

A Marriage 541

Chapter 541 Further Exposed

“To me, it’s enough as long as I can prove that the Young Madam of the Mu family at that time was your daughter,” Liang Zhou said as the smile vanished from her face when she looked at Gao Wen whose face was flushed with anger.

Then, Liang Zhou sneered as she looked at Ning Zhe and said, “Ye Xin has a terrible temper. She got into a conflict because she found out that Mu Qing had other lovers. In order to protect herself, she knew she needed a backer. Hence, she went to look for her biological father, Ning Zhe.”

“Song Ning has a strong and unyielding personality. She left home at a young age and severed her ties with her father. No matter how difficult life was, she never turned back to look for her father. Ye Xin didn’t know this. Even if she did, she likely would not believe it since she did not have Song Ning’s independence and capabilities,” Liang Zhou said, “As for Chairman Ning, he naturally dotes on his daughter who had a 180-degree change in attitude and knew how to act coquettishly with him.”

Liang Zhou paused for a moment as she looked at Ning Zhe from the corners of her eyes and said, “However, I think Chairman Ning’s attitude is quite strange. As a father, how could he not be aware of his daughter’s temperament? He seemed to turn a blind eye to the change. What’s more intriguing is that not only did Chairman Ning not advise his daughter to reconcile with her in-laws, but he even sent his people to help his daughter to manage Zhuang Ji...”

Ning Zhe’s expression changed drastically upon hearing this. He said coldly, “As a father, I naturally am responsible for making plans for my daughter’s future.”

Liang Zhou sneered. “Well, Chairman Ning is a businessman; his plans are definitely better than others. For example, it doesn’t matter what your daughter’s life in the Mu family is like; the most important thing is Zhuang Ji. Moreover, it’s rare that your daughter is so obedient and brainless. Isn’t the best chance to grab Zhuang Ji to your side?”

“So, I have to say you’re an active participant in today’s incident as well. You had to ensure that this obedient and brainless daughter is your daughter, Song Ning, so you delude yourself. You were happy to support her divorce from Mu Chen. After all, the most important thing to you is Zhuang Ji. It was the best chance for you to grasp Zhuang Ji in your hands! With your wealth, it’s not a problem for you to support your daughter for a lifetime, right? Once Zhuang Ji was in your hands, you’d have nothing to worry about.”

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“You! You’re a villain spouting poison!” Ning Zhe rose to his feet and pointed at Liang Zhou angrily.

Liang Zhou smiled. “Are you angry because I’m right and you’re embarrassed? Let me ask you. Now that the truth is out, will you still bring Ye Xin home with you and be a good father to her?”

Ning Zhe averted his gaze immediately upon hearing those words. Liang Zhou’s smile deepened. “After all, it’s been confirmed that Ye Xin is your biological daughter. However, this daughter of yours doesn’t have Zhuang Ji. How about it? Do you still recognize her as your daughter?”

Ning Zhe sat back down angrily without saying a word.

Upon seeing this, Ye Xin's eyes widened in shock. No matter how foolish she was, she could clearly understand what this meant. She did not expect that Zhuang Ji was Ning Zhe's goal from the beginning to the end. She had thought the warmth from Ning Zhe was due to their father-and-daughter relationship!

Ye Xin could not accept this. She cried out, "I'm your biological daughter as well! How can you treat me like this? How?"

Ning Zhe's expression darkened, but he did not speak.

At this time, Song Ning said in a faint voice, "How do you think he should treat you? In the past, I was not as important as his son, and now, you're not as important as Zhuang Ji. Since you're his daughter, you should have a clear understanding of your worth." Ye Xin understood that it was truly over for her. It was all over. Her lover, her father, and her husband were all gone. She felt as though she was stripped bare in front of everyone. She had nothing left. However, she was unwilling. She shouted at Liang Zhou, "It's all your fault! It's your fault for ruining me! I have no enmity with you, why do you target me? Why can't you just let things be? I have never wanted him to divorce you or chase you out of the house so why can't you just leave me alone? Why?"

Chapter 542 Casting Doubts

Ye Xin's tears fell like rain down her scarred face, making her look hideous.

Liang Zhou was not angry at all. She calmly asked, "So I should feel grateful to you? Grateful that even though you slept with my husband, you didn't covet my position as his legal wife?"

Liang Zhou's voice grew sterner as she said, "Ye Xin, you're just as shameless as your mother. Both of you don't even know the meaning of shame. That year, Gao Wen and Ning Zhe had an affair, resulting in your birth. Both of them didn't feel guilty toward their respective spouses at all. They thought no one knew since they stopped the affair quickly, thinking it didn't affect their families at all."

Liang Zhou scoffed. "I think you're even more shameless than your mother. You failed to seduce Mu Chen so you went and seduced his father, Mu Qing, completely disregarding their relationship as father and son. What role do you plan to play between the father and son? Don't you feel disgusted with yourself?" Liang Zhou said as she slapped the armrest of the wheelchair angrily.

Ye Xin wiped her tears and stubbornly said, "There's no need for you to say such things. It was only because Mu Chen refused to accept me that I fell in love with Sir. Sir understands me, sympathizes with me, and loves me, unlike Mu Chen. You all think Mu Chen is so amazing, but let me tell you, he's incompetent! He can't even be considered a real man! Don't tell me I have to live a life like a widow with him?"

Ye Xin's words shocked everyone. They could not help but look at Mu Chen.

Not only was Mu Chen not angry, but on the contrary, he looked rather proud. He said, "I really have to thank you for testifying for me and clearing my name in one go. Otherwise, I don't know how to prove to my wife that I didn't touch you at all while you were impersonating her." Then, Mu Chen turned to look at Song Ning as though he was asking to be praised.

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Song Ning glared at him, embarrassed and slightly amused.

Cheng Che coughed lightly and said, "Brother, behave yourself."

Jiahui clicked her tongue and said, "Your display of love is really going to make me blind!"

Ye Xin was stunned. She did not expect her words that were supposed to pull Mu Chen down would serve to prove Mu Chen's innocence. In the end, she had clowned herself instead.

Ning Zhe slammed his hand on the table and rose to his feet. "Nonsense! Nonsense! This is all nonsense!" Then, he pointed at Liang Zhou and said, "You're a snake! You're so venomous that you made all this absurd story up! The story is full of loopholes. You said that Ye Xin is fake. When did Ye Xin enter the Mu family then? Are the Mu family statues? Did they just watch as Song Ning was swapped with Ye Xin? How did the swap happen? How did a living person get swapped out without anyone noticing? Then, how did Ye Xin get swapped out from the Mu family again after that? How could everything go so smoothly without anyone noticing? How's this possible?!"

Ning Zhe was indeed worthy of being a businessman. He quickly found the loopholes in the story and tried to use them to his advantage.

The reporters were all invested in this strange story. Moreover, all the main characters were in front of them. They had been engrossed in the story and had indeed overlooked a few details. Now that they heard Ning Zhe's words, they nodded before they looked at Liang Zhou for clarifications.

Liang Zhou smiled. "A good story needs an audience, especially an audience like Chairman Ning. He can ask questions at the right time to facilitate the plot of the story. Otherwise, I don't know how to continue telling everyone. After all, this is a story that is too twisted and bizarre."

Liang Zhou looked at everyone calmly, then, she said slowly, "When Song Ning was giving birth, a fire broke out in the hospital. Don't you think that this is too strange? Coincidentally, only the obstetrics and gynecology department caught fire. Moreover, after the investigation, only the surveillance cameras on the floor were damaged. With this, it doesn't take much to figure out that the fire was not natural but arson, right?"

Chapter 543 True or False?

A mocking smile appeared on Liang Zhou's face as she said, "The timing of the fire was just right. The baby was taken away. Mu Chen was not by Song Ning's side at that time. At that time, we were panicking and only thought about the Old Madam and the baby's safety. By the time Mu Chen arrived to save Song Ning, Song Ning had already been switched out. There's one thing we need to pay attention to; plastic surgery takes time. When Ye Xin healed from her surgery, she had replaced Song Ning. One can see how thorough the plan was."

Everyone could not help but turn to look at Mu Qing and Ye Xin. If this was premeditated, then everything would make sense.

Liang Zhou continued to say, "As for switching Ye Xin out... That was my doing." The crowd was in an uproar, even Ye Xin was stunned.

“I’ve been paying attention to the fake Song Ning. That day, she had an argument with Mu Chen and the Old Madam so she left the house in a fit of anger. I knew she would definitely look for Mu Qing to complain so I followed her. Unexpectedly, she got into a car accident not too far from the house. At that time, I thought that it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The heavens were finally helping the worthy. This was a chance to give those people a taste of their own medicine.”

“Hence, before the police and ambulance arrived, I rescued the injured Ye Xin and called Madam Ye. We brought Ye Xin to the neighboring city. Since Madam Ye missed her daughter so much, I thought I would return her daughter to her. With this, things would return to the rightful path. With this, the matter would be settled. Who would have expected that the mother and daughter would be so shameless and still insisted on returning to the Mu family after everything?”

Liang Zhou glared at Ye Xin and Gao Wen hatefully as she said, “Was that your only way out? Even if it was, have you thought about me and Song Ning? You’d stolen Song Ning’s identity, and she had become a person without an identity. Have you ever considered what would happen to her then? How would she live her life? Did you give her a way out? When you seduced my husband, did you think about giving me a way out? What should I do? Is it worth it for me to consider selfish people like you?”

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Liang Zhou’s voice was hoarse, arousing the sympathy of the reporters.

After Liang Zhou calmed down, she said, “So, I brought Ye Xin, who had yet to recover, away from the hospital. I brought her to the villa across from her and Mu Qing’s secret love nest. Together, we witnessed many of the women whom Mu Qing brought home. Mu Qing appeared to be a gentleman, but he’s nothing but a hypocrite behind closed doors.”

“In order to return to the Mu family and seize power, he placed women next to every core member of the Mu family. These women were like Ye Xin. They were foolish and blindly loyal to him, working for him.”

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“I had thought that after seeing all this, Ye Xin would come to her senses. After all, she was still young. However, I didn’t expect her to have such deep feelings for Mu Qing. When I was unprepared, she caught me off guard, stabbed me, and escaped. Ha, she really hated me to the bones that she wanted to kill me. If Xiao Yu didn’t find me, I’m afraid I would’ve died at that time,” Liang Zhou said as her voice grew softer and softer.

Ye Xin leaped out and screeched at the top of her lungs, “It wasn’t like that! It wasn’t like that! She’s talking nonsense! She’s the one who set all of this up! It’s her! She’s the most vicious one!”

Liang Zhou lowered her head and covered her face with both hands, emanating sorrow and despair.

Everyone felt distressed for Liang Zhou; her sorrow and despair were palpable. However, unbeknownst to them, her hands hid the faint smile on her face.

Liang Zhou thought this felt really satisfying. She had won this battle. Regardless of the price she had to pay, it was worth it.

In Liang Zhou's story, there was truth and falsehood. One of out her ten sentences was fake, but even then, no one doubted her.

Chapter 544 Decision

At this moment, no matter how much or how miserably Ye Xin cried, no one believed her words.

Liang Zhou's words had cut off Ye Xin's escape route.

Everyone was thoroughly shocked. For a moment, it was completely silent.

After a while, a reporter boldly asked, "Ms. Liang, d-do you have any evidence for what you said?"

Liang Zhou had spoken too much and was exhausted. Upon hearing this question, she straightened her back again and weakly said, "Yes, I'll hand them over to the police. This matter has to be settled in the end. I think it's only fair to hand it over to the law. I also know that with Mr. Mu Qing's ability, he'll find the best lawyer to exonerate him. However, it doesn't matter. I have done my best. The heavens are watching us. Even if you can escape the law, you can't escape heaven's retributions."

Then, Liang Zhou looked at Ye Xin and said, "Ye Xin, although you stole my husband, as an elder, I still want to give you a piece of advice. A woman can't go down the wrong path. Sometimes, once you go down the wrong path, there'll be no turning back. Take me for example. Fortunately, I was pulled back from the precipice, but you, you're walking closer and closer to it. You chose your own path, and this is the outcome. You can't blame anyone. Don't think that just because you have a good-looking face, you can do whatever you want or all the men in the world are yours. Song Ning is beautiful as well, but even if she's not, with her character, she'll be loved wherever she goes. Look at you. Although you changed your face to look like Song Ning, Mu Chen saw through you immediately. Don't blame others. However, your parents are also at fault for your terrible upbringing. It's really your misfortune."

Liang Zhou looked at the miserable Ye Xin and smiled.

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At this time, the door slammed open, and the police rushed in.

Xiao Yu protected Liang Zhou and pushed the wheelchair to the side.

Everyone watched as Mu Qing, Gao Wen, and Ye Xin were taken away by the police. While the elders of the Mu family whispered among themselves, Ning Zhe looked as though he had been frozen.

The outcome was out of everyone's expectations.

The reporters were reluctant to leave since the excitement had just begun. Moreover, the remaining questions they had could only be answered by Mu Chen.

Soon enough, under everyone's watchful eyes, Mu Chen rose to his feet and said, "Today's farce should've opened up everyone's eyes, right? This little scandal has made a joke out of the Mu family. I have nothing else to say. Those who are innocent are innocent. I'm also innocent. However, due to my

negligence, my wife, Song Ning, has suffered a lot. I'll try my best to make it up to her for the rest of my life."

This was naturally not enough for the reporters.

"Chairman Mu, Chairman Mu, what do you plan to do with Mr. Mu?" a reporter quickly asked.

"Are you asking if I'm going to be lenient?" Mu Chen cocked an eyebrow. He continued to say, "Back then, my grandmother had chased him out of the family. This means that my relationship with him as father and son had been severed. Over the years, we're just like passersby in each other's life. Now that he had gone to such great lengths to harm my wife and son, how can I let it go? I've already held back a lot considering my grandmother."

Everyone was rendered speechless. Indeed, they were not the ones who suffered so what right did they have to plead for leniency on someone else's behalf?

The elders of the Mu family were still fervently discussed among themselves. They could not come to a conclusion even after a long time. When they heard Mu Chen's words, they felt uncomfortable again.

A reporter who noticed the unnatural expressions of the elders of the Mu family asked, "Elders, what do you think?"

Second Granduncle Mu said with a dark expression, "No matter what, we're all part of the Mu family. We'll discuss this matter in private."

Clearly, the elders of the Mu family were not giving in so easily.

However, Mu Chen did not mind.

Everyone knew the elders of the Mu family just cared about their reputation. In fact, they did not hold any real power. At most, they had some say regarding family matters. How could they control Mu Chen who had grown wings?

Chapter 545 You Don't Deserve to Understand

Mu Chen said slowly, "Discuss this in private? Sorry, but I respect the law."

Second Granduncle Mu's expression turned slightly as he said angrily, "Even if you want to involve the law, you still have to remember your roots! He's your father! What do you want from him?"

Mu Chen calmly said, "I don't want anything from him. Everyone has to be responsible for their actions. No one forced him to do those things. He yearns to return to the Mu family, but he has never considered the family's honor. Second Granduncle, do you plan to put the family's reputation on the line by supporting such a person?" "You!" Second Granduncle Mu was furious. Humans' natural instinct was to seek benefit and avoid harm, after all.

At this time, another elder said, "Second Granduncle, let Mu Chen handle this. We're old now so we won't care about these things, Mu Chen. No matter what, we must put the Mu family's interest first. After all, the Mu family isn't yours alone. We're all part of the Mu family."

Mu Chen had heard such righteous words many times before. He looked at the group of elders who had nothing else better to do and said with a sneer, "I'll remember your words. Take care."

Despite his words, Mu Chen did not even make a move to bow or anything.

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This kind of disrespect further angered the elders, but they did not dare to speak up anymore.

At this time, Cheng Che led the reporters to the side. He was the only one calm enough to deal with the reporters now.

On the other hand, Ning Zhe walked over to Song Ning hesitantly. His emotions had been surging turbulently for a long time. His eyes were red, and his tone was sad and affectionate as he said, "Xiaxia, I'm sorry."

Mu Chen was about to speak when Song Ning stopped Mu Chen. Then, she turned to face Ning Zhe and said, "Chairman Ning, I want to inform you that Hui, the person whom you sent to Zhuang Ji, has been fired by our HR manager. She has been working for you for a long time so I'm sure you'll be able to take care of her. I don't think I need to worry about that. Please don't do such things in the future. No matter what, I won't give Zhuang Ji to anyone."

Ning Zhe choked. After a while, he said, "You won't give it to anyone? What about Mu Chen? What kind of person is he? Didn't you give it to him and Cheng Che? Xiaxia, I'm your father. I won't harm you! Zhuang Ji is your dowry. How can you let your in-laws manage it? If something happens to you in the future, you won't even have a way out. Don't be so stubborn regarding this matter!"

Ning Zhe disregarded Mu Chen and Cheng Che and was blunt with his words.

Song Ning looked at the man in front of her and felt helpless. She asked, "So you think I should hand it over to you?"

Ning Zhe nodded. "Yes. You're my daughter. It's only right for me to manage it for you. Moreover, you'll also inherit the Ning family's assets in the future. I won't mistreat my daughter!"

Song Ning said tonelessly, "I don't need the inheritance. You might have already forgotten what happened back then, but I haven't. My mother's no longer around so you don't think it matters. However, to me, my mother is always present in my heart. I remember every word she said. I hope you'll remember my words as well. Clearly, you don't take my words to heart at all. Otherwise, you won't be able to tell which one is your real and fake daughter. Oh, right, she's not your fake daughter; she's your daughter as well. Fortunately, this matter was not exposed when my mother was still alive. Otherwise, she'd be even sadder." Ning Zhe was rendered speechless by Song Ning's words.

Song Ning continued to say, "Zhuang Ji was left to me by my mother. Every piece of work and every corner holds a different meaning to me. They're not just commodities. Chairman Ning, you don't understand this nor do you deserve to understand this."

Chapter 546 Coincidence

After Song Ning finished speaking, she ignored Ning Zhe and walked straight to Liang Zhou. She squatted down and looked at Liang Zhou as she gently said, "Thank you. Let's go back to the hospital."

Xiao Yu's tears fell silently.

Liang Zhou smiled. "Song Ning, thank you for giving me this opportunity to atone for my sins. I owe Mu Chen, and I can never make it up to him in this lifetime. If there's a next life, I hope I'll be able to make it up to him."

Liang Zhou turned back and held Xiao Yu's hand as she said, "I have no children in this life; it's my retribution. Only this silly child has always been by my side. In the future, if it's convenient for you, please look after her."

"Madam..." Xiao Yu's tears fell like rain.

Song Ning said reassuringly, "Don't overthink things. Although my medical skills aren't high, I still have my master and Jiahui's father. We won't give up on you."

Liang Zhou smiled bitterly. "Thank you, Song Ning. Don't worry. I know my body very well. Since I was young, my lungs have been weak. Due to my illness, my family gave in to me whenever possible. They didn't hesitate to favor me over Liang Zhen. Everything's my fault."

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At this time, a medical staff member entered.

Song Ning patted Liang Zhou's hand and said, "Listen to me. Go back to the hospital. I'll bring the baby to visit you. The baby misses his Grandma."

As soon as Song Ning mentioned the baby, tears fell from Liang Zhou's eyes immediately. Her soft spot was precisely the chubby little baby who was innocent to the ways of the world.

Ye Cheng's expression grew gloomier and gloomier as he watched the videos online.

Chen Chen stood at the side, too afraid to breathe loudly.

To think they had missed such an explosive show. Now, they could only watch helplessly as the completely unrecognizable Ye Xin and Gao Wen were taken away by the police.

It was only at this moment that Ye Cheng realized he had been schemed against.

It was too coincidental that at the critical moment something had happened to Ji An. If it were not for Ji An, he could have rushed over to meet Mu Chen and negotiate with Mu Chen. He would not be like those idiots who fell into Mu Chen's trap bit by bit and even ended up helping Mu Chen. 'Mu Chen, what a vicious scheme! Does he know anything about Ji An? Did he have anything to do with it?'

"Chen Chen, clean up Ji An's matter. Don't forget Mu Qing," Ye Cheng said.

Chen Chen hurriedly said, "Young Master Cheng, Mu Qing isn't stupid. Even if he knew Ji An is working for us, he won't dare to say anything unless he wants to die."

Ye Cheng, naturally, knew this, but it was better to be safe than sorry.

“Clean up all the people and matters that Ji An had dealt with over the past few years. It’s hard to predict people’s hearts so we can’t let our guard down,” Ye Cheng said calmly. However, Chen Chen could feel Ye Cheng’s exhaustion.

“Yes, Young Master. I’ll make sure to deal with everything properly,” Chen Chen hurriedly replied.

Ye Cheng lowered his head and thought about the entire thing again. On second thought, he felt that it was a good thing he was not there. Otherwise, with so many facts and evidence, he would not have been able to defend himself, and his reputation would have been ruined.

Even Ning Zhe did not gain anything and suffered a loss.

Thinking about this, Ye Cheng felt slightly better. There were always two sides to a matter. This could be considered a blessing in disguise.

As for Mu Chen, it could be seen that he no longer cared about anything now. He had stepped onto the dignity of the elders of the Mu family over and over again with no signs of backing down. He had already grown strong enough and capable enough to do so. A deep sense of powerlessness welled up in Ye Cheng’s heart when he thought about this.

Chapter 547 Warmth

Apart from Mu Chen, there was also Ning Dong. Ye Cheng felt that he had truly underestimated that little brat. Originally, he wanted to raise Ning Dong up into a chess piece that he could place by Ning Zhe’s side. He really did not expect Ning Dong to be a wolf cub that could not be tamed.

“Young Master Cheng,” Chen Chen called out hesitantly.

Ye Cheng raised his head to look at Chen Chen.

Chen Chen said tentatively, “I’m worried that Mu Chen will investigate the fire at the hospital.”

Ye Cheng was taken aback. He had forgotten about this matter. Then, he said, “We can’t allow Ji An to remain. Go and deal with it. Make sure to deal with everything properly; don’t leave any traces behind. As for the matter with the fire at the hospital, all the evidence has been destroyed. There’s only Ji An, who’s a witness, left.” “Yes,” Chen Chen hurriedly said.

Ye Cheng sighed. “How could it be such a coincidence that Song Ning was giving birth at that time? I didn’t expect Mu Qing to take advantage of us!”

Chen Chen said, “Fortunately, Yang Li is dead. Otherwise, we would really be...”

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Chen Chen trailed off.

Ye Cheng did not respond. He had nowhere to vent his anger and frustration now. Everything was caused by his insufferably arrogant younger sister, Ye Xin. For her, he had done many unconscionable things, but he did not even receive a word of thanks from her. Thinking about this, he felt frustrated again.

“To think she has the audacity to impersonate Song Ning! She really doesn’t have a brain at all to become Mu Qing’s puppet. She used such a method to be with Mu Chen, but she actually slept with Mu Qing! Ye Cheng could not suppress the anger in his heart and punched the coffee table in front of him, cracking the thick glass on top of the table.

“Young Master Cheng!” Chen Chen exclaimed in shock.

Ye Cheng thought that the physical pain could at least alleviate some of the frustration in his heart.

When Zhuang Ning opened the door, the smell of alcohol wafted into her nose immediately. She frowned and instinctively used her hand to fan in front of her nose.

Ye Cheng’s eyes were a little hazy, but he still remembered to apologize. “I’m sorry. I’ve been drinking.”

When Ye Cheng reached up to cover his mouth, Zhuang Ning saw his hand was bandaged. She asked, concerned, “What happened to your hand?”

Zhuang Ning’s concern made Ye Cheng’s eyes turn red. He reached out and hugged her, placing his chin on her shoulder as he called out repeatedly, “Zhuang Ning, Zhuang Ning...”

Only at this time did Zhuang Ning see Chen Chen who was standing behind Ye Cheng.

Chen Chen wore a worried expression on his face. He pointed at Ye Cheng and raised his index finger to his lips, making a hush gesture before shaking his head.

Zhuang Ning furrowed her brow and nodded gently. She held Ye Cheng and said in a soft voice, “Let’s sit on the couch.”

Zhuang Ning supported Ye Cheng up, but his footsteps were unsteady, making it difficult for her to hold him.

Upon seeing this, Chen Chen hastily stepped forward to help Ye Cheng sit down on the couch.

Ye Cheng rested his head on the back of the couch and covered his eyes with one hand. He did not move or speak.

Zhuang Ning patted his leg gently and said, “I’ll make you a cup of honeyed water to sober you up.”

After saying that, Zhuang Ning rose to her feet and motioned for Chen Chen to follow her to the kitchen.

Chen Chen looked at Ye Cheng worriedly before he followed Zhuang Ning to the kitchen. For some reason, he felt inexplicably at ease when he saw her nimbly making a glass of honeyed water for Ye Cheng. Although she was not particularly friendly, there was a sense of warmth in her small apartment.

Chen Chen turned to look back at Ye Cheng who was lying motionlessly on the couch before he softly said, “Young Master Cheng has been hurt by his family. Miss Zhuang, I’ve never seen Young Master Cheng drink so much alcohol before. In the past, when he felt troubled, he would find a place to be alone. I didn’t expect he would come to your place at a time when he’s feeling so vulnerable.”

Zhuang Ning’s hands stilled upon hearing these words.

Chapter 548 A Beautiful Woman

Chen Chen said, "Miss Zhuang, Young Master Cheng is quite pitiful. You..."

Zhuang Ning turned around and looked at Chen Chen with a half-smile on her face as she said, "He's pitiful? Are you not pitiful? In fact, which of us isn't pitiful? As adults, we have to take responsibility for our actions. There's no need to talk about who's pitiful or not. Leave him with me; you can go and do your work. The shooting for my drama was completed yesterday so I have a few days to rest. If he's willing, he can stay here. If he doesn't want to leave, I won't chase him away. Don't worry."

Chen Chen was pleasantly surprised by Zhuang Ning's reply. He hurriedly bowed to her and said, "Thank you, Miss Zhuang!"

Zhuang Ning smiled and waved her hand before returning to the living room with a glass of honeyed water.

Chen Chen left, relieved and filled with gratitude.

Zhuang Ning sat across from Ye Cheng and patted his leg as she said, "Drink the honeyed water."

When the sound of Chen Chen closing the door rang in the air, Ye Cheng removed his hand from his face, rubbing it before he sat up straight. He reached out for the glass, but he avoided her gaze as he forced a smile on his face and said hoarsely, "Thank you."

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Zhuang Ning pretended not to hear him.

Ye Cheng drank the honeyed water. The burning sensation in his stomach eased immediately. Seeing that he was done drinking, Zhuang Ning rose to her feet with the empty glass in her hand before she said, "Go take a bath and have a good sleep. If there's anything, we'll talk after you wake up."

Just as she turned around to return to the kitchen, Ye Cheng reached out to pull her back. "Zhuang Ning, sit with me for a while." Ye Cheng raised his head to look at her. His eyes were bloodshot and contained a hint of pleading when he looked at her.

Zhuang Ning lowered her head slightly to look at him. As though her heart had finally softened, she pushed his hand away gently and said, "Go to sleep. I'll accompany you when you wake up."

After saying that, she went to the kitchen.

The sound of her washing the glass rang in the small apartment.

Ye Cheng held his face in his hand; a satisfied smile could be seen on his face.

Zhuang Ning's apartment was very small. Although she was somewhat famous now, she was still not very popular. After all, she still had a few unaired dramas in the line.

Although the two-bedroom apartment was small, it was cozy. It made Ye Cheng feel extremely at ease. He was serious about pursuing her, and he had never been so attentive to any woman before. Zhuang Ning was very cold and aloof. In the beginning, she did not even spare a glance at him. She seemed to particularly dislike rich second-generation heirs like him. In the beginning, she was so cold toward him that even Chen Chen could not stand it. However, for some reason, he liked her even more. She was like

a breath of fresh air to him. He could sense her diligence, struggle, and progress, and he felt that she was the same kind of person he was. He was deeply attracted to her.

Ye Cheng listened to Zhuang Ning and stood up shakily. He took a bath before entering the guest room. As soon as he lay on the bed, he fell asleep peacefully. Zhuang Ning's apartment gave him a sense of security.

At this time, Zhuang Ning stood at the door and looked at the sleeping man on the bed for a while before gently closing the door with an icy smile on her face.

She thought it was really ironic that the man who did not hesitate to take her life had such a weak and cowardly side to him. The retribution was still too light in her opinion. How could the price for the crime he had committed be so light?

She sneered. He did not even care about human lives, but he was depressed because of his familial relationships.

Zhuang Ning turned to look into the mirror and studied the beautiful but strange face in the mirror. Her gaze was cold, and her expression was cynical.

She was Zhuang Ning physically, but her soul was Yang Li, a woman who had been driven into a corner. The person who had driven her into a corner was now with her. Life was really unpredictable.

Chapter 549 Blame

Jiang Jin held Jiahui's hand, looking as though she could not bear to let go as she said, "You're back. You're finally back."

Jiahui put her hand on Jiang Jin's wrist as she said, "Let me see if Grandma has been obedient and taking care of her health."

Jiang Jin smiled and hit her gently. "You're still so cheeky!"

Then, Jiang Jin held Jiahui's hand to stop Jiahui from checking her pulse as she said, "Don't worry. Grandma is fine. Since Ningning returned, she has been looking after me."

At this moment, Song Ning walked over and hugged Jiahui as she said, "Grandma, let her check your pulse. Otherwise, she won't feel at ease. She's still angry at me, blaming me for not telling her about such a huge incident." Jiahui rolled her eyes before pulling herself out of Song Ning's hug. Jiang Jing was very happy when she saw the sisterly love between the two women. She patted Jiahui and said with a sigh, "Don't blame her. It wasn't easy for her. She suffered a lot. It's all because of the Mu family that she suffered so much."

Jiahui glared at Song Ning as she said, "Serves her right! Even if you couldn't contact me, couldn't you have contacted my dad? With just a phone call, we could've helped you. Why didn't you contact me? You could've called me, texted me, emailed me, or messaged me through social media."

Song Ning smiled wryly.

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Jiahui continued to say, "You have nothing to say, right? You're too stubborn. You always want to shoulder things on your own. How much can you shoulder with those small shoulders of yours? I know you're thinking on my behalf. You probably thought that it was a rare opportunity for me and you didn't want to ruin it for me, afraid that I'd fly back immediately."

"You didn't even go to our master. You didn't even look for your husband! You were afraid he wouldn't believe you, right? If he didn't believe you, I would've chopped him up for you. Moreover, you could've looked for Grandma or Cheng Che. You didn't look for anyone because you were afraid of causing trouble, right? Tell me, am I right?"

Tears fell from Song Ning's eyes as she forcefully hugged Jiahui.

How could Jiahui bear it? In the end, she hugged Song Ning as well after gently knocking Song Ning's head. Her eyes brimmed with tears as well as she said, "Why are you so stupid? Why? You only think about us, but you don't think about yourself. Apologize to me!"

Song Ning laughed through her tears before she said, "I'm sorry. I was wrong."

The two women continued hugging and crying.

Everyone looked away, feeling emotional as well.

Jiang Jin took the piece of tissue that Sister Yu handed her and wiped away her tears as well. She thought that the two young women had a really strong bond. Even biological sisters might not have a bond as strong as the two young women.

After scolding Song Ning, Jiahui turned around to scold Cheng Che. She glared at him with her almond-shaped eyes as she said indignantly, "Is your brain made out of paste? Why didn't you tell me about such a huge thing? This matter is so easy to solve, but you took such a huge detour just to solve the problem! If anything happened to Song Ning, I wouldn't have let you go!"

Cheng Che hid behind Jiang Jin and said, "Brother and sister-in-law forbade me from saying anything to you."

Cheng Che defended himself timidly like a child that had made a mistake, causing everyone, except Jiahui, to laugh.

Song Ning hastily said, "It's really not Cheng Che's fault. It was Mu Chen and me who forbade him from saying anything to you."

After Song Ning finished speaking, she winked meaningfully at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen coughed lightly before he said, "That's right. I threatened him and forbade him from saying anything. We wanted to settle the matter before you return. Song Ning said that if we interrupt you at that time, your previous efforts would be in vain."

Jiahui scoffed coldly upon hearing Mu Chen's words.

Mu Chen felt a little helpless.

Upon seeing this, Jiang Jin pulled Cheng Che out as she gently said, "Don't you understand why Jiahui is angry? She's sensible. Of course, she knows you're doing this for her good. She's just angry she couldn't share your sorrows and hardships. Cheng Che, you have to promise Jiahui that you'll never hide anything from her

again."

Chapter 550 Family Bonds

Cheng Che nodded vehemently. "That's right! That's right! I definitely won't hide anything from her in the future and will discuss everything with her!"

Cheng Che's timid appearance made Mu Chen feel like kicking him. However, before Mu Chen could make a move, Jiahui had already kicked him and said, "Can you stop acting?"

Cheng Che looked aggrieved as he held his leg.

Song Ning smiled and pushed Jiahui to Cheng Che's side as she said, "Control your temper. You're just like a tigress."

Everyone laughed.

At this moment...

"Mommy... Mommy!" Nuan carried the baby, who was attracted by the laughter, downstairs. He reached out with his small hands toward Song Ning.

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Song Ning quickly carried the baby. The baby had just woken up from his afternoon nap and was filled with energy. His big eyes swept past everyone before they rested on Jiahui curiously.

Since there were many visitors at the Mu family house, the baby was not afraid of strangers. He only leaned into his mother's embrace with a smile as he looked at Jiahui.

"Heavens! You're so big now! You're so cute!" Jiahui felt as though her heart had melted in a puddle of water. She reached out to carry the baby.

The baby was most attached to Song Ning, his mother. When he was in his mother's arms, it was difficult for anyone to carry him away. Seeing that Jiahui wanted to carry him, he tightened his hold around his mother's neck before he looked at Jiahui with an expression that seemed to say, "I only want my mother, I don't want anyone else!"

Jiahui was not bothered by this. She only looked at the baby happily as she reached out to pinch his chubby cheeks. "Little guy, I'm your godmother."

Song Ning smiled and said, "You're his aunt."

Jiahui ignored Song Ning's words and said to the baby, "Call me godmother..."

Song Ning smiled and said, "Baby, call her Aunty."

The baby was obedient to his mother and called out softly, "Aunty."

Jiahui glared at Song Ning. "Nonsense!" Song Ning said, "It's only a matter of time. This way, the baby won't have to change the way he addresses you later." Then, she turned around to say to Cheng Che, "Cheng Che, do you hear this? You better propose soon! Otherwise, Jiahui will be unhappy that you're not proactive."

Cheng Che chuckled and scratched his head as he stammered, "She just returned. We should let her rest first."

Jiang Jin held Jiahui's hand and said with a smile, "Cheng Che is a little obtuse, but he really loves you. Jiahui, let's see when your parents are free, let me meet them. My grandson is a little slow. I'm afraid if I don't help him, he won't be able to get married in this lifetime."

Cheng Che's face reddened slightly upon hearing these words.

Jiahui was embarrassed as well.

Song Ning said, "Grandma, I'll speak to Jiahui's father! When the time comes, our entire family will go!"

With the entire family present when meeting Jiahui's parents, it showed Cheng Che's position in the Mu family. Although he had no blood relations with Mu Chen, they were like brothers.

Cheng Che looked at Song Ning gratefully.

Although Jiang Jin did not know that Cheng Che had been publicly reprimanded by the elders of the Mu family, she agreed with Song Ning's words. She hurriedly said to Jiahui, "If your parents have any requests, please tell them not to hesitate to speak to us. I'll personally handle Cheng Che's matters. All of you don't need to do anything except to focus on your own matters. I want to have a second granddaughter-in-law while I'm still strong and healthy."

Cheng Che grew emotional upon hearing these words and could not help but clench his hands.

Upon seeing this, Mu Chen kicked Cheng Che's shin and said, "We're already working so hard on your behalf, shouldn't you help me share my workload?"

Song Ning rolled her eyes and said, "Now that Jiahui has returned, you still want to add to Cheng Che's workload?"

Chapter 551 Grandma

Mu Chen did not care at all. He did not feel like he had gone overboard.

Upon seeing this, Song Ning hugged her son and said to Jiang Jin, "Grandma, you have to speak to Mu Chen. He always bullies Cheng Che. He won't even give Cheng Che time to date!"

Before Jiang Jin could speak, Jiahui interjected, "Don't cause trouble. It's only natural that work is more important."

Song Ning only pursed her lips and smiled.

Jiang Jin grinned. She loved her two grandsons, and seeing that her two granddaughters-in-law were so sensible, she felt that there was no need to worry about the future. She was truly happy.

Song Ning let Doctor Qiu Yan remove the scars on her face before she returned to work.

Jiahui also gave up on her vacation time and returned to work, reporting what she had learned during her time abroad.

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The two women became the backbone of the younger generation.

Everything returned to normal again for Song Ning and Jiahui.

Liang Zhou's health was deteriorating day by day. Even a skilled doctor like Jiahui's father could not do much to help her.

Xiao Yu stood guard by Liang Zhou's side every day and night. She was very sad, but Liang Zhou remained calm.

She had hired a lawyer to divorce Mu Qing.

Although Mu Qing's case had not been finalized, Liang Zhou had asked for Mu Chen's help to look for a lawyer to help her get a divorce as soon as possible.

In the end, Mu Chen recommended Lawyer Yang, Song Ning's lawyer, to Liang Zhou.

When Lawyer Yang came to see Liang Zhou at the hospital, Song Ning brought the baby to the hospital as well.

Liang Zhou was both happy and sad when she saw the baby.

Song Ning gently placed the baby on Liang Zhou's bed.

The baby smiled and hugged Liang Zhou before calling out in a childish voice, "Grandma!"

Liang Zhou's eyes were filled with tears as she held the baby. After a while, she reluctantly handed the baby to Sister Yu and said, "Sister Yu, bring the baby back first. The hospital has many germs so it's best not to let him stay for long. Don't let him fall sick. Song Ning, stay with me for a while. There are some things that I need to do, and I need you to be my witness."

Before Song Ning could speak, Sister Yu said, "The Old Madam told me to tell you she'll remember everything that you've done for the Mu family. You should take good care of yourself so you can accompany the Old Madam to relieve her boredom."

Liang Zhou smiled with tears in her eyes and said, "Thank the Old Madam for me. I'll remember her words, and I also won't forget the gratitude I have for her."

Before Sister Yu left with the baby, the baby waved his chubby hand and said, "Bye-bye, Grandma! Get... well soon, Grandma!"

Although no one told the baby that Liang Zhou was sick, he seemed to know.

Liang Zhou smiled as tears fell from her face again. She thought it was a huge blessing for her to be loved by the baby in this lifetime.

After Sister Yu left with the baby, Song Ning invited Lawyer Yang to take a seat.

Liang Zhou calmed down her emotions and smiled at Song Ning as she said, "Thank you for helping me find doctors to look at my condition."

"Are you feeling better?" Song Ning asked.

Liang Zhou leaned back against the bed and said, "Back then, in order to compete with Liang Zhen for Mu Qing, I threatened her with my life. At that time, in the early winter, I jumped into the sea. For that reason, my lungs were affected as a result. This is my retribution, and I don't deserve any sympathy."

Song Ning was at a loss for words.

Liang Zhou did not conceal her determination to die. The past had festered in her heart, and now that Liang Zhen was gone, there was no way to heal. The source of sorrow for the two sisters was the irresponsible Mu Qing. Now, one was dead, and the other was sick; it really made people sigh. Since Liang Zhou insisted on divorcing Mu Qing as soon as possible, Lawyer Yang briefed her about the procedure before he finally asked, "Do you want to wait for Mr. Mu to settle his current case before proceeding with the divorce? After all, others might say you're adding salt to injury if you proceed with the divorce now."

Liang Zhou shook her head and said resolutely, "No, I don't care about what people say. Moreover, my body doesn't allow me to wait any longer."

Chapter 552 Will

Lawyer Yang instinctively turned to look at Song Ning, and she nodded slightly.

Liang Zhou smiled. "It's alright. I'm aware of my condition. If there's anything, you can just say it. I know that I don't have much time left. My only wish is to divorce Mu Qing while I'm still alive. Let me leave without any ties to him."

Even Lawyer Yang, who was experienced, could not help but feel sad.

Liang Zhou took a sip of the water that Song Ning handed her before she calmly said, "Mu Qing and my assets will be distributed according to the law. No matter how much I get, I want to give them all to Xiao Yu. This child has always been by my side. With her around, I can go in peace."

"I still have the personal assets left to Liang Zhen by my parents. After she passed away, her assets were put under my name. I didn't touch them, and Mu Qing is unaware of them. This is something from the Liang family, and I'll leave them all to the baby. I know the baby doesn't lack these things, but just treat them as a gift from his Grandmas. In the future, he can give it to his wife."

Liang Zhou could not help but smile when she thought about how the little chubby baby would one day grow up and marry a wife.

Song Ning's eyes could not help but redden.

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Liang Zhou sighed softly before she said, "Song Ning, there's something I need to trouble you with."

Song Ning hastily said, "Alright."

"When I die, find a quiet place to scatter my ashes in the water. I'm ashamed to be buried in the Liang family's ancestral grave, and I have no intention of being buried in the Mu family's ancestral grave. I'll be divorced from Mu Qing while I'm still alive so I'm no longer a member of the Mu family. I've wasted a lot of time in my life. Let me drift in the water after I die so I can look at the beautiful sceneries of rivers and mountains. I'll have to trouble you with this," Liang Zhou said. A hint of joy could be heard in her voice as she spoke.

Song Ning looked at Liang Zhou with mixed feelings in her heart. After a long time, she gently nodded and said, "Okay. I'll definitely do it for you."

Liang Zhou finally felt at ease and signed the documents that Lawyer Yang handed her. She was clearly exhausted at this point.

Upon seeing this, Song Ning called Xiao Yu in and let Liang Zhou sleep.

After Song Ning sent Lawyer Yang off, Xiao Yu chased after Song Ning as she called out, "Dr. Song!"

Song Ning looked at Xiao Yu, waiting for Xiao Yu to speak.

Xiao Yu asked with tears in her eyes, "Dr. Song, is there really no way to treat the Madam's illness?"

Song Ning looked at the young girl who looked to be about A Nuan's age as she said, "Xiao Yu, the Madam is already mentally prepared. You should accompany her well. No matter what she wants to do, you should listen to her. I'll be in the Chinese medicine department, and I'll come over when I have the time. If there's anything urgent, you can call me. If you need money, you can call me as well. It's alright as long as the Madam is happy."

Xiao Yu covered her face and sobbed. "Dr. Song, I have money. I just want the Madam to recover."

Song Ning patted Xiao Yu's shoulder. "I know. We also want her to recover. However, the most important thing now is to make sure she suffers less and make her happier."

Xiao Yu nodded vehemently. "I know. I'll definitely think of a way to make Madam happy!"

"Xiao Yu, Madam just made a will and gave you all the assets from her divorce with Mr. Mu," Song Ning said softly. Xiao Yu was stunned. "W-why do I need her assets?"

Song Ning smiled.

Liang Zhou was extremely disappointed with her life, but she did not expect to meet the sincere Xiao Yu. Was this considered her last kindness toward Xiao Yu?

Chapter 553 Threats

Mu Qing naturally hired a lawyer to defend himself.

However, the police already had a large amount of evidence against him.

There were the nurse who took advantage of the time when Song Ning was unconscious and abandoned her at the entrance of the fire escape, the anesthesiologist who overdosed Song Ning, the doctor who

participated in the matter, and the assassin who chased after Song Ning in the filming set. All of them were sent to the police station and confessed to their crimes and pointed at Mu Qing's assistant.

Soon after, all the relevant people were arrested and brought to justice except for the person named Ji An.

Mu Qing's assistant confessed very quickly as well and revealed all the things that Mu Qin had instructed him to do.

Faced with facts, Mu Qing had nothing to say. He could only get his lawyer to contact the elders of the Mu family to bail him out of jail.

For the sake of the Mu family's reputation, the elders of the Mu family came to the Mu family house to speak to Jiang Jin. "He's your son, after all. You can't just do nothing and watch him die, right? Even a tiger won't devour its cubs," an elder said.

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"That's right! He's a descendant of the Mu family no matter what. No matter what wrong he has committed, he doesn't deserve to die. We have to help him. We can't allow him to be incarcerated. It'll tarnish the family's reputation."

"No matter what, we have to bail him out for now. That's right, we can get him to plead insanity and send him to a hospital. In any case, we can't allow him to be imprisoned!"

Jiang Jin looked at the anxious elders and felt her blood boil. She said icily, "Did all of you come to threaten me because of Mu Qing?" Second Granduncle Mu said, "How can this be considered as threatening you? We're here to discuss this matter regarding the family with you. This concerns the Mu family's reputation."

At this time, Mu Chen, who had just come downstairs, said, "You're afraid he'll expose all of you if you don't bail him out, right?" He stood behind Jiang Jin and massaged her shoulders as he said, "Grandma, you should go and rest. I'll speak to the elders."

Jiang Jin was a little worried.

Upon seeing this, Mu Chen smiled, signaling for her to be at ease as he said, "Grandma, currently, the most important thing to me is your health. Don't worry about this kind of tiring matter. I'll have a good talk with the elders. Don't worry. I'm the Chairman of the Mu Group. No one cares more about the Mu family than me."

Jiang Jin smiled at the elders as she said, "Mu Chen has already grown up. Since I'd handed the family and the company to him, they've been thriving. This child is very capable. I don't think anyone can deny this, right? So, I'll hand this matter to Mu Chen to deal with. I won't get involved."

Second Granduncle Mu frowned. "How can this be? Although you're no longer the Chairman of the Mu Group, you're Mu Qing's mother! How can you ignore your son?" Jiang Jin's face turned pale as she said, "He decided to leave the Mu family. Since that time, our mother-and-son relationship has been severed."

Mu Chen looked at Second Granduncle Mu with a smile and said, "Second Granduncle, you keep pressuring my Grandma because you hope my Grandma would pressure me, right? Are you worried I won't listen to you?"

Second Granduncle Mu's expression turned unsightly now that he was exposed. Mu Chen gently tossed the folder in his hand on the table before he said, "This is the evidence of all the transactions between your branch of the family with Mr. Mu. I'm sure this is also the bargaining chip he used to force you to plead on his behalf. Are you sure you want my Grandma to stay and listen? Don't you prefer to save whatever dignity you have left?" Second Granduncle Mu was rendered speechless by Mu Chen's words.

Jiang Jin looked at Mu Chen in shock.

Mu Chen smiled and patted his grandmother gently as he said, "Grandma, please rest for a while. Let me handle this, okay?" Jiang Jin looked at her grandson and did not say anything. She only nodded before she went upstairs. She did not spare the elders a glance at all. She thought it was enough that she raised such a capable grandson.

Chapter 554 Fried Eggs

Ye Cheng was in a very good mood as he ate the breakfast the Zhuang Ning personally cooked.

Zhuang Ning had always been indifferent and cold like ice. However, that was what Ye Cheng liked about her. She made him feel calm, peaceful, and comfortable. None of the women around him were like her. He felt like she was a gift from the heavens. It was a pity that he had to wait so long before he finally met someone like her.

As Ye Cheng ate the porridge, he asked Zhuang Ning, who was sitting across from him and eating breakfast as well, "Zhuang Ning, what's your schedule like?"

Zhuang Ning shook her head. "I don't know. These things are out of my control. I guess when the drama begins to air, I'll probably have to participate in various events for publicity." Ye Cheng nodded. "When the time comes, I'll make sure to attend to support you." A faint smile could be seen on Zhuang Ning's lips as she said, "They're just publicity events. There's no need for you to attend them."

Ye Cheng fell into a momentary daze as he looked at her smile. Then, he asked, "Then, is there anything I can do for you? Can you let me do something for you? Although I'm your boyfriend, I don't feel like it at all. At least, let me do something for you so I can have a sense of presence in your life."

Zhuang Ning's smile deepened. Then, she pursed her lips before she said, "Ye Cheng, what's with these kinds of old-fashioned romantic words?"

"Old-fashioned romantic words?" Ye Cheng furrowed his brows slightly.

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Zhuang Ning seemed very happy. She covered her lips with her hand. She was clearly smiling widely.

Ye Cheng was stunned. Zhuang Ning rarely smiled. The media even gave her the nickname 'Ice Queen'.

However, Zhuang Ning was very skilled in acting. Ye Cheng had seen her acting as a lively and cute young girl before and had seen her smile then, but it was just acting. Hence, he was stunned when he saw the

smile on her face. He felt as though there would only be good things in his life from this moment onward.

Finally, Zhuang Ning stopped smiling. As she ate, she casually asked, "Why did you drink so much yesterday? Did you have to attend a gathering? Or did you encounter something that upset you?"

Ye Cheng's expression gradually turned solemn. He lowered his head to eat. He did not answer her question. Instead, he suddenly said, "Zhuang Ning, let's get married. Will you marry me?"

After saying these words, Ye Cheng was stunned. He had blurted these words out instinctively.

Zhuang Ning was also stunned. After a moment, she picked up a plate of fried eggs and placed it in front of Ye Cheng before she slowly said, "I practiced for a long time to get this perfect fried egg. Try it and see if the yolk is runny enough." The light in Ye Cheng's eyes dimmed. Then, he forced a smile on his face as he asked, "Why did you specifically practice frying eggs?"

Zhuang Ning softly said, "When I was young, my mother used to fry eggs for me. At that time, my family was poor so it was a luxury to be able to eat eggs. My mother had always been careful when frying eggs for me. That was the happiest time in my life."

"Zhuang Ning..." Ye Cheng was stunned.

The corners of Zhuang Ning's lips lifted as she said, "Do you think I'm very happy with nothing to worry about now? In fact, without my mother by my side, I don't feel anything at all. In any case, I'll slowly learn every dish my mother had cooked for me so that they'll taste exactly the same as hers."

Zhuang Ning sighed softly before she lowered her head to continue eating.

Upon hearing these words, Ye Cheng said tentatively, "Then, bring your mother here. I'll find a bigger place for you to move into. You can support her now. Moreover, you... you have me as well..."

Chapter 555 Worries

Zhuang Ning's voice turned icy as she said, "She's dead."

Ye Cheng was stunned. Then, he softly said, "I'm sorry."

Zhuang Ning lowered her gaze to stare at her plate. After a long time, she said in a low voice, "Poor people have cheap lives, after all. There's nothing anyone can do about it."

Ye Cheng did not understand her words and did not dare to say anything.

Zhuang Ning placed a bun on Ye Cheng's plate before she said, "You still haven't told me about what happened last night. Why did you drink so much?"

Zhuang Ning raised her head and looked at him with clear eyes.

Ye Cheng was very happy. There had never been anyone who was so emotionally stable around him. It was not until she had spoken that he realized how nervous he had been. After being conditioned by the women around him for so long, he had instinctively waited for Zhuang Ning to smash her plate and lose her temper. He felt the tension in his heart disappear as he looked at how calm she was. He felt like he was seeing her in a new light.

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With this, Ye Cheng let down his guard and said, "Something happened yesterday. My mother and sister were both detained by the police."

Zhuang Ning looked shocked.

Ye Cheng sighed as he continued to say, "My sister and I have the same mother but different fathers. However, my father likely only found out about this yesterday. Everyone spoiled and pampered my sister since she was young, causing her to grow arrogant and despotic."

"She impersonated another person and destroyed that person's life. I really don't understand what she was thinking. Even if I want to help her and protect her, there's nothing I can do now."

"I don't want to visit her or my mother. My mother will definitely ask me to save my sister, but I... I really don't have the ability to do so. I'm being watched by my opponents right now. If I make even the slightest move, I'll be beyond redemption. However, not one of them understands me..."

Ye Cheng covered his face with his hands as he spoke.

Zhuang Ning looked at him quietly.

After a long while, Ye Cheng removed his hand from his face before he picked up the glass of milk and took a sip from it. Then, he said, "Zhuang Ning, I always feel at ease when I'm with you. I can only let my guard down when I'm with you."

Zhuang Ning calmly took a sip from her glass of milk as well before she asked, "Then, what do you plan to do now about your mother and sister?"

Ye Cheng frowned. Then, he said with a sigh, "I have to save them no matter how difficult it is. I have to save them because they're my family."

"How do you plan to save them?" Zhuang Ning asked as she cut up the sausage on her plate into small pieces before putting a piece in her mouth.

Ye Cheng shook his head. "I don't know."

Ye Cheng was truly exhausted. Zhuang Ning bluntly said, "There are many kinds of families. Legends have it that some people are families because of predestined relationships from their past lives. It's also said that some people are families to repay debts from their past lives. To me, it sounds like you have to repay the debts you owed your mother and your sister in your past lives."

Ye Cheng nodded helplessly. Zhuang Ning said calmly and bluntly, "If I were you, I'd severed ties with them so I could survive."

Ye Cheng was stunned.

Zhuang Ning put down her fork and knife before she said, "Why? Did my words scare you?"

Ye Cheng instinctively shook his head.

Zhuang Ning smiled. "Ye Cheng, you achieved everything you have today by your own hard work. Your family not only doesn't support you, but they're dragging you down. I really don't think you should trap yourself like this."

Ye Cheng's expression darkened as he said, "My ex-girlfriend said something similar in the past. She didn't want my sister's affairs to implicate me so she suggested sending my sister to a mental hospital. After that, my sister somehow escaped and caused such a huge incident."

Chapter 556 Doing It On His Behalf

Ye Cheng sighed softly. Zhuang Ning lowered her gaze and said softly, "She must have loved you very much."

Ye Cheng shook his head. "No. What she loves are her reputation and her future."

Thinking about Fu Ting's ending, Ye Cheng could not help but turn cold.

Zhuang Ning asked, "So, do you have any specific plans for now?" Ye Cheng sighed again. "I want to know what my sister and mother's plans are. If they go too far, I hope that they'll understand that I'll have no choice but to sever ties with them. However, there's no suitable person to talk to them on my behalf."

"Why not find Master Ye? He's the most suitable person, right? From what I heard whenever he calls you, he seems to be kind and has a good temper. You're his only son. If he doesn't help you, who will?" Ye Cheng waved his hand. "My dad can't do that. My dad likely can't even make up his mind now. He doted on his daughter for so many years. He couldn't just accept that his daughter has nothing to do with him so quickly."

Zhuang Ning fell silent while Ye Cheng sighed again and again. After a while, she frowned and said, "Alright, stop sighing. What about me?" "What about you?" Ye Cheng thought to himself as he looked at Zhuang Ning in confusion.

Zhuang Ning's expression remained indifferent as she said, "Do you think I'm suitable to meet your mother and sister as your friend to find out about their future plans?"

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Ye Cheng was delighted. He said, slightly emotional, "Yes, yes, yes. I, I really don't know how to thank you. Zhuang Ning, you're really too good to me!"

Zhuang Ning looked at him and asked hesitantly, "Then, what should I say to them? I..."

"Just tell her your thoughts. I need a neutral party to wake my sister up. If she continues to be unreasonable, I won't be able to save her. She has to keep a low profile. When this matter blows over, I'll send her abroad immediately. The world is so vast; she can start anew elsewhere."

'Start anew...' These words caused Zhuang Ning's heart to ache. These two words casually said by a wealthy man were what she had fought so hard for her entire life. All she wanted was a chance.

Up until now, Ye Cheng had been paving a smooth path for Ye Xin. Although Ye Xin had harmed so many people, he still spared no effort to help her and arrange everything for her.

Alas, absolute strength always spoke for itself in this world.

Zhuang Ning said, "Alright. I'll do as you say. However, I don't know if I'd be of much help."

"Don't worry. I know your ability! You'll definitely do well!" Ye Cheng's eyes flashed with excitement.

"What about your mother?" Zhuang Ning ignored Ye Cheng's praise.

"Don't worry about my mother. This time, she must be frightened out of her wits after being imprisoned. Due to my sister's matter, she's been seeing a spiritual master. She listens to that person a lot. Perhaps, you can use that master's name to persuade her."

Zhuang Ning chuckled. "You want me to frighten her and lie to her?"

Ye Cheng shook his head. "No, get along with her. Tell her that everything is Ye Xin's idea, and she'll definitely agree to everything you say. She'll view you as her life-saving straw and agree to everything."

Zhuang Ning nodded as she looked at Ye Cheng who was clearly excited. She thought to herself that he was really heartless. In the end, he still did not hesitate to scheme against his family members.

Thinking about how she was going to finally meet Ye Xin, Zhuang Ning could not help but feel slightly excited. She was really grateful that the heavens gave her this chance!

Chapter 557 Visitation

Ye Xin looked at the unfamiliar yet familiar woman in front of her and asked, "Who are you?"

Zhuang Ning sized up the woman in front of her who was dressed in the prison uniform. She smiled contemptuously as she said, "This uniform suits you quite well."

Ye Xin's expression darkened immediately.

Zhuang Ning crossed her arms elegantly and looked at Ye Xin as she said, "You used to be a popular actress, but now, you've fallen into this state. You really deserve this."

"Who are you?" Ye Xin asked angrily.

Zhuang Ning smiled. "It doesn't matter who I am. What's important is who you are. Ye Xin, did it feel good pretending to be someone else?"

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Ye Xin pursed her lips and looked at Zhuang Ning wordlessly. Zhuang Ning continued to say, "I'm here to see you on behalf of your brother. Due to his identity, it's not suitable for him to see you now. Your future, I'm sorry, you don't have a future, but your brother still has one, and he cherishes it very much. Hence, you should give up if you're hoping that he'll help you. Moreover, although you both share a mother, you have different fathers. It's only natural that he doesn't care about you. These are his words, and I'm only here to convey them."

"Impossible! He plans to abandon me? No, I won't allow it!" Ye Xin said angrily, "Who are you? Who are you to meet me on his behalf?!"

Zhuang Ning looked at Ye Xin with a half-smile on her face and leaned forward before she said, "When you first entered the entertainment industry, in order to get rid of the young actress who shared the same manager as you, you hired someone to drug her and take indecent photos of her. Then, you forced her to withdraw from the entertainment industry."

"In order to get the lead role for your first movie, you sent the producer a gift. You sent him the actress that he had failed to pursue. You drugged her and sent her to the producer's bed. Do you need me to continue? Ye Xin, you stepped on countless people to rise to the top." "Who exactly are you?" Ye Xin asked tremblingly as she looked at Zhuang Ning in horror.

Zhuang Ning smiled. "Have you heard of the saying that if you don't do something right, you might end up dead? You shouldn't have tried to trample on Song Ning, let alone replace her. Are you worthy? You're not even worthy of carrying her shoes."

Ye Xin was furious and shocked.

Zhuang Ning said fiercely, "How can you even compare yourself to Song Ning? Song Ning's mother was the legal Madam of the Ning family. What about your mother? She's just a cheap woman who cheated on her husband. Song Ning's grandfather was a renowned Chinese medicine doctor, and her grandmother was a skilled and famous embroiderer. Her mother inherited the art of embroidery and founded Zhuang Ji. What about your mother? Your mother is just a parasite that lives off a man! Let's put everyone aside for now and compare you to Song Ning. She studied while she was filming, but she was admitted to M University. She even studied medicine and was at the top of her class. What about you? Your brother had to spend a lot of money just to get you admitted into some third-rate university overseas. How long were you there? Your English is even worse than that of a high school student. Ye Xin, where did your confidence come from? What made you think you can replace Song Ning? You're the most shameless person I've ever met."

Ye Xin raised her hand, intending to slap Zhuang Ning

Zhuang Ning caught Ye Xin's hand and said, "Don't hit me. You can't afford to do so. I'm not someone you can bully like the other actresses." Then, she pushed Ye Xin's hand away before she continued to say, "You're truly the most ungrateful person I've ever met. There's no one like you in this world."

Chapter 558 Recognizing Her

Ye Xin hastily withdrew her hand when she felt the pain. "Who the hell are you? Don't try to play tricks on me! What are your motives?"

Zhuang Ning sneered and leaned back against the chair with her arms crossed before she said, "You've been here for a while so there are things you might not be aware of. Song Ning and Mu Chen are very happy. Their son loves them very much. Look at you, that child has never acknowledged you. Your shoddy acting couldn't even fool a child. You're such a failure."

Zhuang Ning did not give Ye Xin a chance to speak as she continued to say, "Mu Chen and Song Ning had been thinking of ways to clearly explain things. Liang Zhou also had a rather difficult time finding evidence of Mu Qing's extra-marital affairs and his schemes against the Mu family. Fortunately, Mu Qing had a dumb teammate like you who solved everyone's problems. All of them asked me to thank you." At

this time, Ye Xin finally caught the inconsistency in Zhuang Ning's words. "What do you mean? Didn't you say Ye Cheng sent you here?"

However, Zhuang Ning did not answer Ye Xin's questions. Instead, she said, "In your sinful life, that was probably the only good thing you did. Just for this little good deed of yours, let me give you a reminder: don't bother relying on others. You can only rely on yourself. Think about it, if your brother or your cheap father have you in their hearts, they would've long found a way to get you out of this place." "If Ning Zhe truly thinks of you as his daughter, he would've found a lawyer for you by now. Mu Qing can't even protect himself now. Tell me, who do you think can save you now?"

Ye Xin's face turned red from anger before it finally turned ashen.

Upon seeing the expression on Ye Xin's face, Zhuang Ning said again, "What I want to say is apart from a confession, there's another way for you. That is to free yourself through a meritorious service. You might wonder how you can go about doing that. That'll depend on how much you know and what you tell us. Otherwise, I'm afraid you'll be spending the rest of your life in prison. Is it worth it? Is it worth it shouldering the blame for those who used you as a gun and abandoned you?"

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Ye Xin was stunned. Zhuang Ning smiled and looked at Ye Xin silently, waiting for her words to sink in.

Ye Xin asked, "Who are you? Why are you helping me?"

Zhuang Ning laughed. "You're thinking too much. How could I possibly help you? If the people who hate you form a line, I'll definitely be first in the line. Why would I help you? You have no idea how much I hate you! However, I can tell you're not the main culprit since you don't have the brains for it. You're just a puppet. I just want to see if I can use you to bring down the person I want to bring down. If you can't, I'll find someone else. It'll be the same."

"As for who I am, just treat it as a mystery. Take your time and think about it. When you manage to save yourself, I'll tell you who I am," Zhuang Ning said as she rose to her feet.

Just as Zhuang Ning turned around to walk out, Ye Xin suddenly exclaimed, "Yang Li! Are you Yang Li?!"

Zhuang Ning froze slightly. Then, she turned around to look at Ye Xin with a big smile on her face as she asked, "Yang Li? You still remember Yang Li?"

Ye Xin straightened her back and said, "You're Yang Li! You've had plastic surgery!"

Zhuang Ning looked at Ye Xin and asked with a sneer, "Don't you know how Yang Li died? Don't you know how poor she was? She was so poor that she didn't even have the money to treat her family member's illness. How could Yang Li have the money for plastic surgery? However, I didn't expect you to remember Yang Li. Not bad."

Chapter 559 Signing

Ye Xin was perplexed, and her mind was in a mess. She could not figure out the identity of the woman in front of her. She was almost certain the woman was Yang Li. Although they looked different, the feeling

they gave off was familiar. Moreover, apart from Yang Li, who else would know about those things from the time when she was in the entertainment industry? However, at the same time, it did not make sense that the woman was Yang Li. Back then, her brother had told her with absolute certainty that Yang Li had already been dealt with.

Ye Xin was bewildered as her thoughts ran wild in her mind.

Lawyer Yang, who represented Liang Zhou, met Mu Qing and handed the divorce agreement to Mu Qing.

Mu Qing asked frostily, "Why is she so anxious? She can't even wait? Is she so anxious to distance herself from me because she thinks I won't recover from this?"

Lawyer Yang did not respond to Mu Qing's questions. Instead, he said, "Mr. Mu, please look at the terms. If you have any objections, we can change them immediately."

Mu Qing sneered. "I don't agree to the divorce."

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Lawyer Yang was not flustered. He slowly said, "Ms. Liang said that if you don't agree to the divorce now, we'll just go through the entire legal procedure. She has made up her mind. She also asked me to ask if you still remember the Liang Zhou from 25 years ago? She said that she had wasted 25 years of her life, and she wants to return to the past Liang Zhou."

Mu Qing fell silent. The Liang Zhou from 25 years ago was extremely charming. She was lively and capricious; she was like a red rose in full bloom under the scorching sun. He was absolutely attracted to her at that time.

At that time, she had asked him if he could love her for the rest of her life? If he could not, then she wanted him to stay away from her. If he insisted on being with her, she had reminded him that she was not Liang Zhen. If he betrayed her, she would make him regret it for the rest of his life. At that time, he felt that a woman who could say such harsh words was just bluffing and was inwardly a romantic. In his mind, only women who were truly in love could say such words. As a man who had been with many women, it was too easy for him to casually promise her that he would love her and her alone for the rest of his life.

It was only at this moment that Mu Qing truly understood that Liang Zhou's harsh words from back then were not just casual words. She had truly dealt him a fatal blow for betraying her. She had shown him with her actions that she had meant her words from back then.

Twenty years of meticulous planning were ruined thanks to two women. Mu Qing had been unwilling to dwell too deeply about this.

However, at this moment, he wondered when did Liang Zhou start to change? Was it when she stopped asking about his whereabouts, prayed for him all the time, and had no desire for him? Was it the time when he thought that he had finally managed to tame her and mold her into a sensible woman? Was it that time that she began to retaliate and scheme against him?

Mu Qing did not dare to think if his mother was behind Liang Zhou's change as well.

He and his mother had a very strange mother-and-son relationship. His mother would not hesitate to sacrifice herself for the Mu family. She could even sacrifice herself for her grandson and granddaughter-in-law. The only person she could not even sacrifice a single thing for was her son. It was really sad.

Mu Qing closed his eyes briefly as he said, "I'll sign it, but I want to see her. Tell her that I'll sign it immediately if she comes to see me."

Lawyer Yang looked at the man who still looked elegant despite being in prison. He did not speak the thoughts in his mind. Instead, he said, "Alright, I'll convey your message to Ms. Liang."

Mu Qing slowly exhaled as he looked at Lawyer Yang's retreating back. He reached up and stroked his hair that had been buzzed short as a cold smile appeared on his face. "Liang Zhou, let's fight to the death. How can our matters be settled so easily? You owe me!"

Chapter 560 Father and Son

Lawyer Yang informed Song Ning and Mu Chen about Mu Qing's request.

Song Ning frowned, worried that Mu Qing was up to something again.

Mu Chen smiled disdainfully before he said to Lawyer Yang, "I'll go and speak to him."

Lawyer Yang said, "I didn't tell Mr. Mu that Ms. Liang doesn't have much time left. I was afraid he'd deliberately stall for time..."

Mu Chen nodded. "I'll go see him. He's trying to provoke me." Song Ning was confused. She did not understand what Mu Chen meant. Upon seeing the confusion on Song Ning's face, Cheng Che explained in a low voice, "Mr. Mu lost everything this time. It's only natural that he's unwilling to accept his loss. He's been planning this for more than twenty years. He'd always thought that Brother Chen was his biggest obstacle so he focused all his attention on Brother Chen. He didn't expect his defeat would come from his wife. It's only natural that he can't accept his defeat."

Song Ning really did not understand Mu Qing. He was still so dissatisfied after losing to his own son. She asked, "Is he trying to make a deal with you?"

Mu Chen scoffed. "The most important thing to him now is to get out of prison so he can make a comeback. He's sure I have the power to get him out. He might even threaten me with something. In short, he won't give up until he sees me."

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Then, Mu Chen turned to Lawyer Yang and asked, "Is it difficult to get a divorce immediately?"

Lawyer Yang nodded. "There'll be some difficulties due to the time constraint. I'll think of a solution when I return. I'll try to resolve this as soon as I can."

Lawyer Yang could see everything clearly. He knew that Liang Zhou, Song Ning, and Mu Chen were all determined.

Mu Chen was relieved. "As for the division of assets, don't worry about it. She doesn't care about it now. She just wants her helper to be taken care of. Song Ning, let her know that we'll make sure that helper is taken care of. I promise that she won't ever have to worry about food or clothing for the rest of her life." Then, he said to Lawyer Yang again, "Try to resolve this as soon as possible. She doesn't have much time left, and this is one thing she's determined to do so she can leave without regrets. I don't want to owe her a favor so I want to return the favor before it's too late."

Song Ning looked at Mu Chen helplessly. She wanted to say something but thought better of it in the end.

As though he could read Song Ning's mind, Mu Chen looked at her indifferently and said, "There's no need to speak up for her. I'm grateful for what she had done." Song Ning sighed and said to Cheng Che, "Don't be like him."

Cheng Che chuckled and tried to stay neutral. Inwardly, he complained, 'Please don't drag me into the matter between both of you! Don't use me as cannon fodder!'

In the end, it was decided that Cheng Che would accompany Mu Chen to see Mu Qing. This was because Song Ning was worried Mu Chen would not be able to remain calm. After all, whenever the father and son met, they would quarrel.

When the father and son met again, tension buzzed in the air. Cheng Che felt his heart skip a beat.

Mu Qing looked at his son with a hint of pride as he said, "You're finally willing to see me."

The father and son were very handsome. With just a glance, everyone would be able to tell they were father and son. If they had a good relationship, who knew how many people would be envious of them.

Mu Qing thought to himself that his son was definitely here to seek revenge from him for something he did in his past life.

"I've already asked Lawyer Yang to proceed with the divorce through the court. The result will be out soon," Mu Chen said tonelessly.

Mu Qing glared at Mu Chen. "Do you hate us so much? We were truly in love! Don't tell me we don't have the right to pursue love? How can you vent your narrow-minded anger on her? Do you even have a heart?"