

Chapter 91: Rings

Mu Chen held Song Ning's hand and ran out, completely ignoring the laughter of Jiahui and the others.

After they got into the car, before Song Ning had a chance to fasten her seatbelt, Mu Chen began to kiss her. Pressed against the seat of the car as he kissed her, she felt embarrassed.

Finally, Mu Chen managed to stop himself. He looked at the angry and embarrassed Song Ning before he said solemnly, "Thank you for acknowledging me in front of Professor Li."

At this moment, Song Ning finally realized Mu Chen was moved because she had answered in the affirmative when Professor Li Sen asked if she had decided on Mu Chen. She lowered her head in embarrassment and pretended to adjust her seatbelt.

Mu Chen started the car before he said, "Now we have to do something very important."

"What is it?" Song Ning asked curiously.

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Mu Chen smiled but did not answer.

Song Ning looked at him and found it funny. Sometimes, Mu Chen was like a child. Previously, when Jiahui searched for Mu Chen on the Internet, she had said he was a typical aloof president of a conglomerate. However, in front of her and his grandmother, he was never aloof. In fact, he was rather cute. A small smile appeared on her face when she thought about this.

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When Mu Chen's car pulled up to the entrance of a shopping mall in the center of the city, Song Ning was surprised.

Once they entered the mall, Mu Chen did not waste time and pulled her to a jewelry store.

Realization dawned on Song Ning immediately. "Are you going to buy me a ring?"

Mu Chen wrapped his arm around Song Ning's shoulders and led her into the store. As his gaze swept across the displays, he said, "No, I'm going to buy us a pair of rings..."

A salesperson stepped forward immediately. "Sir, are you planning to buy a pair of rings?"

"Yes," Mu Chen responded immediately. He was very satisfied with the salesperson's perceptiveness.

The salesperson brought them to a display and pointed at the rings in the front row. "This is the most popular style this year. What do you think?"

Song Ning gave a cursory glance at the rows of sparkling rings and thought they were beautiful. However, when she saw the serious expression on Mu Chen's face, she followed his gaze and looked at the rings one by one.

"Which one do you like?" Mu Chen asked.

Song Ning found his seriousness in looking at the ring amusing and replied, "I like all of them."

Mu Chen was briefly taken aback by her answer. When he regained his senses, he looked at her with a smile and asked, "Do you want to know one of my strengths?"

Before Song Ning could reply, Mu Chen turned to the salesperson and said, "I want all the rings on display here."

Upon hearing these words, Song Ning was shocked. She hit Mu Chen's arm before she hurriedly said to the salesperson, "I'm sorry. He's just joking..."

The salesperson remained professional. He smiled and said, "Both of you really have a good relationship. Why don't I introduce a few collections to you?"

Song Ning was rather interested so she nodded to thank the salesperson.

Following that, the salesperson introduced each collection meticulously and explained the concept and meaning of each collection.

Song Ning listened attentively, rather satisfied with the salesperson's explanations.

The salesperson said with a smile, "These are all platinum and diamond rings, gold and gem rings, and just pure gold or platinum ones. It all depends on your preference. However, in my personal opinion, your complexion is fair, miss. Therefore, whether it's gold or platinum, they both will suit you very well. You should just choose the design you like..."

Song Ning's eyes were dazzled. At this moment, she really felt she liked all of them. However, she did not say anything, afraid Mu Chen would really buy all of the rings. At that time, it would turn into a joke.

Mu Chen frowned, seemingly dissatisfied. He asked the salesperson, "Are there any unique designs? The price isn't a problem."

The salesperson hesitated for a moment. "Sir, what kind of concept or design do you like? Do you have a general idea of what you want? I'll be able to make better recommendations if I know your preference."

Mu Chen thought about it for a moment before he said, "Concept? Something that says I'm willing to give the world to her like the stars worshipping the moon..."

Song Ning's face flushed red when she heard Mu Chen's words. She subtly nudged him.

Mu Chen only turned to look at her with a wide smile on his face.

The salesperson was unruffled. He said with a smile, "In fact, our chairman had commissioned a design for his grandson and granddaughter-in-law. However, we don't have the finished product, and they're actually not for sale. However, I can show you a picture of them."

Mu Chen's eyes lit up. "Let me have a look."

Song Ning was embarrassed by his enthusiasm and could not help but gently hit his arm again.

While the salesperson went to get the photo, Mu Chen seized the opportunity and kissed Song Ning's forehead. "Picking wedding rings is something that I'll only do once in my life so I want to get something I really like..."

Song Ning glanced at him and said teasingly, "Are you sure? According to Ye Cheng, you and Ye Xin only have a small misunderstanding, and you're just doing this on a whim..."

Mu Chen's smile faltered when he heard these words.

Song Ning cocked an eyebrow and looked at him with a smirk.

After a brief pause, Mu Chen laughed and whispered into her ear, "Are you jealous?"

Song Ning hit his arm and pushed him away as she said, "You're dreaming. There's no way I'm jealous."

Mu Chen wore an aggrieved expression on his face as he replied, "Fine. You're not jealous, but I'm jealous. I just want to let the world know that you're my wife. The Fu family shouldn't have any unnecessary thoughts about you. I want you to wear my ring so they can see you're already taken."

Chapter 92: Custom Made

At the mention of the Fu family, Song Ning could not help but smile bitterly. "They're just putting on a show. It has nothing to do with feelings whatsoever. They have ulterior motives for wanting me to marry Fu Le."

"Ulterior motives?" Mu Chen was puzzled.

Before Song Ning could explain, the salesperson returned with an album in his hands. Next to him was a man meticulously dressed in a suit; he seemed to be the manager.

The salesperson stuttered, "I'm sorry. This is our manager. We found many..."

The manager interjected and bowed respectfully, "President Mu..."

Mu Chen smiled.. "Don't be nervous. I'm not here to inspect the store."

The salesperson was dumbfounded; the manager was drenched in sweat.

Song Ning was surprised as well. She pulled Mu Chen's arm and asked in a soft voice, "This jewelry store belongs to your family?"

Mu Chen squeezed her hand and said, "It's not 'your family', It's our family."

The manager smiled and asked, "President Mu, I heard you came to choose a pair of rings?"

Mu Chen nodded and pointed at the salesperson. "He said that my grandmother had commissioned a pair of rings for us. I want to have a look."

The salesperson was on the verge of tears as he said, "I'm sorry, President Mu. I only wanted to show you the photos as a reference. It's not my intention to show your rings to everyone..."

Mu Chen was in a good mood and did not dwell on the matter. "It's okay. You did a good job." Then, he said to the manager, "He's quite professional; don't make things difficult for him. He only wanted to show me the photo as a reference."

The manager hurriedly said, "Apart from this one instance, we don't show the photo to customers in fear of the design being copied. We have many other photos to use as a reference for other customers... I..."

Mu Chen interjected, "Are the rings completed?"

"Yes. I've informed the chairman about it as well. She said to leave them in the shop and that she'll collect them at a later date. We, naturally, didn't put them on display."

Mu Chen was very satisfied. "Bring them out for me now."

"Yes." The manager quickly asked the salesperson to bring the rings out.

When the manager turned around to leave, Mu Chen stopped him. "Hey, don't tell grandmother about this. I want to surprise her."

The manager hastily replied, "Yes, yes, I understand. Is there anything I can help you with?"

Mu Chen looked at Song Ning.

She smiled and shook her head.

Mu Chen could not help but sigh inwardly. It seemed like he was one step behind his grandmother again; she was always a step ahead of him. She was really a wise person. This time, he planned to seize the advantage and surprise her in return.

The pair of grandmother-and-grandson was just like children competing with each other. Many people, like those in the Ning family, would be jealous of their relationship.

Song Ning shook her head.

At this moment, the salesperson returned with a tray in hand.

As soon as Song Ning's eyes fell on the rings, she was stunned.

There was a crescent pink diamond that was surrounded by tiny diamonds on top of the ring. It was beautiful without being overly ostentatious.

As soon as she saw the ring, she could not help but recall Mu Chen's earlier words about wanting a ring that showed he wanted to give her the world and support her. A ring that embodied the stars worshipping the moon. In fact, even without those words, just by looking at the ring, she could figure out the meaning it tried to convey.

On the other hand, the man's ring was a simple one with a diamond in the middle. Similar to its counterpart, the diamond was crescent-shaped as well.

At this moment, Mu Chen reached out to pick up the woman's ring...

The manager hurriedly stopped Mu Chen. "President Mu..."

Mu Chen looked at the manager, puzzled.

The manager looked at the salesperson meaningfully.

Following that, the salesperson, who wore gloves, picked the ring up. With a gentle pull, the ring was separated into two rings. One was a ring with only a crescent-shaped pink diamond, and the other one was a ring with a cluster of diamonds.

Mu Chen and Song Ning were surprised when they saw this.

The manager explained, "The chairman said it's not suitable for the Young Madam to wear complicated jewelry when she's working. However, at the same time, she wanted something exquisite as well. Therefore, in the end, the ring was designed in such a way where the Young Madam can opt to wear the ring with the cluster of diamonds when she's working since it's much more lowkey. For important occasions, Young Madam can combine the rings and wear them as a set."

After Mu Chen took the ring from the salesperson, he pulled them apart before putting them together again as he said, "Grandma is really thoughtful..."

Following that, he helped Song Ning wear the ring. "It looks great..." Then, he separated the rings before he helped Song Ning wear the ring with the cluster of diamonds and the ring with the crescent-shaped pink diamond one after another. "All of them looked great..."

Meanwhile, the manager and the salesperson remained silent as they watched the couple with a smile on their faces.

After Mu Chen put Song Ning's ring down, he picked up his ring and tried it. "It looks really good."

Song Ning was amused by Mu Chen's behavior.

At the same time, the manager reminded himself to pull the surveillance footage to show it to the chairman later. There was no doubt it would please the chairman.

Before leaving, Mu Chen repeatedly reminded the manager that he was not to tell his grandmother that he had already collected the rings or there would be consequences.

The manager smiled bitterly. It was really difficult being caught in between this pair of grandmother-and-grandson. After weighing the pros and cons, he decided to listen to Mu Chen. After all, the chairman would be happy when she learned about the surprise.

Chapter 93: Lawyer

Song Ning felt that Mu Chen was incredibly childlike today. He was clearly in a great mood. As they wandered the shopping mall, he would lift her hand up from time to time to look at the ring on her hand. She asked, amused, "Don't you think you're being a little childish?"

Mu Chen said, "When you're doing your rounds tomorrow, you should wear the ring. If the Fu family says anything, just show them the ring."

Song Ning smiled and shook her head. "Let alone a ring, even if I show them our marriage certificate, they still would not be convinced. After all, like I said, they have ulterior motives for wanting me to marry into their family. How can they easily accept that I'm already married?"

Mu Chen's expression turned solemn as he asked, "What ulterior motives?"

Song Ning looked at the bustling stores as she said with a sigh, "The Fu family is in the clothing business. They want the patents from my mother and Ms. Yun Yao.. I'm the owner of the patents and the trademark. I overheard Fu Le's conversation with Feng Man; that's how I discovered their objective. I heard Fu Le said that as long as I marry him, the Fu family would have a way of getting the patents. With the patents in hand, the Fu family business will undoubtedly improve. I heard there are already many large groups looking to cooperate with them."

Mu Chen stopped in his tracks. "Why are you the owner of the trademark and the patents?"

"In the past, Ms. Yun Yao said Fu Le is a boy so he should carve a path of his own. Since I have a girl, these things can be considered as my dowry. Even when I marry, at least I'll have assets of my own," Song Ning explained with a hint of sadness in her voice.

Mu Chen sighed. "It's a pity her son didn't live up to her expectations."

Song Ning exhaled before she said, "I wonder now if Ms. Yun Yao was very unhappy back then. She helped my mother again and again and didn't mention anything about the predicament she was in. Now that both of them are in heaven, they no longer have to worry about these mundane matters..."

Mu Chen was silent. He thought women, especially his grandmother, Song Ning's mother, and Ms. Yun Yao, were more farsighted than men.

At this moment, Song Ning asked, "Mu Chen, can you introduce a lawyer from your company's legal department to me. I have a feeling I'll need a lawyer soon..."

Mu Chen patted her head before he said, "Have you forgotten about Lawyer Yang who kept the things your mother left you? He said that he'll assist you in whatever you need according to your mother's wish..."

Song Ning's eyes lit up. "That's right! I forgot..."

Mu Chen smiled. "That's because when he said he'll assist you, you assumed he was talking about your divorce..."

A sheepish expression appeared on Song Ning's face as soon as she heard Mu Chen's words.

Mu Chen tucked her hair behind her ear as he said, "There'll be no option for a divorce now that you married me. Lawyer Yang won't ever have to think of handling a divorce case for the rest of his life. He can be your legal consultant for the business. Although the Mu Group has a legal department, I want your business to retain its independence just like your mother and Ms. Yun Yao wanted. However, you must always remember that I'll always be by your side and be your strongest supporter."

Song Ning looked up at Mu Chen, moved by his words. She could not help but reach out and wrap her arms around his waist as she murmured, "Thank you, Mu Chen..."

Mu Chen seized the chance and kissed her lightly on her lips. "This is the proper way for you to thank me..."

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As soon as Ye Cheng entered the house, he heard the sounds of laughter and in the living room. As it turned out, Su Tong, the Madam of the Ning family, was visiting. The three women were chatting enthusiastically at this moment.

When Gao Wen saw Ye Cheng had returned, she said, "How come you're back so early today? Come here. Madam Ning visited today and brought gifts for all of us..."

Ye Cheng smiled and greeted Su Tong.

Su Tong put her hand on Gao Wen's arm in an intimate gesture and said, "Your son is so young and talented. I wonder which young lady will be lucky enough to marry him in the future..."

Gao Wen was flattered when she heard Su Tong's words. She said, "If Madam Ning has a suitable candidate in mind, please make an introduction. I won't hide it from you; his personal life is giving me a headache."

Su Tong smiled and said, "What are you saying? As long as your son is willing, the line of the young ladies wanting to marry him could circle around the city three times over."

Ye Cheng laughed. "Mom, Madam Ning, stop teasing me. Spare me and spare the young ladies in the city."

Su Tong smiled and said, "I rarely socialize so I don't know of any suitable candidates. However, there's no need for you to worry, Madam Ye. Both of your children are one in a million. They're talented, capable, and good-looking. Look at Miss Ye. Is there any young master who's worthy of her?"

Upon hearing these words, Gao Wen's pride grew even more.

Chapter 94: Secret

Gao Wen patted Su Tong's hand as she said, "You don't have a daughter so you don't know what it's like to raise one. In a family like ours, daughters are the most precious. To be honest, since she was young, I've been paying attention to families of similar status. We don't need her to marry for a business alliance; all that matters is that her husband treats her well. She's truly like the pearl in my palm. Fortunately, she's really blessed. She had a close relationship with the Young Master of the Mu family since she was young. You know the Mu family, right?"

Upon hearing these words, Su Tong's heart skipped a beat. "Which Mu family are you talking about?"

Gao Wen said, slightly annoyed, "Which Mu family do you think I'm talking about? I'm naturally talking about the Mu family that lives in the Cloudy Peak Villa like us."

"Mu... Mu Chen?" Su Tong was shocked. She glanced at Ye Xin and saw the shy expression on Ye Xin's face.

Gao Wen nodded and continued to say, "That's right. Mu Chen and Ye Cheng have been classmates since kindergarten. He and Ye Xin are childhood sweethearts. Since young, he has always doted on her. Although he's quite cold to others, he treats Ye Xin differently. For this reason, I'm not really worried about Ye Xin's personal matters. It's Ye Cheng that gives me a headache. If you know of any suitable young ladies, please introduce them to Ye Cheng."

Su Tong promised Gao Wen. However, inwardly, her mind was spinning. 'If Mu Cheng and Ye Xin are together, what about Ning Xia? Ha! As it turns out, Ning Xia is a third party! It's really karma! How satisfying! In the past, Zhuang Yi had thought of countless ways to nail me to the pillar of shame. I bet she didn't expect her daughter would embarrass her!'

At this moment, Su Tong felt the expensive gifts she had given to the Ye family were worth it! To think she would be able to discover such a huge secret. Naturally, she would not let such a matter stay a secret. She would announce it to the world and get rid of the anger she had bottled up for ten years!

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After leaving the Ye family house, Su Tong felt as though she was on cloud nine. She was incredibly excited.

When she arrived at the Ning family's house, she saw Ning Zhe lecturing Ning Dong.

"Look at your timid appearance; you look like a good-for-nothing. You're not like a real man at all. You're a disgrace to the Ning family," Ning Zhe said. He had always been harsh with his words.

Upon seeing this, Su Tong felt as though a bucket of cold water had been splashed on her, dampening her excitement immediately. She hurriedly walked over and asked, "What's going? What happened? Why did you anger your father again?"

Ning Dong lowered his head silently.

Su Tong had no choice but to placate Ning Zhe. "Husband, don't be angry. He's still a child. If he's wrong, you just need to teach him a lesson. You can scold him or beat him, but don't be so angry..."

Ning Zhe did not respond to her. Instead, he slowly made his way to the sofa.

Su Tong hastily followed as she said sternly to Ning Dong, "Aren't you going to apologize to your father?"

Ning Dong remained motionless.

Upon hearing this, Ning Zhe said impatiently, "Return to your room. Don't stand here and be an eyesore."

Su Tong hurriedly waved her hand, motioning Ning Dong to leave.

Ning Dong left silently without looking back.

Upon seeing this, Ning Zhe pointed at Ning Dong's retreating back and said angrily, "Look at how useless he is! He's not good at studying or socializing. He lacks morals and is stuck in his womanizing ways. How

can I count on him to help me? How's he going to inherit the family business with this attitude? In the future, don't accuse me of being bias. If he has the capability, I won't be unfair to him."

Su Tong's smile froze on her face. Then, she hurriedly mollified him, "Alright, alright. Don't be so angry; it's bad for your health. We'll educate him slowly. Your health is the most important thing. Let me get you a cup of ginseng tea."

After calming down, Ning Zhe said, "No need. There are still things I need to deal with back in the company." After he finished speaking, he asked Ning Chun to prepare the car.

When the car finally disappeared from sight, Su Tong made her way to her son's room.

She saw Ning Dong sitting quietly at his desk with a dazed expression on his face. The book on his desk remained unopened. She asked, "Son, what's wrong? Why is your father so angry?"

Ning Dong did not respond to her.

She lifted her hand to pat her son's head, but he moved his head to the side, avoiding her touch. She was slightly taken aback. Why was her son acting so strangely? Her son was usually obedient and was very skilled in pleasing Ning Zhe since he was young. However, for reasons unknown, over the past few years, Ning Zhe would often scold Ning Dong.

Chapter 95: Investigation

Upon seeing this, Su Tong could only try to persuade her son. "Dongdong, your father is very busy so it's natural that he'd get impatient sometimes. When you grow up and are able to share his burdens, everything will be fine. All you have to do now is to study hard and focus on your studies. When your grades are good, your father will naturally be happy as well. You have to listen to him; you're his only son after all. In the future, the Ning family will be yours so you have to work harder, alright?"

Ning Dong slowly turned to look at Su Tong before he said, "Mother, father doesn't like me. What if he doesn't hand over the Ning Group to me in the future?"

Su Tong did not take his words to heart. She said, "You're being silly. You're his only son after all. If he doesn't hand the Ning Group to you, who's he going to hand it over to? Let me tell you, families like ours are similar to the Imperial Family in ancient times. Most emperors disliked the crown princes because the crown princes would inherit the country. Son, you just have to bear with it for now, okay? Don't contradict him. The Ning family and the Ning Group will eventually be yours.."

Ning Dong said coldly, "I have an older sister, right?"

Su Tong stared at the tense expression on her son's childish face in shock.

Ning Dong continued to say, "Since I have an older sister, if she returns to the family one day, there's no guarantee father will let me take over the Ning family."

Su Tong squatted down, drawing level with her son, before she said, "Son, can you help mother? It's for our future..."

Ning Dong looked down at Su Tong, waiting for her to continue.

“I need to contact a few people outside, but your father keeps a close watch on me. Can you help me? I promise I won’t let Ning Xia return to the Ning family. I won’t let anyone be a stumbling block to my son.”

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Ye Cheng looked at his assistant expressionlessly as his assistant reported the results of the investigation to him.

“Song Ning is a Ph.D. student in M University’s Department of Chinese Medicine. Her grades are very good. It’s possible that she’ll continue to work with the hospital she’s attached to after her graduation; it all depends on her ability. Her family background isn’t very strong. Both her parents died, and her mother left her an undisclosed amount of inheritance. She also has an embroidery store that’s on the verge of closing down. Most of her employees have left. However, recently, the store suddenly closed for renovation. Cheng Che has been coming in and out of the store as well. It’s likely that President Mu is helping her with the store.”

The assistant continued to say, “Song Ning and Fu Le, the Young Master of the Fu family, used to be a couple. Later on, Fu Le cheated on her with a nurse called Feng Man who’s also working in the same hospital as her. After breaking up with Fu Le, Song Ning registered her marriage with President Mu and moved to Cloudy Peak Villa on the same day. Since she studies Chinese medicine, she’s been taking care of Old Madam Mu’s health. It seems like Old Madam Mu likes her very much as well.” After that, he said, “Fu Le’s father is Fu Guo. Fu Guo reached out to you for financing previously.”

Ye Cheng looked up. “Oh? I don’t have much of an impression of him. I don’t think I agreed to his proposal, right?”

The assistant, Chen Chen, said respectfully, “No. However, you’re interested in the patents and the trademark of a private brand called Zhuang Ji that Fu Guo mentioned. You told him that you’ll discuss financing him if he obtains the trademark and patents.”

Ye Cheng looked at Chen Chen. “So this means Fu Guo doesn’t own the trademark and patents...”

Chen Chen nodded. “That’s right. The trademark and patents belong to Song Ning...”

Ye Cheng’s eyes brightened immediately, and he straightened his back. “And?”

“Fu Guo forced Fu Le to reconcile with Song Ning. Song Ning did not agree to it so the Fu family’s Old Madam used her illness as an excuse to check-in into the hospital. I’m sure she did everything she could to convince Song Ning, but her efforts were in vain. Moreover, Song Ning is aware of their intentions. For this reason, the Fu family is at their wit’s end now.”

Ye Cheng rose to his feet and laughed. The world was really small. Not only were these people somehow linked to each other, but their relationships were complicated as well. This was too exciting. There was bound to be a good show to watch.

On the contrary, Chen Chen seemed worried. "President Ye, since Song Ning's married to President Mu, if he's interested in the trademark and patents, it's highly likely that he'll be able to obtain them. If President Mu joins this industry as well, it won't be favorable to us..."

Ye Cheng waved his hand dismissively. "Don't worry, Mu Chen isn't that kind of person. You don't understand him. He's rather prideful so he won't covet his beloved wife's assets. He has shrewd business acumen, but he has his flaws as well. In the past, Mu Chen, who's like an impenetrable fortress, has one soft spot: his grandmother. However, Old Madam Mu is very capable. Therefore, even if Mu Chen has a soft spot for her, she did not become his weakness. In fact, she even became his armor. However, Mu Chen now has Song Ning as well. Song Ning is different from Old Madam Mu. If we want to take down Mu Chen, we'll have to start with Song Ning." A smug smile appeared on his face at the end of his words.

Chen Chen could not help but feel slightly excited upon hearing this. After a beat, he added, "However, we couldn't find anything about Song Ning before she was 16 years old..."

Ye Cheng furrowed his brows slightly, "What do you mean you can't find anything?"

Chen Chen considered his words carefully before he said, "It seems like she lived in a small town in Jiangnan before she turned 16. However, everything is very vague, and there's no concrete evidence to prove that."

'Jiangnan?' Song Ning's beautiful face appeared in Ye Cheng's mind for a moment. 'Indeed. She has the gentle temperament of a Jiangnan woman.'

After a moment, Ye Cheng said indifferently, "It doesn't matter. What we have is enough..."

Chapter 96: Passion

When Song Ning woke up early in the morning, she felt her bones aching. It was as though someone had disassembled her bones before reassembling them. She inadvertently thought about the lab skeleton in the office that would creak whenever she moved its joints. After a moment, yesterday's memories gradually returned to her.

'Mu Chen, he...'

Yesterday, when they returned to the Mu family house, he had shown off the rings to his grandmother. As a result, his grandmother chased him, trying to beat him up. After all, it was a surprise she had prepared for them, and he had destroyed the surprise she had meticulously prepared for them. His grandmother kept asking how he had discovered the surprise.

After that, she and Mu Chen coaxed Jiang Jin by making promises such as never separating from each other and supporting each other for the rest of their lives.

Mu Chen seemed stimulated and moved after coaxing his grandmother, and when they went to bed... everything happened naturally.

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Song Ning's face flushed red when she recalled what happened yesterday night, and her body felt hot. She tried to lift the blanket and leave the bed when an arm snaked around her waist and pulled her back into bed.

After Mu Chen pulled Song Ning into his embrace, he said, "Song Ning, I love you." His voice carried a hint of laziness of someone who had just woken up in the morning.

Before she could reply to him, his lips had already reached hers. He trapped her in his arms and deepened the kiss. She felt like it was difficult to breathe.

Mu Chen's hand moved over her exposed skin, causing her to tremble.

With whatever remaining rationality she had left, she pushed Mu Chen's hand away, panting heavily as she did so.

"No, w-we can't. It's time for us to get up..." Song Ning said, not realizing how coquettish and inviting her voice sounded.

How could Mu Chen who was already burning with desire resist her soft and sweet voice?

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When Song Ning finally got out of bed, her legs felt weak and soft like jelly. On the other hand, the culprit had already gotten out of the shower with a towel wrapped around his waist. He looked refreshed and satiated, like a panther that had eaten its fill.

Upon seeing this, Song Ning could not help but kick him with her bare feet.

Mu Chen only chuckled and kissed her forehead. "Today, we'll bring Granma to Zhuang Ji. I've already told Cheng Che to make the necessary preparations."

Song Ning glared at him before she hurriedly entered the bathroom.

After Song Ning closed the door behind, Mu Chen sighed in relief. At this moment, he finally felt like he had entered her heart. Previously, she had sealed her heart off. It had not been easy to enter her heart. If he had gotten too close to her too fast, she would have put up her guards. However, if he was too distant... Well, the outcome was obvious. Fortunately, his efforts had paid off.

He wanted her to trust him and rely on him. He did not want her to be lonely and face everything on her own.

He was lucky that Song Ning had always been honest, to herself and others. She did not deny and admit her feelings for Mu Chen once she had discovered them. She had finally taken the first step toward him.

Thinking about all these things, Mu Chen was beside himself with happiness.

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Although it seemed like Zhuang Ji was located downtown, in fact, it was located not far from the central business district of M City. Bustling high-rise buildings towered behind it in the distance. In contrast, there was a quiet valley in front of the store. The contradiction made it a rather charming location.

Even Cheng Che had said many times that the location of Zhuang Ji was excellent.

The exterior of Zhuang Ji had a retro design. No matter from which direction one was coming, the store would immediately attract one's attraction.

The first floor was fully open. On one side was the exhibition hall, and on the other side was the workroom.

Song Ning held Jiang Jin's hand as they looked at the exhibits in the display cabinet. She said excitedly, "Grandma, look! This is my mother's works from her past competitions. W-where did Cheng Che find them? I-it must have cost a lot of money!"

Mu Chen who was standing behind them reached out and pinched her cheek gently. "It's your husband that found them. Your husband, you hear me? Not Cheng Che."

Song Ning could not help but blush.

Jiang Jin looked at them happily. "Silly child, money isn't important. The value of these worlds can no longer be measured with money. In fact, we're lucky we're able to obtain them with money."

Song Ning said with a sigh, "If my mother could see these, I wonder how happy she'd be..."

Jiang Jin patted her hand and said reassuringly, "Silly child... Although your mother is no longer around, these things she left behind contain the essence of her life. You should feel proud of your mother..."

Song Ning nodded. Following that, she turned to Mu Chen and said, "Thank you..."

Mu Chen smiled but did not say anything.

Jiang Jin said, "Why should I thank him? You're his wife. This is what he should do."

Warmth suffused Song Ning's heart. Jiang Jin would always stand on her side.

Jiang Jin held Song Ning's hand and put them in Mu Chen's hand before she said, "No matter what your parents' relationship was like, you have to remember you're you; you're not your parents. You and Mu Chen have to treat each other sincerely and be happy!"

Mu Chen and Song Ning nodded in unison upon hearing Jiang Jin's words.

Chapter 97: Zhuang Ji

There were more than a dozen upgraded work tables in the workroom.

Mu Chen explained, "This place is isolated. Customers in the exhibition hall will be able to see the employees working, but they won't be able to enter to avoid disturbing the employees. Being able to see the employees work will allow the customers to immerse themselves in the experience..."

After that, Mu Chen led them to the second floor. As soon as they reached the second floor, they saw a spacious open lounge with a huge circular sofa. The place was quiet so it was suitable for those who wanted to sit and chat or for those who just needed a quiet moment. Behind the lounge was a private

changing room, and on the left was the VIP reception hall. Finally, on the right was a spacious meeting hall.

Mu Chen continued to explain again, “Zhuang Ji will continue to operate in the way it operated in the past. We’ll only take high-end custom orders from customers, and give our customers an amazing experience. Apart from the necessary matters, most of our focus will be on the art of embroidery itself and not on the business side of things.”

Song Ning took a seat as she looked around. She was filled with praise as she said, “It’s really too beautiful. Moreover, it feels cozy as well. I really don’t feel like leaving at all...”

Mu Chen smiled and said, “You should focus on becoming a daughter. Managing Zhuang Ji isn’t a suitable job for you...”

Song Ning smiled sheepishly. Indeed, her business acumen was not extraordinary.

Jiang Jin patted her hand as she said, “It’s okay! You have Grandma! I promise to support you with everything I have!”

Mu Chen smiled. “Grandma, I have a mission for you.”

Jiang Jin said confidently, “It’s not a problem. Just tell me what you need me to do...”

After Mu Chen took a seat across from Song Ning and Jiang Jin, he said, “We’ll organize a three-day exhibition. There will be three groups of guests invited to each day of the exhibition respectively. Since this is our first exhibition, we want to make a strong impact. Grandma, for the first day of the exhibition, I’ll leave the guestlist to you. Just ten people will do...”

Jiang Jin’s eyes widened. “Ten people? You’re only letting me invite ten people? Isn’t that number too small? Impossible! I have a long list of people to invite!”

Mu Chen waved his hand. “Grandma, this time I can only give you ten invitations. Moreover, you can’t tell people Zhuang Ji is your granddaughter-in-law’s business. Just invite them here; there’s no need for you to do any marketing. I believe the ten people you invite will spread the news to 100 people when they leave. If we invite too many people, our products will no longer seem exclusive and would go down in value.”

Realization dawned on Jiang Jin after she listened to Mu Chen’s explanation. “I see. You have a point. Okay! I understand!”

Song Ning looked at Mu Chen in a daze. “You... This method is a little... a little...”

Jiang Jin said, “Is a little?”

Song Ning shook her head slightly. She could not think of a suitable word for it. She only felt Mu Chen was doing a lot for Zhuang Ji. It was beyond her expectations.

Jiang Jin patted her hand. "Silly child, this is why we should leave this to the professional. There's no need for you to worry about anything. When the time comes, you just need to dress up beautifully and follow Grandma..."

Mu Chen smiled before he continued to say, "Cheng Che and I will be responsible for the guestlist on the second day. There won't be many people as well. On the third day..." He paused and looked at Song Ning before he continued to say, "On the third day, we'll invite a few famous actors, directors, and fashion designers. Song Ning, if you're unwilling, you don't have to make an appearance."

Song Ning nodded. "Alright. Then, I won't make an appearance."

Mu Chen nodded and did not force her.

Jiang Jin turned to look at Song Ning. "My granddaughter-in-law is so beautiful and talented. It's such a pity she's not interested in acting."

Song Ning smiled and leaned on Jiang Jin's shoulder as she said, "Grandma, I was just lucky I met a good writer and good scriptwriter. In the end, I still prefer attending to patients..."

Jiang Jin patted her head. "Alright, alright. Then, we'll leave this all to Mu Chen."

Song Ning looked at Mu Chen with a red face.

Mu Chen smiled and said, "After this, Zhuang Ji will officially open. An Ran will be in charge of operations, and Cheng Che will temporarily oversee the business. After everything stabilizes, he'll find a suitable candidate to take over before he withdraws..."

Song Ning straightened her back and said, "Cheng Che has been working so hard for Zhuang Ji. When he has free time, I'll cook and treat him to a meal..." She could not help but recall the unpleasantness of their last meal due to Su Tong's sudden appearance.

Upon seeing the change in Song Ning's expression, Mu Chen said teasingly, "If you treat Cheng Che so well, I'll get jealous!"

Song Ning regained her senses upon hearing these words and forced a smile on her face.

Jiang Jin patted her hand and tactfully changed the topic. "Cheng Che is a good child. Grandma is very happy that both of you treat him so well. Mu Chen isn't very close to the younger generation in the Mu family, but he's close to Cheng Che."

Upon hearing this, Song Ning asked with a smile, "Grandma, do you know that Cheng Che likes Jiahui?"

Jiang Jin's eyes widened; she was pleasantly surprised. "No wonder Cheng Che seems extra nice to Jiahui. As it turns out, he likes Jiahui. Jiahui is a good girl. I'm really happy today!"

Chapter 98: Exhibition

When Song Ning saw Mu Chen looking at the delighted Jiang Jin, she silently made a decision.

After that Mu Chen calmly gave everyone a task. Even Yu was given the task of selecting fruits and snacks for the exhibition.

Song Ning said to Mu Chen, "On the third day of the exhibition, help me make an appointment with a psychiatrist at the house."

Mu Chen looked at Song Ning gently, "Are you sure?"

Song Ning nodded. "Yes. With you and Grandma protecting me, I feel safest and most at ease being at home where I'm loved."

Mu Chen hugged her gently and planted a kiss on her forehead. "Okay. However, you don't have to put too much pressure on yourself.. Doctor Bai has said that this is no different from treating physical illnesses; we have to do it step by step. Don't be in a hurry; let's take it one step at a time."

Song Ning nodded. She had already made a decision and was prepared for whatever the future held.

...

The first day of the exhibition was exceptionally successful.

Jiang Jin was as excited as a child. She had a great time meeting and chatting with the ten friends whom she invited. Naturally, she did not forget to praise Song Ning, her granddaughter-in-law.

Jiang Jin's friends admired every piece of work from Zhuang Ji. They even praised the door gifts that were given out such as pendants, embroidered handkerchiefs, and embroidered fans. They even promised to place orders with Zhuang Ji every month.

Song Ning was worried about Jiang Jin's health so she insisted on relieving Jiang Jin's acupuncture points.

Upon seeing this, Jiang Jin's friends grew curious. They even asked Song Ning to check their pulses. Song Ning accurately listed the ailments that plagued them and gave them suggestions to alleviate the symptoms so they were overjoyed.

In the end, the exhibition in the morning suddenly turned into consultation sessions in the afternoon.

Song Ning carefully wrote out prescriptions and suggestions for their daily diets, urging them to go for regular checkups at the hospital.

For these reasons, the old ladies were very fond of Song Ning. They even said they would visit the Mu family house to look for Song Ning.

Jiang Jin was happy and filled with pride and hurriedly agreed to her friends' request.

With this, the guests left the exhibition happily.

After Song Ning helped Jiang Jin send everyone to the door, she asked worriedly, "Grandma, are you tired. I really shouldn't let you accompany me the entire day..."

Jiang Jin said as she held Song Ning's hand, "What are you talking about? Grandma isn't tired at all!"

Song Ning helped Jiang Jin to the sofa before she lifted one of Jiang Jin's legs and began to massage it.

Jiang Jin sighed in satisfaction. "Even if I'm tired, I'll be energized after your massage..."

Song Ning said with a hint of self-blame, "Mu Chen and I are at fault. We shouldn't have given you such a tiring task."

Jiang Jin said with a sigh, "Ningning, Mu Chen gave this task for my good. Ever since his mother passed away, I hardly socialized if it weren't necessary. At that time, I was worried about Mu Chen, his father, and the company. The stress from that time is probably the cause of my illness now. Every time I see Mu Chen's lifeless expression, worry would seize my heart. I couldn't help wondering what would happen to my poor grandson if something happened to me. Who will love him? How would he suffer if I left him alone? Therefore, I declined all social engagements and only stayed home to look after him. I kept looking for things he would enjoy doing. Even if he gets annoyed, at least, he'd look like a living person." After a pause, she continued to say with a faint smile on her face, "Fortunately, I have you now. I'm very happy whenever I see his smile that gradually grows as the days pass."

Song Ning was slightly taken aback by these words. All this time, she had been so selfish, only focusing on her pain and grudges. She had forgotten that Mu Chen, like her, was also abandoned by his father. Since she had met him, she had constantly sought comfort, love, and warmth from him, and he had never once complained. He was really good to her. However, she took everything he gave her for granted and enjoyed it with ease of mind.

With these thoughts in her mind, tears began to well up in her eyes. She could not help but hug Jiang Jin and said, "Grandma, I'll definitely be good to Mu Chen. I won't let him suffer."

Jiang Jin nodded and patted Song Ning's head as she said, "From the moment he introduced you to me, I felt relieved. I could tell you're a good child from your pure eyes. I can see why Mu Chen fell in love with you so quickly. For some people, even if they're meeting for the first time, it feels like they've known each other for a long time. This is the fate between both of you. I'm very happy when I see both of you."

Upon hearing this, Song Ning's tears were gradually replaced by a smile on her face.

Chapter 99: Fishing

The second day of the exhibition was equally as successful as the first day. However, Song Ning was not present. She insisted on accompanying Jiang Jin at home. Once classes were over, she rushed home immediately to help Jiang Jin with her physical therapy.

When Mu Chen learned that Song Ning was not planning to attend the second day of the exhibition, he protested, "Yesterday, Grandma could show off her granddaughter-in-law. If you don't show up today, who am I going to show off?"

Song Ning chuckled and tilted her head slightly as she said, "You can show Cheng Che off. He's such a good brother."

Cheng Che instantly straightened his back upon hearing these words. "That's right. You can show me off to everyone. Look at my handsome appearance that can cause flowers to bloom and cars to screech to a halt!"

“Scram!” Mu Chen gritted his teeth as he tried to kick Cheng Che..

Cheng Che hurriedly hid behind Song Ning before he said, “Sister-in-law, I really can’t deal with my brother’s fiery temper. Since you’re like the fire extinguisher to his temper, why don’t you attend the exhibition? Let him show off for a while and then you can leave after that. Moreover, what if other girls try to cozy up to him?”

“Cheng Che! You really don’t want to live anymore!” Mu Chen roared.

Song Ning smiled and said, “Then, I have even more reason not to go. After all, I don’t want to be a hindrance to those girls.”

Mu Chen’s expression was rather funny to look at this moment.

Meanwhile, Jiang Jin watched the trio bicker, feeling happy.

In the end, Song Ning got what she wanted since Jiang Jin’s health was the most important. In fact, all three of them agreed to this. Mu Chen was only teasing Song Ning, after all.

...

In the car.

Cheng Che drove while Mu Chen sat in the passenger seat.

Mu Chen stretched his limbs before he asked lazily, “So how’s everything?”

Cheng Che chuckled. “Don’t worry. There won’t be any big problems. By the way, guess who extended an olive branch to the Fu family?”

Mu Chen cocked an eyebrow. “The Ning family?”

Cheng Che pursed his lips. “How could the Ning family be interested in the Fu family? The Fu family is below them.”

Mu Chen said, “Oh? Then who wants to join in the fun?”

Cheng Che looked at Mu Chen meaningfully as he said, “Ye Cheng.”

Mu Chen fell silent.

Cheng Che continued to say, “If Ye Cheng didn’t have so many lovers in the open and in the dark, I’d think he’s in love with you!”

Mu Chen glared at him. “How can you not disgust me?”

“Brother, think about it. You’ve known each other since you were both in kindergarten. Although you beat him up in primary school, he still followed you around like a tail. I feel so tired just looking at him. Tell me, what else can it be if it’s not love?” Cheng Che said with a sigh as he drove.

Mu Chen looked out of the car window as he tapped his fingers against the glass. He said indifferently, “He doesn’t love me. He only wants to surpass me.”

Cheng Che sighed and shook his head. "I think it'd be easier for him if he was in love with you compared to trying to surpass you."

Mu Chen rolled his eyes. "Let's get down to business. What has he done with the Fu family so far?"

Cheng Che's expression grew serious as he said, "If he offers to finance the Fu family, don't you think the Fu family would be even more desperate to look for little sister-in-law? With Ye Cheng's character, even if the Fu family manages to get their hands on sister-in-law's assets and obtain Ye Cheng's financing, I'm afraid the Fu family's bones would still be picked clean by Ye Cheng."

Mu Chen shrugged noncommittally.

Cheng Che looked at Mu Chen. "Brother, what do you think?"

Mu Chen said, "Casting bait to catch the big fish... Isn't this your usual method?"

Cheng Che grinned. "As long as you don't dislike me for being too scheming."

Mu Chen replied with a straight face, "Why would I dislike someone who helps me with all these troublesome matters?"

Cheng Che laughed heartily, leaning against the steering wheel slightly. "Brother, as long as you're happy, no matter how tired I am, I'll always help you. Don't worry. Sister-in-law's Zhuang Ji will be very successful."

After a moment, Mu Chen stroked his chin and said, "When you're hiring people, remember to be careful. Remind An Ran as well. After the exhibition, I have a feeling the Ning family will come knocking on our door. I'm not the slightest bit worried about the Fu family at all. It's the Ning family I'm worried about because of her psychological response to them."

Cheng Che nodded. "I understand, Brother. However, you have to look out for Ye Cheng. It's strange that Ye Xin hasn't made a move at all..."

Mu Chen did not say anything.

After a brief moment, Cheng Che said again, "That's right. I forgot to tell you that someone is investigating sister-in-law."

Mu Chen replied, "Is it that woman from the Ning family?"

Cheng Che shook his head. "I think it's Chen Chen."

Mu Chen raised an eyebrow.

Cheng Che said, "However, I didn't take any further action since the background we found for sister-in-law is rather solid. They shouldn't be able to find anything."

"In fact, we can lead them to Jiangnan. I've spoken to Song Ning. Her grandparents' house is still there," Mu Chen said.

"However, I don't quite understand why we're doing all these things, Brother," Cheng Che said.

Mu Chen replied honestly, "Song Ning doesn't want to reveal her background. As long as it's what she wants, we'll help her to hide her background. At the same time, we can also see who else is trying to make things difficult for her."

Cheng Che nodded. "Don't worry. We'll get rid of all of them before they can even cause trouble for sister-in-law."

Mu Chen remained silent.

After a while, Cheng Che finally pulled up to Zhuang Ji. He parked the car behind the studio.

When Cheng Che alighted from the car, he stretched and said, "Since sister-in-law came home early today, we'll be able to have good food tonight!"

Mu Chen's expression softened at the mention of Song Ning. Just as he entered Zhuang Ji, an assistant hurried up to him and said, "President Mu, President Ning is here to see you."

Chapter 100: Meeting

Mu Chen and Cheng Che exchanged a look before Cheng Che said, "Brother, go ahead. Don't worry. I'll take care of things on this side."

As Mu Chen walked, his heart was filled with countless thoughts. When he arrived, he saw Ning Zhe sitting on the sofa in the lounge. He held Ning Zhe's gaze as he walked toward Ning Zhe.

When Mu Chen finally stood before Ning Zhe, Ningzhe slowly rose to his feet before he extended his hand. "President Mu, I'm sorry for showing up uninvited."

Mu Chen shook Ning Zhe's hand as he said, "There's no need to be too courteous, President Ning. Please take a seat."

After sitting down, Mu Chen silently sized up Ning Zhe.. Blood relations were really magical. He could see a shadow of Song Ning on Ning Zhe; their eyebrows were really similar. It was just like how he looked exactly like his father despite him hating his father.

Ning Zhe broke the silence first. "President Mu, I believe you know the reason for my visit, right?"

"President Ning, you can call me Mu Chen," Mu Chen said politely. Regardless of Ning Zhe's relationship with Song Ning, he was still Song Ning's father no matter what.

Ning Zhe looked at Mu Chen silently for a few seconds before he said again, "Alright, Mu Chen, I want to ask you what's your relationship with Song Ning..."

Mu Chen straightened his back and tidied his clothes before he said, "Song Ning is my wife."

Ning Zhe's gaze seemed to sharpen as he said, "Then, are you aware that she's my daughter? Her real name is Ning Xia."

Mu Chen nodded. "Yes. However, I wasn't aware of that when we first got married. I only found out later on."

Ning Zhe's expression turned stern as he said, "Mu Chen, don't think I'll be courteous to you just because you're an outstanding talent. I advise you to put away your evil thoughts and leave my daughter. Don't think I don't know what you're scheming. My daughter is pure and kind, but I'm not dead yet. I'll definitely protect her from being deceived by you."

Upon hearing these words, Mu Chen furrowed his eyebrows and said, "President Ning, I think you've misunderstood something. Song Ning and I are truly in love. What schemes do you think I have? She's just a student who hasn't even graduated yet..."

Ning Zhe sneered. "Her mother left Zhuang Ji to her. However, now you've taken over the management of the studio. Do you dare say you don't covet her assets?"

Mu Chen only smiled faintly as he replied, "President Ning, have you been here before? If you have, I'm sure you should be aware of how this place was like before, right? We spent a few months renovating this place to revive the business, but you say I'm coveting Song Ning's assets. President Ning, you said you're protecting Song Ning, but if that's the case, Zhuang Ji wouldn't have been on the brink of closing down before this, right? Don't you think you're being unreasonable and self-righteous by coming here to accuse me of such things?"

Upon hearing these words, Ning Zhe was furious.

Mu Chen seemed unaffected as he continued to say, "President Ning, I respect the fact that you're Song Ning's father. If you came to ask me to treat Song Ning well, I'll definitely listen to you respectfully. However, if you're here to make baseless accusations, I'm sorry, but I won't stand for it."

Before Ning Zhe could reply, Mu Chen continued to say, "There is something I don't understand. Since President Ning is here today, I want to take the opportunity to ask about Song Ning's stress reaction."

"Stress reaction?" Ning Zhe was puzzled.

Mu Chen nodded. "That's right. The moment Song Ning sees someone related to the Ning family, she'll get a stress reaction. Her body would tremble violently, and her heart rate would rise. Following that, she would throw up. Even if she didn't eat anything yet, she would throw up. So far, I've seen this happen three times. The first time was when she ran into you in the restaurant in the Mu Group's building. The second time was when she met your Ning family's butler. Finally, the third time was when Madam Ning visited our house to cause trouble. Every time she meets someone from the Ning family, her reaction would be the same. I want to ask President Ning what did you do to her for her to react so violently? If it's like you said, that you've been protecting her, why is she like that? Apart from that, when Zhuang Ji was on the verge of bankruptcy, why didn't you step forward to help her?"

Ning Zhe stared at Mu Chen intently as he asked, "You said my wife went to your house to cause trouble?"

Mu Chen nodded. He asked, slightly surprised. "You didn't know?"

Ning Zhe said angrily, "Nonsense. My wife said she didn't see Ning Xia when she visited your house. She only heard Old Madam Mu mentioning her granddaughter-in-law's name is Song Ning. My wife is unaware that my daughter has changed her name to Song Ning!"

Mu Chen looked at Ning Zhe silently. His gaze was filled with pity as he said, "So you believe your wife's words?"

Ning Zhe did not answer Mu Chen's question, but his expression clearly stated that he thought he did not have any reason to doubt his wife.

Upon seeing this, Mu Chen laughed angrily. "I understand now why Song Ning would have such a reaction to the people from the Ning family. It probably has a lot to do with your attitude of believing lies and disbelieving the truth. You've made her heart grow numb, but you want to put on the act of a good father in front of me? How hypocritical. President Ning, even if you don't understand your daughter, you should understand that your threats mean nothing to me."

Following that, Mu Chen did not wait for Ning Zhe's reply. He rose to his feet and said before leaving, "President Ning, today is Zhuang Ji's big day. We're all very busy. Please leave."