

Bigoted 741

Chapter 741: Brother Yu, Have You Fallen in Love with Someone Else?

Mo Chengyu put his phone away and glanced at Yang Yuan. He realized that Yang Yuan seemed to have changed a little during this period of time. She seemed to be a little quieter than before.

“Are you nervous about your studies now?”

Yang Yuan replied plainly, “I’m not nervous.”

Mo Chengyu paused and asked again, “Then, do you have enough money?”

Yang Yuan smiled faintly. “It’s alright. I don’t mind if you give me more.”

Actually, Mo Chengyu liked Yang Yuan’s personality. At least, she wasn’t pretentious. Especially when it came to money, she would take it if it was given to her. She would take it even if it was given to her. If she didn’t give it to him, she wouldn’t take the initiative to take it. It gave him a feeling that it was very real.

He took out his wallet from his pocket and took out a bank card. He placed it in front of her. “There’s one million here. If you need money, you can tell me directly.”

Yang Yuan glanced at the bank card in front of her. She reached out and took a look. Just like the card she had given him before, she casually put it into her bag.

Mo Chengyu kept staring at her. He suddenly said, “Why don’t you be my girlfriend?”

“What?” Yang Yuan was distracted and didn’t hear him clearly.

“It’s nothing.” Mo Chengyu retracted his gaze. He must have been out of his mind to say that. Being in a relationship meant getting married. It was too troublesome.

A hint of doubt flashed across Yang Yuan’s eyes. “Didn’t you say you wanted to bring me to meet someone? Why haven’t you brought me to meet her after such a long time?”

“I made an appointment, but she didn’t come out.” Mo Chengyu picked up the cup in front of him and took a sip. He felt a little helpless.

He had already made several appointments with Su Ruan, but she refused to come out. He heard from Auntie Su that Su Ruan would be returning to the country soon to continue her studies abroad.

Even so, he still had to break off the engagement. It wouldn’t be too late for her to continue her studies!

“If you really want to break off the engagement, why don’t you just do it yourself? It’s not right to drag it out like this. I can’t just pretend to be your girlfriend because she’s not going to show up for the engagement,” Yang Yuan said slowly.

Mo Chengyu turned the glass in his hand helplessly. “Of course it’s better for the woman to break off the engagement. If I were to break it off, what would outsiders say about her?”

“What else could they say? In my school, there are people who say that I’ve been kept as a mistress. Isn’t that the case?” Yang Yuan spoke as if she wasn’t talking about her.

“Kept as a mistress?” Mo Chengyu sized up Yang Yuan. She was 1.74 meters tall and had a curvy figure, not to mention her face.

He couldn’t help but laugh. “I do have the qualifications.”

Yang Yuan:” ...”

Mo Chengyu suddenly recalled the incident when he was drunk. Although Yang Yuan did not mention it, he still felt something in his heart.

When Fu Tingyu brought Qin Shu over, he saw Mo Chengyu and another woman.

He thought Mo Chengyu and Yun Qichen were together, but he did not expect it to be with a woman.

“Brother Yu, you’re finally here.” Mo Chengyu saw that Fu Tingyu had arrived and immediately greeted him. When he saw that he was accompanied by a woman, he could not help but tease him. “Brother Yu, didn’t you say that you want to keep your wife’s virginity?”

Mo Chengyu only took a glance at Qin Shu, so he did not recognize her for a moment.

Qin Shu blinked and turned her head to look at the man. Her gaze seemed to be asking, ‘What’s the meaning of keeping your wife’s virginity for me?’

Fu Tingyu did not explain. He held the girl’s hand and went to the dining table to sit down.

Yang Yuan looked at the man opposite her. It was the man whom Mo Chengyu had asked her to drink with last time.

She then looked at the woman beside him. Her eyes flashed with surprise.

Seeing that Fu Tingyu did not say anything, Mo Chengyu could not help but repeat, “Brother Yu, who is she? Don’t you want to introduce her?”

“Your sister-in-law.”

“Sister-in-law?” Mo Chengyu knew that this woman was not ordinary when he heard the introduction. He looked at her a few more times and realized that this woman was somewhat similar to Qin Shu.

Qin Shu smiled at him when she realized that Mo Chengyu had been sizing her up,

mo Chengyu was startled. He retracted his gaze and looked at Fu Tingyu. “She looks quite similar to Qin Shu, but she’s prettier than Qin Shu. Have you fallen in love with someone else?”

Fu Tingyu glanced at Mo Chengyu and sneered. “Do you think I’m you?”

Mo Chengyu replied with a meaningful “OH.””I understand. You’re just playing around.”

Fu Tingyu:” ...”

Qin Shu:” ...”

Yang Yuan:” ...”

She was most afraid of sudden silence!

Mo Chengyu simply called for the waiter.

The waiter handed the menu to him.

Mo Chengyu flipped it open and was about to order when Fu Tingyu brought the menu in front of him and started to carefully read the names of the dishes on it.

Mo Chengyu tilted his head and looked at him. In the past, when they ate together, he would either order the dishes or Yun qichen would order the dishes. This was the first time he had seen him order the dishes with the menu.

“The sun rises from the west today?”

Fu Tingyu ignored mo chengyu and ordered dishes that his wife liked. After ordering, he handed the menu to Mo Chengyu. “I’m done.”

“You have enough dishes.” Mo Chengyu was too lazy to order.

“Sir, please wait a moment.” The waiter took the menu and left the room.

Not long after, the waiter served the dishes one after another.

Mo Chengyu watched as the dishes were served one after another. Basically, none of them were his favorite dishes.

“Brother Yu, don’t you know my preferences? Why didn’t I like the dishes you ordered?”

He raised his head and looked at Fu Tingyu.

Fu Tingyu looked at Mo Chengyu coldly. “I ordered what my wife likes to eat. Didn’t you not order just now?”

“Your wife?” Mo Chengyu glanced at the woman beside him. “Are you serious this time?”

Qin Shu shook her head. This child was hopeless. She picked up her chopsticks and slowly ate the dishes in front of her. They were all dishes that she liked to eat.

Yang Yuan looked at the two people opposite her. After looking at them for a while, she seemed to have guessed something.

She retracted her gaze and picked up her chopsticks to eat as well.

Fu Tingyu ignored Mo Chengyu. He picked up his chopsticks and looked at the fish in front of him. It looked pretty good. He put his chopsticks in, picked up a piece, and started to pick out the fish bones. After picking out the fish bones, he placed the fish meat into the bowl in front of her.

This was the first time Mo Chengyu had seen Fu Tingyu picking out fish bones for someone. When did he become so gentle and virtuous?

After a meal, Mo Chengyu only ate a few mouthfuls. He treated her to a meal, but in the end, she was still not full.

Qin Shu was quite full, and her stomach felt a little bloated.

The man took out a tissue to wipe the oil stains at the corner of the girl's mouth.

Mo Chengyu was speechless." ..."

Yang Yuan took the tissue to wipe the corner of her mouth. She saw the actions of the two people opposite her. From the beginning until now, they had been showing off their love. Although it was a little sweet, it also made people a little envious.

Fu Tingyu put down the tissue and glanced at Mo Chengyu, who was stunned on the spot. "She's my wife, Qin Shu."

'Huh?'

Mo Chengyu widened his eyes and looked at him in disbelief. Then, he looked at Qin Shu. It was just that they hadn't seen each other for a period of time, and she had changed completely?

After careful calculation, they hadn't seen each other for a long time.

Fu Tingyu added, "I'm now a father-to-be."

Chapter 742: Discovering Ling Bao's Secret in the Study

After Fu Tingyu finished speaking, he held his wife's hand and left the dining room.

Fu Tingyu was going to be her father?

Mo Chengyu watched as Fu Tingyu held her hand and walked out of the dining room. He didn't react for a long time.

How long had it been, and she already had one?

Yang Yuan watched as Fu Tingyu held Qin Shu's hand and left. She picked up the fruit juice in front of her and took a sip. "If you're looking for a husband, you should look for a man like this."

"Huh?" Mo Chengyu retracted his gaze and looked at Yang Yuan.

"Successful in his career. Not only is he loyal, but he's also very considerate."

Yang Yuan glanced at Mo Chengyu. From top to bottom, she exuded the aura of a playboy. "You'll never catch up."

Mo Chengyu laughed. "Brother Yu has always been very outstanding. I never thought of becoming someone like him."

After saying that, he stood up and left.

Yang Yuan stopped drinking her fruit juice and watched Mo Chengyu walk out of the room. She only looked away when she couldn't see him anymore. She glanced at the table full of leftovers. "He didn't even pay the bill. He still has to let a girl like her pay the bill."

When the waiter arrived, he handed her a bill. "Miss, May I ask if you pay by swiping your card?"

"Swipe your card." Yang Yuan took out a bank card from her wallet and handed it to the waiter.

Sheng Yuan

Fu Tingyu's flight was the next day.

At night, Qin Shu watched the man pack his luggage. In fact, it was just some change of clothes. It didn't take long for him to finish packing.

Fu Tingyu closed his luggage and carried it to a corner. He turned around and carried the girl into his arms. "Bao'er."

Qin Shu looked up at the man. "Hmm?"

"Rest early tonight."

As soon as the man finished speaking, he carried the girl to the bed and brought her to the bed.

Qin Shu buried her head in the man's chest and asked, "What time is your flight tomorrow?"

"The flight is at nine."

"Then let's have breakfast together tomorrow."

"Okay."

The next day, Qin Shu woke up early in the morning. After washing up, she went to the closet and saw the man standing in front of the fitting mirror, buttoning his shirt.

She walked over and stopped in front of the man. "Baby Yu, let me tie it for you."

"Okay." The man moved his hand away and looked down at her.

Qin Shu started from the crystal button below and tied it all the way to the collar in an orderly manner.

After tying the button, she turned around to pick out a tie.

The man stood straight in front of the fitting mirror and watched the girl carefully picking out a tie for him. He looked very serious.

He couldn't help but recall the scene when he saw his mother helping his father tie when he was young.

He could now empathize with her.

"Baby Yu, how about this color of tie?" Qin Shu chose a blue striped tie and walked in front of the man for him to look at.

The man lowered his eyes and looked at the blue striped tie on her hand. The corner of his mouth held a smile. "I like all the ties that baby chose."

"Then I'll help you put it on." Qin Shu was now able to tie the tie easily. It didn't take long for her to do it.

Fu Tingyu was a natural hanger. When he put on a suit and jacket, whether it was his figure or his temperament, he was more strict than the models on the runway.

The tailoring was appropriate, and the materials were also the best. It showed the dignity of a man in every way.

After breakfast, Qin Shu wanted to send Fu Tingyu to the airport, but the man wouldn't let her.

"Rest well at home. I'll come back after I'm done."

The man pulled her into his arms, lowered his head, and kissed her smooth forehead. Then, he turned around and got into the car.

Shi Yan closed the car door and got in as well.

Qin Shu stood in front of the door and watched the car slowly drive out of Sheng Yuan. She didn't look away until it was out of sight.

She had three classes every morning, three classes in the afternoon, and one class in the evening.

When she sat in front of the desk, she thought of the fetal movement that the man had mentioned. She would pay careful attention to it.

When she was reading, she suddenly felt something throbbing in her stomach. That feeling was particularly clear.

She lowered her head and looked at her stomach. Because she was only wearing a cotton dress, her stomach bulged slightly. At the same time, she propped up her clothes.

"This should be what men say. Fetal movement? It feels so magical."

"Young madam, eat some fruit and rest for a while." Ning Meng walked in with a fruit platter and placed the fruit in front of Qin Shu.

"I happen to be a little hungry." Qin Shu put down the book in her hand and looked at the fruit platter. There were four types of fruits on the platter, and the sugar content was low.

Ning Meng looked at Qin Shu's bulging stomach and couldn't help but ask, "Young madam, I wonder if the young master in your stomach is also a young mistress?"

Qin Shu ate a small tomato. "I don't know either. I didn't ask Gu Yan. When I know the gender when I'm born, I'll feel very different."

"Whether it's the young master or the young mistress, I'm very looking forward to it."

As Qin Shu ate the fruit, she was actually looking forward to the birth of the baby. It was soft and squishy, and she wondered how it would feel when a man held it?

"Young Madam, do you have anything special you want to eat in the afternoon? Tell me, I'll make it."

Ning Meng tilted her head and waited for Qin Shu's reply.

Qin Shu thought for a while. "I want to drink milk tea."

"..." Ning Meng: "Young Madam, milk tea has a lot of sugar and isn't for eating. Let's change it, okay?"

"Then, let's grill the fish."

“... Okay!”

Grilled fish was much better than milk tea.

When she was free, Qin Shu would go to the man’s study to look for books.

There were two huge bookshelves in the study, and they were filled with books.

Qin Shu stood in front of the bookshelf and saw a drawer under the bookshelf. The drawer was not closed properly, revealing a crack.

She squatted down and opened the drawer to take a look. She found that there were wood carvings inside.

It reminded her of the wooden carving on the island. Because it was too big, she didn’t bring it back.

Out of curiosity, she took out the wooden carving. When she saw its face, she was stunned.

The wooden carving was of a family of three sitting there. The reason it was called a family of three was because the man and woman looked exactly like her and Fu Tingyu. In their arms was an infant.

Needless to say, this was definitely made by a man.

But what was it made of?

Qin Shu felt that it was a pity to put it in the drawer since it was so well-made. How good would it be to put it in the room as a decoration?

When she was holding the wooden carving and closing the drawer, she bumped into something and a secret compartment suddenly popped out from the side, making her freeze.

She looked at the secret compartment that suddenly popped out. This was Fu Tingyu’s study. What if there was something particularly important inside? Wouldn’t that be bad?

But she was also very curious about what was inside?

Thinking that she was his wife, even if there was something extremely important, it shouldn’t be a problem to take a look, right?

She was conflicted in her heart for a long time. Should she look or not?

Qin Shu stared at the hidden compartment for a long time. Out of curiosity, her hand would uncontrollably reach into the hidden compartment. When she took it out, there was an extremely small wooden box in her hand. The carving on it was also very exquisite and beautiful.

She held the wooden carving in one hand and the exquisite small wooden box in the other. She stood up and sat down in front of the desk.

She placed the wooden carving on the desk and looked at the wooden box in her hand. She slowly opened it and was stunned when she saw what was inside.

Chapter 743: Why Did You Lie?

Faint fragrance wafted from the box, a scent she had never come across before.

What was in the box?

She picked up a piece of the small wooden plate from the box. That piece of wooden plate felt heavy on her hand. She could tell it wasn't a piece of ordinary wood.

The color of the wooden plate was darker too.

A red string strung on top of the wooden plate. Hanging at the bottom of the piece of wooden plate was a small tassel. This wooden plate seemed to be an ornament meant to be a decoration for hanging around the waist.

She was dumbfounded when she saw the words Ling Bao carved on the wooden plate.

Ling Bao was the name Little Munchkin used when she underwent martial art training at Qi Mountain.

She glimpsed the other similar wooden plate in the box with two words Ling Yan carved on it. Ling Yan was the name Fu Tingyu used when he was up in the mountain.

She reached into the box and took out the other piece of the wooden plate. Then she placed the wooden plates side-by-side. Ling Yan and Ling Bao?

Fu Tingyu kept the two wooden plates together all these years. What was the meaning behind this?

Her hand trembled as she held the two wooden plates in her hands.

Various scenarios flooded her mind, including those of Han Xiao and Hua Wuyan.

Both of them commented on the likeness between her and the Little Munchkin. But Fu Tingyu never did.

He should have noticed the likeness between her and the Little Munchkin when he first met her.

He probably took her as the substitute for Little Munchkin.

But he mentioned nothing about that, not even once.

Qin Shu's mind was in a total mess. Her face paled a little, and she could feel the headache coming.

Her knuckles whitened as she tightened her grip around the wooden plates.

She unconsciously strode out of the study. Her mind was blank when she found herself in her bedroom.

She placed the two wooden plates into the hidden compartment and returned the carving of the family of three into the drawer as well.

She now wondered whether the carving of the woman was her.

Lying on the bed, she stared blankly at the glass lamp as she slowly drifted into the dreamland. She had a long dream.

"Madam, wake up!"

Qin Shu frowned after being woken up by the chattering noise that sounded right by her ears. She reluctantly opened her eyes after a while. Probably due to lack of sleep or some other reason, she felt the dryness around her eyes.

Ning Meng heaved a sigh of relief when she noticed that Qin Shu opened her eyes. "You're finally awake. I was so worried."

Qin Shu looked at her in confusion. "Yea?"

"You've been sleeping since noon. The sky is dark now."

Ning Meng noticed the swollen eyes and traces of tears around her eyes. "Have you been crying? Why did you cry?"

"Did I?" Qin Shu's hand reached out to touch her eyes. She felt the swell around her eyes and the rigidity of her face. Now, that was the reason her eyes were dry. It was the traces of her dried-up tears.

"I'll bring in the food. You may wash up first, Madam."

Ning Meng left the room immediately to bring Qin Shu some food, thinking that she should be hungry by now after sleeping for hours.

Qin Shu sat in a daze on her bed for a moment before she pulled herself up and strolled to the bathroom.

After brushing her teeth and washing her face, she stepped out of the bathroom.

Ning Meng had already brought in the food and was waiting for her at the side. She looked worried as her eyes followed Qin Shu out of the bathroom. "Madam, what's wrong with you?"

"I'm fine. You can go back to your work. I'll call for you when I have done eating."

Qin Shu sat in front of the table and picked up the chopsticks. She stared at the food in front of her but couldn't bring herself to eat.

"Are you feeling unwell? Let me call Sir and let him know."

"It's okay. I'll call after this." Qin Shu lowered her head and picked on the food in front of her.

She ate little for dinner and asked Ning Meng to clear the dishes.

"Young Madam, why did you eat so little today?" Ning Meng stared at the barely touched food and then at Qin Shu, her eyes filled with worries.

"I have a poor appetite today. You may clear the dishes."

Qin Shu then strode towards the study.

Ning Meng carried the tray of food out of the room, thinking that it was normal for a pregnant woman to lose her appetite occasionally. She made a mental note that she would request the cook to prepare some new cuisine for Qin Shu the next day.

Sitting in front of the desk in the study, Qin Shu stared at the phone in her hand hesitantly. But her heart ached when she thought of the wooden plates.

Her heart was uneasy the entire time after she made the call, waiting for him to answer the call.

She heard someone answering the call after it rang for a few seconds. The deep, seductive voice of a man entered her ear.

“Not resting yet, Babe?”

Qin Shu glanced at the time at the bottom right of the computer. It was twenty minutes to eleven at night.

“No, have you finished your work?”

“Yes, I’ve just completed my work today. You should rest early now that you’re pregnant.”

“Okay.” Qin Shu replied.

“There’s something I need to ask you.”

“Sure. I’ll answer any of your questions.” Shutting the lid of his laptop, he sat in front of the table, waiting for her question.

Qin Shu pursed her lips. “What do you like about me? We knew little of each other. I’m curious.”

He was caught off-guard with her question and remained silent before he asked, “Did you not ask this question before?”

“But you never gave me a clear explanation.”

“Babe, are you overthinking things again?”

“No, I’m just curious.” Qin Shu tightened her grip on her phone. Sweats formed on her palms.

“Don’t overthink things. It’s not good for the baby. Rest early.”

“Then tell, do you and the Little Munchkin hate each other and couldn’t stand the existence of each other?”

His grip around his phone tightened. “Didn’t Han Shuo tell you before? Nothing of these is important. You don’t need to think about them as well.”

Qin Shu felt as if her heart was about to stop. She wanted to ask him about the two well-preserved wooden plates. She wanted to know the reason he had been keeping them.

But the question she so wanted to ask remained unsaid, and her question instead turned to, “But we looked so alike. Have you never had any other thoughts?”

He frowned. “Did anyone say anything to you?”

Qin Shu gritted her teeth and shook her head. “Nope. I’m just curious.”

“Don’t think of nonsensical things. It’s already eleven at night. Sleep early.”

She was still worried after she hung up. How could she stop thinking?

He had been keeping the two wooden plates for the past seven years and had never told her a word about it. What had this proved to be?

Han Shuo and Hua Wuyan had been looking for the Little Munchkin.

How about him? Probably he was looking for her as well?

Qin Shu did not sleep the entire night. Multiple scenarios kept replaying in her mind, making her worried and uneasy.

She was tired and distracted from the lack of sleep the next day and naturally wasn't paying much attention to the lesson.

Having noticed that something was amiss with Qin Shu, the teacher giving her lessons texted to check on her.

She just gave a simple reply that she hadn't been sleeping well.

Since she couldn't concentrate on the lessons, she decided to cancel all the classes scheduled for the day.

As if understanding the change in its master's mood, Boss hopped on the desk and rubbed its fluffy head against Qin Shu's arm, and let out a soft meow.

Qin Shu lowered her eyes and glanced at Boss. She suddenly recalled the phone number Yan Shuang gave her at the banquet held at North Star before she left.

Han Xiao mentioned that they were close.

Perhaps she would know the story between Fu Tingyu and the Little Munchkin.

Chapter 744: The Truth Behind His Love

She took out her phone and searched for Yan Shuang's number. After drafting a message, she sent her a message.

[Miss Yan, may I know whether you know anything about Fu Tingyu and the Little Munchkin?]

Yan Shuang had no idea of Qin Shu's real identity. To her, Qin Shu was a man who was not Fu Tingyu's brother.

Qin Shu uneasily sat in front of the desk after she sent out the message. Staring at the laptop monitor, none of the content on the monitor went into her mind.

Far out at North Star, Yan Shuang had just completed some urgent tasks. She had to go out with Fu Tingyu later in the afternoon. Considering the project they were working on together was a big one, and their cooperation, she would want to do everything herself.

Her assistant had just made her a steaming hot cup of coffee. Her phone was somewhere nearby.

She glimpsed the screen of her phone that suddenly lit up when she was picked up the cup of coffee and ready to sip at it. Her motion of sipping the cup of coffee paused.

When she went through the content of the message, a hint of surprise flashed through her eyes.

She did not expect the message to come from him, the handsome young man closely related to Fu Tingyu.

Did he know of Ling Yan and Ling Bao too?

Yan Shuang thought about it for a moment before she replied to the message.

[Of course. I spent three years with them. Why did you ask?]

[I'm just curious. I heard that the relationship isn't a good one.]

Yan Shuang replied.

[Is it? They seemed pretty close to me. I saw they spent time together a lot. He even stood at the rooftop waiting for Ling Bao for an entire day and night when she went down the mountain. Ling Yan was supposed to descend from the peak of Qi Mountain with Ling Han but decided to stay instead. I thought it was because of Ling Bao.]

Qin Shu's mind went blank after reading the message from Yan Shuang.

Did he wait for her the entire day and night?

Did he stay back on the mountain for her?

So, his relationship with the Little Munchkin was not just an ordinary friend. They were closer than that.

Her already confused heart erupted with waves of emotions as if someone dropped a huge rock into a pool of water ripples, causing massive disruption in the lake of water ripples.

Her heart throbbed in pain.

She had no idea how she spent the entire day.

Lying on the chaise on the balcony, she stared numbly at the ginkgo tree below.

The lighting on the ginkgo tree lit up as the sky darkened. The scenery was spectacular.

She now understood that the Fu Tingyu planted the tree about six to seven years ago when he left Qi Mountain. That was why the tree had grown so big over the years.

The ginkgo tree was a gift to the Little Munchkin.

So were the ceramic dolls. They were for the Little Munchkin too and molded to look like her from age one to seventeen.

The same went for the two wooden plates that he kept together in the box, close to each other.

She was just the Little Munchkin's lookalike. He just took her for the Little Munchkin when he met her for the first time and never told her.

Was he deceiving himself that she and the Little Munchkin was the same person?

Everything he did for her was because of the Little Munchkin.

Everything doubts and questions seemed to unravel. They seemed to make sense now.

Qin Shu felt an overwhelming chill envelop her body as if she stepped into an ice cellar.

The saying was true, "the truth is like a double-edged sword." Now that she knew the truth, it was like a sharp knife slicing at her heart.

"I'm not hungry. I need to rest." Qin Shu replied when Ning Meng called her for dinner.

She then locked herself in the room.

Ning Meng stood frozen outside the door after having the door closed at her face. She stared dumbly at the closed door.

"What's wrong with Madam?"

She raised her hand, wanting to knock at the door after coming back to her sense. But she changed her mind, thinking that Qin Shu might want to rest and her knocking on the door might disrupt her rest.

"Let's eat a little before you rest." Ning Meng said anxiously outside the door, not knowing what else she could do.

The room was pitch black.

Qin Shu sat on the balcony with her hand gripping the phone tightly. The sudden vibration from the phone shook her a little.

It was a message from Jun Li. "I just came back to school today and noticed that you were absent from school. What's up?"

The recent matters had kept her occupied that she had forgotten to maintain contact with Jun Li.

She replied to Jun Li's message. "I'm no longer attending the Imperial College. I'm just doing self-study at home now and will attend the examination at Imperial College when the time comes. Don't worry about me. I'm fine."

She initially wanted to tell him about her pregnancy. But now, she had no idea how to. He would only worry about her if she told him.

Li Jun replied, "Alright, if you prefer that. Do come to me if you face any difficulties during your self-study. I'm free nowadays."

Qin Shu thanked him with her last message.

It was already past eleven when she glimpsed the clock after replying to Li Jun.

Her mind was still a mess after hours of trying to organize her thoughts. Her heart never stopped aching.

Ning Meng knocked on the bedroom door with a tray of breakfast the next day.

There was no reply from inside the room, even after knocking for a while.

"Are you still asleep, Madam? You should be hungry by now since you skipped dinner last night."

"Madam, are you awake?"

Still, there was no reply from the other side of the door.

Ning Meng had been very patient since she started taking care of Qin Shu. That was also the reason Shi Yan chose her to take care of Qin Shu.

“Madam, do eat something before you continue to sleep. You had nothing since last night. You must be hungry now.”

“Madam, you’re with a baby now. The baby should be hungry too. You should take something.”

“Madam, let me get the housekeeper to summon Young Master Gu to check on you if you have a poor appetite. Okay?”

“What’s wrong, Ning Meng?” Housekeeper Shi asked. He was walking by when he saw Ning Meng knocking on the door continuously, calling through the door for Qin Shu.

Ning Meng glanced at Housekeeper Shi with a worried face. “Madam ate nothing since last night. I was worried that she might starve by now. So, I’m asking her to eat a little before she continues sleeping.”

“Why did she eat nothing? Was she sick?”

Housekeeper Shi was uncertain of what went wrong with the Madam since Ning Meng was the one who took care of Qin Shu.

“I have no idea. Madam said she needed rest and did not want to eat. So, she did not leave her room last night and kept the light off. I was worried that I might disturb her rest if I were to knock. She did not answer even after I knocked multiple times earlier. Housekeeper Shi, what should we do?”

“We have to force the door open if there’s no answer. Let me find Ye Luo to break the door open.”

Housekeeper Shi then rushed downstairs to find Ye Luo.

Ye Luo rushed upstairs with huge strides not long after, with Housekeeper Shi behind him.

“Allow me.” Ye Luo took a big step and stood in front of the door. He raised his foot, and with one powerful kick, he sent the door flying. A loud bang rang across the room when the door hit against the wall.

The kick would have broken it into two if the door was not of solid wood.

Ning Meng rushed into the room once the door was kicked open.

She hurriedly placed the food tray on the table and rushed into the room towards the bed to find the bed empty.

Chapter 745: Missing

She ran into the study and the bathroom, then to the wardrobe and balcony as well. But Qin Shu was nowhere to be seen.

“Madam is missing.” Ning Meng mumbled.

Ye Luo followed closely behind. But he knew Qin Shu was not in there. She would have answered after much commotion with the door out there.

Housekeeper Shi came in too, "How was it? What happened to Madam?"

"Housekeeper Shi, Madam is missing." Ning Meng broke into tears.

"What? Madam is missing?" Housekeeper Shi was shaken at Ning Meng's answer too.

Sir would be furious and worried if he got to know that Madam was missing.

The history from the previous year repeated itself again.

He did not expect the same incident to happen again after so long now that Madam was pregnant. She ran away from home again.

"What should we do, Housekeeper Shi? Sir is going to be furious when he gets to know about this. She was pregnant. What if? What if?" Ning Meng dare not continue to speculate what might happen to the pregnant Madam.

Wang Ma rushed over after hearing the commotion. "What happened?"

"Madam disappeared." Housekeeper Shi helplessly sighed.

"She disappeared?" Wang Ma was shocked at Housekeeper Shi's answer. This scenario was too familiar. "What should we do? What's wrong with Madam this time? Aren't she and Sir getting close? Why did she run away again?"

"The main point now is whether to find her first or to inform Sir of her disappearance first." Housekeeper Shi said.

His main concern was who would call Sir and inform him of Madam's disappearance.

Ye Luo rationally suggested, "Let's search for her within the compound of Bright Garden. If we can't find her within the compound, we will inform Sir and send out more people to search for her at the same time."

"Okay, then you call Sir, and I'll send out more people to search for Madam." Housekeeper Shi left the crucial task to Ye Luo and escaped.

Ye Luo was caught off-guard and was rendered speechless for being entrusted with the most crucial task.

"Go ahead and call him. Madam probably just went out to have fun and will be back soon. Let Sir know not to worry too much." Ning Meng said, keeping a positive note.

But every one of them totally ignored Ning Meng's remarks. Every time Ning Meng said that Madam went out for a stroll for fun and would be back soon, it would mean that she had left Bright Garden.

Housekeeper Shi dispatched everyone in Bright Garden to search for Qin Shu around the house compound.

No matter how big the compound of Bright Garden was, within a short period, they had already searched every inch of Bright Garden with the number of staff they had around the house.

Housekeeper Shi's mood darkened as the staff reported their search to him one by one at the courtyard.

"We can't find Madam."

Housekeeper Shi walked back into the house in despair when the last of his staff came back with the depressing news that they couldn't find their Madam.

Ye Luo was standing in the hall.

"You may call Sir and tell him we couldn't find Madam after searching the entire compound of Bright Garden."

Ye Luo walked out with his mobile phone after hearing Housekeeper Shi's words. He then called Shi Yan's number, thinking that it would be better to let Shi Yan inform Fu Tingyu of their Madam's disappearance.

Once Shi Yan picked up the call, Ye Luo immediately went straight to the point without waiting for Shi Yan to speak. "Madam went missing."

Shaken by Ye Luo's words, Shi Yan was momentarily speechless before he found his voice again. "What do you mean? What do you mean by missing?"

"No one answered when we knocked her at her room this morning. So, I kicked the door open. She wasn't in the room. We searched every corner of Bright Garden, but we couldn't find her." Ye Luo briefed Shi Yan on everything that happened earlier that day.

"Perhaps she just went out to buy something?" Shi Yan made a wild guess.

"I'm not sure. Or Madam might have gone to look for Sir."

Ye Luo said so because Qin Shu did that in the past.

A little helpless over the situation, Shi Yan said. "Let me inform Sir then. Let's hope that she just left Bright Garden to come to see Sir."

Every one of them was hoping for the best, praying hard that history never repeats itself.

Shi Yan kept his phone and went to look for Fu Tingyu once he hung up on Ye Luo.

Fu Tingyu was busy at work when Shi Yan found him. He stepped towards Fu Tingyu, "Sir."

Fu Tingyu's eyes were still glued to the monitor of his computer when he answered, "Yes? Tell me."

"Sir, Ye Luo called just now, saying that Madam was not in Bright Garden." Shi Yan tactfully broke the news to Fu Tingyu.

Fu Tingyu's paused everything he was doing at the news. He cocked his head and stared at Shi Yan. "Speak clearly in one go. What do you mean Madam was not in Bright Garden?"

“Ning Meng knocked at her room this morning. But no one answered. Ye Luo kicked the door open and found that she wasn’t in the room. They searched every corner of Bright Garden but couldn’t find her anywhere.” Shi Yan could feel the cold sweat forming on his forehead.

Fu Tingyu immediately stood up at the news. The mouse in his hand dropped to the floor with a thud.

Shocked at the sudden movement of Fu Tingyu, Shi Yan immediately comforted him, “Sir, don’t get too anxious. She probably just wanted to come and see you. Didn’t that happen all the time in the past?”

Shi Yan’s words seemed to calm Fu Tingyu’s anxious heart a little. He sat back down on his chair.

About two hours ago, Qin Shu put on male clothing and a wig. Then, she left with her backpack with only the portrait of her mother, her laptop, and some other items for her disguise.

With Boss in her arms, she left Bright Garden unnoticed before the daybreak.

With her current martial art level, she could freely enter and leave the Bright Garden without being discovered.

She turned back to take a last look at the Bright Garden. She had been up thinking the entire night, but her thoughts just got messier, and she felt even more miserable.

She loved Fu Tingyu, but did he love her?

The Little Munchkin would always be there, taking the spot between them.

Fu Tingyu never wanted to mention the Little Munchkin to her too.

If he found the Little Munchkin, would he take her into his arm without a doubt?

She took a deep breath and looked up at the moon, which was disappearing as the sky brightened up.

Boss raised his head and stared at Qin Shu with his emerald eyes. He obediently stayed very still in her arms, as if he sensed and understood that she was unhappy.

At the Bright Garden, with his fingers tightly gripped around his phone, Ye Luo suddenly thought of Boss, the cat. He immediately searched for the cat in Bright Garden.

Ye Luo knew Boss’s favorite hideout and spots he would usually hang out after having the cat around the house for such a long time.

Ye Luo searched for Boss around Bright Garden but couldn’t find him anywhere.

Doubt filled his eyes.

Not giving up, he made another round of searches around Bright Garden. He even searched corners that Boss seldom went to, but to no avail.

Finally, he tried to lure Boss with a plate of cooked fish and went around Bright Garden one more time. Still, he couldn’t find Boss anywhere.

Boss was Qin Shu’s pet. It was perfectly normal for her to bring him along if she was to leave.

Ye Luo looked at the plate of fish in his hand with no emotion.

The Ye brothers spent some time searching the entire Jiangcheng for Qin Shu but couldn't find her. They confirmed that she wasn't in the city by nightfall.

Shi Yan was distressed when he got the news. The sun had already set, and yet, they still couldn't find Qin Shu.

Chapter 746: Shocked at Meeting Someone Familiar

He stole a glance at Fu Tingyu, who was still sitting behind his desk. His heartbeat couldn't help speeding up.

Although Fu Tingyu was physically here, Shi Yan knew that he was worried sick for Madam's whereabouts.

Perhaps he too was hoping that Madam would come looking for him at North Star too.

But the night had fallen, and Madam was still nowhere to be seen.

Sir probably couldn't keep still anymore.

Fu Tingyu raised his head when he saw Shi Yan stride into his office. "Is she here?"

"No, Sir. They sent words from Jiangcheng saying that they couldn't find her." Shi Yan carefully answered.

She wasn't in Jiangcheng, neither did she come to North Star. Where did she go?

Fu Tingyu tightened his grip around his pen. His eyes went to his phone, which hadn't rung even once today.

He reached out for his phone and dialed a number familiar to him.

After a few seconds, a voice message came to his ear.

"It's a big world out there. I wanted to go see the world."

Fu Tingyu immediately panicked after listening to the voice message.

He finished work very late the night before. Afraid that he would be disturbing her sleep, he did not call her.

He recalled the question she kept asking him. He immediately stood up.

"Did she regain her memories? Is that why she left?"

Qin Shu's eyes searched for her seat in the bullet train. Once she found her seat by the window, she took off her backpack and sat down before placing it on her lap.

Fu Tingyu should have known of her disappearance by now. He would be frantically looking for her, and it would be because of the Little Munchkin.

Just maybe.

She raised her hand and readjusted her cap, and pulled the visor lower. Not wanting to think about that anymore, she glanced out of the window of the bullet train, hoping that the sceneries would distract her.

She just wanted to take a break away from everything. She did not want to end up being a resentful woman. Neither did she want to be the weak and pathetic one.

If Fu Tingyu had only the Little Munchkin in his heart, what was she to him?

The environment started to get noisy as passengers poured into the bullet train.

She closed her eyes, trying to get some rest.

From the rustling sound by her side, she could tell that someone had taken the seat beside her. But she did not bother to open her eyes to look.

It did not take long before the bullet train took off from the station after onboarding the passengers.

Qin Shu, who hadn't slept a wink the night before, fell asleep soon after as the drowsiness hit her once the train took off.

"I've just left Jiangcheng, coming to Hua Xia now. I'm going to travel around here for a bit."

Qin Shu found the sound of the male voice talking beside her familiar, although she was drowsy and still in a daze.

Lifting the lid of her eyes open, she could see the man sitting beside her. Although she could only see the side of his face, she recognized him. He was Master Feng, a junior of Fu Tingyu.

Once Master Feng hung up and kept his phone, he noticed a pair of half-opened eyes staring at him from the side.

He looked pretty young and was good-looking.

The aura and class exuded couldn't go unnoticed, although he was casually dressed.

Master Feng greeted him, "Are you alone, young man?"

Qin Shu nodded, "Yes."

Master Feng crossed his legs. At ease and casual, he seemed to be in the mood for casual conversation. "You look young. Don't you need to go to school?"

"I'm temporarily deferring my study." Qin Shu answered plainly.

"I do not see school education as the only way out. I did not finish my tertiary education anyway." Master Feng said with a smile as if he did not think much of it.

"You're right. Every field has its elites. So, I decided to come out to explore and look around." Qin Shu too became interested in the conversation, especially when it was a conversation with Master Feng.

"Why did you decide to drop out? Was it an argument with your family members?" Master Feng asked.

Qin Shu paused at his question. There was no argument between her and Fu Tingyu, but the current situation was worse than an argument. She shook her head, "Nope, I just wanted to come out to explore and to gain more knowledge."

Master Feng smiled, convinced that the young man in front of him had an argument with his family and decided to run away from home.

Exhausted from her lack of sleep, Qin Shu closed her eyes and continued sleeping for the rest of the journey after a short conversation with Master Feng.

Master Feng, who was fully alert, was in the mood to chat a little longer with the young man sitting beside him. But when he glanced side-way at the young man, he was already fast asleep.

Since the young man was already fast asleep, Master Feng could now take a good look at the young man. He was wearing a cap with the visor pulled low, so Master Feng could only see part of his face. He noticed that the young man's complexion seemed pale.

"Was he sick?"

Since the young man seemed to be deep in his sleep, Master Feng decided to close his eyes and took a quick nap as the journey would last for another few hours.

Qin Shu woke up after an hour plus of nap. The sun had risen when she opened her eyes, sending eye-dazzling rays through the window. She had to squint her eyes when she looked out the window of the bullet train.

She then lowered her eyes to check her watch for her time. There was still an hour plus until the bullet train reached its destination.

A train attendant was pushing a trolley of food, asking each passenger whether they wanted any food, drinks, or fruits.

When Qin Shu turned her body side-way, she saw Master Feng was ordering food. She wanted a bottle of water and some fruits as well. Once she made her order, she scanned the given QR Code to make payment.

"Better take the main course than just some fruits. Else, you're sure to get hungry later." Master Feng warned her after seeing that she only ordered some fruits and a bottle of water.

"I don't feel like having rice for now." Qin Shu replied as she took the fruit platter and some strawberries.

She took the strawberries as they appeared fresh.

As for the rice and main course, she just had no appetite for them. He had spoiled her to the extent that she could no longer take packed meal served in a bullet train.

Master Feng did not say another word. Not being a fussy eater, he opened the packed meal he ordered and dug in with his chopstick.

Qin Shu leisurely picked at the fruits with her fork. The strawberries were both sweet and sourish but did not taste as good as freshly picked ones.

After a few mouthfuls, Master Feng threw a side-way glance at the young man, "Are you going to North Lake Province for business or leisure?"

Qin Shu raised her sight, "Not really for leisure. North Lake Province was well-known for the mountains and great sceneries. Since I'm free now, I just wanted to look around."

"That's what I think too. I spent so much time outside the country that I'm not familiar with what's in the country. Since I've heard of its well-known sceneries, I wanted to pay a visit too."

Master Feng realized that the portion of the packed meal he had was pretty small after he ate a few mouthfuls of it.

Qin Shu smiled at Master Feng's words and continued forking the strawberries into her mouth. It wasn't long before she finished the entire plate of strawberries, and yet, her stomach still seemed empty.

She twisted the cap on the water bottle and cocked her head a little to gulp the water.

For the next hour or so, Qin Shu casually made some small talks with Master Feng.

When they reached the North Lake Province, Qin Shu took her backpack and lowered the visor of her cap. With one hand in her coat's pocket and the other carrying the portable pet kit, she slowly walked out from the train station.

Taxis waiting for their passengers lined the entrance of the train station. Just as Qin Shu stepped out of the train station, one stopped in front of her. She opened the door and got into the taxi.

"To North Lake Five Star Hotel."

The taxi driver was an experienced, skilled driver. Although he drove fast, Qin Shu did not feel uneasy from the ride.

Master Feng was leaning against the pillar with both his hands in his pockets with no intention to leave as watching the young man get on the taxi.

After a moment of thought, he pulled out his mobile phone and dialed Fu Tingyu's number.

Someone answered the call a few moments later.

"Ling Yan, where are you?"

Chapter 747: Rushing Home Without a Care

"I'm abroad. What can I do for you?"

Fu Tingyu was standing at the glass wall overlooking the entire bustling city of North Star.

But he was, in fact, terribly worried about the disappearance of Qin Shu, who left without a word. She did not even leave an angry note.

“Nothing much. I’ve been in Hua Xia for quite a while and am traveling around now. Let’s gather our band of brothers and visit Qi Mountain.”

“I’m tied up now. If you’re free, you can visit Han Xiao and the others at Qi Hua.”

“Han Xiao...” Master Feng recalled a face in his mind. “You mean Ling Han?”

“Yes.”

“You met them? How about Ling Bao, the Little Munchkin?”

“I’ll explain to you about her next time.”

Fu Tingyu continued staring at the bustling city through the glass wall, his lips pursed into a thin line.

Shi Yan strode into the room, “Sir, the earliest flight is at nine tomorrow night.”

Fu Tingyu frowned after hearing Shi Yan’s update. The chill emitted from his body could freeze the entire room.

Shi Yan stood at the side, not daring to make a sound. Silence from Fu Tingyu was even more terrifying compared to his anger.

Madam ran away from home suddenly after they went through so much together. Running away from home should be the correct word to describe her action.

Judging from Fu Tingyu’s facial expression, the issue they were facing this time should be deadly.

Fu Tingyu stood facing the glass wall the entire night like a statue, the same way he did on the rooftop of Qi Mountain.

Shi Yan continued to wait on him like how he usually did, having no idea what was in the mind of Fu Tingyu. In the past, he would usually get furious when he heard of Qin Shu’s disappearance. But he was unusually calm this time.

The sun rose from the horizon, sending a ray of light on the charming, flawless face of Fu Tingyu. The long lashes of his eyes moved.

With his lips still pursed, he softly asked, “What time is it?”

Shi Yan checked the time on his watch and replied, “Half-past six in the morning.”

Fu Tingyu pursed his lips tight and continued to stand in silence.

Another hour passed by in silence until his mobile phone rang.

Fu Tingyu moved towards his work desk and reached for his mobile phone. The spark of hope in his eyes immediately darkened when he saw the caller ID on the mobile phone.

Yan Shuang’s voice reached his ear once he answered the call, “Senior, do you want to join me in checking the progress after breakfast?”

“I’ve booked the earliest flight back to Hua Xia. Let’s put the matter here on hold for now.”

Surprised at the news of Fu Tingyu leaving, Yang Shuang asked, "We've just started, and you want to put it on hold? Don't you think that your decision is too hasty?"

"I have something urgent matter in hand. That would be all for now."

Fu Tingyu hung up on Yan Shuang and walked out of the room with his mobile phone when he noticed he had little time left.

His sudden decision caught Yan Shuang was dumbfounded. What he did was totally unlike the Fu Tingyu she knew.

She suddenly recalled the messages from the handsome young man. Did Fu Tingyu rush back to Hua Xia for him?

Fu Tingyu rushed back to Bright Garden once he landed in Jiangcheng of Hua Xia. He went straight to the master bedroom on the second floor.

All the others remained standing in the living room. None of them dared to say a word.

Ye Luo watched Fu Tingyu go up to the second floor from the side.

Ning Meng, who stood hidden behind him, seemed upset. She was worried for Qin Shu, who was pregnant with a child.

Shi Yan, who followed Fu Tingyu closely from behind, entered the house to see the group of people awkwardly standing around the living room. His sight immediately fell on Ye Luo and walked towards him.

"What happened? Why did she suddenly run away?"

Ye Luo said nothing. He turned to look at Ning Meng, gesturing Shi Yan to ask her.

"Ning Meng, what happened? Did Madam come in contact with anyone?"

The intimacy and love between their Sir and Madam had been overflowing these days. Their affections towards each other were sweeter than those couples who were living in love bubbles. It was no wonder Shi Yan suspected someone influenced Qin Shu to leave their Sir.

He suspected that someone had told Qin Shu something about Fu Tingyu.

"I have no idea. Madam never left Bright Garden after Sir left. Two days ago, Madam seemed unhappy out of a sudden and ate little for dinner. Her mood worsened the next day, and she ate nothing for lunch. She refused food no matter what I said to her. When I knocked on her door the next day, she did not answer the door."

Tears streamed down her eyes for being too worried about Qin Shu.

Shi Yan heaved a sigh. "I seriously have no idea what she had in her mind. How could she leave just like that? Does she not worry about the wrath from Sir?"

Ye Luo chipped in, "She took Boss with her." His face was with no emotion at all.

"What? She brought her pet with her?"

On the second floor, Fu Tingyu pushed the door of the master room open. The silence enveloping the room was alarming. His sight swept around the room as he strode in. It looked the same as when he left. The only difference was her presence in the room.

Life seemed to have seeped away from the room. And from the entire Bright Garden too.

He stood still for a moment in the center of the room before he walked towards the wardrobe. All the garments and attires were still in the room, including those casual home clothes.

He walked out of the wardrobe and strode into the small study room.

He had purposely designed and decorated the study room for her and had hand-picked every single piece of furnishing inside the room personally.

Nothing seemed out of place in the study room. The bookmarks in the books, textbooks, and even the laptop remained where they were supposed to be.

But he had an outstandingly excellent memory. He noticed the missing backpack of hers, as well as the slim notebook computer.

She only took these with her.

Two days had passed, and no one found any traces of her. She had proven the excellence of her skills in disguise.

It would be even more difficult for him to find her now.

Still, he sent out everyone he could to search for her and had ordered that they had to find her.

He would find her, even if it meant he had to go to the far corners of the earth to do it.

After a long hesitation, Shi Yan went to the second floor and into the master bedroom. He found Fu Tingyu in the study.

“Sir, Madam met no one for the past few days. Ning Meng noticed the change in her behavior two days ago. She was emotionally unstable and refused to eat. She found Madam missing when she knocked at the door yesterday morning and got no answers from the room.” Shi Yan carefully reported what he found out from the staff around the house.

Fu Tingyu raised his eyes to look at Shi Yan. He had already noticed that she wasn't herself two days ago when she asked him the question when they talked over the phone.

He regretted not answering her question. He would answer questions of hers had he known that she would run away because of that.

“Ye Luo said that Boss went missing too. I guess she took him with her.” Shi Yan continued.

It was understandable that she took her pet along, and Boss was as smart as he was adorable.

But he was envious of a cat because she took the cat with her. His place in her heart was even lower than a pet cat.

Fu Tingyu was still unsure whether she had regained her memories. If she did regain her memory, who would be the first person she would want to see? Could it be Han Xiao?

“Send a few men over to Qi Hua to keep an eye on Han Xiao. She might have gone looking for Han Xiao.”
Fu Tingyu immediately ordered when this possibility came to his mind.

Chapter 748: Being Teased

“Yes, Fourth Young Master. I’ll get to it right away.”

After receiving the order, Shi Yan turned around and walked out of the master bedroom posthaste.

Once Shi Yan left, the bedroom instantly became quiet again.

Fu Tingyu walked to the desk and sat down. Qin Shu would sit at that very spot day after day. It was as if he could still smell her lingering scent and the heat of her body.

He studied the furnishings on the desk silently. Noticing a note from the corner of his eye, he paused to take a closer look at it.

His slender fingers grabbed hold of it, bringing it closer for him to inspect its contents. His gaze fell on a string of words scribbled in a tidy script.

[May I be like the star Lord and the Moon, bright and clear at night.]

It was that poem again.

His hand clenched into a fist, crushing the note that dared to mock him in between his fingers.

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Elsewhere, at a five-star hotel in North Lake...

After dinner, Qin Shu took President Ba to the garden below the hotel for a stroll. They had eaten quite a sumptuous feast, and she thought a bit of exercise would do both of them good.

Because she had arrived late, she planned to see the sights around the Scenic Area the following day.

The street lights were all lit; the glimmering lights suffused the garden in a warm glow.

Qin Shu was wearing a casual suit. She had bought it a size bigger than was necessary. It did not hug her frame too well, hanging loosely around her arms and waist. The pair of pants that went with it was just as loose. Though she felt bloated, the oversized clothes ensured she remained comfortable.

The hotel also sported an outdoor swimming pool, but no one was swimming in it since it was still early spring and much too cold for the average person to enjoy a dip in its clear waters.

Dozens of deck-chairs surrounded the pool. Illuminated by the lamps lining the garden path, the empty pool cut a lonely figure.

Qin Shu walked to one of the recliners and sat down. Laying on her back, she cast her eyes up at the starry sky above and the lone moon that returned her gaze, a look of deep contemplation on her face.

President Ba stared up at Qin Shu, who was lying on the recliner. He jumped onto the recliner, landing with its paws on the recliner's armrest. He fixed his questioning eyes upon his mistress, unsure of their surroundings.

Qin Shu offered President Ba a wan smile. "You're not used to being outside, are you?"

"Meow", President Ba let out a low cry as if to reassure his beloved mistress.

Qin Shu rubbed President Ba's head affectionately. President Ba enjoyed these little acts of intimacy, leaning into her touch and purring in delight.

Qin Shu did not stay outside for long before bringing President Ba back to their room.

Qin Shu carried her cute black cat into the elevator and stood in one corner as they shot up from the ground floor.

The lift stopped midway, allowing three women in. They were wearing branded clothes, carrying luxurious bags, and beautiful make-up. Their powdered faces were rosy, and their features were as sharp as a knife. They possessed well-proportioned figures worthy of daughters of Venus.

One could tell from a glance that these three women were all members of the wealthy second-generation.

As the three women approached, the pungent smell of perfume assaulted her – mixed with the odour of hard liquor, making it quite unbearable.

Qin Shu frowned and tried her best to hold her breath. The noxious mix of smells was enough to choke even the heaviest of smokers.

President Ba narrowed his eyes, revealing a disdainful expression more akin to one worn by a human than an animal.

"Sister, did the man in the bar take the bait?" A woman in a sapphire dress slurred as she gave her companion in a red strapless dress a wicked smile.

"I just flirted with him out of boredom. He was not a romantic at all!" The woman in red brushed her curly hair aside, indifferent.

"Look, now there's a handsome young man in the elevator." The woman in the black short skirt stared straight at the young man, not forgetting to push her two good friends towards him.

The woman in red looked over when she heard that. When she saw the young man standing there, she stopped brushing her hair; her nonchalance was replaced by surprise.

The young man had short black-brown hair; his skin was as fair as snow. He looked like a piece of high-quality suet jade, full and smooth, without a single blemish.

His features were well-defined, bearing an aristocratic air.

His pale eyes looked like a pair of moons with stars twinkling within them. He was handsome – extraordinarily so.

“Yo, are you alone?” The haughty woman in red took the initiative without giving her companions a chance to butt in.

Qin Shu deftly side-stepped the woman’s outstretched hand.

President Ba’s gaze turned to the woman in front of him, his claws on standby. If the woman so much as touched his mistress without permission, he would show her what it meant to be pin-cushion. It had been quite some time since he last used them, and he was itching to sharpen them.

When the woman in the sapphire dress saw the youth in the elevator, her eyes lit up. “This strapping young man is in no way inferior to the one I met at the bar. He... He looked even better!”

“Little brother, it’s so boring being alone. How about joining us sisters for a drink?”

The woman in red leaned towards Qin Shu expectantly.

Qin Shu raised a manicured brow, her eyes regarding the lascivious women dispassionately.

“Stay away from me.” She spoke in a cold, uncompromising voice.

The three women thought they had met a shy puppy. They did not expect this puppy to have teeth.

“Oh, it’s just for a short while. Us sisters are very good at taking care of people. There’s no need to worry about money; we can give you whatever you want – just name it, and it’ll be yours. Not even a sports car is out of our reach.” The woman in the black short skirt whispered seductively. As she did so, she reached out, hoping to touch the handsome face of the youth.

“It’s not just a sports car. I’d even buy you a villa. So long as you do whatever we ask, we’ll give you the world.” The woman in red smirked confidently. No one could resist the allure of money. What more a young man in plain clothes?

One look and you could tell that he was a typical university student.

Qin Shu raised her eyes to look at the woman in the black short skirt, avoiding her wandering hands. “Big Sister’s voice is sweeter than theirs, and her looks eclipse either one of you. I’m sure she’ll be a good Big Sister.”

The woman in the black short skirt, whether it was her looks, figure, or voice, all of which were inferior to the other two women.

When the woman in the black short skirt heard the young man praise her for being better than the other two women, her heart instantly bloomed with joy. Draining the glass of wine in her hand dry, she smiled. “Young man, you’ve made the right choice. You’d be my first. It probably is for you too, isn’t it?”

Although she spoke softly, the other two women still heard it.

Instantly, the expressions on her companions’ faces turned black. How could the woman in black compare with them? In no way was she better than them! The little boat of camaraderie shared by three women swiftly capsized just like that.

“You need to get your eyes checked! Have you seen yourself in a mirror? How much make-up have you applied to your face? Your voice is like a duck’s, and you have the courage to compete with me?” The woman in the red dress roared angrily.

“Hah! Not only is your voice awful, but also your figure too! Look at those thick tree trunks she has for legs. If I had legs like those, I would do anything to hide them – not show them off with a mini skirt. Ugly doesn’t do her justice at all. She’s hideous!” The woman in the sapphire dress cruelly mocked her.

“Is that a dog barking, I hear? Have you no eyes? I’m sorry. They must have been removed when you went under the knife. What happened to your nose? It looks like a baboon’s! They say beauty is only skin deep. Well, in your case, they got that right. You’d give Barbie a run for her money!”

“You think you’ve got a killer figure, don’t you? How many liposuctions, breast augmentations, and body sculpting treatments have you undergone? What, thirteen? I’ve lost count. Your legs were as shapely as mine. At least I’m all natural – you, on the other hand, are covered from head to toe in plastic! Are you not embarrassed at all? I would be.” The woman in the black short skirt retorted.

Not one of their trio wanted to be outdone in front of a handsome young man. The first to give way and accept defeat would be the first to lose face. It was an unacceptable outcome to any one of the three women.

“You ugly monster! If you’re so envious of my looks, go and get yourself a competent plastic surgeon!” The woman in red slapped the woman in the black miniskirt, forcing her two steps back.

Qin Shu watched the drama unfold with complete indifference. Raising her index finger, she pointed at the woman in red’s arm – the arm which had just experienced a sharp, unforgiving pain.

Chapter 749: Discovering a Shocking Secret Atop the Mountain

“Ding”

The elevator doors slid open. Qin Shu carried President Ba and walked out with even steps. She did not have the energy to deal with the posse of women in the elevator.

The woman in red turned around. Seeing her former compatriot reaching out towards her, the woman in red prepared to defend herself. She glared fiercely at the woman in the sapphire dress. “You dared attack me too?”

The woman in sapphire blue was taken aback but hurriedly explained herself. “I was going to lend you a helping hand. I wasn’t about to attack you.”

“Rubbish! Who are you trying to fool? You were the one who pinched me just now.” The woman in red was not one to be taken advantage of. Raising her hand, she slapped the woman in blue as well.

The consequence of which resulted in a three-way fight among the trio—the sound of fabric being torn and curses being uttered, slowly petered as the elevator door closed, resuming its ill-fated journey with its three passengers.

The corridor instantly became quiet.

Qin Shu carried President Ba back to her guest room and washed up. It was getting late, and she ought to be in bed.

She tried willing herself to sleep but to no success.

She had managed a good night's sleep in a while, and it was beginning to show. Large dark circles rimmed her eyes, and her skin had taken on a ghostly hue. Even now, her head throbbed to the beat of a drum.

Since sleep continued to elude her, Qin Shu decided not to force herself any further. It was pointless. Instead, she closed her eyes and felt the movement of her unborn child. Strangely, it was one of the few things that calmed her – this baby, her one and only child.

Around 10 pm, the baby would toss and turn as if it was doing gymnastics before eventually tiring and falling asleep. Ten minutes later, her baby settled down.

President Ba curled up in the corner of the bed, his head resting on his forelimbs, but he was not sleeping. His pair of dark green eyes shone like gems, piercing the darkness and seeing into the unknown.

...

The following day ushered in clear skies and warm light. After Qin Shu washed up, she dressed up as a boy, wearing a pair of ratty jeans and a worn shirt, cheap and unassuming.

She asked the hotel staff to prepare a cup of milk and a poached egg. President Ba, on the other hand, received his serving of fish. The two of them enjoyed their meal in companionable silence.

Giving President Ba a once over, she decided it was time to use those cosmetic lenses she had bought specifically for his use. His pair of dark green eyes were simply too eye-catching. Anyone acquainted with President Ba would discover who she was through her disguise.

Qin Shu withdrew a small box from her backpack. Inside it was a unique set of contact lenses specially made for President Ba.

“President Ba, be good and don't move. I'll help you put on your cosmetic lenses.”

She squatted down in front of President Ba.

President Ba blinked his eyes and stared at the curious objects in Qin Shu's hand, confused. His body stiffened, but he trusted his mistress and obeyed.

Qin Shu smiled in satisfaction.

President Ba was also very cooperative, and it did not take her long to put it on for him.

President Ba's dark green eyes turned blue, instantly transforming the way he looked.

Qin Shu looked quite satisfied. “President Ba, let's go climb the mountain and relax.”

President Ba was still a little uncomfortable with the contact lenses. He blinked, rolling his eyes in an attempt to get used to the novel sensation of having something in its eye. “Meow”

The five-star hotel was just a few steps away from the Scenic Area.

President Ba traipsed into Scenic Area in slow, unhurried steps.

Qin Shu bought a ticket and followed President Ba into the Scenic Area with her hands in her pockets.

April was not a particularly busy period for the Scenic Area since it was not tourist season. In addition, it happened to be a weekday, so not many people had the time to galivant.

They walked along Bluestone Road at a leisurely pace.

It was not long before they reached the top of the mountain.

Qin Shu's goal was not the top of the mountain.

After walking for more than an hour, they arrived at a shady spot. A stream bubbled happily not a distance away. It flowed down from the mountain's summit to its foot.

The deeper they ventured, the more natural the scenery became. It remained unblemished by human hands.

There were several reasons for this, but the chief of which was to save on cost. Preserving nature's beauty was only a secondary concern.

Qin Shu sat on a large rock, planning to take a short break. She took out a bottle of mineral water and poured some of its contents into its cap. She then placed it in front of President Ba while she drank up the rest.

President Ba sat on his haunches, greedily drinking the water Qin Shu had poured out for him.

"Dong-Dong... Ding-Ding..."

Their break was interrupted by a series of knocking sounds that came from below.

Qin Shu paused and peered down the mountain. She saw a familiar figure squatting at the foot of the mountain with an iron spike in his hand. He drove the metal instrument into the earthen wall.

It was Master Feng – a man so rich that it was said his wealth rivalled a country!

She remained silent as she spied on his actions down below.

In order not to prevent herself from being discovered, Qin Shu deliberately concealed her aura. Master Feng and Fu Tingyu were fellow disciples. The latter being the former's senior. His skill in the field of martial arts was undoubtedly leagues ahead of hers. Martial artists of his calibre were particularly sensitive to their surroundings; some boasted unparalleled vision while others could hear a pin drop amidst a sea of voices.

Someone like Master Feng would not have any trouble discovering her presence.

Master Feng squatted in front of the mountain wall, holding an iron hook in his hand, and kept hacking the wall.

When the hole was ten centimetres deep, he stopped—withdrawing a sterile bag from his pocket. He deposited the crushed bits of stone and soil into the bag before putting it away in his coat's pocket.

Qin Shu bore witness to the whole sequence of events.

She withdrew her gaze and continued sipping at her bottle of mineral water. On the surface, she appeared calm but beneath that thin veneer of tranquillity was a calculating mind pondering the significance of Master Feng's actions.

There are no profiteers without merchants!

After Master Feng left, Qin Shu stowed away the empty bottle of mineral water and backtracked along the path she had taken.

Pausing at the foot of the mountain where Master Feng had stood earlier, Qin Shu examined the wall in front of her. Master Feng had mended the hole he had created in the wall, making it as if it had not been mined at all. If she did not strain her powers of observation, she would have missed the signs indicating marks of a human hand.

...

After returning to the hotel...

Qin Shu took a shower and changed into a clean and comfortable nightgown. She sat on the sofa and crossed her legs.

Moving the coffee table closer, she set up her laptop and began typing away at the keys with a deft hand.

President Ba was exhausted by the time they returned to the hotel. Coupled by the wonderful dinner he had eaten, he was all but ready to call it a day. He curled up beside Qin Shu and was out like a light not a while later.

Meanwhile, In another guest room in the same hotel...

Master Feng lounged on the sofa with one hand on his forehead. In a slow and steady voice, he asked, "When will the results be ready?"

"The professor said it won't be long now," the guide replied.

"I expect to hear from the good professor soon," Master Feng grit out between clenched teeth. The wait was driving him crazy!

Noticing Master Feng's impatience, the guide immediately dialled the professor's number and inquired for a specific time frame.

When he received word from the professor, the guide looked up at Master Feng and said, "The professor said that it'll be another hour or so."

Master Feng was silent for a while before nodding.

A little more than an hour later...

The guide got a call from the professor and reported the findings excitedly, "Master, the results are out. The professor said that the gold content is at least 50%."

Master Feng's eyes lit up when he heard this. "Is it now?"

"That's what the professor said," the guide replied.

Master Feng nodded. "This trip wasn't in vain, then. Get ready. We'll go and look for the owner of the Scenic Area tomorrow."

"Yes, Master." The guide left upon receiving his orders.

Master Feng crossed his legs, a smile full of teeth slashed its way across his mouth. Nobody would scorn extra money in their pockets.

—

The next day...

Master Feng sought out the owner of the North Lake Scenic Area. He did not reveal his identity but offered a handsome sum to buy the North Lake Scenic Area.

The reason he gave was to redevelop it for commercial use.

Such an endeavour was impossible to do so without a substantial amount of capital.

The owner of the North Lake Scenic Area, Shen Chuzhong, was worth more than ten billion. He was almost sixty years old, yet he looked no older than a day over fifty. Evidently, he was a person who took good care of himself.

Shen Chuzhong smiled and said, "I'm sorry, Mr Feng, but I've already promised to sell it to someone else."

...

Chapter 750: Getting There First

Hearing this, the smile on Master Feng's face froze. He did not expect anyone to want to buy the North Lake Scenic Area, much less to think that someone would buy it ahead of him?

He had asked around before coming to North Lake and learnt the tourism industry here had a promising future.

That was why he had offered such an exorbitant sum to buy the North Lake Scenic Area so as not to arouse suspicion of his true objectives.

He had taken great pains to secure the Scenic Area for himself only to be beaten to the punch.

He felt like cursing. "Who is it? Who bought it?"

Master Feng continued smiling despite his inner turmoil and said, "Mr Shen, will you not reconsider? I'm sure I can offer more than whomever it is who bought it."

Shen Chuzhong smiled pleasantly in response. "I'm afraid that's not possible. All the paperwork has been settled. This matter involves my credibility. My word is worth its weight in gold, and no amount of money is worth losing my credibility."

Master Feng could only take a step back. He, too, was a businessman and knew the importance of one's reputation. "Mr Shen, can you tell me who bought the property at the very least?"

"That's not a problem. It is not a big secret." Shen Chuzhong handed Master Feng the other party's contact information. "This is his contact information."

Master Feng accepted the business card and offered his gratitude. "Thank you, Mr Shen. I wonder if you're free this evening to join me for dinner? I wish to express my appreciation for your sincerity."

Shen Chuzhong politely declined the invitation. "Master Feng, you're too kind. It is but a trifle. It's nothing."

Master Feng nodded, choosing to remain silent. With the party's contact information, it would be a simple matter of tracking the new owner of the North Lake Scenic Area down.

—

At the hotel...

Qin Shu rested on a recliner on the balcony, feeling the warm sunshine on her skin. She had eaten a heavy lunch a while ago, and she found it difficult to remain awake.

Her dozings were cut short by the anxious cry of her phone. She had left it on the wooden coffee table by the sofa. Picking up the obnoxious, flashing object, she answered the call. A familiar voice sounded from the other end. "Good afternoon, is this Mr Qin? Haha! My surname also happens to be Qin. This must be fate!"

Qin Shu blinked, more than a little surprised. She did not expect Master Feng to share the same surname as she did. Could it be? Was his name Qin Feng?

"Yes, this is Mr Qin speaking. How may I help you, Mr Qin?"

Qin Feng listened with a puzzled look. Why did Mr Qin's voice sound so familiar?

He did not sound old.

"I heard that Mr Qin has bought the North Lake Scenic Area. I would like to discuss a few details with you if that is possible."

"Where and when?"

"Meet me at the hotel nearest the North Lake Scenic Area at around two this afternoon. I'll wait for you at the hotel's coffee lounge. I look forward to seeing you then."

"Okay."

Qin Shu hung up the phone and checked the time. It was just past noon – more than enough time for an afternoon nap.

After putting down the phone, she closed her eyes and went to sleep.

1:50 pm

Qin Shu ate dessert and some fruit upon waking up. Once she had eaten her snack, she changed into a casual pair of shirt and jeans.

She did not bring President Ba with her, choosing to let him rest in the room.

—

In the coffee lounge...

A waiter stopped her the moment she stepped into the lounge.

The waiter eyed Qin Shu's clothes, feeling a little awkward. The hotel's coffee lounge catered to the elite and demanded a strict dress code for anyone dining in. Dressed in her casual, everyday wear, Qin Shu stuck out like a sore thumb. The waiter had no choice but to stop her per the hotel's regulations.

Qin Shu quickly perceived the waiter's dilemma. Not one to make things difficult for someone doing their job, she asked, "Is Mr Qin here yet?"

"Mr Qin is inside." The waiter answered, looking relieved. "Please follow me in."

Qin Shu nodded and followed the waiter.

Qin Shu caught sight of Qin Feng as soon as she ventured into the lounge. He sat by himself in the best location the lounge had to offer.

Although the lounge was packed, no other patron sat within ten metres of Qin Feng. It was as if he was living in a completely separate world from everyone else. Only one possible explanation sprang to mind. Qin Feng must have reserved the whole area around him.

Qin Feng's action was the other reason the waiter had not allowed Qin Shu into the coffee lounge — there were no tables available!

Having escorted Qin Shu to her table, the waiter excused himself.

Qin Shu stared at Qin Feng for a while, then walked over and sat down in front of him.

Seeing the person seated across from him, Qin Feng was taken aback. He could not believe the person in front of him was Mr Qin — the person who had bought the North Lake Scenic Area.

"Are you Mr Qin?"

Qin Shu crossed her legs and looked at Qin Feng with her bright eyes. "Yes, are you surprised?"

"Yes, I am." Qin Feng was quick to recover from his shock. He had betrayed his emotions so openly — an act he seldom did. No one could fault him, however. Mr Qin's appearance was one he had never imagined.

The young man seated across from him could not have been older than a freshman in college. Would such an individual possess the funds or the courage to invest in such a large business venture? It seemed impossible to him.

Was he dealing with a wolf in sheep's clothing? Qin Feng could not help but wonder.

"Your invitation was so sudden that it startled me." Qin Shu spoke with an air of indifference. Watching Qin Feng's flustered response and swift attempt at schooling his emotions, she smirked.

"It seems that our meeting in the car was the beginning of fate. We both have the surname Qin. It's quite a common surname, but it's rare to meet another person sharing it. What's your name?" Qin Feng inquired politely, a vast difference from his initial reaction upon taking in her appearance.

Qin Shu nodded in agreement. "Very true, indeed. My name is Qin Mian. Mr Qin, let us get down to business. For what reason have you come looking for me?"

Qin Feng responded succinctly, "It's about the North Lake Scenic Area. I would like to buy it from you. I'll offer you a sum slightly higher than the price you purchased the property. What do you think?"

Qin Shu chuckled. "My apologies. Since I've bought it, I certainly will not be selling it anytime soon. I'm not short of money, so the price difference really doesn't matter much to me."

Qin Feng stared at the youth before him and realized that he had hit a brick wall. This Mr Qin probably had hidden depths to him.

"How much will it take for you to sell it to me?"

Seeing that Qin Feng was straightforward, Qin Shu did not mince her words. "I'm sorry, but the North Lake Scenic Area is not up for sale."

Qin Feng tapped the table in thought, his other hand scratching his chin. He could not understand why Qin Mian would reject him without a second thought.

Thoughts aside, Qin Feng was determined to obtain North Lake Scenic Area.

Who would reject money? No one could have too much of it!

"Haha! Don't be so quick to reject me. Anything can be bought – at the right price. Feel free to state your conditions. I'll do my best to satisfy them."

Qin Shu looked at Qin Feng with a smile. "I plan to redevelop the Scenic Area. Whether it's the scenery or the location, it's not bad. I think the profits will outweigh whatever you offer after a bit of reorganization."

Qin Feng's expression froze.

Qin Mian?

Why had he never heard of this name?

Whether it was North Lake, Jiangcheng, or the other provinces nearby, he more or less knew the most wealthy and influential figures in the region.

As for the young man in front of him who seemed to possess pots of money...

It felt like he had appeared out of thin air, catching him off guard.

While they were chatting, the waiter brought them two cups of steaming coffee.

Qin Shu did not drink it because it was best not to drink coffee while pregnant.

Instead, she sat there and looked at Qin Feng indifferently, waiting for him to speak.

The silence stretched, yet Qin Feng showed no intention of speaking.

A long while later, Qin Feng finally spoke, "Is there someone backing you?"

Qin Shu laughed when she heard that. "How'd you come to such a conclusion?"

"It's mere conjecture on my part."

"You think I'm too young, don't you?"

Qin Feng nodded.

"That's normal. However, I differ. I make my own decisions."

Qin Feng arched a brow, clearly surprised. "What about your family?"

"My parents are both dead, and I just found out that my girlfriend loves someone else," Qin Shu answered concisely.

Fu Tingyu, who was far away in Jiangcheng, sneezed. If he knew the words that had just passed his wife's lips, he probably would not know whether to laugh or cry.

Ugh!

"I pity you."