

Chapter 421: At Peace

Liang Zhou continued to say, "The Old Madam dotes on the Young Madam a lot. Even when the Young Madam decided to quit practicing medicine and wanted to manage Zhuang Ji, not only did the Old Madam didn't object, but the Old Madam personally taught her as well."

Then, Liang Zhou lowered her voice and said conspiratorially, "However, there was this one when I just came out of the room after looking at the baby, I heard the Old Madam sighing and telling Sister Yu, 'No matter how I taught her, it's useless. I don't understand why she's having such a hard time learning.' I don't know if she's really talking about the Young Madam since she only used the word 'she'. Moreover, I didn't dare to eavesdrop for too long so I quickly left. Mu Qing, I'm only telling you this because we're family. Don't think too much about it. I don't want to gossip. It's taboo for Buddhists to speak without thinking."

Liang Zhou's expression was really serious nearing the end of words so Mu Qing had no choice but to nod in agreement.

"Oh, right! What did you say earlier? Did you ask if Madam Ye asked me to steal something from Song Ning? Heavens! How did you come up with such a ridiculous question?" Liang Zhou said as she laughed. Then, she said, "Let me tell you something. If you didn't say this, I wouldn't have thought about it. Once the weather was bad so we couldn't leave the house for a walk. The baby was a little restless so Sister Yu and I brought the baby around the house, showing him the rooms to distract him. When she found us in her room, she threw a tantrum and even scared the baby to tears. Steal from her? How's that possible? She has such a bad temper that no one dares to do such a thing. According to Sister Yu, the helpers even have to obtain permission from the Young Madam before cleaning her room."

"To tell you the truth, Mu Qing, I was quite unhappy when the Young Madam seemed to dislike me in the past. However, now, I don't like her either so we're even. Don't tell me to accompany her anymore. Why don't I focus more on getting along with the Old Madam? I really don't like the Young Madam."

Mu Qing was very familiar with Liang Zhou's personality. Despite her claims of being a devout Buddhist, some things were etched so deeply in her bones that she could not change them. After a moment, he asked with a smile, "Liang Zhou, I feel you've changed recently. You've stopped asking about my whereabouts and stopped checking on me. Why? Do you finally trust me?"

Liang Zhou's heart felt as though it had been stabbed by a sharp knife when she heard these words. The pain was unbearable. 'Trust? No, I've given up on you.'

Nevertheless, a gentle and shy smile could be seen on her face as she asked, "Mu Qing, I must be really annoying in the past, right?"

Mu Qing did not understand what she was getting at. "Why?"

"I love you so much that I've always kept a close watch on you. I was afraid other women would seduce you and that you'd leave me. However, after I spoke to the master about this, I was enlightened. Master said that the fate between two people is predetermined. If it's yours, it'll be yours. If it's not yours, no

matter how hard you try, it still won't be yours," Liang Zhou said, "When I asked Master to have a look at our fate, she said these things can't be seen. She only said to be sincere in all things, and things will naturally work out. After listening to her, I put myself in your shoes and considered many things. In the end, I realized I shouldn't be too obsessed; what will be, will be. With that, I feel much more at ease. Look, I've stopped pestering you, but you still came home to see me. Moreover, because I stopped pestering you, you're no longer as annoyed as before. How good is it?"

Liang Zhou smiled widely as she added, "Master really didn't lie to me. I just have to sincerely devote myself to Buddha."

Mu Qing did not know how to react. He did not know how to describe the feelings in his heart now when he looked at Liang Zhou..

Chapter 422: Chastised

As though she did not notice anything wrong with Mu Qing's reaction, Liang Zhou asked with a smile, "Are you staying for dinner? I'll prepare your favorite dishes."

Mu Qing thought to himself that if he said he was not staying for dinner, the current Liang Zhou likely would not stop smiling. In the end, he nodded.

Liang Zhou rose to her feet before she said, "Alright, I'm going to go check on the food."

As soon as she turned around, her smile vanished. After making sure it was safe, she brought her phone out and sent Sister Yu a message that read: Sister Yu, I'll visit the baby tomorrow. It's rare that Mu Qing comes home so I'll accompany him for dinner.

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Sister Yu put her phone away after reading Liang Zhou's message and said to Jiang Jin with a smile, "Liang Zhou said that she won't be coming over today because she's having dinner with sir."

Jiang Jin nodded before she said with a smile, "Sent a roast duck over to their house."

"Liang Zhou is now a vegetarian," Sister Yu reminded.

"Then send a vegetarian Buddha Jumps Over the Wall over as well," Jiang Jin said gently.

Ye Xin, who was sitting across from Jiang Jin and Sister Yu, dug her nails into her palms as she listened to Jiang Jin and Sister Yu's exchange.

At this time, Jiang Jin shifted her gaze to Ye Xin and asked, "How long has it been since you've eaten with Mu Chen?"

Ye Xin was briefly stunned by the abrupt question. She thought to herself, displeased, 'Don't you know the answer to that?'

Nevertheless, outwardly, Ye Xin forced a smile on her face and said, "We haven't eaten together, just the two of us, since the baby was born..."

Jiang Jin frowned. "Mu Chen is very busy recently. You have to spend more time caring for him."

Jiang Jin's cold and hard tone made Ye Xin even more displeased. She said, "Does he need me to care for him? Haven't you seen his attitude when he's at home? He only spent time with the baby; he didn't even spare me a glance. It's clear he doesn't treat me as his wife."

Jiang Jin's expression darkened. "How can you say such words? You've become worse than Liang Zhou. Liang Zhou knows how to care for Mu Qing. She's meticulous about his food, clothes, and health. You don't even care about Mu Chen. Do you know what Mu Chen has been so busy with recently?"

Ye Xin was so frightened by the sudden rebuke that she instinctively straightened her back. She had never seen Jiang Jin lose her temper before. Her arrogance and temper were nothing in front of Jiang Jin's domineering aura.

At this moment, Sister Yu tried to smooth things over. She hurriedly said, "Young Madam, Young Master is on set with Young Master Cheng Che today. I heard Young Master Cheng Che's new movie is almost done with filming. Why don't you visit the set?"

Ye Xin's eyes lit up. "Cheng Che is producing a movie?"

Jiang Jin's expression was very unsightly as she said, "What's going on with you recently? How can you not know that? You were so close to Cheng Che in the past that you're both like siblings. Now, apart from money, you don't care about anything else."

Following that, Jiang Jin did not wait for Ye Xin's reply. She shook her head as she rose to her feet and walked upstairs after saying, "You really disappoint me."

Ye Xin sat stiffly. Her entire body was cold. In just an instant, tears fell down her face. She looked at Sister Yu with a pitiful expression as she asked, "What did I do wrong? Why did Grandma scold me?"

Sister Yu smiled faintly. "Young Madam, don't overthink things. In fact, the Old Madam has always been like this. It's because she cares about you that she even bothers to scold you. Saying that, you really have to care about the Young Master. Otherwise, I'm afraid the Old Madam would be even more displeased. Moreover, you're always out recently. If I'm not mistaken, it's not just because of your yoga classes, right? The Old Madam is very observant, you know?"

After saying that, Sister Yu left as well.

Ye Xin felt as though she was frozen, unable to move.

'Did they discover something? Did they send someone to follow me?'

Then, Ye Xin instinctively brought her phone out and sent a message that read: I want to see you.

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Mu Qing glanced at the message before he replied: What's the matter?

It did not take long before Ye Xin's reply came. It read: I want to see you now! Now!

Following that, Mu Qing sent a message to his secretary..

Chapter 423: The Film Set

The phone only rang once before Ye Xin hastily answered the call.

“Hello?”

“Young Miss, this is Xiao Du. Sir is busy at the moment so he asked me to speak to you. If there’s anything you need, please don’t hesitate to let me know.”

Ye Xin said through gritted teeth, “Busy? What’s he busy with? Isn’t he just having dinner with that old hag?!”

Xiao Du remained silent.

Ye Xin ended the call. She held the phone in her hand as she seethed with anger.

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It was not difficult for Ye Xin to navigate the filming set. After all, she used to be in the entertainment industry and had filmed movies and shows before.

As soon as she arrived at the set, her mood soured even more. Once upon a time, she was a popular star with tens of millions of fans. If it were not for Song Ning, would she have ended up in such a state?

She stood at the side quietly as she watched the filming.

The film was set in the past. The female lead was wearing a qipao and her back was facing Ye Xin. Her figure was so good that even Ye Xin glanced at her a few more times.

At this time, the male lead’s hand was raised. He was supposed to slap the female lead. However, when his hand fell, he gently moved past her face. After that, he sighed and walked to the director’s seat. Then, he asked, “Director, do you think we can change the angle of the camera?”

The female lead hurriedly said, “There’s no need for that. Yu Yang, you have to really slap me. We have to be as real as possible in our acting.”

“Zhuang Ning, I really can’t hit a woman,” Yu Yang said sheepishly.

Zhuang Ning smiled. “If you don’t really hit me, we won’t be able to portray the characters realistically. Don’t worry, I’ll be fine.”

“It’s difficult. I feel like a huge scumbag,” Yu Yang said with a wry smile.

“We’re just acting. You’re a scumbag in the movie, not in real life,” Zhuang Ning replied.

At this moment, the director stepped forward and said, “Listen to Zhuang Ning. Yu Yang, if you feel bad for hitting her, treat her to a good meal after this.”

Yu Yang hurriedly said, “Of course!”

The director nodded happily now that the matter was resolved.

Meanwhile, Ye Xin was surprised when she saw the director was Pan Hao. She did not expect Cheng Che to find Pan Hao to direct the movie. A hint of restlessness rose in her heart immediately. It had been her dream to act in a movie Pan Hao directed. She grew even more curious about the actors of the movie.

In the past, Ye Xin had asked Yang Li to pull strings for her so she could act in Pan Hao's movie. Unfortunately, after seeing her pictures and tapes of her auditions, he never got in contact with her. Even after trying multiple times, she failed to catch Pan Hao's eyes.

Pan Hao was a man of integrity. Ye Xin knew he would not give in to the pressure from her management company. Hence, she could only rely on Yang Li. After all, Yang Li and Pan Hao were acquainted. However, Yang Li was so useless that she failed time and time again. In fact, she suspected that Yang Li had deliberately sabotaged her. After all, all Yang Li cared about was that b*tch, Song Ning.

Suddenly, Ye Xin saw a familiar figure at this moment.

'Peng? What's she doing?' Ye Xin frowned when she saw her former assistant.

At this moment, filming had begun again. The male and female leads were brimming with emotions. Their expressions and postures were perfect.

When the agitated male lead slapped the female lead, she fell to the ground. He hesitated briefly, but in the end, he did not help her up.

The female lead pressed her hand to her cheek as she looked at him and said with a sad smile, "Very well. From now on, let's part ways. I wish you well."

The despair in the female lead's voice was truly heartbreaking.

At this moment, the director yelled, "Cut!"

Then, Yu Yang hurriedly bent over to help Zhuang Ning up. At the same time, he apologized profusely. "I'm sorry. I'm really sorry about that Zhuang Ning."

Zhuang Ning smiled. "It's alright. You don't have to apologize."

Peng Peng handed Zhuang Ning an ice pack at this moment.

As she pressed the ice pack to her face, Zhuang Ning said with a smile, "My skin is thick. I'll be fine after using the ice pack. Don't worry.."

Chapter 424: Quietly Observing

Everyone laughed. Zhuang Ning's personality had won everyone over.

Pan Hao was very happy. He was a simple person, and his interpersonal skills were not the best. He had trouble navigating complex interpersonal relationships. He preferred if his actors only concentrated on doing a good job without caring about anything else. However, how was this possible in the entertainment industry where forging connections were very important? It was also due to his lack of interpersonal skills that he was not as successful as he should have been.

This current movie was like his lifeline; it was a product of his blood, sweat, and tears. When he met an investor like Cheng Che, he was so happy that he did not even know where to start expressing his gratitude.

Then, Pan Hao was even more delighted when he met Zhuang Ning. He was convinced the inexperienced but talented Zhuang Ning was sent by the heavens to him. Not only was she talented, but she got along very well with everyone. Although she was young, she cared about everyone like an elder sister. However, she was not excessive in her care; it was just the appropriate amount. It did not make people feel uncomfortable. Initially, there were a few supporting actors who wanted to stir up trouble when filming had just begun. No one knew what she did, she won them over. In any case, the cast and crew's relationships were harmonious, and the filming set was peaceful. As a result, the filming made rapid and smooth progress.

Pan Hao himself felt like his luck was changing.

At this time, the assistant director announced that everyone was given half a day off. This meant everyone was free in the afternoon. The assistant also announced that the boss would be treating everyone to dinner tonight.

Everyone cheered before leaving one after another.

Meanwhile, Ye Xin felt her heart race in her chest as she watched the filming earlier. She was overwhelmed with the urge to rush over to play the lead role. At this moment, her eyes were fixed on Zhuang Ning and Peng Peng.

Ye Xin thought to herself that it made sense that Peng Peng was now someone else's assistant. After all, now that Yang Li was dead, Peng Peng had to find someone else to work for.

At this moment, Yu Nan and Gu Jia walked over to Zhuang Ning, who was helping Peng Peng pack up.

"Zhuang Ning, Zhuang Ning, is your doctor here? Can she check our pulse?"

Ye Xin was very familiar with these two people. In the past, she had pressured the both of them so much until they were about to suffocate. She knew they greatly disliked her, but she did not care. After all, if they had the ability, they could retaliate. Alas, they did not have the ability so they could only endure. They only dared to complain behind her back. When they saw her, they did not even dare to breathe loudly. For this reason, when she saw them again, she could not help but feel disdainful.

Zhuang Ning said amiably, "She went to the hospital today for a consultation. What's wrong with both of you? Does it have something to do with your dieting?"

The two of them smiled sheepishly.

"If you don't listen to my advice, I won't let Dr. Ning check your pulse. You girls don't know how to cherish your body and keep trying to lose weight in an unhealthy manner. This will affect your health in the future," Zhuang Ning said.

Gu Jia held Zhuang Ning's arm and said, "I understand. We were wrong. Don't be angry anymore, Zhuang Ning."

Zhuang Ning smiled and playfully pushed Gu Jia's hand away. "Alright. Promise me it won't happen again."

The two nodded.

Yu Nan said, "Zhuang Ning, you're the best! I wish I had an elder brother or a younger brother so I have a chance to turn you into my sister-in-law!"

Everyone laughed.

"Alright, alright. Let's go," Zhuang Ning said with a chuckle.

The few of them walked away, chatting merrily among themselves.

At this time, Ye Xin stood at a corner, frozen. Zhuang Ning was very beautiful, but Ye Xin was not shocked by that. She was shocked by Zhuang Ning's familiar actions and demeanor..

Chapter 425: A Discovery

'Yang Li!'

If there were ghosts in this world, Ye Xin would have thought that Yang Li's ghost had possessed Zhuang Ning. She could not help but follow Zhuang Ning and the others.

However, at this moment, Cheng Che suddenly walked out of a shed by the side. "Sister-in-law? Why are you here?"

Ye Xin was pulled back to her senses immediately. She looked in the direction that Zhuang Ning left before she reluctantly turned back to look at Cheng Che and said, "I... I came to visit the set."

A confused expression appeared on Cheng Che's face upon hearing these words. Then, he said, "Uh... Then, sister-in-law, do you want to have a look around?"

Ye Xin replied absentmindedly, "Yes. Do you mind if I walk around? What movie are you shooting?"

Cheng Che quickly said, "It's a drama set in the Republic of China. It's based on a popular web novel. We're almost finished with the shooting actually."

Ye Xin looked to the side as she said, "The female lead is very beautiful. I don't think I've seen her before. What other works has she acted in?"

Cheng Che said, "Oh, you mean Zhuang Ning? She's a newcomer. She hasn't acted in anything prior to this. However, she's very talented. Director Pan is filled with praise for her."

'She's the female lead even though she's never acted before?'

Ye Xin thought it was likely that Zhuang Ning had a backer in the industry. Otherwise, how could Zhuang Ning have landed a lead role when she had prior experience? Then, she asked, "Are you familiar with her?"

Cheng Che replied, confused, "I've only seen her on set..."

Ye Xin coughed lightly before she said, "I'm talking about your personal relationship with her..."

Cheng Che nodded. "Oh, we have a good relationship. Zhuang Ning's personality is good, and she's very easy to get along with. In fact, she gets along with everyone."

Ye Xin felt a little helpless hearing Cheng Che's reply. Then, she said directly, "What I mean is that she's given the lead role even though she's a newcomer. Does she have a connection with you? Did you pull strings for her? Don't worry, I won't tell Grandma. I know your girlfriend is away now, and it's not a bad idea to explore new options. It's also not a bad idea to use this method to create hype. However, I think this woman isn't simple. It's best if you don't get entangled with her."

Upon hearing Ye Xin's words, Cheng Che was taken aback. When he regained his senses, flames of fury rose in his heart. He said indignantly, "What nonsense are you spouting? Your words are too much!"

Ye Xin had never seen Cheng Che angry before, whether it was when she was Ye Xin or pretending to be Song Ning. He had always been calm and reserved outside but lively at home. His temper was also very good, and there was nothing to complain about at all. She instinctively took a step back and looked at him in shock, not knowing what she had said that was so wrong.

At this moment, Cheng Chen turned and happened to see Zhuang Ning and Peng Peng walking over.

Zhuang Ning smiled and called out, "Cheng Che, let's go. Everyone's waiting for you. We're all going to hang out this afternoon and have dinner together tonight. Come with us!"

When Zhuang Ning met Ye Xin's gaze, she smiled at Ye Xin.

Meanwhile, Cheng Che walked away without looking back at Ye Xin.

Zhuang Ning turned to look at Ye Xin again and smiled.

Upon seeing this, Ye Xin felt chills running up her spines. She stood by the shed, frozen for a long time.

After a while, Ye Xin reminded herself that she was Song Ning now to calm down. At this time, it was very quiet; an indication that everyone had left. She seized the chance and walked into the shed to have a look. The things in the shed had not been tidied up yet. She felt slightly uncomfortable as she looked at the familiar props. After a moment, she saw a picture of Mu Chen on the notice board.

The picture seemed like it was taken during a photoshoot. He sat on a rattan chair, reading a book. His side profile was incredibly handsome. A pair of fair and slender arms were wrapped around his shoulders. However, only the arms could be seen, not the face.

Ye Xin's eyes widened in shock. She was sure that pair of arms did not belong to her.

'Mu Chen has a woman outside?'

Chapter 426: Catching an Adulterer

Jealousy reared its ugly head like a snake in Ye Xin's heart immediately. No matter how Mu Chen treated her, no matter if she liked Mu Qing and not Mu Chen, she was Mu Chen's legitimate wife! How could Mu Chen have a lover outside?

Ye Xin began to tremble in anger as she looked at the picture. She wondered if Mu Chen was indifferent to her because he had a lover outside, not because he was impotent. It was said that men were more likely to cheat on their wives when their wives were pregnant. She was convinced Mu Chen must have begun to cheat when Song Ning was pregnant.

'Song Ning, that unlucky b*tch, is really useless! She can't even keep a man in check!'

Seeing that no one was around, Ye Xin reached out to take the picture and put it away in her bag. She would not allow another woman to interfere in her marriage. Mu Chen was hers! She did not plan to confront Mu Chen. Instead, she planned to look for Jiang Jin directly and let Jiang Jin deal with this matter.

However, when Ye Xin was about to leave the filming set, she saw Mu Chen opening the car door for a woman. Then, he went around to the driver's side before getting into the car.

Ye Xin gasped. She did not expect to run into him and his lover so quickly. She hurriedly raised her hand to hail a cab, holding out a 500 yuan note.

When Ye Xin got into the cab, she barked, "Tail the car in front!"

The driver immediately understood and said, "Alright!"

The driver was experienced and his driving skills were good. He followed Mu Chen's car at a moderate speed.

From behind, Ye Xin could see the woman occasionally turning her head to talk to Mu Chen. The woman looked very happy as well.

Upon seeing this, Ye Xin felt as though she was going to explode in anger. She was biting her bottom lip so hard at this moment that it began to hurt.

The car drove all the way to the eastern suburbs before Ye Xin realized that this was where Mu Qing had bought the villa for her.

When they reached the gates of the community, the driver stopped and said, "Madam, we can't enter since we're not residents."

Ye Xin took out her residence card and waved it at the guard.

As the driver drove in, he shook his head and clicked his tongue before he said, "This isn't right. As the saying goes, 'A rabbit doesn't eat the grass near its burrow'. How can he let his lover stay so close to his own home? Madam, your life is really bitter."

Ye Xin said coldly, "Shut up."

The driver looked at her pitifully from the rearview mirror and shook his head. Suddenly, he pointed at the car in front of a small villa and asked, "Madam, is that your husband's car?"

Ye Xin took a look. To be honest, she had never paid attention to Mu Chen's license plate, but she recognized the model of his car. She ordered, "Stop the car. After I get off, go forward and park at a hidden place!"

The driver knew this was not the time to poke the hornet's nest so he remained quiet and obediently stopped the car.

Ye Xin got out of the car angrily and directly made her way to the small villa. The villa was almost similar to the one Mu Qing bought for her. Her villa was located in the other direction and was quite a distance from this villa. She sneered as she thought to herself, 'What a coincidence!'

Ye Xin pressed the doorbell decisively.

It did not take long before a helper opened the door. "May I know who you're looking for?"

Ye Xin was wearing sunglasses so the helper could not see her eyes that looked as though they could shoot out fire at this moment. She tried to calm down before she said, "I'm looking for Mr. Mu. I'm his sister. He invited me here."

The helper did not suspect Ye Xin's words and opened the door wider to let Ye Xin in.

Ye Xin rushed in and began to shout angrily, "Mu Chen, come out!"

Ye Xin was prepared to fight with Mu Chen. Only one of them would emerge victorious today.

However, the person Ye Xin saw was not Mu Chen but Mu Qing!

At this moment, Mu Qing was leaning against a couch as a young woman massaged his legs.

"You... Why are you here?" Ye Xin felt as though she was going to cry.

Mu Qing opened his eyes, stunned.

At this time, the young woman looked at Ye Xin and asked with barely concealed disdain, "Who are you?" Then, she turned to Mu Qing and asked, "Sir, who is she? She's so annoying!"

Chapter 427: Beaten Again

Before Mu Qing could speak, Ye Xin had already rushed forward and raised her hand to slap the woman. She cursed, "B*tch! You're the one who's annoying!"

The woman was caught off guard and was knocked to the ground by Ye Xin. However, the woman was no pushover. She leaped up and grabbed Ye Xin's hair as she screamed, "Who are you calling a b*tch?"

Ye Xin's face twisted in pain. She grabbed the woman's hand that was pulling at her hair and used her other hand to grab the woman's head. Then, she pulled the woman's head down before she raised her knee and kned the woman's stomach.

The woman fell to the ground in pain, but she still refused to let go of her grip on Ye Xin's hair, pulling Ye Xin to the ground with her.

Both of them screeched and cursed as they rolled on the ground.

Mu Qing was stunned by the scene before him. After a moment, he shouted furiously, "Enough! Stop!"

However, the two women did not seem to hear him at all. At this moment, they only had each other in their eyes. They were only focused on fighting each other fiercely at this moment.

Mu Qing circled the two women as he continued to shout, "Stop! Stop fighting!"

It was futile.

Hence, Mu Qing raised his hand and swept the tea set on the table to the ground.

Crash!

The sound of broken porcelain rang in the air, and the hot tea splattered everywhere.

A shard of the broken porcelain hit the woman's face. She reached out and wiped her face immediately. When she saw the blood on her hand, she cried out in fear.

Mu Qing raised his hand and slapped her mercilessly as he yelled, "Shut up! Get on your knees."

The woman was so frightened that she obediently kneeled on the ground without another word.

Ye Xin's arm was scratched by the broken porcelain as well, but she did not seem to care at this moment. When she saw the woman kneeling, she said arrogantly, "Sl*t! You dare to fight with me? You really don't know your place at all."

Smack!

At this moment, Mu Qing slapped Ye Xin's face.

Ye Xin stared at Mu Qing with widened eyes, dumbfounded. She could not believe he slapped her.

Mu Qing glared at her as he fiercely said, "Who told you to come here? How dare you come here? You're too unruly! Kneel!"

As Mu Qing spoke, he kicked the back of Ye Xin's leg, causing her to fall to her knees.

She cried, aggrieved. "You dare to hit me? You... You hit me because of that b*tch? Mu Qing, to think you actually betrayed me! You... Y-you..."

"Shut up!" Mu Qing roared.

Ye Xin instinctively shut up.

Mu Qing said coldly, "Who do you think you are? You keep calling others a b*tch, are you any better? You're not Ye Xin now, you're Song Ning! Song Ning! This is the path you've chosen. Even if you don't like it, you have to grit your teeth and endure! Do you understand?"

Ye Xin's tears continued to fall like rain. She said through her tears in a voice that brimmed with sorrow and despair, "You said that you like me, but you betray me. You actually have a lover!"

Mu Qing remained unmoved. "This is my business. It has nothing to do with you. What right do you have to control me? What right do you have to control something that even Liang Zhou can't control? Do you know who you are? Don't you know your own place?"

Ye Xin stared at Mu Qing. Her big eyes were filled with tears, and her heart was filled with despair. She did not expect such cruel words would come out of the mouth of the man she loved with all her heart. Feeling extremely wronged, she mumbled softly, "Y-you... You said that you like me..."

Mu Qing said tonelessly, "I do like you..."

A glimmer of hope shone in Ye Xin's eyes when she heard these words.

However, Mu Qing pointed to the other woman kneeling next to him as he continued to say, "However, I like her too.."

Chapter 428: Speaking Frankly

Mu Qing said frostily, "I like a lot of women; you're not the only one. I've never said that I won't like another woman apart from you. Don't flatter yourself! Moreover, you're not any better than me. You're with me, but isn't your heart with Mu Chen?"

Ye Xin's eyes widened. "No, it isn't! You're the only one I love! I don't love Mu Chen!"

Mu Qing sneered. "How can you say such words? Do you really believe them yourself? In any case, I don't believe it, and no one believes it."

Ye Xin could not care about anything else at this moment. She moved two steps forward on her knees and grabbed the hem of Mu Qing's shirt. "Sir, I really love you with all my heart! I'll do whatever you want me to do! Please don't abandon me! I have nothing but you now!"

Ye Xin pounded her chest as she cried miserably.

Alas, Mu Qing remained unmoved.

At this time, the other woman quickly cleaned up the shards of porcelain on the ground and threw them into the trash can. Then, she hurriedly kneeled in front of Mu Qing again and said in a trembling voice, "S-sir, Xiao You is wrong. Please punish Xiao You. Xiao You won't dare to do this again."

Mu Qing's expression eased slightly upon hearing these words. He reached out and pulled Xiao You up. Then, he patted her hand and said, "Go wash your face and change your clothes. I'll bring you out to eat."

"Yes, sir," Xiao You said, clearly overjoyed. She did not even spare a glance for Ye Xin who was still kneeling as she turned around and walked away.

Upon seeing this, Ye Xin grew even more said.

Mu Qing turned to look at Ye Xin; his expression grew frosty again. He said, "See? Xiao You should be your role model. She's sensible and knows how to be grateful. That's why I've always liked her. I like those who are obedient. Those who aren't... can leave. I, Mu Qing, have never been bound by a woman in my entire life. No woman can't stop me from accomplishing what I want to accomplish. If you can't accept this, you can leave now."

After Mu Qing finished speaking, he strode in the direction where Xiao You had left.

Ye Xin fell to the ground limply in a daze.

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Meanwhile, Liang Zhou, who was sitting in a car, laughed when she saw Ye Xin looking like a walking corpse. She thought that karma was real; the heavens would not spare anyone from karmic retribution.

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Ye Xin returned home, still in a daze.

When Jiang Jin saw Ye Xin, she asked in shock, "What happened? Where did you go?"

Ye Xin was trembling all over. Her mind was still not working properly as she muttered, "I... I'm fine. I'm fine."

Then, Ye Xin went upstairs, looking as though her soul had left her body.

Jiang Jin and Sister Yu exchanged a look before Sister Yu sighed.

Jiang Jin sneered before she said, "Tomorrow, I'll invite a few of the Madams over as guests. Call Liang Zhou over to accompany me."

"Yes, Old Madam," Sister Yu replied. She knew Jiang Jin was going to proceed with the next part of the plan.

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Ye Xin's tears finally dried up.

Mu Qing's every word and expression were like a knife that stabbed into her heart. It was so painful.

She instinctively curled up in a fetal position. She wished she could just disappear from the world at this moment, especially when she recalled Mu Qing saying he liked many women, and she was just one of them.

With that, Ye Xin's tears fell uncontrollably again. She closed her eyes and hid under the blanket, trying to block out the words. Alas, it was as though those words had been recorded in her mind; they kept replaying over and over again in her mind, grinding her nerves and her heart.

She was willing to do anything for him. When she had first escaped from the mental hospital and went to him, she had been willing. Hence, she could not blame anyone for this; she had asked for this..

Chapter 429: Comfort

Ye Xin felt extremely aggrieved. Nonetheless, she had to admit that Mu Qing was right. She had chosen this path; no one forced her. She needed to apologize to him, and she needed to accept that Mu Qing had many women and that she was just one of them.

Ye Xin felt saddened again. Since she was young, she had never been wronged or humiliated to such an extent.

...

Liang Zhou happily informed Mu Qing that Jiang Jin had invited her over to Cloudy Peak to help Jiang Jin entertain guests.

Mu Qing was surprised and asked Liang Zhou what was happening.

Liang Zhou chuckled over the phone before she said, "I don't know either. Sister Yu called me and told me that the Old Madam plans to invite a few guests over and that the Old Madam wants me to help her entertain the guests. Mu Qing, do you think the Old Madam has finally accepted me? For such an important matter, the Old Madam didn't ask for the Young Madam's help. Instead, the Old Madam asked for my help. I'm so happy. I wonder if it's because Buddha has heard my prayers."

After forcing himself to calm down, Mu Qing said, "You have to be more alert when helping my mother out. The Young Madam is young and inexperienced so you have to help her as well. It must also be my mother's intention for you to help the Young Madam."

Liang Zhou said with a hint of indignance, "Hubby, you always put me down and elevate others. You're saying the Old Madam's intention is for me to help the Young Madam? You're wrong! Sister Yu said the guests this time are mostly the Old Madams from other families. She said there's no need for the Young Madam to be present."

Mu Qing felt a bone-chilling permeate his heart at this moment. He thought that Ye Xin must have exposed herself and that his mother had seen through Ye Xin. What went wrong? Ye Xin was an idiot so she probably did not even know anything.

...

At the same time, Ye Xin sat across from Ning Zhe.

Ning Zhe smiled and pointed at the dishes on the table as he said, "I don't know if your taste has changed over the years, but these dishes used to be your favorite when you were young. Hurry up and try them. Do you still like them?"

Ye Xin absentmindedly picked at the food, but she did not eat them.

It was only then that Ning Zhe discovered Ye Xin seemed to be in a terrible mood. After taking a closer look, he realized that her face and her eyes seemed slightly swollen.

"Ning Xia, what happened? Did you quarrel with Mu Chen? Did he hit you? Hmm? Tell Daddy. Daddy will definitely seek justice for you!"

Upon hearing these words, Ye Xin raised her hand to her face and began to cry.

Ning Zhe was shocked and hurriedly rose to his feet to hug her.

Ye Xin cried in Ning Zhe's arms. No one cared about her like this before, and no one had said such words to her. She did not expect that Ning Zhe would protect her. However, was he really protecting her? No, he was protecting Song Ning. With this thought, she grew even sadder.

Ning Zhe took a seat next to Ye Xin before he gently asked, "Tell Daddy what happened. Did Mu Chen bully you?"

Ye Xin shook her head slightly.

"Then, are you short of money?" Ning Zhe asked probingly.

Ye Xin paused for a moment.

Upon seeing this, Ning Zhe immediately said, "Silly child, if you're short of money, then you should say something. Problems that can be solved with money aren't problems at all. Tell me, what do you want to do? How much money do you need? Daddy will give it to you."

Warmth suffused Ye Xin's heart as she softly said, "Thank you, Daddy!"

Ning Zhe reached out and stroked Ye Xin's hair. "How's Zhuang Ji? Do you need Daddy's help?"

Ye Xin hesitated for a moment before she shook her head. However, she said, "Zhuang Ji hasn't been making a profit. It's losing money."

"So you don't have any money because you invested all your money into Zhuang Ji?" Ning Zhe asked gently.

Ye Xin nodded with a pitiful expression on her face.

Upon seeing this, Ning Zhe felt distressed. He said, "Xiaxia, listen to Daddy. Don't be too hard on yourself. Business isn't something that can be built in a day or two. In any case, if you really can't handle it, Daddy is here to help you. With that, you'd even be able to show off in front of your in-laws.. What do you think?"

Chapter 430: Plot

Ye Xin hesitated.

Ning Zhe's smile grew warmer as he said, "I understand your feelings. After all, the Mu family has been wealthy and influential for generations. The daughters-in-law of the Mu family, except for Mu Qing's wife, are all outstanding. You don't want to lose to them, right?"

Ye Xin nodded.

Ning Zhe patted her back. "Silly child. It's not easy to manage a business. Previously, I've already told you to let me manage Zhuang Ji since it wasn't doing well. I'm your father so how can I cheat you? The income from Zhuang Ji will definitely go to you. I understand that you hated me at that time because you felt that I abandoned your mother and you so you would rather close the store down than ask for my help."

"When I saw you were with Mu Chen, I was happy. After all, he's capable and can help you manage Zhuang Ji. I didn't expect you to change your mind and want to manage Zhuang Ji on your own now. It's difficult, isn't it? You're embarrassed to tell your in-laws you're having a tough time managing Zhuang Ji, right? You're afraid of being laughed at, right?" Ning Zhe gently said.

Ye Xin nodded slightly. At this moment, she had mixed feelings in her heart. Her father, Ye He, was good to her, but his care felt superficial. He would give her money, buy her things, and coax her with material things. Everything was solved with money. Then, there was her brother. She knew it was because of her mother that her brother spoiled her. After all, if her brother dared to wrong her, her mother would not forgive her brother.

Ye Xin felt that no one had treated her sincerely before. Even Mu Qing was not sincere to her. He would coax her like a child, asking her to do things, but he had never explained to her why she had to do those things. Ning Zhe was the only one who spoke to her so openly and sincerely.

Ning Zhe softly sighed before he said, "Xiaxia, you have to trust me. I've let you down over the years, and I only want to make it up to you. Do you understand?"

Ye Xin looked at Ning Zhe and asked, "Then, what should I do?"

Ning Zhe was delighted by Ye Xin's response. "Didn't I say I'll hire someone to stay by your side to help you? I finally found someone."

Ye Xin was still a little hesitant.

Ning Zhe gently said, "Don't worry. I've carefully selected the most suitable person to be your secretary with the help of the Ning Corporation's Human Resources Department. She graduated from a famous university and has two years' work experience. Most importantly, she has a good temper and comes from a humble family. With this, you can easily control her. You can feel at ease and let her help you manage Zhuang Ji. She'll do all the work for you, and you just need to ask for the report from her."

Ye Xin said hesitantly, "I'm afraid Grandma won't agree to this."

Ning Zhe said confidently, "We'll find the right opportunity for that. We'll create a chance for you to meet her in front of Zhuang Ji's staff. Then, we'll create a chance for you to hire her as your secretary. In the eyes of the Old Madam, you'll only be hiring a secretary to assist you with your daily affairs. What do you think?"

Ye Xin thought about it seriously and felt that it was feasible. Hence, she nodded.

Ning Zhen then came up with a detailed plan to place his people in Zhuang Ji.

After listening to Ning Zhe, Ye Xin was convinced. Indeed, the minds of businessmen were different from ordinary people's. How did he come up with such a flawless idea?

With that, the burden in Ye Xin's heart lightened considerably.

After parting with Ning Zhe, Ye Xin wandered the streets in a daze. She had recalled the pain in her heart again, causing her to tear up. Her phone had been ringing for a long time before she finally regained her senses and took a look at her phone.

When she saw it was Mu Qing, her heart skipped a beat..

Chapter 431: False Accusation

'Mu Qing is calling me! He's calling me!'

Although Ye Xin was still trying to decide if she should answer the call, her fingers instinctively pressed on the phone to answer the call. She tried her best to keep her voice calm as she said, "Hello?"

"My mother has invited guests over tomorrow. Did she tell you about this?"

Mu Qing's icy voice caused Ye Xin's heart to turn cold. She said tremblingly, "N-no..."

"My mother is having guests over, but she didn't tell you. Don't you think there's a problem? Did you make her unhappy? Is that why she longer trusts you and doesn't want to see you?" Mu Qing asked.

Ye Xin was confused. "No..."

"No? My mother asked Liang Zhou to help her entertain the guests tomorrow, and she said there's no need for you to be present. Do you think that's normal? You're the Young Madam of the Mu family, and what's Liang Zhou's identity? She doesn't want you to entertain the guests, but she invited Liang Zhou to do so. Shouldn't you reflect on yourself and be more alert?" Mu Qing asked. His voice was very stern.

Ye Xin was filled with grievances. Nevertheless, she said coldly, "Perhaps, the Old Madam plans to accept Liang Zhou? With that, won't you be able to openly return to the Mu family? Isn't that what you've been waiting for? You're really capable, trying to use me as a stepping stone to gain your mother's favor. Sorry, I'm not capable. I'm not even as good as a woman from the streets..."

Mu Qing interjected angrily, "Ye Xin! Are you done with acting crazy?"

"No! I'm crazy! So what?" Ye Xin seemed to have forgotten she was on the street. She squatted down and began to cry.

Mu Qing was so angry that he almost threw his phone. He suppressed his anger before he finally said, "Go home now!"

Ye Xin's anger rose upon hearing these words. She yelled, "I don't have a home! I don't have a home!"

After saying that, she disconnected the call. She hailed a cab and asked to be brought to Cloudy Peak.

Her tears continued to fall as she sat in the cab. Not only did Mu Qing not apologize to her, but he even yelled at her. She clearly had no place in his heart at all. However, she foolishly offered herself to him and devoted herself to him. Even then, he did not treasure her at all.

When the cab turned into the familiar street of Cloudy Peak, Ye Xin instinctively wiped the tears off her face. She could not continue to cry. Otherwise, she would be seen through. She felt mentally drained. She had to lie every day, and she had lied so much that she did not even know if she had been exposed or not.

As soon as Ye Xin walked in, she saw the helpers tidying up the garden. The garden was specifically used to host parties. It seemed like Mu Qing was right. Jiang Jin planned to host a party but did not even inform her of it. With that, the flames of fury rose in her heart again.

Coincidentally, Jiang Jin walked over at this moment.

Ye Xin approached Jiang Jin and asked, "Grandma, why didn't you tell me you're hosting a party?"

Jiang Jin smiled. "It's only a small party for the elderly. There's no need to trouble you."

Ye Xin pouted. She said, aggrieved, "Grandma, you didn't ask for my help but asked for Ms. Liang's help instead. You clearly favor her more even when she bullies me. Do you know she called me just to brag about this? She wanted to show off how good you are to her!"

Jiang Jin looked surprised. "When did she call you?"

Ye Xin simply said, "Not too long ago."

"I... I don't have the Young Madam's mobile phone number," someone said softly.

Then, Liang Zhou timidly stepped forward from behind Ye Xin with a confused and skeptical expression on her face..

Chapter 432: Touched

Ye Xin was stunned. She did not expect Liang Zhou to be present and to also overhear her false accusation.

Jiang Jin only glanced at Ye Xin before walking away without saying anything.

Similarly, Liang Zhou looked at Ye Xin before she hurried after Jiang Jin.

Ye Xin felt as though she could not breathe.

At this moment, Liang Zhou, who had caught up to Jiang Jin, said anxiously, "Old Madam, I really didn't call the Young Madam nor did I say..."

Jiang Jin interjected, "Your phone is with the baby. I know he likes playing with it and doesn't want to return it to you. Let A Jiang buy you a new one later..."

Liang Zhou smiled and quickly said, "There's no need for that. I'm very idle, and I don't have many friends. The phone isn't of much use to me..."

Jiang Jin said in a tone that brooked no argument, "Even then, you still have to have a phone. Otherwise, how will I contact you?"

Liang Zhou no longer said anything. Previously, she had changed the case of her phone. There was a picture of a puppy on it so the baby was fascinated by it. Upon seeing this, she disinfected the phone thoroughly before she finally felt at ease and gave her phone to the baby to play with. After that, she had been helping Sister Yu with the chores so she did not even have a chance to touch her phone. Who would have thought Ye Xin would tell such a clumsy lie? With this thought in mind, she could barely suppress the smile that threatened to bloom on her face.

Jiang Jin did not stop walking as she asked, "Has Yu given you the name list for the party?"

"She did," Liang Zhou hastily replied.

Suddenly, Jiang Jin said indifferently, "You should start a business of your own. A woman should have her own earnings. You've been with Mu Qing for so many years; you're too selfless. You don't even have

a child. What are you going to do in the future? I'll give you a week. Think about what kind of business you'd like to start and write a report for me."

Upon hearing these words, Liang Zhou's legs weakened, and she almost fell to her knees. She said in a trembling voice, "T-thank you, Old Madam."

Jiang Jin said, "Go and have a look at the baby. Yu is busy, and Nuan is looking after him alone. He might be cranky now."

"Yes!" Liang Zhou said.

After Jiang Jin vanished from sight, Liang Zhou supported herself to sit on a chair by the corridor. She tried to calm her heart down. It felt as though her heart was about to leap out of her chest. Based on Jiang Jin's words, it seemed like Jiang Jin planned to help her start her own business so she would have something to rely on in her old age. She really wanted to cry tears of joy at this moment but had no choice but to suppress them for now. She knew this was not the place for her to cry.

She was even more excited to see the baby now. She thought he was her lucky star. Initially, she thought she would lose everything after giving up on Mu Qing. However, not only did Mu Chen give her a villa, but Jiang Jin was even going to help her start a business. She had saved the baby's life once, and she was determined to protect him for the rest of his life. At this time, she felt as though her body was filled with unprecedented strength.

...

Ye Xin made her way upstairs. She felt as though her heart was being gnawed on by ants. She did not know what to do or how to smooth things over.

At this moment, she was taken aback when she heard Mu Chen's laughter. She thought she was hearing things; she had never heard Mu Chen laugh before since the day she met him. At most, he would smile perfunctorily. His cold expression was the default.

When she confirmed it was indeed Mu Chen, she looked in the direction where the laughter came from and discovered it came from Jiang Jin's room. Since Jiang Jin and Liang Zhou were in the garden, it was likely Mu Chen was playing with the baby.

Ye Xin tiptoed to Jiang Jin's room and gently pushed the door open.

The baby and Mu Chen seemed to be having a great time. Since the baby began to learn how to sit and crawl, there was never a dull moment in the house. Moreover, the baby was really healthy and energetic.

Fortunately, A Nuan was young and had good stamina. Otherwise, Jiang Jin and Sister Yu would not have been able to keep up with the baby.

The baby's memory was very good as well. He had already begun to recognize and remember people. In fact, he seemed to like his father whom he did not see often the best. As long as he heard his father's voice, he would struggle to leave A Nuan's arms.

Before the baby went to sleep, Mu Chen would also make time to play with the baby..

Chapter 433: Interrogation

Mu Chen was very patient with his son. No matter how exhausted he was, the first thing he did when he came home was to bathe, change his clothes, and play with the baby. As time passed, the baby wanted to follow him wherever he went; he could not even leave the baby for a moment. Even when he was bathing, the baby wanted to follow him. Hence, he had no choice but to learn how to bathe the baby while he was bathing as well. The father and son had a lot of fun in the bathroom.

Today, Mu Chen came back exceptionally early. Hence, the baby was exceptionally happy. The baby kept babbling, and he did not know if the baby was trying to call him 'Daddy', but he was very happy nonetheless. He had convinced himself that the baby was calling out to him and refused to believe otherwise.

Over the past few days, the baby had begun to learn how to climb. The baby would hold onto Mu Chen and try to climb along his arms and shoulders. He would sit on the mat and let the baby use him as a climbing frame. Even when the baby fell, he would not cry. The baby would just roll and giggle, causing him to laugh.

Mu Chen had never known that the growth of such a tiny human could be so fascinating and fun. As long as he looked at the baby, he could feel his exhaustion leaving him. The only thing was that Song Ning was not by his side.

Mu Chen and Cheng Che had already begun to expedite their plans. They wanted to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

At the same time, Ye Xin looked at the dazzling and heart-piercing scene in front of her. She was unaware that Mu Chen liked children so much. If she had known earlier, she would have spared no effort in bonding with the baby. At that time, the three of them would be a harmonious family. She felt very regretful at this moment. Just thinking about how Mu Qing betrayed her made her heart ache again.

At this moment, a sudden thought appeared in her mind, bringing a wave of anger with it. She lifted her hand and smacked the door with all her might.

The baby was so frightened that he trembled.

Mu Chen immediately held the baby in his arms, patting his head and comforting him as he cooed softly, "Don't be afraid, don't be afraid. It's okay."

Mu Chen kissed the baby's forehead softly.

The baby looked at Mu Chen with tears in his big eyes.

Upon seeing this, flames of fury rose in Mu Chen's heart. He glared at Ye Xin. He was afraid of scaring the baby again so he lowered his voice and asked, "What are you acting crazy for?"

Ye Xin felt slightly intimidated. However, Mu Chen's indifference stoked the fury in her heart. She asked indignantly, "Let me ask you. Who's the woman you left the filming set with yesterday?"

Mu Chen was slightly stunned. He did not expect Ye Xin would be so shameless to ask him about this matter. Then, he smiled frostily and asked, "You followed me?"

Ye Xin was certain that Mu Chen was cheating on her. Her body trembled in anger as she said, "If I didn't follow you, how would I know if you were with another woman?"

Ye Xin's tears fell down her face again. The grievances in her heart were released at once. "Mu Chen, why? Why are you with another woman when you're married? You already have a son so how can you act like that? I always thought you'd be a loyal family man. You really disappoint me!"

Ye Xin squatted down and hugged her knees as she cried.

Mu Chen hugged the baby and let the baby rest on his shoulder.. Then, he looked at Ye Xin icily as he said, "Are you putting on a show for me? You think you caught me in an affair? You can tell I'm having an affair just because I'm with another woman? How can you be so unreasonable?"

Chapter 434: Saving a Life

Ye Xin looked at Mu Chen and asked, "Do you dare to swear that you're not cheating on me?"

Mu Chen sneered. "Does swearing work? Forget it. Look at yourself in the mirror. The filth in your mind has long been written all over your face. Don't make me look down on you even more than I already do!"

Mu Chen turned around, carrying the baby to the window as he whispered to the baby, "Let's see if we can see Great-Grandma from here."

The baby gnawed on Mu Chen's hand as he obediently looked out the window.

Meanwhile, Ye Xin was stunned by the scolding she had just received. When she looked up and saw the baby's smiling face, a malicious thought welled up in her heart. She picked up a brass decorative item in the room, clearly intending to throw it at the baby's head. She thought to herself that since everyone loved the baby so much, she would kill the child so everyone would be sad. If she was unhappy, then no one was allowed to be happy!

At this moment...

"What are you doing?"

A scream rang in the air as a figure flashed past and shielded the baby.

Liang Zhou grunted when she felt the sharp pain in her back. Nonetheless, when she lowered her head and saw the baby looking at her with his clear eyes and his mouth curved into a smile, she felt relieved. Following that, she tasted something sweet and metallic at the back of her throat before she spat out a mouthful of blood on the baby's mat on the floor. Her legs weakened, and she fell limply to the ground.

When Mu Chen regained his senses, he stepped over Liang Zhou and kicked Ye Xin to the ground.

At this time, the commotion had attracted Sister Yu and A Nuan over. They were shocked by the scene before their eyes.

Mu Chen handed the baby over to A Nuan and said, "Bring him to my room."

At the same time, Sister Yu hurriedly helped Liang Zhou to her feet and worriedly asked, "Are you okay? Where does it hurt?"

Liang Zhou did not care about herself at this moment. She said to Mu Chen in a hoarse voice, "She was going to hurt the baby!"

Liang Zhou shuddered at the close call. She had seen Ye Xin aiming for the baby's head. She could not imagine what would have happened if she did not appear in time. She held onto Sister Yu's arm to support herself as she kowtowed once to the west and murmured, "Thank you for your blessing, Buddha."

Liang Zhou kowtowed sincerely, thanking Buddha for allowing her to shield the baby from a disaster.

Upon seeing this, Ye Xin screamed, "Stop pretending! Don't think I don't know what you're doing! You just want to enter the Mu family and become the Madam of the family!"

Smack!

Mu Chen slapped Ye Xin, causing her to stumble back and hit the door.

Liang Zhou remained on her knees, breathing heavily. A faint smile could be seen on her face as she wiped the blood off the corner of her lips before she said, "Whether you believe it or not, I'm willing to use my life to exchange for the baby's safety."

At this moment, Liang Zhou's body softened and she fell into Sister Yu's arms.

"Ms. Liang! Ms. Liang!" Sister Yu called out in a panic as she held Liang Zhou.

Mu Chen said in a deep voice, "Arrange for a car now!"

Chaos descended in the Mu family house immediately.

Mu Chen strode out of the room, ignoring Ye Xin who was leaning against the door, frozen. No one paid any attention to her.

Liang Zhou was carried into the car

The house immediately became a mess. Mu Chen Strode out.

Ye Xin leaned against the door as if she had become a painting. No one paid any attention to her.

Liang Zhou was carried into the car, and Sister Yu sat with her in the back seat.

Mu Chen intended to send Liang Zhou to the hospital. Before he got into the car, he said to Uncle Jiang coldly, "Keep an eye on that woman! Don't let her get close to the baby at all. Inform Grandma about what had happened."

"Understood." Uncle Jiang hurriedly turned around and left to carry out Mu Chen's orders.

Liang Zhou endured the pain and leaned against the seat. Her breathing was slightly labored.

Mu Chen did not turn around to look at her as he said, "Thank you. On behalf of the baby, thank you."

Liang Zhou tried her best to smile. "What I said is true. I'm willing to exchange my life for the baby's safety."

Sister Yu held Liang Zhou's hand gently as she said, "Just rest for now. We'll be at the hospital soon. You have to recover as soon as possible so you can continue to watch over the baby."

Liang Zhou smiled as her eyes brimmed with tears..

Chapter 435: Dark Horse

Jiang Jin looked at the panicking Ye Xin with a dark expression on her face. Then, she said to Uncle Jiang in an icy tone, "Bring the Young Madam to the small room. You'll personally deliver three meals to her a day. If there's nothing important, there's no need for her to go out."

"Understood!" Uncle Jiang replied before he waved his hand, gesturing to two robust helpers to bring Ye Xin away.

Ye Xin panicked even more. She struggled as she shouted, "Grandma, Grandma, listen to me! It's not my fault! It's Mu Chen's fault! I lost my temper because Mu Chen is cheating on me!"

Jiang Jin looked at Ye Xin coldly. "What does Mu Chen's cheating have to do with the baby? Why did you vent your anger on the baby?"

Ye Xin was at a loss for words. She was naturally unwilling to be locked up in the small room. She struggled with all her might as she yelled, "Grandma! I didn't vent my anger on the baby! Don't listen to that b*tch's nonsense! She's slandering me!"

Jiang Jin left. She could not be bothered with Ye Xin anymore.

...

After Ye Xin was locked in the small room, she kicked the door furiously over and over again. Alas, no one paid attention to her.

She ran to the windows and found that the windows were firmly locked. No matter how hard she tried, she could not open them.

She fell to the ground, angry and helpless, as she began to cry again.

She did not know what to do now. Mu Qing and Mu Chen each had a woman outside; both of them did not want her. Moreover, she had made both of them angry. Now, even Jiang Jin was treating her in such a manner. How could she continue to stay in this house? She really did not know what to do. She really did not want to leave this house. Who could help her now?

...

Jiang Jin hosted her party like nothing happened. The only thing was that Liang Zhou was absent.

The blunt force had injured Liang Zhou quite a bit so she was staying in the hospital to recuperate.

Jiang Jin had sent a helper over to look after Liang Zhou and also informed Mu Qing about the matter.

...

Mu Qing rushed to the hospital as soon as he received the news. He was filled with mixed feelings when he heard the helper's account of what had transpired. He did not expect that his effort to nurture Ye Xin was in vain; she was beyond help. On the contrary, Liang Zhou, whom he did not hold much hope for, slowly but surely made progress.

Xiao Yu, the helper at Mu Qing and Liang Zhou's house, had come to the hospital as well. She was very tactful with her words as she said to the helper from the Mu family house, "It's going to be very busy at the family house tomorrow. You should go back and help out. I'll look after Madam. If you're short-handed at the house, please let me know so I can arrange for our helpers to help out as well."

The helper from the Mu family was all smiles when they heard Xiao Yu's words. After all, they were not familiar with serving Liang Zhou.

Liang Zhou thanked the helper repeatedly before she asked Xiao Yu to arrange for a car to send the helper home.

Meanwhile, Mu Qing looked on with a cold expression on his face. He suddenly felt that Liang Zhou, and even her helper, Xiao Yu, were rather talented. In comparison, Ye Xin was nothing but a fool.

While Xiao Yu attended to Liang Zhou, Mu Qing sat at the side and looked at his phone.

Liang Zhou's breathing was a little weak. She said with a sigh, "It's not easy for the Old Madam to give me a chance to help her host the party, but this happened. I'm such a disappointment."

Mu Qing did not say anything. He actually thought the same in his heart.

On the other hand, Xiao Yu said with a smile, "Madam, you can't think like that. You saved the Old Madam's precious grandson this time; the Old Madam will definitely remember this life-saving grace. This is much better than you helping the Old Madam to host the party. Don't you agree?"

Liang Zhou's expression eased slightly. After a moment, an expression of fear appeared on her face as she said, "I don't even dare to think about the consequences if I weren't there. What if the baby were injured? This is going to give me nightmares for a long time to come.."

Chapter 436: Absent

Xiao Yu nodded. "When I heard about what happened from one of the senior staff members from the family house, I was frightened as well. Madam, it seems like you have fate with the Little Master..."

"You have a point. I didn't like children very much in the past. However, after the baby was born, I really changed my mind," Liang Zhou said. Her expression turned sunny as she continued to say, "You have no idea how cute he is now. He can already recognize the adults around him. He's very good at making the Old Madam happy as well, and he likes playing with Sister Yu and A Nuan. He's very clever and mischievous. He knows A Nuan's the youngest so he often teases her. The Old Madam said he's just as mischievous as the Young Master when the Young Master was young."

Mu Qing was surprised and pleased by Liang Zhou's performance so he stayed at the hospital to accompany her.

...

Jiang Jin did not invite too many people to the party. The reason for the party was only to thank some of the guests for showing support to Zhuang Ji.

Gao Wen was naturally not qualified to attend the party. She had spoken to Liang Zhou if she could come, but Liang Zhou did not dare to make the decision and only agreed to help her think of a way.

Gao Wen was surprised when she finally received an invitation. She did not expect Liang Zhou would be successful in helping her. She could not help but feel lucky that she had a friend like Liang Zhou.

It was unfortunate that Liang Zhou was not present at the party. She had found out from a helper that Liang Zhou was in the hospital, recovering from an injury. However, she thought it was better this way. Without Liang Zhou, it was more convenient for her to act. Otherwise, she would have to consider Liang Zhou.

...

After Liang Zhou disconnected the call, a satisfied smile appeared on her face.

'This is great! This injury really came at the right time! There's no need for me to suffer the embarrassment of being with Gao Wen. The baby is really my lucky star!'

...

Gao Wen exchanged pleasantries with the various guests as she kept a lookout for Ye Xin. However, even after half a day had passed, she still did not see Ye Xin. She could not help but feel that something was amiss. Logically speaking, the Young Madam of the Mu family should be by Jiang Jin's side during such an event.

At this moment, someone asked, "Why haven't we seen your precious great-grandson?"

Jiang Jin beamed upon hearing these words. Jiang Jin said happily, "His father brought him out to play. He's growing up so fast. Boys like playing with boys. Although his father doesn't spend too much time with him, his favorite person is still his father."

Upon hearing this, Gao Wen assumed that Ye Xin must have gone out with Mu Chen and the baby. She thought that her daughter was too willful. How could she not stay home and help out and go out to play instead? With this, she was even more convinced Song Ning was Ye Xin. After all, this was in line with Ye Xin's character.

While no one was paying attention to her, Gao Wen quietly excused herself to go to the bathroom. She asked the helper who was leading her, "Did the Young Madam go out with the Young Master?"

The helper seemed taken aback by the question. When she regained her senses, she evaded the question and swiftly changed the topic. "Our Young Master really loves the baby. Now that the baby has grown older and knows how to play, the Young Master is even more smitten with the baby."

Gao Wen felt the helper's reaction was strange, but she did not ask any further. After all, it was someone else's family affairs.

At this moment, someone called out to the helper. She said apologetically, "I'm sorry, Madam. My younger sister isn't feeling well today so I have to go and have a look at her. If you have any other requests, you can look for me. Please make yourself at home."

"Alright, alright. Don't worry," Gao Wen hastily said.

With that, the helper hurried away..

Chapter 437: Keys

Gao Wen carefully checked the corridor. Her gut feeling told her Ye Xin might be at home. When she recalled Liang Zhou and the master's words, she felt that Ye Xin's life here should be very terrible.

Due to the party, most of the helpers were helping out in the garden so there were not many people in the house.

After observing for a moment, Gao Wen boldly inspected the room one by one.

The Mu family house was very big, and there were many rooms.

Gao Wen began to sweat. Not only did she have to check so many rooms, but she had to be on guard against the servants as well. After a while, she had yet to encounter a room that she could not enter. Even what seemed like Mu Chen's study was unlocked. Hence, when she finally encountered a room with a locked door, she felt it was strange.

Based on the room's location, it could be a guest room or a storage room. Apart from it being locked, there was nothing strange about that room.

Gao Wen was still deciding on what to do when the sound of knocking rang from the other side of the door, accompanied by a voice.

"Open the door! Let me out!"

Gao Wen's heart almost leaped out of her chest at this moment. She knocked on the door softly and asked in a hushed voice, "Xinxin, is that you? Xinxin?"

The knocking stopped immediately.

Realization dawned on Gao Wen. She looked at the door anxiously, wondering how to unlock the door. Her daughter was locked up in the room! She looked around anxiously before she saw an open storage room where the helpers kept miscellaneous items.

Based on the layout of her own storage room, she actually found a set of keys. She gripped the keys tightly as she poked her head out of the room to check that the coast was clear. Then, she quietly walked back to the small room and tried to unlock the door with one key after another with trembling hands.

Click!

Gao Wen paused as joy almost drowned her. She gently twisted the knob and pushed the door open.

Ye Xin, who was in the room, looked as though she had seen a ghost. She asked frostily, "Why are you here?"

Gao Wen hastily closed the door behind her and leaned against it before she said in a low and hurried voice, "Xinxin, let's leave with Mommy. Mommy will bring you home. Let's leave this place."

Ye Xin retreated to the desk behind her, panicking. "No, no, leave! Leave now! I'm not Ye Xin; I'm Song Ning! You're not my mother! Leave now! Otherwise, I'm going to call for help!"

Gao Wen's eyes were brimming with tears. "Xinxin, why? Why are you pretending to be Song Ning? Do you know how dangerous this is? No one in the Mu family is easy to deal with. How long do you think you can keep this a secret? Why did they lock you up? How can they lock you up? Xinxin, listen to Mommy. Let's leave!"

As Gao Wen spoke, she walked toward Ye Xin.

Ye Xin stretched her hand out to stop Gao Wen from approaching. "Stop right there! Don't come over!"

Gao Wen stopped in her tracks and looked at her daughter. "I know you're Xinxin. I used a strand of your hair and did a DNA test with it. Mommy knows you're suffering here. Let's..."

Ye Xin interjected vehemently, "You're wrong! I'm not suffering. I'm Song Ning, the Young Madam of the Mu family! My husband, Mu Chen, loves me very much, and Grandma loves me very much! You're mistaken! I'm not Ye Xin! Get out! Leave!"

Gao Wen pointed at the door and asked, "Then why did they lock you up?"

Chapter 438: Shuddering in Fear

Ye Xin was at a loss for words. She trembled as she said, "I... I just made a small mistake so Grandma told me to reflect in here. I'm fine, Madam Ye. You're overthinking things!"

"Madam Ye? You called me Madam Ye?" Gao Wen could not help but raise her voice as she said, "I can bring out the DNA report as evidence. We can even do another DNA test. I'm your mother, and you're my daughter, Ye Xin. You won't even acknowledge your mother? Xinxin, you're stabbing a knife into your mother's heart. I love you. There's no one in this world who loves you more than your mother!"

Tears streamed down Gao Wen's face as she spoke.

Ye Xin could no longer hold her words back. "You love me? If so, you have to consider my situation. Why are you trying to expose me? I'm Song Ning; I'm the Young Madam of the Mu family! If I'm Ye Xin, then I'm just a mental patient! Have you ever considered my feelings?"

Gao Wen was stunned.

Ye Xin sneered. "What was so great about Song Ning? What right did she have to marry Mu Chen? Why does that old woman like her so much? Why does everyone treat her so well? What right did she have to steal everything from me without lifting a single finger? Now that I've finally replaced and become her, you came to cause trouble! Now you want to acknowledge me as your daughter? Where were you when I was suffering in the mental hospital? At that time, did you remember you had a daughter? Why didn't you come when I was waiting day and night for you to come and save me?"

Gao Wen was still shocked by Ye Xin's outburst.

Ye Xin felt her heart turn colder as she looked at Gao Wen. "Now that I'm living well in the Mu family and have become the Young Madam of the family, you came looking for me. I really didn't expect the person to expose me would be my biological mother!"

Gao Wen seemed to finally find her voice as she said tremblingly, "W-who wants to expose you? Silly child, why would I expose you? I, naturally, won't tell anyone about this. I-I only want to quietly bring you away from this chaotic place. What will happen to you once the Mu family finds out you're just an impostor? Have you thought about that? Xinxin, you're really foolish. Do you think Mu Chen is someone to be trifled with? Don't you think he'll destroy you once he finds out you're pretending to be Song Ning?"

Ye Xin visibly shuddered. It was not that she had never thought of the consequences if she were exposed, but she just did not dare to dwell on them. After a moment, she stubbornly said, "No, I won't be exposed! He won't find out! If he were going to find out, he would've found out a long time ago! It's been almost a year, but he doesn't know that I'm not Song Ning!"

"It's still only a matter of time before you're exposed!" Gao Wen stomped her foot in frustration. When she saw how stubborn Ye Xin was, she grew even more anxious. She said, "Put Mu Chen aside, even Old Madam Mu isn't simple. Mu Chen and Mu Qing were raised by her, and none of them are simple people! Silly child, how long do you think you can fool her?"

Ye Xin was stunned when she heard Mu Qing's name.

Gao Wen did not notice Ye Xin's reaction and continued to say, "I'm only afraid that she doesn't say anything when she finds out you're an impostor and secretly deals with you instead."

As soon as Gao Wen's voice fell, the duo's eyes met, and they instinctively shuddered.

Gao Wen had instinctively said those words. She was a wealthy madam who did not take interest in those serious affairs, but she had heard of the well-known legend of Jiang Jin. Everyone in M City, and perhaps, the whole country, knows how capable Jiang Jin was.

To begin with, Ye Xin was already worried that Jiang Jin had already noticed something was wrong. Gao Wen's words only served as a punch to her heart. She wondered if she had already been seen through? No matter how meticulous Mu Qing's plan was, he was taught by Jiang Jin.. Could it be that Jiang Jin had long seen through Mu Qing's plan?

Chapter 439: Denial

Ye Xin felt chills in her heart. When she recalled Jiang Jin's tone and expression today, she paled in fright.

Mu Qing was Jiang Jin's biological son. If she did not care about their relationship as mother and son, she would have long gotten rid of Mu Qing. Mu Qing had schemed countless times before and was still scheming, but he was fine. Was it not because Jiang Jin turned a blind eye to his schemes?

However, who was Ye Xin to Jiang Jin? What would Jiang Jin do once she discovered her true identity? Liang Zhou had tried for so many years, and yet, she still failed to gain Jiang Jin's approval.

When Ye Xin thought about Liang Zhou, her heart tightened even more.

Gao Wen, who was unaware of the thought in Ye Xin's mind, continued to say, "Xinxin, I've spoken to my master about you. She said that your current situation is very dangerous, and she had instructed me to bring you away no matter what. What you're doing now isn't beneficial to you at all! You're being used as a stepping stone! Xinxin, I'm your mother; I won't harm you!"

'Stepping stone!' Ye Xin raised her head suddenly as her eyes widened.

It was obvious that Jiang Jin had never liked Liang Zhou before. However, Ye Xin's appearance had inadvertently helped Liang Zhou. Liang Zhou was a regular guest at the Mu family house because of her, and as a result, Liang Zhou had slowly gained Jiang Jin's tacit approval. Jiang Jin had invited Liang Zhou to help her host the party. However, she, the dignified Young Madam of the Mu family, was not even informed of the matter.

Chills ran up Ye Xin's spine immediately. She leaned against the table before she weakly slid down to the floor as a terrifying thought appeared in her mind.

'Is Mu Qing using me to help Liang Zhou? Do all my actions only serve to help Liang Zhou? After, she's his legal wife! What does his promise to me count as? What did he promise me in the first place?'

Ye Xin's mind went blank. Mu Qing had never promised her eternal love. In fact, he had always refused her. She was the one who fell in love with him and entangled herself with him. Did she even have a future with him? Would Jiang Jin allow someone who was once her granddaughter-in-law to become her daughter-in-law?

With all these thoughts in her mind, Ye Xin felt like she was going to go crazy.

At this moment, Gao Wen rushed over and hugged Ye Xin. "Xinxin, follow me home. Leave this place with me, okay? I'll definitely protect you!"

Ye Xin reached out and gently pushed Gao Wen away. As she looked at her mother's face, she said, "Leave this place? And go where? Where do you think we can go?"

Ye Xin smiled bitterly before she slowly rose to her feet. She wiped the tears off her face and sniffled before she smiled brightly at Gao Wen. "I'm not going anywhere. I'm Song Ning, the Young Madam of the Mu family. No one can do anything to me! Even if they want to get rid of me or if Mu Chen divorces me, they'll still have to give me a share of their assets. After that, I'll go and look for my father!"

Ye Xin's smile widened as she said smugly, "My father is Ning Zhe, the Chairman of the Ning Corporation. He treats me very well. All I need to do is ask, and he'll give me money and send help!"

Gao Wen was shocked. "You went to look for Ning Zhe?"

Ye Xin nodded. "That's right! Why can't I look for him? I'm his daughter. All I did was smile at him, and he gave me a credit card. He told me to spend it on whatever I want. When he heard I don't know how to manage Zhuang Ji, he immediately hired someone to help me. He's a great father. As long as I manage Zhuang Ji well, what can the Mu family say? I'll continue being the glorious Young Madam of the Mu family!"

Gao Wen looked at Ye Xin and shook her head repeatedly.. "You're crazy! You're really crazy!"

Chapter 440: Vicious

Ye Xin looked at Gao Wen from the corners of her eyes and said, "Crazy? You have the nerve to call me crazy? Look at you. Ning Xia's mother became Madam Ning. Even Ning Dong's mother became Madam Ning. What about you? Who are you, Madam Ye?"

Ye Xin's voice rose as she continued to say, "I'm an illegitimate child, one that can't be openly acknowledged. Leave with you? What happens if I leave with you and that cheap brother of mine finds out that I'm only his half-sister? What do you think he'll do?"

The light in Gao Wen's eyes slowly faded with every word that left Ye Xin's lips.

Ye Xin smiled contemptuously as she said, "At that time, we'll be chased out. Not only would we be homeless, but we'd also be ridiculed. However, these things won't happen. At least, not to me. I'm Song Ning, after all. As long as I'm Song Ning, I'll be fine. Moreover, you'll benefit from this as well. Since your daughter is missing, the evidence of your indiscretion is also missing. With this, Madam Ye will be safe as well, right?"

At some point, Ye Xin's tears began to fall down her face again. However, she wore a strange smile on her face. When she finished speaking, she wiped her face before she reached out to pull Gao Wen closer. She asked, "Do you want me to call you mom?"

Gao Wen was at a loss for words.

Ye Xin smiled through her tears as she said, "What's the point? I remember a line from the script of a movie I acted in: If parents love their children, they'll pave the way for their children. Do you love me? If you love me, you should consider my future. If you can't pave the way for me, at least, stand aside. Think about it: is there a way for Ye Xin to live in this world? Everyone dislikes Ye Xin! If I become Ye Xin again, how do you expect me to live?"

Gao Wen was speechless. Her entire body felt frozen.

"However, Song Ning's different. I could never hope to have things she had. However, now that I'm her, everything of hers is mine! Her husband, her business, and her son are all mine! Mom, don't you think that's great? Shouldn't you be happy for me?"

Ye Xin's smile was sweet, and her voice was gentle and pleasant. However, in the next moment, her expression changed. She pushed Gao Wen away and harshly said, "You just can't stand to see me living well, can you? Not only did you not help me in the past, but you even came now to ruin everything I've

fought so hard for! Who are you? Are you my mother or my enemy? Why don't you just die? If you die, then you can no longer threaten me!"

Ye Xin's expression was fierce, and her words were vicious.

Gao Wen was stunned. She was certain the person in front of her was Ye Xin, her daughter. However, could her daughter really say these words that were like a knife, stabbing repeatedly into her heart?

Ye Xin pointed at the door and said, "Get lost! I don't want to see you again! If there's even the slightest whisper about me being an impostor, I definitely won't spare you! Can't you just treat me as though I'm dead? Please just treat me as though I'm dead!"

When Gao Wen looked at Ye Xin who was on the brink of a breakdown, she thought Ye Xin's crazy appearance was just as the master had described. There was no doubt that Ye Xin was being manipulated by someone; she had also been brainwashed! With all these thoughts in her mind, she thought she had to look for the master as soon as possible so the master could help her save Ye Xin!

After a moment, Gao Wen grabbed Ye Xin and hugged her forcefully. She whispered, "Xinxin, don't worry. Mommy will definitely save you! I know you're being manipulated. Don't worry. I found an extremely powerful master. She'll definitely be able to save you from this sea of bitterness!"

Ye Xin pushed Gao Wen away. "Get lost!"

Gao Wen was caught off guard and fell to the ground. The base of her neck hit the corner of a table before she fainted.

Ye Xin only looked at Gao Wen coldly before she strode to the door. Her heart did not waver at all..