too perfect!

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Meanwhile, Han Ruoxue was having dinner at the hotel with Han Yufan and Mo Yurou. Seeing Mo Yurou acting cautious, she quickly said, “You shouldn’t be so afraid of me.”

“Ruoxue Jie...”

“I am indeed not satisfied with you, but regardless, you are my brother’s decision. Since we will become a family soon, I will definitely be on your side.” Han Ruoxue cut the steak in front of her and placed a piece in her mouth. She then glanced gently at Mo Yurou, “I know you and Tangning are like water and fire and Tangning is quite arrogant at the moment. Originally, because of what happened between you, I felt we owed her, but after the things she did recently, I feel like she is not worth the pity.”

“The meeting with Secret will be at 8am tomorrow, but I have already told my assistant to tell her it is at 9am. Secret’s editor hates people that are late, so...it’s likely Tangning will be replaced tomorrow.”

“But...wasn’t the plan to have us attend the shoot together?” Mo Yurou didn’t understand Han Ruoxue’s actions.

“I only said you were shooting together to create a topic of discussion and take the focus off your scandal. Now that we are in the US, it’s not like she is the only Asian model around. When the time comes, we can easily find another model to work with you,” Han Ruoxue explained.

“Tangning’s not going to give up...”

“This is the magazine’s decision and has nothing to do with Tianyi. Once the shoot is over, your value will multiply. Whereas Tangning’s career will suffer after people back at home find out about the cold reception she received here in the US. This ought to teach her a lesson.”

Tangning had said it before, Han Ruoxue was the type of person that enjoyed controlling her artists. So the look Tangning had when she landed, was enough to ignite Han Ruoxue’s hatred. As if she wasn’t going to find ways to make her suffer.

Mo Yurou looked at the two people backing her and felt like she was about to become a superstar. How could Tangning, who had nothing, compete with her?

Indeed, Lin Wei ended up being notified of the 9am meeting time by Han Ruoxue, but, Han Ruoxue had no idea, Mo Ting already had a precise schedule in his hands. So when Tangning saw there was a difference in the time, she could already guess what was going on.

“Tangning, it’s obvious Tianyi wants to get rid of you, what should we do?”

“Since Han Ruoxue wants me to be late, I’ll be early instead...” Tangning replied, “But, both of you better be mentally prepared; I may be replaced.”

“I’ve been prepared a long time ago,” Lin Wei responded, “At the same time, I have also prepared a way for you to get it back...”

Chapter 37: Eliminated

The next morning. Secret’s Headquarters. Tangning was already waiting in the meeting room at 7:30am after being escorted by the front desk staff. She was earlier than Han Ruoxue and the others by half an hour.

Meanwhile, Mo Yurou was under the assumption that Tangning was still snoring away in bed.

Never would she have thought, by the time they arrived at the meeting room, Tangning had already been waiting for quite some time.

Han Ruoxue had a confused look on her face. She originally wanted Tangning to arrive at 9am – she was supposed to be so late, she wouldn't even be allowed in the meeting room. She planned it this way so Tangning wouldn't get the chance to find out she had intentionally given the wrong time. But right now, Tangning had arrived early. It was clear Tangning knew she had the intention to eliminate her. However, she didn't care, she was still the organizer of this event and no one could defy her.

“Tangning, why are you here so early?” Mo Yurou asked frustratedly; it appeared Han Ruoxue's plan did not work on Tangning.

“My friend was passing by, so on the way to work, he dropped me off,” Tangning explained calmly.

“Enough talking, the meeting is about to start,” Han Ruoxue reminded the two to be quiet.

Not long after, the person in charge entered the meeting room. She was a 40-something-year-old middle-aged woman. Behind her, followed two assistants that carried a huge stack of documents.

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“Ruoxue, I have looked at the information regarding these two models.” The woman raised her head and took one glance at both Tangning and Mo Yurou before she continued talking, “However, I only want one of them. I know everyone's time is precious, so I'm not going to go around in circles; I want Mo Yurou. As for Tangning, I don't think she is suited to the theme of our shoot.”

She directly threw Tangning's portfolio on the table in front of them.

“It's OK if you don't want Tangning, I have other models for you to choose from.” Things had panned out the way Han Ruoxue had expected. After all, Han Ruoxue had been implanting negative ideas of Tangning into this woman's head for quite some time. She immediately took out the portfolios of her other models and handed them to the woman in front of her. Not only did she find a way to get rid of Tangning, she managed to make good use of her – Mo Yurou had benefited and Han Ruoxue also had the opportunity to introduce some of her other models.

“Let me have a look before I make a decision,” the woman asked her assistants to collect the portfolios and prepared to get up. However, Tangning held her back by suddenly speaking.

“May I ask what theme you speak of, Miss Mina?”

The woman obviously did not expect Tangning to speak up, so she replied, “Oriental Trend, I assume a dull person like yourself isn’t too suited.”

“Has Miss Mina seen any of my works or seen me in any of my shows?” Tangning challenged with a smile.

“Aren’t you a...newcomer?” she asked; she obviously had never heard of Tangning.

“Let me first ask you, was it Miss Han that told you I was a newcomer?” Tangning remained calm – not wanting to sound overbearing.

“Tangning, don’t go too far!” Han Ruoxue quickly growled as she glared at Tangning, “This is a decision between us, you don’t have the right to question it.”

“You used my popularity to bring Mo Yurou to the US and then used my name to boost your newcomers. You’ve used me so thoroughly, am I not allowed to ask a few questions?” Tangning asked sharply as she smiled at Han Ruoxue.

“Tangning, you really don’t know how to be tolerant.”

“My tolerance isn’t used to tolerate jerks, tramps and their wonderful relatives...” Tangning said towards Han Ruoxue before she turned back to Miss Mina, “Since you haven’t seen any of my shows, then let’s not bother putting on this act. How about this, let’s bet...before we even hit tomorrow morning, you will already regret your decision.” After the words left her mouth, Tangning took big steps as she led Long Jie and Lin Wei out of the room; putting on her sunglasses as she went.

Miss Mina was stunned by Tangning’s confidence. After Tangning left she immediately questioned Han Ruoxue, “Who is this model?”

Han Ruoxue was so angry her face was glowing red. She straightforwardly replied, “A newcomer model that will never get anywhere – no one important.”

Miss Mina didn't think much of it as she turned around to leave the meeting room, ready to hand over the rest of the meeting to other staff to discuss costs. At this time, Mo Yurou stood up and fueled Han Ruoxue's anger, "Ruoxue Jie, Tangning's really beginning to not show any respect. She doesn't even have any regard for you."

Han Yufan wasn't present; this was a fight amongst the girls. So, Han Ruoxue didn't have to hold back, "She wants me to regret? Has she even taken a look at herself? Prepare yourself, once your value goes up, Tangning will have to kneel before you and polish your shoes."

"Yes Ruoxue Jie, I will not disappoint you."

Mo Yurou promised to herself, she was going to teach Tangning a lesson and even if Tangning was to retaliate, she wasn't going to have a fighting chance.

After leaving Secret's headquarters, Tangning returned to the manor with Lin Wei and Long Jie. Although they had mentally prepared themselves, Long Jie was still trembling in anger.

"I've never seen such a shameless person. The members of the Han family keep getting worse and worse."

"Tangning, what do you plan on doing now?" Lin Wei questioned Tangning. "We've already drawn the line with the Han siblings."

"You think if I hadn't drawn the line, they would have let me off easily?" Tangning laughed, "As I said earlier: Secret will personally give me a call tomorrow, or perhaps, they won't even be able to wait until tomorrow morning."

"OK, since you already have everything planned, we will just wait patiently for the result."

Lin Wei was extremely curious how Tangning was going to turn the tables, but she also knew Tangning was a very careful person. Until she had 100% certainty, she wasn't going to reveal anything. So, all they could do now was sit and wait patiently.

The truth was, even before Mo Ting had handed her an invite to the American Photography Exhibition that morning, Tangning already had other plans to deal with the situation. But Mo Ting's intention was obvious: since Mo Yurou

recruited the help of Han Ruoxue, why couldn't she depend on him for once? After all, Mo Ting promised he wasn't going to come forward or help her pull relations; he simply gave her a chance at a fair fight with Mo Yurou. So, in the end, Tangning agreed to attend.

The exhibition was to be attended by many famous photographers, magazines and personalities, including...people from Secret. Most importantly, her mentor, the editor of Royal Magazine was the organizer.

The exhibition was scheduled for that night. So, after returning to the manor, Tangning quickly went to prepare. Even though the Entertainment Industry had its rules, it didn't mean there was no chance of change.

Han Ruoxue thought she was in control, but tonight, Tangning was going to let her know, in reality, she was nothing. The consequences of her arrogance was, she would only be able to control B-grade models like Mo Yurou to satisfy her ego.

She didn't need to remind everyone she was Kira, all she needed to do was stand beside her mentor and everyone would know, her status was above average.

Her? A newcomer? Who said so?

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Chapter 38: Turning The Tables

Mo Ting had ordered his people to prepare a bunch of dresses for Tangning. He even personally picked out a gold-patterned strapless dress with a white lining. The pattern resembled an oriental ink painting. As the dress gave off a strong oriental aura, once worn on Tangning's body, she completely exuded the classic elegance of an oriental beauty – there was no doubt they matched perfectly. Paired with Tangning's slender waist and long legs...her feminine beauty and charm, in an instant, emanated from her body like a fragrance in the wind.

Mo Ting stood behind Tangning and used his chest to firmly press against Tangning's back as he wrapped his hands around her waist – not willing to let go, "You are like a piece of art."

"It's because you have good taste," Tangning returned the praise. She never knew Mo Ting understood her to this extent – he knew Secret wanted to shoot the Oriental Trend and knew Secret humiliated her for being a newcomer –

so, he intentionally picked out this dress for them to see, by not picking Tangning, they had made a huge loss.

“Why must you be a model, I just want to keep you to myself,” Mo Ting placed his chin on Tangning’s shoulder and complained.

“Look who’s talking, why not mention that even Han Ruoxue was going crazy at the sight of you?” Tangning immediately complained back before she let out a laugh, “Don’t worry, aren’t we only allowed to have physical contact with each other?”

“Of course.” After speaking, Mo Ting turned Tangning around and kissed her lips as they stood before the mirror, the two were extremely affectionate. Tangning could see her own expression through the mirror; Mo Ting’s kiss really brought a person pleasure. Most importantly, whether it was affectionate or passionate, his lips belonged to only her. Just the thought of another woman kissing him made her heart uneasy.

“That’s enough, I’m going to be late,” Tangning’s face flushed red as she gently pushed Mo Ting away from herself.

“When you get home, you better think of a way to compensate me,” Mo Ting released her from his embrace.

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Tangning nodded as she kissed Mo Ting on the ear, “You can have whatever compensation you want...”

The photography exhibition was to be held at 7pm inside one of America’s abandoned parks. Tangning arrived not too late nor too early because, by the time she handed over her invite, there were already loads of famous people inside. Of course, amongst these people were her mentor, Ms. Bertha.

Everyone was trying their best to stand out, but most of them had a Western style. Only Tangning was dressed in a charming oriental mini dress, immediately drawing the attention of people around her, including...the person in charge of Secret who had just rejected her earlier that day, Mina.

She walked over to Tangning holding a glass of champagne with an amused expression before she spoke in a ridiculing tone, “I never thought, for the sake of the front cover of our magazine, you would follow me all the way here.”

Tangning laughed gently in a dignified manner, "I think you have misunderstood, Miss Mina."

"I don't think so. You obviously knew our theme would be the Oriental Trend so you deliberately dressed like this and appeared here. Unfortunately, once I've made a decision, I don't take it back." Mina thought, when Tangning said she would regret, she was referring to her appearance at this moment. Although she was indeed beautiful, Secret wasn't going to change their mind for the sake of one model.

"Also, Tianyi's President Han said you have a bad personality. Judging by what I see before me, he is right, you are indeed taking advantage of the situation to promote yourself."

"I've said it already, my appearance today has nothing to do with Secret," Tangning emphasized again with a louder voice attracting the attention of Ms. Bertha, who was currently showing some guests around the exhibition.

"You've really put in a lot of effort, no wonder Ruoxue told me to be careful of you."

"Miss Mina, you must really think highly of yourself." After speaking, Tangning's gaze diverted to the person standing behind Mina – it was Bertha. A smile appeared across her face, "Mentor."

Bertha looked at Tangning surprisingly before she emotionally wrapped Tangning in her embrace, "Oh, my precious dear, it's been a long time. How have you been?"

"I've been good. But mentor, I've got a problem," Tangning explained.

After hearing this, Bertha remembered why she had walked over here in the first place, she had heard two people arguing. So, she released Tangning and turned to Mina, "What is all this?"

How could this be?

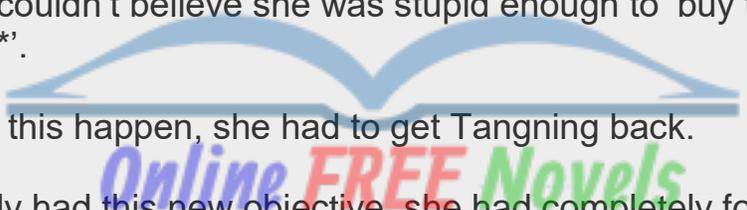
Mina was shocked. Wasn't Tangning here because she wanted to get back her front cover shoot?

How does she know the editor of Royal Magazine? And why is their relationship so close?

Tangning didn't hold back, she explained the entire incident to Bertha. Upon hearing everything, Bertha absolutely felt the people at Secret were out of their mind. In a straightforward manner, she released her anger upon Mina, "This is why your magazine has been failing. How dare you reject my precious and choose a B-grade model instead, yet be so proud of yourself? My god, this is ridiculous. Did you know how many awards Kira received when she walked down the runways in France?"

"She...isn't she a newcomer?" Mina was dumbfounded.

"She's appeared at Master Bonne's show, in fact, she was in the finale. At that time, she was only 17 and you were still a nobody!" After speaking, Bertha affectionately hugged Tangning, "My precious, don't be upset. Whatever front cover you want, just let me know."

Mina watched in disbelief as the two walked into the distance. Her blood began to boil. Because she had listened to Han Ruoxue, she gave up on Tangning. She couldn't believe she was stupid enough to 'buy the case and return the pearl*'.


She couldn't let this happen, she had to get Tangning back.

Inside, Mina only had this new objective, she had completely forgotten what she said earlier about changing her mind for the sake of one model.

Tangning did not look back at Mina, because she could already guess what Mina was thinking right now. She turned down Bertha's offer as she began to recount all that had happened to her in the past few years, "Mentor, I am clear on my position right now. I will take one step at a time to completely get back what was mine...I'm thankful for your good intentions."

"My precious, the most important thing in life is to know what you want. It's never too late to start again," Bertha nodded understandingly.

"Thank you, mentor."

"Look at you, you completely stand out in the crowd. You haven't changed at all."

Upon hearing her praises, Tangning smiled humbly. She was humble because she knew there were so many people in this world with amazing abilities; she felt she was nothing in comparison.

After the photography exhibition ended, Bertha ordered someone to escort Tangning home. At this moment, Mina suddenly came running out and stopped Tangning's car, "Can you give me 5 minutes for a chat?"

"What else do we have to chat about?" Tangning asked directly.

"As long as you are willing to shoot our front cover, you can make whatever request you want – I will make sure to fulfill it."

"Even at the expense of going against Han Ruoxue?" Tangning asked as she looked out the car window, in a casual but dangerous tone, "I am a vengeful person."

"I've said it already, you can make whatever request and I will fulfill it, regardless of the expense."

"Then...I'll wait for you to show your sincerity," Tangning laughed as she wound up the car window and asked the driver to leave.

Han Ruoxue, tomorrow you will realize, everything's changed...

Translators Notes:

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* Buy the case and return the pearl (买椟还珠) – used to explain someone with poor judgment that doesn't know the true worth of something. This idiom originated from a story about a man that tried to sell his pearl by making a case from molan wood, embellishing it with gems and fumigating it with incense. In the end, a buyer buys the case and returns the pearl. Although the original story was more a mockery of the seller who failed to sell his pearl. The idiom these days is used to mock the buyer who failed to see that the pearl was worth much more than the case.

Chapter 39: Getting Even

After returning to the manor, Lin Wei and Long Jie ran out and greeted Tangning as they excitedly held onto her arm. Tangning simply laughed. She wasn't going to disappoint their expectations; especially not the man that thoughtfully helped her so much.

Long Jie noticed Tangning's gaze was focused on the man sitting on the sofa flipping through documents. She smiled cheekily as she pushed Tangning

towards him, “We won’t be light bulbs anymore, hurry over and keep him company!”

After speaking, Long Jie and Lin Wei returned to their own respective rooms. However, not long after, Long Jie ran back out holding her phone towards Tangning helplessly, “Han Yufan is calling, do you want to pick up?”

Tangning took a quick glance at Mo Ting before she nodded, grabbing the phone from Long Jie’s hands.

“Tangning, since the magazine has decided not to use you, you should return home first. There’s no point for you to stay in the US. Don’t blame my sister for being ruthless, she did it for the sake of Tianyi. The magazine wasn’t happy with you, so you don’t have the right to blame anyone,” Han Yufan said, speaking like everything he and his sister did was right.

“After using me, you kicked me aside, now you want me to gladly accept all this?” Tangning’s tone was calm but contained a slight sense of ridicule.

“Why won’t you give up? Why must you go against Mo Yurou? Why can’t you just let us off?” Han Yufan asked impatiently. Tangning felt like a heavy and annoying baggage that he was desperate to get rid of, but she just kept following him around.

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“There is no reason for me to let despicable people off!” Tangning’s tone was firm, “I know how the industry is like. Today Mo Yurou has backup, so she is capable of stepping all over me and is using me to benefit herself. But, that doesn’t mean she will still be this fortunate tomorrow...”

“You already have no chance, just let it go! The fact that I love Yurou, is not her fault. My sister was right, you indeed do not have any tolerance.”

Tangning suddenly clenched her left fist. Sensing the change in her emotions, Mo Ting reached out his comforting palm and pulled her into his warm embrace.

Han Yufan was indeed a heartless person, otherwise, he wouldn’t be able to treat Tangning this way. He took her love and destroyed her career, now he wanted her to support his new relationship – he was practically draining her of everything she had.

“Your selfishness will only push Mo Yurou further into hell.” After speaking, Tangning hung up the phone and tried her best to calm herself down.

Mo Ting put down his documents, held onto her hands and gently swayed her body.

“I’m fine. It’s normal to be annoyed once in a while, it helps me train a stronger heart.”

“Did you see your mentor?” Mo Ting did not ask any further as he changed the topic.

“Uh huh, it went smoothly.” Tangning naturally sat beside Mo Ting as she leaned against his arms, “I also met a few famous photographers. Mo Ting, I was so happy...all that was missing was you. I couldn’t help thinking, if I could attend an event like that holding your hand, how perfect it would be.”

“You will have plenty of chances in the future,” Mo Ting responded suggestively.

“Are you tired? Should I give you a massage?” Tangning asked as she knelt beside him. However, before she could do anything, Mo Ting turned towards her, grabbed hold of her hand and picked her up in his arms; carrying her horizontally.

“I want you to massage a different part of me...”

“Hubby...I won’t make you wait much longer...” Under the moonlight, Tangning hugged Mo Ting and as the moment became more passionate, she mumbled, “...because I realized, when I think of you kissing someone else, I feel extremely uneasy.”

...

Early the next morning. Secret’s Headquarters. Mina once again notified Mo Yurou and the others to attend a meeting. After writing up the contract yesterday, today they had to officially sign it.

Mo Yurou wanted to take part in the magazine shoot as soon as possible because the child in her stomach was already over 1 month old. If things kept getting delayed, people would easily discover soon.

The Top Ten Model Awards was to take place in half a months time. She wanted to use the results from Secret's shoot to obtain an award, that way she would be able to climb up the ranks to become an A-grade model. As Secret was a weekly publication, her appearance in the magazine would be before the awards ceremony. So, whether she would be able to influence the Oriental Trend, would go towards her assessment for the Top Ten Model Awards qualifications.

5 minutes later, Mina entered the meeting room. She glared at Mo Yurou and Han Ruoxue with a mocking expression, however, they didn't realize.

"Mina, we are ready to go. We can get started with the shoot as soon as you are ready. Don't worry, Yurou is an extremely professional model, she will definitely complete the task given by Secret and ignite the Oriental Trend."

"Also, we have already organized for Tangning to fly home, she won't be causing us any more trouble...after all, you know she's not easy to deal with."

Mina sneered as she played with the pen in her hand, "What should we do now? Sorry, Ruoxue, unfortunately, I didn't ask you here to sign the contract...I...asked you here to change models again."

After speaking, Mina tore the contract in Mo Yurou's hands into shreds, "I'm no longer using either of your models. This is the condition the model I want has given me."

Upon hearing this, Han Ruoxue slammed her hands on the table angrily, "Mina, what do you mean by this?"

Han Ruoxue had never thought Secret would go back on their words.

"Can't you understand what I'm saying? I said I won't be signing Mo Yurou. For the sake of your family's personal matters, you've shoved an unworthy model into my hands. Han Ruoxue, is this how you treat your friends?"

"I don't know what you're talking about," Han Ruoxue had a surprised expression.

"Fine, let me ask you one thing: why did you tell me Tangning is a newcomer? She is already internationally renowned and has received multiple awards. She is even the disciple of Royal Magazine's editor, yet you intentionally told

me she's a newcomer. Were you afraid I wouldn't take Mo Yurou, so you deliberately defamed her?" Mina exclaimed loudly.

"I..." Han Ruoxue was choked up.

"Did you know, because of your selfishness, how humiliated I felt at last night's photography exhibition?"

Mina continued to blame Han Ruoxue regardless of their past friendship, "Han Ruoxue, I don't care what you do when no one is looking, but in front of me you better contain your scheming."

"But, you can't just say you don't want her like that. You've seen Mo Yurou's abilities before..."

"Regarding this matter...I have no say – I've already made a promise to the model I've worked so hard to sign. If you want to plead, go speak to her. As long as she agrees to work with Mo Yurou, I have no opinion." Mina placed the shredded contract on the table and turned to ask her assistant, "Has she arrived?"

"Yes, she's arrived."

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Hearing all this, Han Ruoxue clenched her teeth. "Let me see who this model that has made you shred up our contract and sever our ties is."

Chapter 40: Negotiating With Han Ruoxue

Han Ruoxue turned around and looked at the entrance to the meeting room. At the same time, Han Yufan and Mo Yurou also stared angrily at the door. Who was it this time that was ruining everything for them?

Mo Yurou felt like her heart was about to explode from anger. It wasn't easy to get rid of Tangning, yet who would have thought, 'the mantis stalks the cicada, but behind them lurks the oriole*'. She was surprised there was someone else trying to challenge them.

The atmosphere in the meeting room was extremely intense. At this moment, the meeting room's door flew open and in walked a beautiful figure who caught everyone's attention.

Tangning!

It's actually Tangning!

It's Tangning again!

Han Ruoxue clenched her fist; she never thought Tangning would be able to convince Mina to go back on her words. Mo Yurou and Han Yufan stood up in shock simultaneously.

This was impossible, Tangning was already eliminated. How did she make Secret change their minds?

“After careful consideration, everyone at Secret has decided to use Tangning as our model,” Mina announced in front of the people in the room. She then gave a trivial look at the trio, “As I’m aware, she is also a model from Tianyi, but why do I feel like you aren’t happy at all. Is it possible that Tangning isn’t actually a model of yours?”

“Tangning, what schemes did you use? Why did you have to steal the front cover that belonged to me?” Mo Yurou couldn’t hold back her anger as she questioned Tangning.

“The front cover that belonged to you?” Tangning maintained her smile, not allowing anyone to see through her emotions, “You used my popularity to go overseas, under the guise of sharing the stage; you used me to created a topic of discussion to distract the public from your scandal; as soon as we arrived in the US, you got rid of me after I no longer had any use; you defamed me in front of the client and faked my portfolio. So, tell me, how does this front cover belong to you?”

“I only retrieved what belonged to me and recovered the fairness I deserved.”

“You used your background to step all over me for your benefit, while I used my own capabilities to retrieve my front cover. I don’t steal from anyone...but, I’m not going to let others step all over me – it’s that simple.”

Each word that came out of Tangning’s mouth was clear and precise – full of power. Making Mina, who originally misunderstood her, look at her in admiration.

What a strong character!

“Tangning, I’ve said it before, this is the most important time for Mo Yurou. Everyone in Tianyi should be helping her get through this obstacle.” Han Yufan verbally attacked Tangning angrily, “Can you not be so selfish?”

“The reason she’s faced with an obstacle is because of you. I’ve said it before, no matter how much you want to support her, I have no opinion and don’t care, but...if she wants to advance by stepping on me, I will only make her fall pitifully.”

“Tangning, Mina mentioned...as long as you say it, Yurou can still participate in the Secret photo shoot. She doesn’t have much time left, she will be partaking in the Top Ten Model Awards soon.”

“Why must I agree? If she is having difficulties, it is her problem, why is it my obligation to help her? Is there a law for it?” Tangning asked in an amused tone. “Isn’t Ruoxue Jie really capable? Get her to secure a job with another magazine...”

“Tangning, don’t go too far,” Han Ruoxue stomped her feet in anger.

Mina couldn’t be bothered to continue watching Tianyi’s people fight amongst each other. She gently patted Tangning’s shoulder and said, “Tangning, I’ll wait outside. Tell me your decision after half an hour. Whether it will be a solo shoot or a shoot with you and Mo Yurou, you decide.”

“Thank you, Mina,” Tangning nodded. It was good timing, as she had much more to say that wasn’t convenient to say in front of outsiders.

“I’ve asked for a few bodyguards to stand guard at the door, if anyone wants to do anything to you, just scream.”

Tangning smiled again and looked at Lin Wei and Long Jie, hinting that in this situation, she may not necessarily be at a disadvantage. As soon as Mina left the room, Han Ruoxue slammed her hand on the table and questioned Tangning, “What is it that you want?”

“This is not how you treat someone you are asking a favor from...” Tangning said firmly to Han Ruoxue. “What your brother has done, I am sure you already know. In this industry, it is clear that the strong get all the support, while the weak get stepped all over. I know it doesn’t matter what I say to you. Since we both hate the look of each other, what’s the point of working together? You should go plead to someone else.”

Han Ruoxue's eyes were red, but at this moment, there was nothing she could do.

After all, she was the manager of a different company. The fact that she was helping Tianyi was already a breach of her contract; she couldn't help Mo Yurou out in the open.

Plus, chances didn't come around easily.

So, she had no choice but to soften her tone, "Tell me what you want Tangning, if you go too far, both of us won't benefit from it."

"Mo Yurou said I stole something that belonged to her."

"No, Mo Yurou needs your guidance," Han Ruoxue clenched her teeth as she responded to Tangning. In reality, she wanted so desperately for Tangning to immediately disappear.

Tangning also felt the same towards her. However, the provocation from these people in front of her, made her understand, if she couldn't reason with them, she should make a choice to benefit herself. So, after taking a quick glance at Mo Yurou's defiant expression, she raised her eyebrows and said, "I'll give Mo Yurou a chance...under one condition."

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"Speak," Han Ruoxue said as she held back her anger.

"I want Tianyi to promise from now on, who I work with, will be decided by me personally. In other words, I will take on whatever job I want, Tianyi has no right to step in. They also have no right to arrange for jobs I do not agree to," Tangning said straightforwardly.

"That's impossible," Han Ruoxue was firm, "What difference would this be to canceling your contract or opening a personal studio?"

"You can turn it down, after all, in the end, I will still make it happen. But, are you sure, Mo Yurou can continue to wait?"

Han Ruoxue glanced at Han Yufan. They both looked down and contemplated for a moment. In the end, Han Ruoxue told Tangning: "At most, I can only allow you to voice your opinion. In other words, we won't arrange jobs for you without you knowing. In regards to your choice of clients, the company definitely needs to be in control, otherwise, if you randomly choose to work

with cheap no-name companies, what would happen to our company's reputation?"

"Tangning, no artist can tread on top of their company's head."

"The company can be in control, but...I need all the higher-ups to be present whenever a decision is made because I no longer have trust in Han Yufan."

"Other companies provide their artists with the best resources. I don't expect you to do that for me, I just don't want you to interfere. One more thing...do not tie Mo Yurou into everything."

Han Ruoxue sneered. She didn't believe Tangning was capable of much, all this was just a rash decision. Once Mo Yurou's status was elevated, Tianyi wouldn't have any difficulty defaming Tangning again. When the time comes, she would create a problem for Tangning that she was sure Tangning wouldn't be able to get herself out of.

So she agreed – right now, this was the best decision she could make.

Since she couldn't directly step all over Tangning, all she could do was...make her share a stage with Mo Yurou. She couldn't wait to see, with a top manager like herself, whether Tangning could manage to be better than Mo Yurou.

"I agree," Han Ruoxue responded as she nodded her head.

Translator's notes:

* the mantis stalks the cicada, but behind them lurks the oriole (螳螂捕蝉黄雀在后) – an idiom used to explain someone who is short-sighted and only focuses on the gains before them without seeing the bigger picture; unaware of other dangers.