

Bigoted 311

Chapter 311: Gu Yan who was stopped, It killed him to see her like that

Qin Shu stared at the door for a while before looking at the food in front of her. She had not eaten since this morning and was famished. Yet, looking at the food in front of her did not ignite her appetite. She seemed to remember something—she hurriedly picked up her phone and dialed Gu Yan’s number.

As Gu Yan went down the stairs, he saw two people—a man and a kid—sitting on the sofa. He knew who they were, but he did not have the time for them today. He averted his gaze and walked out of the living room.

Meanwhile, the phone in his pocket rang. He took out his phone and looked at the caller ID. It was Qin Shu. Quickly, he picked it up.

“No matter what he asks, you must not say it was a bullet.”

Before Gu Yan could reply to her, Qin Shu had already hung up.

Gu Yan was surprised. He put his phone back into his pocket and continued walking. From Qin Shu’s tone just now, he had already guessed that knowing Fu Tingyu, and he would ask once he had suspected something.

“Let’s have a cup of tea together, shall we?” Came Fu Tingyu’s deep voice from behind him just after taking two steps. He could not ignore it even if he wanted to. He stopped and turned to Fu Tingyu. He was standing very straight, with his deep, black eyes staring at him. Gu Yan smiled to hide his guilt. “Sure.”

Next to the living room, Fu Tingyu brewed a pot of tea and poured it into two cups. He placed one of the cups in front of Gu Yan.

Gu Yan was eyeing the teacup in front of him. With his slender fingers, he raised his cup and took a sip, but his heart was pounding. If Fu Tingyu asked, would he be able to conceal the truth?

Fu Tingyu drank his cup of tea as well. He looked up at Gu Yan, “What did you think was the cause when you examined her?”

Fu Tingyu’s tone was conversational, yet a cold sweat broke out on Gu Yan’s forehead. He placed his teacup on the mahogany table in front of him.

He pondered for a while before he said, “I didn’t think it was a collision. It might have been caused by something sharp, like a steel pipe. Also, the wound should be recent. It happened because Qin Shu bumped into the table corner, which led to the bleeding.”

Fu Tingyu came to the same conclusion when he saw the wound—it was not new, and the bleeding had happened by coincidence. There was a strong possibility what Gu Yan said was true.

“I thought it looked like a gunshot wound.” His fingers around his teacup tightened, and he pursed his lips. He focused his eyes on Gu Yan.

Gu Yan raised his head and met Fu Tingyu's stare—he felt bad for lying. He knew Fu Tingyu would have guessed it correct. "It did look like a gunshot wound to me." He shifted his eyes downwards and took a sip of tea, trying to hide his guilt.

As Fu Tingyu thought about it, he could not bear someone pointing a gun at his woman, her fear when she was under threat, and the intolerable pain she had to put up. Why was he not by her side to protect her when she needed him? He thought. It was as if there was a savage beast inside of him, looking for a way to get out and unleash hell on the world with rage and anger.

His clench was so tight that his teacup had almost broken into pieces. "When did the wound appear?"

Gu Yan answered, "Within a week."

Fu Tingyu started recalling everything about Qin Shu within this week. After Gu Yan left, Fu Tingyu called Ye Luo over to him.

While in the master bedroom, Qin Shu had already hung up the phone. As she clutched her phone in her hands, she looked at the food in front of her, and she decided to pick up her chopsticks and start eating slowly. After using half an hour to finish her rice, she asked Ning Meng to clear the table.

As Qin Shu glanced at her leg, she pulled down the leg of her pants and walked out of the bedroom. She was about to play with Fu Songlan when a tall figure standing in the doorway blocked her path. She lifted her head to look at Fu Tingyu's dark eyes. He was giving her a cold-eyed stare, and it sent shivers down her spine. Did Gu Yan tell him?

"You're back. I was about to go downstairs and play with Xiao Lan for a while."

Fu Tingyu frowned. "You're playing with Songlan even though your leg is injured? What if you accidentally hurt yourself again?" While saying that, he reached out and lifted her in his arms. He brought her back into the room before closing the door. Then, he put her down gently on the sofa and sat beside her. He turned his head and stared at her for a moment, "When did you get injured?"

Since he asked that question, does that mean he knew nothing of the truth? Qin Shu guessed. She lowered her voice, "I got injured in an accident a few days ago."

"Who did it?" Fu Tingyu's stare turned ice-cold, with his eyes filled with killing intent.

Qin Shu could read his emotions. She explained, "I fell at the rock garden backyard when I was looking for Boss—I slipped, and my leg hit the edge of the stone."

Fu Tingyu's eyes were on her. Gu Yan's words from before came into his mind—if the rock was sharp, it could have caused such injury from slipping.

"Then why did you not tell me? Why did you hide it from everyone?"

"I was afraid that you would laugh at me for not being able to walk steadily—it was not serious. Ning Meng is always making a fuss over nothing. If she had known about it, everyone in Bright Garden would have gotten the news immediately."

Qin Shu lowered her eyes. There was a hint of stubbornness within her soothing voice.

In the eyes of Fu Tingyu, Qin Shu could not let down her sense of pride—she would not want to show her vulnerable side and embarrass herself in front of others. It killed him to see her like that—she had slipped and fell and was severely injured, yet she had decided to keep it to herself. She had endured such pain and treated her injuries all on her own.

“Who dares to laugh at my woman?” He declared, his voice filled with arrogance.

Qin Shu glanced at Fu Tingyu. It was true that no one had the guts to laugh at her, the woman of Jiangcheng’s Lord Fu.

With a sullen face, Fu Tingyu demanded, “Next time, do not hide anything from me no matter what happens. You have to tell me in the first place, do you hear me?”

Out of pressure, Qin Shu compromised by nodding her head guiltily.

His voice softened, “Does it hurt?”

Looking at her injured leg, he knew that it would have hurt even if she had not spoken about it. He wanted her to understand that she could let her guard down, that she could admit her pain and be frail as she cried in front of him. It would have broken his heart, but it would also make him feel validated.

“It hurts.”

The moment the bullet hit her flesh, the pain was indescribable—even for a well-built man. One would have staggered. As she got shot, her legs fell to the ground. Walking was a struggle with a bullet in her leg when there was no one she could lean on.

Still, Fu Tingyu was a little mad when he heard that. She had told him nothing when it happened. Abruptly, he got to his feet and stormed out of the room.

Qin Shu watched him leave, wondering if he was mad at her.

Chapter 312: A new family member, He could see it now

Fu Tingyu walked out of the bedroom. As he got to the living room, Fu Songlan had already returned with Fu Tingyan. He called Housekeeper Shi over and instructed him to replace the glass table in the living room with a rosewood one. Also, he asked Housekeeper Shi to hire someone to grind and polish all sharp stone edges. Even the tiniest sharp-edged pebbles had to be removed and replaced with smoother ones.

Housekeeper Shi was a little confused when he received the set of instructions, but he did not ask any questions and he followed through. Why the change all of a sudden? He thought. Could it be that they are planning for a new baby?

Housekeeper Shi was walking light-footed, thinking that that was the reason for the remodeling of Bright Garden. He was to appoint the renovation team as soon as possible. He met Wang Ma on his way, and he broke the good news, “Wang Ma, I have received an order from Lord Fu to make preparations for the renovation of Bright Garden.”

“Oh, alright, but what is this all about?” Wang Ma was puzzled.

“Of course it is for the arrival of the new young master.”

“Is that true? Why have I not heard about it?”

“What else could have been the reason for the remodeling? Lord Fu even had the glass table replaced—it must be to prevent the young master from bumping into the corners.”

“Well, you could be right.”

As Ning Meng passed them by, she faintly heard their conversation. She was seemingly confused about how she was unaware of Madam Fu’s pregnancy.

At the same time, the Shen family had all been in over their heads with Shen Yaohui. They were trying to bail him out using money and relations. Though it had only been a few days since Shen Yaohui was locked up in jail, his family had bribed the guards so that he would live comfortably during his time in prison.

Despite that, he would still receive certain ‘special treatment’—apart from not having enough to eat, Shen Yaohui had been interrogated every day by the police. Guilty or not, he had to suffer. In just a few days, he had lost almost 10 pounds. He was all skin and bones.

To rescue their only son, the Shen family had taken out 30% of their company shares and mortgaged a few of their properties. They had almost emptied their assets before they had finally managed to get Shen Yaohui out. As per his release, his family had taken him to the hospital for a mental evaluation.

It was during dinner when Qin Shu received the news. She believed that someone must have been the brains behind this—Shen Yaohui had suffered immensely during his time in prison even when his family had spent an enormous amount to help him out.

It was not Mu Lan. The Qin family did not have that kind of network. Just then, someone flashed through her mind—it was only a matter of words for that man. Since the Shen family had only one son, it was common for them to pay this much money to bail him out. The real question was whether he was worth that sum of money.

There was a family meeting, and the Fu family had summoned Fu Tingyu. Knowing he would not be home for dinner, Qin Shu finished her meal and went up to the bedroom on the second floor. Then, she entered the study room.

During the class, Qin Shu was a little absent-minded—she remembered that in her previous life, after Fu Tingyu’s family meeting, he had gone to Xijin.

She had not known what his business there was. Xijin was different. The security there was awful, and whoever had power was in charge. Who knew why he had gone there? Neither the Fu family nor Fu Tingyu had any business relations there.

As she spaced out, she barely caught what the professor was saying. Fortunately, the professor would mark and highlight the significant points before sending his notes over. Though the professor was reserved, his diligence had surpassed every other teacher.

[Professor: There is still a week before the start of the semester. Would you want to stay in the dormitory or rent a room outside?]

[Qin Shu: I am planning to stay in the dormitory. It will be more convenient for me to attend classes.]

[Professor: The dormitory in Imperial College has the best environment in this country.]

[Qin Shu: Sir, you do know a lot about the Imperial College. Were you an alumnus?]

[Professor: No.]

Qin Shu was only asking. It did not matter where he graduated. She liked his teaching methods, and that mattered. She had never favored any teachers she had ever since she was young, except for the mentor who had taught her hacking.

Before ending the class, the professor sent his highlighted notes to Qin Shu. She went through it again in detail, and after understanding it, she stretched and got up, then left the study room.

Fu Tingyu had told her beforehand that he would be late that night. She took a shower, climbed into bed, and played games on her phone. When it was 11 o'clock, she put her phone away and turned off the lights, but she left a light on Fu Tingyu's side of the bed.

Late at night, Shi Yan drove Fu Tingyu back to Bright Garden from the Fu residence. As the car stopped, Fu Tingyu pushed the door open and got out of the vehicle. Then he walked inside with steady steps. Meanwhile, Shi Yan parked the car in the garage.

Fu Tingyu walked upstairs. When he reached the bedroom door, he tried to be as gentle as possible as he turned the doorknob, pushed the door open, and walked in. He had noticed the faint light emitting from his bedside lamp. He gave Qin Shu a look before he opened the closet, took his clothes, and went in the shower.

Half an hour later, he came out of the shower wearing a silver-gray bathrobe. A knot was casually tied, circling his waist. His face was blushing a little after the hot shower. He had dried his hair using his towel, but it was still wet and uncombed—it looked somewhat messy, but it was still esthetic.

He reached his side of the bed and looked at Qin Shu. Her shiny black hair was scattered, with part of her face covered underneath. In the dark, she had her eyes shut, and her breath was slow—she was sound asleep. She had her light blue thin quilt under her arm, but her stomach was left uncovered. With the air-conditioner running, she was likely to catch a cold in this sleeping posture.

He bent down, reached out to pull the quilt behind her, and covered it around her body. In doing that, he wanted to take a look at her injured leg. His long, slender fingers grabbed the corner of the quilt and lifted it. It was the same medical gauze she had from this morning, which Gu Yan had dressed.

He put down the blanket and turned around. As he reached the cabinet, he retrieved the first aid kit and returned to the bedside. He brought two low stools, which he sat on one of them, and placed the first aid kit on the other. He opened the first aid kit and tore off the gauze from Qin Shu's leg bit by bit.

His movements were tender—he was afraid of hurting her, which was completely different from his usual violent self. After removing the gauze, he took out a cotton swab and dipped it in the disinfectant. He bent over Qin Shu's leg and began to sterilize the wound.

Gu Yan had used a red disinfectant that he had brought along, while Fu Tingyu had a clear one. As the cotton swab gently wiped across the wound, the red around it gradually faded, revealing its original appearance. The wound was red in the morning, and it was not too distinguishable for Fu Tingyu. Right at that moment, as the red disappeared, he could see it now.

The wound was thumb-sized, and there were scabs on it. There was also a torn open part, which Qin Shu had accidentally caused earlier. Yet, the more Fu Tingyu looked at the wound, the more it looked like a bullet injury.

Chapter 313: Have you ever thought of me first when it happened?

Fu Tingyu had seen many similar wounds, which was why he thought it looked like one. The longer he stared at Qin Shu's leg, the more he felt his heart leaden—his suspicion was confirmed. Only piercing bullets could have caused such circular wounds.

He raised his pitch-black eyes and looked at the person beside him in deep slumber. As her eyes were closed, her sleeping face was serene. Her cheeks were dyed in scarlet, charming like an angel.

At the thought of a muzzle being pointed at her, he felt his body turn cold. His breath seemed to have stopped. No one could understand better than he did—the pain of being hit by a bullet. He would have ignored it, but it would be too much for her.

He clenched his fists and stared at Qin Shu for quite some time before he withdrew his gaze to look at the wound in front of him. As he gradually relaxed his fists, he picked up a piece of cotton wool and placed it on the wound. Then, he took out a new gauze from the medical kit and wrapped it around the wound.

He tucked her leg back into bed, and he started cleaning up, putting the kit back in the cabinet. After everything was done, he walked over and sat down as he removed his slippers before lying beside Qin Shu. He pulled her into an embrace.

It was as if the sleeping girl had known she was being cuddled, clinging onto his warmth in the familiar embrace. In her subconscious, she moved closer until she could feel the movement of his chest and his constant beating heart.

Fu Tingyu looked down at her as he tightened his arms, afraid that she might suddenly disappear. As he switched off the lamp and the quiet bedroom plunged into darkness, his eyes were cold and impenetrable.

Being asleep, Qin Shu felt the inexplicable chill behind her. With her instinct, she pulled the quilt around her tight.

On the morning next, the first thing Qin Shu saw when she opened her eyes was Fu Tingyu's lips. She was dazed.

"Are you awake?"

She heard his magnetic voice from above—it was a little raspy, a typical morning voice. Qin Shu lifted her head and looked at him bleary-eyed. "Why are you still in bed?"

Fu Tingyu had his eyes locked on her. She had just woken up, and she looked a little confused. "I need to ask you something."

Qin Shu rubbed her eyes, "What is it?"

"Why did you lie?" His voice was almost trembling, but he managed to suppress his anger. She had lied to him countless times, but he had never been as furious as he was now.

Hearing that, she was suddenly awake. Her eyes widened, "What's wrong?" She could not retort even if it sounded like an interrogation—she was guilty of lying.

Staring at her puzzled face, he muttered, "It was a gunshot wound. Why did you lie that you fell?"

Qin Shu was shocked. He had not suspected anything yesterday. What changed his mind? He sounded so determined that it did not seem like he was trying to trick her into confessing.

Qin Shu mumbled, "I was afraid that you would be worried..."

Before Qin Shu could finish her sentence, Fu Tingyu interrupted, "You're afraid that I'd be worried? Is that why you had to lie and hide the fact that someone tried to hurt you? Then what am I to you? Was I always dispensable?"

His last few words came out almost in a whisper, and she could read self-mockery in it. He had not lost control over his emotions up until now. It was not only that he was being lied to, and more importantly, he also resented himself for not being able to protect her when she was in danger. Did he mean anything to her at all?

Seeing the hurt in his eyes, Qin Shu's heart was aching too. She stretched out her arms and wrapped them around his lean waist. She shook her head and explained, "It's not what you think. Please don't overthink this, okay? No one is more important than you are."

Fu Tingyu had his gaze locked into hers. His soft, dark hair was falling around his face. He felt her arms around him tightened. Was he important to her? He wondered. She did not even bother to tell him when she got in trouble, and he yet was important?

"Then why did you not tell me first?" He could not help but ask.

Qin Shu was about to reveal it when she heard him said, "The first thing you thought of was how to hide it from me, am I right?"

He was right. The first thing that came into Qin Shu's mind was that she did not want him to know about this. But not in that way. She cared deeply for him, and that was why she would not want him to know. He was not dispensable.

Fu Tingyu took her silence as an admission of guilt, and he chuckled ruefully, "Then why did you say that I am the most important person to you?"

His hollow laugh was agonizing for Qin Shu. "That was an accident. I didn't want you to feel bothered. It wasn't because you weren't important..."

Looking at her fair face, he gently stroke her and murmured, "Babe, were you scared?"

She had nothing else on her mind other than saving Gu Yan. She had only felt the fear after the adrenaline rush was over.

Qin Shu did not answer his question directly but was anxious to explain, "I didn't tell because I was afraid that you'd be worried, I swear. It's not because you're not important."

His fingers had just wandered to her beautiful brows. "Babe, do you know how I feel when I think of someone pointing a gun at you, and yet I know of nothing? When you were in danger and injured, I had no clue about it. Do you understand how I feel right now?"

The thought of it was even more terrifying than to have witnessed it.

Qin Shu hurriedly nodded, "I know."

Fu Tingyu laughed softly, "How would you know?"

If it was not for the fact that he loved her deeply, how could she have felt that kind of fear? It tore him to the bone, and it hurt whenever he thought about it. He took one glance at her. Did she ever love him? He thought. They had been getting along, like real lovers and couple. It was what he had been longing for.

He pursed his lips, threw back the quilt, got off the bed, and marched into the bathroom.

Qin Shu watched his back as he left without saying a word. It was as if he had lost his patience. Anyone who had been lied to would have been angry—and he deserved to be angry.

But, how did he know that she had been shot? Did he not stopped doubting yesterday?

Qin Shu threw back the quilt to get out of bed, but she realized it when she saw the bandage on her leg. The dressing was new, and the method differed from Gu Yan's. Needless to say, it was Fu Tingyu. Thus, it was why he knew she was lying about her injury.

A gunshot wound was distinctive. Even when a few days had gone by, it was easy to identify one when someone saw it. Qin Shu had planned to change it as soon as she woke up. If she had known, she would have done it last night.

As she put on her slippers and got out of bed, she made her way to the bathroom.

Fu Tingyu had just finished washing up and was on his way out, and she stopped at the door.

Chapter 314: She was the apple of his eyes, Falling right into his trap

Qin Shu angled her head to look at Fu Tingyu. He had just finished washing up, with his hair sticking to his head and water dripping down his forehead, his face too pale and moist. He was cold and distant, and his sculpted features remained unreadable—he was mad.

“Please don’t be mad at me.” Her tone was discreet.

Fu Tingyu had tried to regain his composure earlier in the bathroom. He was staring straight into her eyes when his voice lowered, “Who hurt you?”

Qin Shu was about to reach out and pull at his sleeve, but her hand froze in mid-air. She was afraid of this question. She would not have hidden the truth if it was that simple.

The Crimson Sand Organization was enigmatic. Their influence and resources were unpredictable. If he had known it was them, he would have sought revenge on them, which was what she did not want to happen.

She recalled what Gu Yan had said—the poison in him was similar to cancer cells, and they would grow and spread until they destroy the body’s functioning organs. In the case of a martial artist, it was equivalent to a drastic declination in their combat strength. It was all her guess, but it was likely true.

Qin Shu shook her head. “I didn’t know who they were. I got injured by accident. The scene was a mess, and they had got rid of the assassins on the spot.” Though she had left out stating Crimson Sand Organization, everything else was what she had mentioned. Ji Fei had killed them all.

Fu Tingyu had his fists clenched. He knew how dangerous it was when one got caught in a crossfire. He could not help but blame himself for everything. Had she witnessed murdering?

Hearing that, Fu Tingyu wrapped his arms around her and tightened his grip. His embrace seemed more like he was trying to comfort himself rather than comfort her. Qin Shu was a little surprised by his abrupt manner. She remained silent as he hugged her.

After a dead silence, she heard him almost in a whisper, “Forget what you saw.”

Qin Shu nodded, “Alright.”

Moments had passed before Fu Tingyu glanced at her and let go. He walked away to get dressed in the dressing room.

Qin Shu watched his back as he walked out of the room. Did he believe her?

She headed to the bathroom and washed herself up. When she had finished, Fu Tingyu was already downstairs. Quickly, she put on some clothes and got downstairs. Fu Tingyu was already sitting at the dining table, eating his breakfast slowly.

She hurried down the stairs and sat at her place before looking at Fu Tingyu, “I want to be at the office with you today.”

Fu Tingyu demanded, “Stay home before you have recovered.”

There was no room for negotiation. Qin Shu had guessed that he would still be mad. She held her tongue. She picked up her chopsticks and started eating in quiet. Fu Tingyu took a quick look at her, and he continued eating with his head lowered.

After breakfast, Fu Tingyu exited the front door, and Shi Yan was already waiting for him. As he entered the car, Shi Yan got to the driver's seat and drove out of Bright Garden.

Fu Tingyu was leaning his body against the window with his hand, and after a moment of silence, he ordered, "Head to Gu Yan's."

"Okay, Lord Fu." Shi Yan turned the car around, and they were on their way to Gu Yan's villa.

As Qin Shu finished breakfast, she did not return to her bedroom. Instead, she went to the backyard to look for Boss. She noticed some craftsmen remodeling the garden.

"What's going on?" She turned to ask Ning Meng.

"Lord Fu has given the order to renovate the whole backyard. I heard it was because you were trying for a baby, Madam." As Ning Meng answered, she had peeped at Qin Shu's belly, but it was flat, and it did not look anything like a pregnancy.

A baby?

Qin Shu suddenly remembered the night when Fu Tingyu was drunk. The moment he got back, he started mumbling that he wanted them to have a baby. Be it the bathroom or in bed, he was rambling nonsense about wanting to become a parent.

Ning Meng could not make out whether Qin Shu was pregnant. "Madam, when did you get pregnant?"

Qin Shu tilted her head towards Ning Meng. She gave her forehead a knock, "Since when did you believe anything anyone says?" Qin Shu left her behind before she answered, and she started looking for Boss.

"..." Ning Meng was dumbfounded. Was it not Lord Fu who had instructed the remodeling?

Gu Yan was having his tea, reading on pharmacotherapy, when the door in his medical office opened. Fu Tingyu was walking towards him, and Gu Yan started to have a bad feeling about it. He had just consulted him yesterday. Why was he here again?

"I've just brewed a pot of tea, have a seat." He took out a clean teacup, held up his purple clay pot, poured a cup, and put it in front of Fu Tingyu.

Fu Tingyu had his long legs crossed as he sat in front of Gu Yan, and the furniture started looking a little too small for his slender figure. He was glaring straight at Gu Yan, yet he was in no hurry to open up.

Looking at the man sitting across him, Gu Yan knew that it would be difficult to fool someone as smart-witted as Fu Tingyu. He must have already got the truth.

"You knew it was a gunshot wound. Why didn't you say anything?" Fu Tingyu had never thought that his childhood friend would lie to him. As a medical professional who had treated countless gunshot wounds,

he would have immediately recognized it when he saw one, and upon treating Qin Shu, Gu Yan must have noticed it—but he chose to hide it.

“Well, now you know. Honestly, it was my fault. If it hadn’t been me, Qin Shu wouldn’t be hurt.” There was a little embarrassment and guilt in Gu Yan’s tone. Geez, it was his first time lying to Fu Tingyu.

Fu Tingyu frowned, “Your fault? What do you mean?”

Gu Yan was stunned. He was surprised that Fu Tingyu was unaware that Qin Shu got hurt because of him. Why did he have to be such a big mouth?

“Yes, she was hurt by accident because of me. I was afraid that you would be worried, so I hadn’t told you.”

Fu Tingyu finally understood this time. “You mean, that was the day that the Crimson Sand Organization was here to get you?”

Gu Yan nodded helplessly.

Fu Tingyu was gripping at the armrest of his chair with his pitch-black eyes locked on Gu Yan. “I didn’t realize that you could lie now.”

Gu Yan smiled sheepishly, “I had my reasons.”

Fu Tingyu’s expression was solemn. The Crimson Sand Organization had never seen Qin Shu without makeup, which was why Qin Shu was accidentally injured. Had they recognized her, the consequences would be unimaginable. Though Fu Tingyu had wiped out many of them, the Crimson Sand Organization had always wanted to get their revenge. Just like Fu Tingyu thought, the first thing she did after she was injured was thinking of how to hide it from him, rather than telling him.

Something crossed his mind, and he suddenly lifted his head. “Did you use any painkiller when you took out the bullet?”

Gu Yan knew that he was worried, and he hurriedly answered, “It hurts an awful lot to have a bullet removed from one’s body. How can I not use painkillers? She’s not like you.”

Fu Tingyu let out a sigh of relief. The pain would have been too much even after the effect of the painkiller was gone. He knew better than anyone.

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Chapter 315: My heart aches for my woman, This was a huge misunderstanding

How could she have withstood the pain when even some men could not?

Gu Yan lifted the cup and brought it closer to his lips. He took a glance at Fu Tingyu and stopped sipping his tea. “She’s not as weak as you think. She looked strong to me.”

Fu Tingyu looked up. “She’s my woman. Of course, you wouldn’t understand her better than I do.”

Gu Yan had read the subtext within Fu Tingyu's line—he could not relate to Fu Tingyu's situation because he had no lover. He felt embarrassed. He was kind enough to comfort him, yet he got ridiculed. What's wrong with being single?

Fu Tingyu did not remain long at Gu Yan's. He left his villa and went straight to his office. He had urgent work to deal with before leaving for Xijin the next day.

Qin Shu was sitting under the ginkgo tree in Sheng Yuan as she played with Boss. Not far away, the craftsmen had already ground and polished some of the edges of the rocks. Was all that because of her accident yesterday?

Ning Meng had darted from the Moon Cave Door. "Madam, Old Madam Fu has arrived."

"Is Grandma here?"

Qin Shu put Boss aside and stood up from the ground. She was going to welcome Old Madam Fu. As she was about to lift her foot, she saw Old Madam Fu approaching her from the Moon Cave Door, with her arms around Housekeeper Fu.

Qin Shu ran towards her and reached out her arms. "Grandma, why hadn't you say anything before coming over? I could have made preparations."

"I was dropping by. There's no need to hassle." Old Madam Fu was grinning at Qin Shu. As she was wearing baggy clothes, she would glance at her belly, trying to see if it had started to show. After hearing rumors about her pregnancy and Bright Garden's sudden renovations, she had hurried there to see it for herself.

Fu Tingyu was her favorite grandson, and she was most proud of him. Her love for him would extend to Qin Shu as well if she was bearing his child. She had been looking forward to being a great-grandmother.

Qin Shu had not noticed that. As she stared at the scorching sun through the tree shade, she said, "Let me help you in. It's a little warm outside."

Old Madam Fu smiled and nodded, "Sure, it's a little hot out here." Qin Shu was helping her in, and she had the same longing gaze at Qin Shu's stomach until they were inside.

Qin Shu had the air-conditioner switched on earlier. It was much refreshing than the outside. Qin Shu let Old Madam Fu rest on the sofa and asked Ning Meng, "Do serve some fruits for Old Madam Fu to beat the heat."

"Okay, Madam." Ning Meng turned around and walked out briskly.

Qin Shu reached the coffee table and poured a glass of water from the kettle. She handed it to Old Madam Fu, "Grandma, the temperature is just right. Please have some of it."

Old Madam Fu was not in a hurry to drink it. She waved at Qin Shu, "Have a seat first. You must be tired from standing." Her smile did not leave her wrinkled face all this while she was here. It caught Qin Shu in surprise.

For her time in Bright Garden, Old Madam Fu had never said anything unpleasant. Neither did she treated her coldly, yet beaming at her like this was new. She had always been neither distant nor friendly.

Qin Shu sat across Old Madam Fu, and she glanced at Qin Shu's stomach again. She wanted to know how many months pregnant she was, but it was too awkward to ask. Little Yu should have told his grandmother about such great news. Still, he did not say a thing. She was embarrassed as a grandmother.

"How have you been? Are you feeling unwell?" Tentatively, Old Madam Fu broke the silence.

Qin Shu wondered if Old Madam Fu had known about her injury, and she smiled, "I've been doing well. Thank you for your concern, Grandma."

Old Madam Fu was disappointed when she didn't hear what she wanted, but she was hesitant to ask further. She was anxious to know when the baby would be due in her heart.

Ning Meng had returned with a plate full of fruit. She leaned down and placed it in front of Old Madam Fu. Her voice was sweet, "Old Madam Fu, Lord Fu had these shipped by plane. They're very fresh. Please have a try."

Old Madam Fu was studying Ning Meng. She had noticed that she was somewhat bright. "I heard that Bright Garden has been undergoing large-scale renovations recently. Do you know the reason behind it?"

Old Madam Fu had an amiable look on her face as she spoke as if she was trying to have a casual conversation.

"Lord Fu gave the instructions all of a sudden. I'm not sure why." Ning Meng responded with a smile.

Old Madam Fu frowned, and her brows creased. Was that all she had to say? She thought that Ning Meng would have admitted the whole truth.

Seeing Old Madam Fu's emotions changed, Ning Meng scratched her head while being puzzled and retreated aside.

Boss made his grand entrance with its little head tilted, its pace graceful as a swan. As it approached Qin Shu, it scratched her pink slippers. Qin Shu had a look at it, then she bent down and picked it up.

Old Madam Fu stopped her abruptly, "You are pregnant. How could you hug a cat? What if it scratches you and hurts my great-grandson?"

Qin Shu halted. She pulled her arms back and sat straight. Looking at Old Madam Fu, Qin Shu did not know how to respond. It had come to her realization that the purpose of her visit was because she heard the rumors.

Was that why she was smiling at her like that? Because she was pregnant with Fu Tingyu's child? What a pity, she was not pregnant at all.

Though it would cost her disappointment, Qin Shu could not afford to continue this misunderstanding.

“Grandma, I’m not pregnant.”

Old Madam Fu was stunned, “You aren’t? Then why were people talking about the renovation? And the baby?”

Qin Shu felt embarrassed. “I have no idea, but I’m certainly not pregnant.”

Old Madam Fu had realized the truth. She had been excited all this time when she had first heard about it, only to find a mare’s nest. It was all for nothing.

“Not to worry, you’re still young. It’s a matter of time.” She was convincing herself.

Qin Shu could not bear seeing her disappointment, and she nodded.

Old Madam Fu had been eying her thin, fragile figure. In her opinion, the main reason Qin Shu failed to get pregnant was that she was underweight. She left her a message upon leaving. “I’ll be excusing myself. Do try to eat more. You’re too skinny.”

“Yes, Grandma.”

Qin Shu saw Old Madam Fu out until she got in the car, and Housekeeper Fu drove away. Then, she got back into the house.

Fu Tingyu came home early that day.

Qin Shu knew he was going to Xijin the next day. She looked at him as he walked over, wondering if he was still mad.

As Fu Tingyu stopped in front of her, he took a glance at her leg. Her wound was unnoticeable since she was wearing trousers. “Have you changed your dressing?”

Qin Shu shook her head. “No.”

Fu Tingyu shifted his gaze back to her, “I’ll change it for you after you have showered tonight.”

Chapter 316: Is she not rejecting him anymore? She was trying to please him

“Sure.” Qin Shu was eying him as he spoke to her. His voice was calm, but there were remains of the tumbling flames that had been burning within his eyes.

Fu Tingyu told her, “Wash your hands before you eat.”

“Okay.”

Qin Shu followed him to the sink. After washing their hands, they sat down at the dining table. The menu consisted of five main dishes and a soup, served with rice. Fu Tingyu had never had alcohol when he ate with her, so they would start eating once the kitchen had everything set out.

Qin Shu picked up the chopsticks and dug in. Thinking that Fu Tingyu must be still mad, her mind was elsewhere as she ate.

Fu Tingyu grabbed his chopsticks, and he looked at the person across him. While he remembered how Gu Yan had tricked him along with her, he did not plan to raise the topic again. He did not want to remind her of that traumatic event. It was best to forget witnessing someone dying.

After dinner, Fu Tingyu and Qin Shu headed to their bedroom. Fu Tingyu retrieved his luggage from the cabinet and placed it on the bed. He unlocked it and began to pack up his clothes and daily necessities.

Qin Shu asked, "Are you going somewhere?"

"Yes." Fu Tingyu replied as he continued packing.

Qin Shu sounded a little upset, "Am I not allowed to go with you again?" She was standing beside him, and her intention was very obvious. She wanted to go with him.

Fu Tingyu turned to look at her. "You have an injured leg."

Qin Shu had her chin angled upwards. "It has almost recovered. It won't be a problem."

"The last time I looked at it, it hadn't healed."

Fu Tingyu caught a glimpse of her wound. He turned around, pulled the most bottom drawer opened, took out a few pairs of underwear, and returned to put them into the luggage. Qin Shu had noticed that those were the ones she had bought last time. There were three different colors—gray, blue, and dark gray. He had been switching among those every day.

Then, Fu Tingyu walked into the bathroom to get toiletries. Qin Shu followed him. Fu Tingyu was a germaphobe which was why he was bringing his own.

"I only bled a little. It won't affect me. I can still walk."

Fu Tingyu stopped cleaning and turned around to face Qin Shu. He raised his eyebrows slightly. "So it won't affect you?"

As he slowly approached her and pressured her to move backward until she had her back pressed against the doorframe, he leaned over and smirked. "Does that mean you are not rejecting me anymore?"

Fu Tingyu was so close to her that Qin Shu could feel his breath and unique scent. She had to tilt her head even more to see his entire face. Her pretty eyes blinked, "Will you bring me with you?"

Fu Tingyu pursed his lips and shifted his eyes to her leg. According to what he had seen last night, the wound was four days old. In addition to what he had done when he got drunk the other night, she was still staggering.

He retracted his gaze and looked at Qin Shu again. "Babe, why do you want to come along?"

Qin Shu was grinning. "I wanted to spend some time with you before school starts."

Fu Tingyu studied her face. Her smile was faint, yet it was sweet, and it looked lovely on her.

He withdrew his gaze and turned to the sink to pick up the toiletries. When he passed Qin Shu by, he said, "You should shower." And he walked out of the bathroom.

Qin Shu was peeping at him. She could see his tall, slender figure standing in front of the bed as he packed his luggage. As she was getting her clothes, she could not help but shot him a glance and asked, "Are you going to take me with you or not?"

Fu Tingyu had his focus on her and repeated, "You have an injured leg."

He had the same tone from before. Qin Shu gave him a longing stare before turning around in defeat and walked towards the closet. She took her clothes with her and went to the shower.

Qin Shu filled the bathtub with warm water. In the past few days, she had been bathing in the bathtub to avoid getting the wound wet. She took off her clothes started applying soap.

Half an hour had passed, and Qin Shu walked out of the bathroom wearing a nightgown with her hair half-dried.

Fu Tingyu had already finished packing and was sitting on the sofa with his legs crossed. He had put his luggage in the corner. Hearing the sound, she got his attention, and he raised his head to look at her.

Her cheeks were blushing from the warmth in the shower. Her half-dry hair had scattered on her back uncombed, and it looked a little messy.

"Take a seat on the bed. I'll change the dressing for you." He got up and walked to the cabinet. He took out the first aid kit and brought along two small stools.

Qin Shu followed his instructions. He was busy walking around the room until he sat on the stool next to her. She had put her injured leg on the other one in front of her.

Fu Tingyu opened the first aid kit. He had a look at the bandaged area before reaching his fingers and tore the bandage open slowly. Then, he threw it into the trash can beside him.

Her skin was fair as snow, her complexion smooth. As Fu Tingyu examined the wound, it was now blemished. There it was the circular, thumb-sized wound—the scab had not even formed from the puncture caused earlier.

As he dressed the wound, he was gentle and careful, afraid of hurting her.

Qin Shu had been looking at his expression. Since he was removing the bandage, his brows had been pulling together, and his lips had been pressing tightly—he was upset.

"Are you still mad at me?" She asked.

Fu Tingyu shifted his focus towards her face. She had her elbows on her knees with her back of her hands cupping her jaw. Her eyes, bright as the stars, blinked as her long lashes quivered softly like the wings of a butterfly.

"Should I not be mad?" His voice suddenly turned cold.

Qin Shu knew he had mistaken her words. She shook her head, "That's not what I meant. You deserved to be angry."

Fu Tingyu pursed his lips as he glared at her. He was mad enough to chew nails, and his violent thoughts went bizarre. He had hoped that this would be the last time it had happened. She shall not hide anything from him ever again.

He was staring at her like she was some tied-up animal, waiting to get slaughtered. Qin Shu gulped. He was giving her goosebumps.

Fu Tingyu held his thoughts back. He stood up, got his clothes, and went to the bathroom. As he left, Qin Shu came back to her senses. She watched him calmly as he got to his feet.

She put on her slippers, got out of bed, and walked towards the bathroom door. She was going to wait for Fu Tingyu.

Half an hour later, Fu Tingyu had exited the bathroom. He was wearing a light gray bathrobe, and he had tied his belt casually with minimal effort. With water still dripping from his wet, messy hair down his forehead, it looked different from his usual self when he had styled his hair wearing a suit.

Qin Shu was standing right at the doorway when he opened it. Her eyes seemed larger on her palm-sized face, and they were spirited, and he could see that she had been waiting for him.

Chapter 317: He would pamper her with all his life, He was worried

“What are you doing?”

The moment the bathroom door opened, the steam lingering in the bathroom rushed at her face. It was moist, and her rosy cheeks turned even redder.

Qin Shu’s gaze wandered from his slightly exposed, cut chest line to his pretty face. “I have something to discuss with you.”

Fu Tingyu said in a deep voice, “There’s no way you’re going on the trip with me.”

As she got rejected again, Qin Shu was discouraged, feeling down in the dumps. “What were you going there for?”

Fu Tingyu noticed her disappointment, “I’m going to get something.”

Get something?

Qin Shu was puzzled. She had not heard about him getting something from Xijin in her past life. What was it that he had to get it personally at Xijin?

Seeing her dazed, Fu Tingyu leaned down and lifted her across the room, heading towards the bed. Qin Shu had her arms wrapped around his neck, though in her head she was still guessing what he was getting at Xijin. While her thoughts were still wandering, Fu Tingyu had laid her down on the bed. Her focus shifted to him as he sat down on the bed, removed his slippers, and laid beside her. He was going to call it a night.

It was only 9.30 p.m.—it was too early to sleep.

Fu Tingyu reached his arm to retrieve the neatly folded quilt behind her before wrapping both of them in. Then, he switched off all lights, including the bedside lamps, and darkness engulfed the room.

Fu Tingyu pulled her into an embrace, and he rested his chin on top of her head, feeling her soft, silky hair brushing against his skin. It was the first time they were in bed this early.

Qin Shu nestled her cheeks against his chest. She tilted her head slightly, trying to look at Fu Tingyu through the darkness, but other than silhouettes, everything was pitch-black. The sound of his thumping heart filled her ears. He was acting strange, and she had no idea what was on his mind. As the clock ticked, moments later, Qin Shu gradually fell asleep in his arms.

It was 3 a.m., but Fu Tingyu was wide awake. She was breathing steadily and listening to it had stopped uneasiness. If he could, he would have entangled her soul into his body so that she was there with him wherever he went.

The next day, just when the first ray of light hit the earth's atmosphere, Fu Tingyu had reached the lamp and switched it on. He had stayed up the whole night while Qin Shu was still sound asleep in his arms.

Hushed, he got out of bed, had his slippers on, and headed to the bathroom. He was dressed in a suit and tie when he had returned to the side of the bed. His hair was sleek. Though he had not slept the whole night, he was still energetic.

His dark eyes stared at the sleeping figure, and his gaze locked on Qin Shu's right cheek. When he had just found her, she had that visible, dark scar on the corner of her eye. To him, her appearance did not matter. Yet, he still remembered the moment when he lifted her hair off her face; he could see panic, terror, and self-denial in her eyes.

It broke his heart. Qin Shu had never had those kinds of looks before., She had been intimidating, confident, and a little eccentric in the past. He leaned over and landed a kiss on her scar as if he was trying to make up her lost self-esteem.

As he tucked her in, he hurried out of the room. He wanted to make it back before her new semester starts. He turned the doorknob gently and left the room in silence.

Shi Yan had been up early to make preparations, and he was waiting for Fu Tingyu in the living room. As for Ye Luo, he was used to getting up early. He stood two meters on Shi Yan's right side.

Fu Tingyu walked down the stairs steadily. He gazed at Ye Luo and reminded him, "Do not let her out of your sight."

As Ye Luo had not tagged along the last time they got attacked in the villa, Qin Shu got hurt accidentally. This time, Fu Tingyu had instructed Ye Luo, the best martial artist among the Ye brothers, to act as her bodyguard. The only downside was he was short-tempered.

Ye Luo lowered his head and answered, "Yes, Sir."

Fu Tingyu withdrew his gaze and headed out, with Shi Yan following his steps closely behind.

Ye Luo stood upright in the living room and shifted his eyes to look at the second floor, thinking about how he should watch over her.

When Qin Shu woke up, it was six o'clock in the morning. She was up earlier than usual. The first thing Qin Shu realized was that Fu Tingyu had already left. She slacked off for a little before she decided to get out of bed. Since her leg was injured, Qin Shu had to shift her weight to her left leg. After washing up,

she changed into a set of casual clothes. The pants were cropped and loose, covering the injury on her leg.

When she got to the dining room, Ning Meng had already prepared breakfast and even served a bowl of porridge before she went downstairs so that it would be at the right temperature when she had it—Ning Meng was not only quick-witted but also attentive.

Qin Shu had noticed Ye Luo when she was sitting at the table. He was not at his usual spot outside, but he stood in front of the painting in the living room. His posture was as straight as a statue.

Usually, Ye Luo would be smoking outside at this time of the day. However, smoking in the living room was banned. Fu Tingyu had ordered that she must not inhale any of the cigarette smoke, and he would pick somewhere far to have his cigarette, brushing his teeth after he had done.

Qin Shu took a quick look at Ye Luo before resuming eating her breakfast. She had known that only Fu Tingyu could have ordered him around like that—Ye Luo was stubborn as a rock. As Fu Tingyu was worried about her safety, he had insisted Ye Luo protect her.

After finishing breakfast, Qin Shu went to her bedroom to get her backpack, and she went back downstairs. Ye Luo came forward and asked, “Madam, are you going out?”

Qin Shu nodded, “Yes, I’m going to the mall.”

When Ye Luo heard that, he walked out of the house without saying a word. Qin Shu knew that he was heading to the garage, so she followed him out. She stood on the doorstep, and not long after, Ye Luo pulled up in front of the house. Qin Shu reached for the door before Ye Luo got out and entered the car. Then, she shut the door behind her with force. Ye Luo took a glance at the rear-view mirror before he drove away.

Fifteen minutes later, they had arrived at Kaiwei Shopping Centre. Qin Shu got out of the car in her backpack as she walked into the mall, while Ye Luo was following her within a five-meter range. She could see his reflection through the glass display at the stores as he leisurely tagged along.

She entered a computer shop, and she saw two tall men surrounded by some sales assistants. They were desperately trying to promote what they had.

“Mister, I have the latest model here, and it has the best configuration. I highly recommend you run online games on it—the performance is exceptional.” She knew what guys would prefer, and she took advantage of it. She had used video games as her selling point when her target customer were young males. Her eyes lit up all this while she was talking to the two gorgeous men.

“Han Xiao, I think this laptop is not bad. It’s light and thin, and it has a good configuration. It would be good for playing online games.”

Chapter 318: He thought he saw Little Munchkin, Chasing after her

Hua Wuyan held up the laptop in the salesperson’s hand and examined it. It looked not too bad, and Han Xiao approached him as he wanted to have a good look.

The other sales assistant standing beside Han Xiao was unwilling to be outdone. She hurriedly shoved the laptop in her hand to Han Xiao.

“Mister, if you would take a look at the laptop in my hand, it’s also light and easy to carry. It has a matching configuration as well. And it is good at running online games too. Please have a look.”

“Mister, this laptop is also not bad. You could try it out and see if you like it.”

“Mine too. The specifications are better than the ones they have.”

Han Xiao had his gaze swept across the several laptops in front of him. Ignoring their words, he picked the one closest to him. He liked the color and the design, so he took it to the counter in front and tested it.

Qin Shu had been standing there for five minutes. No sales assistants came forward to help her out because they had been crowding the two handsome men hard-selling their laptops. All of them were women, and the only male maintenance guy with glasses sat in front of the maintenance booth in the corner. Looking at the pretty lady who walked in, he regretted that he was merely technical support but not a salesperson. Thus, he did not have the chance to strike up a conversation.

Qin Shu stared at the laptop in front of her. It was double the size of her old laptop and was also one of the most expensive they had. The configuration listed was also the best, and it was suitable if she wanted to use it in the dorms. Her old laptop was more convenient to be carried around, using it anytime and anywhere, but the screen was too small, and she had a hard time using it when she studied. The computer she had in her study room was a desktop, and it was impossible to carry it around if she was to travel between her dorms and home.

Therefore, she had wanted to go to the mall to look for a laptop before her new semester starts. Since no one is assisting her, she thought she would try it out first. She tested the keys by typing something on the laptop to see if she liked it while Ye Luo leaned against the store entrance and waited, as long as Qin Shu did not leave his sight.

Hua Wuyan’s eyes were wandering at the several laptops in front of him. As he tilted his head to look at Han Xiao, he noticed a girl standing in front of the counter next to him. Hua Wuyan was 1.85 meters tall. Being surrounded by the crowd of shop assistants who were only 1.6-1.7 meters tall, he could easily peep at the counter beside. He caught a glimpse of Qin Shu’s beauty and was immediately mesmerized that he could not help but peep at her again.

Hua Wuyan then turned his body to the side to face Qin Shu, who was paying attention to the laptop in front of her. She had her hair tied in a bun with no makeup on. There were a few strands of hair dangling on her temples, her palm-sized face fair and unblemished. Her skin was flawless as a fine white jade and pure as the driven snow.

She had her eyes lowered, and from two meters away, he could see her thick and curly lashes, quivering like the wings of a butterfly, moving in grace as she shifted her gaze elsewhere. It was only after a moment that Hua Wuyan had realized that Qin Shu looked a little familiar—her eyebrows and eyes were somewhat similar to Little Munchkin.

The laptop Qin Shu was trying was not like what she had imagined. Thus, she gave up the idea of trying out other models in the store, and she left for the other computer stores on the same floor. She turned around and walked out without anyone noticing.

Hua Wuyan was going to check her out for a little longer when she had left. He wanted to go after her but could not move because he was stuck. Being approachable all this while, he growled impatiently. "All of you, out of my way."

The shop assistants were shocked by his sudden change in temper and moved aside. They were confused why he lost his composure out of nowhere. Hua Wuyan was about to chase after Qin Shu when Han Xiao grabbed his shoulder. "What's wrong?" Hua Wuyan had always had a good temper. It was rare to see him impatient, and Han Xiao found it strange.

"I think I saw someone I know. Wait here. I'll go look for that girl."

Hua Wuyan was not sure if he had seen it wrong, so he wanted to confirm it. He ditched Han Xiao and ran off. It was summer and a weekend, so the mall was packed with people. As Hua Wuyan sped out, he scanned the area outside. People were walking around, but Qin Shu was nowhere to be found. He continued further as he passed by a few more computer stores. His gaze swept across the area inside, but there was no sight of her. He decided to stop trying, and he left.

Qin Shu had entered the store next door as she picked up the display banner that had fallen on the ground. She placed it back next to the laptop, which matched the description. Someone had accidentally bumped into her, and she knocked the banner over.

"Hello Miss, do you have anything in mind? We have a few models here that were just released. You can take a look or try them out." The salesperson said professionally with a smile.

Between the two laptops in front of her, Qin Shu had had a choice, "Bring that one over. I want to try it out."

"Okay." And the salesperson handed the laptop she picked. "You could try it out. This model has good specs. It's great for playing games."

Qin Shu had her full attention on the laptop in front of her, and she reached out the hands to test it.

Hua Wuyan searched the entire floor, but he couldn't find Qin Shu. He made his way back to the computer store in frustration. Han Xiao was sitting on a high-legged stool in front of the counter, waiting for him when he got back. "Who did you see?"

Hua Wuyan walked over to the empty stool across Han Xiao and sat down. He had his elbow on the counter as he revealed, "I saw a girl just now that resembled the Little Munchkin. I'm not sure if I saw it wrongly. It's been so long after all, and one would've completely changed. I just thought she looked like her." He recalled the appearance of the girl he saw as he spoke.

Han Xiao's eyes, usually calm and unruffled, rippled and swelled as if a pebble had disrupted the stillness when he heard the name. There had been no news about Little Munchkin all those years, and when Hua Wuyan had mentioned seeing someone who looked like her, he felt his heartbeat accelerate.

Han Xiao grabbed Hua Wuyan's arm and probed, "Where did you see her?"

Hua Wuyan's arms were hurting from his constriction. Quickly he replied, "She just came in, and then she left."

Han Xiao got up, and he bolted, longing to find the girl who had resembled Little Munchkin.

Hua Wuyan looked at the wrapped box on the counter.

"I'll pay. Swipe my card. Hurry up." Hua Wuyan took out his credit card and handed it to the cashier.

The cashier handed the shopping bag over. Though Hua Wuyan had snapped at the shop assistants, he was still captivating, and the cashier could not resist the urge to stare.

Chapter 319: It's a huge deal, So it was all because of this

Many would think that a guy with long hair would seem feminine. However, with Hua Wuyan's good looks and natural noble temperament, his slender and thin body, coupled with his shoulder-length, flaxen-colored hair, there was no trace of femininity. He looked very handsome.

The cashier hurried as Hua Wuyan urged.

After paying, Hua Wuyan put away his credit card, carried the shopping bag, and sprinted out.

Han Xiao searched every corner but couldn't find the girl that matched Hua Wuyan's description. Hua Wuyan had found Han Xiao almost immediately among the crowd as he was tall as a model and had this natural poise. One would have noticed him within millions.

Hua Wuyan ran over and patted Han Xiao's shoulder, "Han Xiao."

Han Xiao was eager to look further when he had felt someone touching his shoulder. He took his step back, turned around, and saw Hua Wuyan standing behind him.

"I can't find her."

Hua Wuyan had recognized disappointment within his tone.

"I saw her trying out a laptop just now. I guess she's here to get a new laptop as well. Let's split up and look around. She should still be on this floor."

"Alright." Han Xiao agreed, and he continued searching every corner of this floor, including each store, while Hua Wuyan began exploring in the other direction.

Qin Shu had achieved her objective in the mall that day. She had fancied the laptop and paid for it without any hesitation.

After paying, she walked out of the computer store with her shopping bag and discovered a milk tea store next to it. Before she walked in, she had peeped at Ye Luo, who was around five meters away.

"I would like to have one red bean milk tea." Qin Shu took out her phone to scan the QR code and pay.

"Okay. Just a moment, please." The cashier printed the receipt.

Han Xiao had just walked past the milk tea store, and he walked straight into the computer store next to it.

"Here's your red bean milk tea." The cashier had packed the milk tea and handed it to Qin Shu.

Qin Shu took it from her, took out the straw from the bag, and tore it open. She poked it through the wrapping. As Qin Shu drank through the straw, Ye Luo had already approached her. She ignored him and made her way to the elevator. When the door had opened, she walked in and pushed the close button before Ye Luo could even get in.

By the time Ye Luo got to the floor below, Qin Shu had already finished her drink. She threw the plastic cup into the trash can.

“...” Ye Luo was speechless.

Besides getting a new laptop, Qin Shu wanted to get some fresh air. Once she had finished, she did not linger but exited the mall straight. Ye Luo followed behind her without a word. He made his way to the parking lot and drove the car over while Qin Shu rested under a shade. As the car came to a stop, she opened the door and got in. After making sure the door was closed, Ye Luo stepped on the pedal and sped off.

In the shopping mall, Han Xiao and Hua Wuyan had searched everywhere but to no avail. When they met, they could tell that neither of them had found the girl.

Han Xiao walked towards the glass railing and stood there, his eyes pitch-black as he glared at the crowd coming to and forth, but there was no sign of the girl. With his influence and power, he had thought that finding someone would be easy. Yet, years had passed. It had been seven, but there was no clue at all. He got his slap of reality right in his face.

Hua Wuyan approached Han Xiao and stood shoulder to shoulder with him. He turned his head and said, “Han Xiao, don’t get discouraged yet. You’ll find Little Munchkin one day.”

Han Xiao glanced at Hua Wuyan. In these seven years, Hua Wuyan had been there for him as he searched for her. He was the only friend who had spent countless hours supporting his dream.

“I won’t give up. I’ll find Little Munchkin.” He was determined.

As Hua Wuyan heard this, he broke into a smile. “I knew you wouldn’t give up.”

Han Xiao withdrew his gaze, tightened his thin lips as he overlooked the ground floor.

“Didn’t Little Munchkin tell you her real name?” It had been on Hua Wuyan’s mind for a long time. If they had a name, the search would be much easier.

Han Xiao shook his head. “She only said that her hometown was in Jiang Cheng.”

Hua Wuyan sighed. “No wonder you’ve always been around.”

Hua Wuyan had his confusion before. He did not know why Han Xiao had chosen to stay at Jiang Cheng for three years—it turned out it was because of Little Munchkin. Still, they could not find her in their three years here.

The girl Hua Wuyan had seen had looked a lot like Little Munchkin, but they failed to find her. If they had, they could have asked who she was direct.

On their way back, Qin Shu had her arm rested on the window, her palm cupping her chin and her gaze on Ye Luo, who was in the driver's seat. She had been thinking about how she could persuade him and let her go to Xijin.

She was just about to open up, but as she noticed the unreadable and distant expression on Ye Luo's face, she backed out. It would be a waste of time to talk to someone apathetic. She had thought about slipping out at night when Ye Luo was asleep, yet thinking about how furious Ye Luo would be when he found her missing would be a problem. He would have informed Fu Tingyu on the spot, and Fu Tingyu would become panicked.

Qin Shu shook her head. It wouldn't work.

Back at Bright Garden, Qin Shu played with Boss for a while. Like other cats, Boss had always been a furry, lazy little creature. She wondered if she should bring her along if she would be going to Xijin. But first, she should deal with Ye Luo.

Qin Shu took out her phone and sent a text message to Shi Yan. They should have reached their destination by now. She got his text almost instantly, saying he, Fu Tingyu, and the other Ye brothers had arrived at the hotel, just as Qin Shu had expected.

Shi Yan got another text from Qin Shu.

[Qin Shu: Could you tell me secretly, what is it that Fu Tingyu was getting?]

As Shi Yan saw this text, he did not know if he should tell her.

Lord Fu had wanted to procure a pure, purple diamond, but he had no idea why. It would be fine if he let her know, wouldn't it? Shi Yan thought.

While Shi Yan was weighing his options, Qin Shu almost had a panic attack. Was her question so hard to answer?

After around ten minutes, Shi Yan had replied with a text. Qin Shu quickly opened it.

[Shi Yan: Lord Fu wants to purchase a pure, purple diamond.]

Qin Shu was puzzled as she read the message. Why would he want to get purple diamonds? Pure, purple diamonds were much precious than diamonds, and they were difficult to find. Within the past ten years, people had located some of them, yet there were only a few carats, and their value was at an astronomical price. Fu Tingyu was not interested in diamonds or rare jewelry, so of course, it was not for collection.

Qin Shu had questions. So she sent another text to Shi Yan. He must have known why.

[Qin Shu: Why pure, purple diamonds?]

Chapter 320: The bet was on, Ye Luo was dumbfounded, Don't underestimate women

Shi Yan was about to put away his phone when he received another text from Qin Shu, and he opened it. How would he know if Lord Fu had never told anyone?

[Shi Yan: I'm not sure. Lord Fu only said that he was getting it, but he didn't say what it is for.]

She knew her doubt could only be answered by Fu Tingyu when she read the text. A pure, purple diamond from Xijin? She wondered.

Qin Shu pondered and then remembered that there had been an arms dealer in Xijin who had obtained a 30-carat pure, purple diamond in her past life—one of the biggest diamonds in ten years. A kingpin like that did not lack money, and they were ruthless and fearless. It was not worth the money if Fu Tingyu had wanted to buy it.

Xijin was a relatively remote country. There was no law and order, and it was chaotic. Whoever had power would be in charge. His safety was what Qin Shu was concerned about, and she had been agitated at first. Knowing he might be risking his life for a mere diamond, it felt unreal, and cold sweat started breaking out of her.

Qin Shu could not sit still anymore, and she raised her eyes to look at Ye Luo, who was standing not far away. Boss, who had been lying by her side, had moved towards Ye Luo. It had poise like a noble as it tilted its head, looking proud and exquisite as if it was taunting Ye Luo in pride. It had its two paws supporting his weight on the ground. Boss was trying to exert dominance because Qin Shu was here.

Ye Luo had shifted his focus onto Boss. His expressionless face was immobile as if staring into the void.

This scene was hilarious to look at, and Qin Shu held her laughter back before she got to her feet and marched towards Ye Luo. Boss had emerald eyes, and it was looking right at Qin Shu when she approached. It let out a long meow.

Qin Shu had looked at Boss, then Ye Luo. "I would like to go to Xijin." Her tone was unnegotiable and determined.

Ye Luo's face was vacant, "No."

She had expected this answer. Qin Shu continued, "Here's a deal. If you lose, you'll let me go. If I lose, I'll stay in Bright Garden. What do you think?"

Ye Luo's interest sparked, "What's the bet?"

Qin Shu seemed weak in the eyes of Ye Luo. No matter what it is, she will lose.

Qin Shu said, "Let's have a shooting match."

Ye Luo nodded, "Okay."

Qin Shu added, "A gentlemen's word is his bond. You're not allowed to back out."

Though Ye Luo had always kept his promises, it was safer to mention it again. Just in case he tricked her.

"If I go back on my word, I do not deserve to stay in the Ye family."

Ye Luo had so much confidence. For him, handling firearms was a piece of cake, and he had always been good at this sport. Fu Tingyu had established the Ye family, and anyone who joined had willingly changed their surnames to Ye. Ye Luo had meant that with his heart when he made that promise.

There was a hint of a smile twitching on Qin Shu's cheek. She waved at Ning Meng, and Ning Meng quickly approached her.

“Madam, what can I do for you?”

Qin Shu whispered into her ear.

“I’ll be right back.”

Ning Meng turned around and jogged out.

Ye Luo saw Ning Meng leave, then his gaze returned to Qin Shu, wondering what she was going to do. Were they not having their match in the backyard?

Looking at Ye Luo’s puzzled face, Qin Shu did not care to explain. Instead, she leaned down, picked up Boss, and retreated to the sofa. As she brushed Boss’ fur, she waited patiently for Ning Meng to return. Nestled on Qin Shu’s leg, Boss seemed to be enjoying itself as it squinted its eyes.

While Ye Luo waited, he had taken his gun out. He glanced at Qin Shu, wondering if she had ever held a gun before.

Ten minutes had passed, and Ning Meng had returned with four men. They were carrying two large fish tanks into the living room.

Ning Meng showed them where to put it, “Just leave them here.”

The four men followed her orders, then they left. Pointing at the fish tanks, Ning Meng inquired, “Madam, would this suffice?”

Ye Luo shifted his focus on the two fish tanks. They were about a meter deep, water-filled. There were small, round balls at the bottom of the fish tank about the same size as glutinous rice balls.

When they had brought the fish tank in, Qin Shu knew this was what she wanted.

“Well done. It’s close to what I’ve described.”

Ning Meng was feeling smug as she got praised.

Qin Shu gently put Boss on the sofa, stood up, and walked towards the fish tank. She looked at Ye Luo. “The ones in the fish tanks are glutinous rice balls. There are five in each tank. Whoever hits the most wins.”

Ye Luo had a rough idea of what Qin Shu meant. He walked over and asked, “Who goes first?”

Qin Shu replied, “After you.”

Ye Luo was ready. He had already loaded his gun with bullets. He cocked his gun as he aimed at the rice balls in the tank, and he fired. Because of the silencer, there was no other sound except the bullet hitting the water. As the bullet pierced the water, its speed had decreased due to resistance.

Ye Luo, who thought it was an accurate shot, watched as the bullet missed the rice balls and hit the steel plate at the bottom of the fish tank. He let out a muffled groan. The layer had prevented the glass from breaking.

There was bewilderment within Ye Luo's eyes. He could not believe it, and he held his gun up again. This time, he was sure he had taken a good aim and fired his shot. Yet, the bullet had missed the second time. Ye Luo was stunned.

Qin Shu seemed to be enjoying this as she watched him miss. The unbelievable look he had was amusing. She gave him a warm reminder, "You have three more chances."

Ye Luo stared at Qin Shu without a word. He held up his gun as he thought for a second. When he aimed, he deviated intentionally, and he pulled the trigger.

This time, the bullet deviated further from the rice balls. Ye Luo tried to fire again. He had missed four. On his fifth and last shot, he finally hit one. The rice balls had been frozen and just taken out from the fridge, and as the bullet hit, it broke into pieces.

After that, Qin Shu reached out her hand, "It's my turn."

Ye Luo turned to Qin Shu and handed the gun to her. He did not believe she would hit any.

Qin Shu took the gun, and she examined it. It was a pocket pistol, finished in black. Being a palm-sized firearm, it fit her perfectly.

She had guessed what was on Ye Luo's mind as she cocked the gun. She had her head turned to look at Ye Luo.