

Chapter 341: Five Broken Arrows

The resort that Edward purchased wasn't that large. Being an architecture built in the early days, the antique building was located at a nameless mountain edge.

The unorganized but pleasant garden, of the Japanese palace design, made the people who walked in feel at peace. The fern pines decorated the dull walls, while bougainvilleas stood tall in the wind.

When passing by the central pool of the resort, An Zaihuan who had been carefully observing the surroundings suddenly noticed a stone plaque located in the middle of the pool.

There was nothing written on the plaque other than a badge-like engraving.

It was a pattern of five broken arrows, tied together. It looked like the badge of a clan.

An Zaihuan felt that he had seen the badge somewhere before, but couldn't place it to a clan.

Before he could think through, they had walked into a Japanese barbecue restaurant. The sparrow may be small but all its vital organs were present. Led by a lady dressed in a kimono, they came to a VIP dining room to enjoy the meticulously prepared lunch.

[TL note: 麻雀虽小, 五脏俱全: The sparrow may be small but all its vital organs were present; although the place was small, its contents were detailed and complete.]

The main dish was Japanese kobe beef traditionally cooked, allowing it to instantly melt upon entering the mouth. It tasted very much like a top-grade French foie gras.

An Zaihuan had been nervous ever since he entered the resort, because there were other customers there. He felt different when he was seen walking behind a group of people.

No one talked to him during the journey, which made An Zaihuan feel immensely awkward.

He sat at the last seat during the meal. He glanced at the others every time he took a bite of the food, as if he was worried that there was poison in the dishes. Eating the food which costed thousands of Chinese yuan for every bite he took, he was completely stuffed.

An Xin sat beside Yang Chen. She hadn't had any thing to eat or drink since this morning, so she was starving. Having devoured a large steak and wiped out two grilled squids, she drank two bowls of miso soup at last to quench her thirst.

"Miss An Xin, any comments on the food?" Edward asked smilingly.

An Xin nodded. "The texture is excellent. I was too hungry, so I chewed it a bit too quickly."

"Hehe, it's fine. Do you need more steaks? I can ask them to deliver some for you." Edward behaved attentively.

An Xin waved her hand. "I've had enough, I'll get fat if I continue eating."

Touching her slightly bloated belly, An Xin looked at Yang Chen, who was calmly eating his steak, with her bright eyes. "Dear, you still haven't told me what happened today. Why did Liu Yun suddenly become that way, when he was totally fine this morning?"

Smiling, Yang Chen wanted to explain, but the door of the dining room got knocked on. After the door got pulled open, a man with bean-sized eyes walked inside. He was Ibuuro from Yamaguchi-gumi who abducted Liu Yun earlier.

Ibuuro kneeled on the ground and bowed at Yang Chen. Solemnly, he said, "Your Majesty, the two from Liu clan have been dealt with. Chief asked if you have other orders."

Yang Chen replied, "You're the one responsible for Liu Yun's matter?"

"Yes, Your Majesty," Ibuuro said.

"Change your appearance to his look," Yang Chen said.

Ibuuro was stunned for a while, but still turned his head away without hesitation. When he looked back, his face had completely changed, looking exactly the same as Liu Yun's!

Except Yang Chen and Jane, everyone there was astonished, while An Xin and An Zaihuan got utterly dumbstruck!

After Ibuuro recovered his original appearance and left the room, Yang Chen explained, "Although that skill which is commonly used by Japanese ninjas is merely an illusion, there are still certain aspects which are fun and magical about it. Ibuuro's disguise technique was great, but not perfect. A truly impressive one couldn't be told apart from the authentic version."

An Xin understood something. "No wonder the 'Liu Yun' I saw this morning wasn't behaving normally. His gaze was a little different, and the way he spoke wasn't that aggressive. So he was actually a counterfeit."

Ibuuro was the general commander for what happened on the cruise. He disguised as Liu Yun and recovered his original look before the wedding started, before mixing into the guests to order his men from Yamaguchi-gumi to take control of the cruise. It was simple yet effective.

An Zaihuan who was seated at the end wiped the cold sweat on his forehead. This is too terrifying, no wonder no one knows how the father and son of Liu family died. If even the legendary disguise technique appeared, taking control of a cruise is indeed too easy. Going against these people is no different from courting death!

"Boss An." Yang Chen suddenly turned his attention to An Zaihuan. He didn't call him 'Uncle', since he felt that this man didn't deserve to be his senior. If it wasn't for his identity as An Xin's father, Yang Chen wouldn't mind slashing him apart.

An Zaihuan's body lightly shivered. Forcing a smile, he replied, "Mr Yang... do... do you need anything?"

"Now that the two from the Liu family have died, may I ask what arrangements you have planned?" Yang Chen asked with a smile as he cut the steak on his plate.

An Zaihuan swallowed audibly. Smiling awkwardly, he said, "I... I don't know as well."

"How about your daughter An Xin? Do you still want to find a man for her?" Yang Chen stared at An Zaihuan.

All An Zaihuan could feel was the cold sweat on his palms and feet. As he exuded nervousness, he said, “No, no, no... A—An Xin’s future belongs to her. As long as it’s someone she likes, I’ll... I’ll feel satisfied, definitely satisfied... Hehe...”

The people around all looked at him with contempt when he put up the pitiful look. Although An Xin hated him as well, she felt that her father was in a rather unfortunate position. No one wouldn’t strive to climb higher, and no one was completely free of selfishness... It could only be said that her father’s conscience was overwhelmed by his egotism.

Yang Chen wasn’t willing to sadden An Xin too much, so he didn’t continue mocking An Zaihuan. In a straightforward manner, he said, “You said you only wanted to marry An Xin to Liu Yun because you wanted the Liu clan’s support, which would allow An clan to become a first-class clan in Zhonghai. However, An Xin is my woman, but you and the people from Liu clan, still wanted to force her into doing something she didn’t want, so I couldn’t just stand and watch. Liu Yun threatened me before, and said he would let me lose everything... I returned his promise to him...”

An Zaihuan was frightened after listening to Yang Chen. I didn’t know Liu Yun said something like this to him before. No wonder he died in such a miserable way.

“But, you’re An Xin’s father after all. Although I don’t like you very much, since you like the assets of Liu clan so much, I’ll pass the Jade Clouds Corporation to you. What do you think?” Yang Chen asked.

An Zaihuan almost fainted as a result of his excitement. Jade Clouds Corporation for me?! What is he trying to say?!

Even An Xin looked at Yang Chen in shock. She didn’t expect Yang Chen to have such a thought. Can it be done though?

Yang Chen continued saying, “The two from Liu clan aren’t alive anymore. I bet even their bones aren’t left. There are only a few minor shareholders left in Liu clan. However, since their deaths can’t be confirmed, if the two return to Zhonghai a few days later, no one will have anything to say...”

“But... but they’re already...” An Zaihuan wanted to say they were dead. He immediately thought of something—disguise technique!

Yang Chen knew that An Zaihuan managed to guess what he wanted to say. Nodding, he said, “I’ll send a few people disguised as the father and son from Liu clan to go back to Zhonghai with you. This way, the transfer of Jade Clouds Corporation’s shares can concur smoothly. At that time, you’ll be the only leader of Jade Clouds and An Clan Group. I guess you’ll feel much more comfortable this way than to only get their support from your original plan.”

An Zaihuan could see the unprecedented and magnificent blueprint. If what Yang Chen said was true, it was more than enough for An clan to be on par with Yuan clan economically!

An Xin looked at Yang Chen weirdly. She didn’t know he’d be willing to help her father this way. However, when she thought about it, Yang Chen wasn’t helping her father, but was doing it for her sake instead. Otherwise, to him, killing An Zaihuan was as easy as blinking his eyes.

As An Xin analyzed the situation, the love in her eyes became more concentrated. She had never cared too much about An clan's situation since young. All she wanted was for Yang Chen to treat her with sincerity.

"But..." Yang Chen said. "Jade Clouds Corporation is a large business empire after all. If you want to take over the company, you can't succeed by merely relying on two counterfeit individuals. I guess you understand what I'm trying to say."

An Zaihuan wasn't in the mood for eating anymore. Putting down his fork and knife, he nodded and said, "Yes. Ignoring other factors, such a huge change is very likely to cause the people below to get rowdy. Furthermore, after so many years of operation, there are numerous confidential information in the Liu clan. All of us know that this will affect the future development of the organization."

Yang Chen signalled Edward who was still enjoying his steak. Edward understood what he meant, and clapped his hands twice.

A blonde office lady with blue eyes walked inside the room and passed a thick folder wrapped in a black leather package to An Zaihuan.

"Take a look at these documents. After you sign the contract, my friend Edward will help you take care of everything. You just need to sit down and let the money roll in," Yang Chen said.

An Zaihuan nervously looked at Edward who appeared mysterious, before turning his attention to the documents in hand. On the surface of the leather, it was the same pattern found on the stone plaque in the pool outside, the same clan batch.

Currently, the batch of five broken arrows looked particularly clearer. An Zaihuan felt a flash in his mind!

Yes! It's... it's the Rothschild clan!!!

At the exact moment, An Zaihuan's entire body froze like a statue. He even forgot to breathe!

Chapter 342: Battle of the Imperial Harem

If any successful entrepreneur were unaware of who the Rothschild clan was, it was no different from a soldier being unaware of Napoleon and a scientist, unaware of Einstein. It would be extremely laughable!

Developed during The French Revolution, this clan had become a legend in the financial history of the world. They would never appear in a high-profile manner, but were in fact everywhere!

Their businesses were never listed on the stock exchange, which meant they didn't have to declare their properties.

In fact, since the nineteenth century, numerous historical books and records detailing the Rothschild clan somehow disappeared.

The people who were interested in them could easily tell that it certainly had something to do with the mastermind of the clan. Today, none of the positive or negative news that have been reported about the Rothschild clan could be confirmed.

Many people thought a huge portion of Rothschild's assets were destroyed during World War II and Cold War. However, how could the true power of this clan which rose among wars simply be estimated? Furthermore, having operated for a few generations, the business of the clan had gotten involved in every domain in the world. The full potential of their influence still wasn't revealed yet.

An Zaihuan's hands shivered as he flipped open the document. Having briefly looked through the contents, he finally understood what Yang Chen meant.

Since the businesses of the Rothschild clan weren't allowed to be listed, if their direct descendant from the family, Edward, wanted to send someone to help An Zaihuan take over Jade Clouds Corporation, the person certainly wouldn't appear as the leader of the company, but would only help An Zaihuan to deal with usual problems of business operations secretly.

However, the condition that they offered was to receive half of Jade Clouds Corporation's profits every year.

To An Zaihuan, it was an incredibly huge amount. But if the Rothschild clan was willing to lend a hand, did he still have to worry about the future of the company?!

Even if he could only receive half of the profits, the company would definitely still be much stronger than before!

When An Zaihuan nervously searched his pockets for a pen to sign the contract, Yang Chen and Edward looked at each other with a faint smile. The matter could be considered to be perfectly dealt with.

After An Zaihuan finished signing the contracts, Edward walked towards him and shook his trembling hands.

"Mr An, we don't have too many assets in China. I hope our partnership can be a good start." Edward appeared dignified when he was faced with serious work.

An Zaihuan's facial expression was still very stiff. "Mr Edward, I know how strong Rothschild clan is, but I'm worried that the other shareholders would get upset if an outsider gets involved."

"Mr An, do you know what we're taught growing up in the family?" Edward asked weirdly.

An Zaihuan shook his head.

"Any kind of unpleasant conversations would halt immediately once money is exposed." Edward's smile appeared very bright at this moment.

The following procedures were much easier to deal with. An Zaihuan decided to immediately return to Zhonghai instead of taking a few more days of rest in Hokkaido. After all, many guests from the wedding would spread the news of Liu clan once they returned to Zhonghai. If the two from Liu family quickly went back to Zhonghai, the disaster in Jade Clouds Corporation could be avoided.

Yang Chen didn't mind about his decision very much. He asked An Xin if she wanted to go back as well.

Without hesitation, An Xin decided to have fun in Hokkaido for a while longer. Evidently, she wasn't willing to return to Zhonghai using the same flight as her father. This, to her, had become a horrifying experience.

Edward arranged two assistants to follow An Zaihuan back to Zhonghai to act as the people he'd directly contact in the future. On the other hand, Yang Chen asked Hannya to send two elites from Yamata Sect to disguise as the father and son of Liu clan, to put up a 'car accident', before the two ninjas returned to Japan.

Before An Zaihuan was sent off, he pondered for a while before walking towards Yang Chen with a weird smile. He said, "Mr Yang... may I... talk to my daughter for a while?"

Yang Chen replied, "Of course, you're An Xin's father. I'm not a bandit of any sort, why wouldn't I allow you two to speak?"

You're much more overbearing than bandits, An Zaihuan thought, but still held a smile on his face.

Bringing the indifferent-looking An Xin to a secluded corner, An Zaihuan said happily, "My treasured daughter, I'm very satisfied with this son-in-law you got me. I, An Zaihuan, can finally have my place in society! An clan will be the top clan in Zhonghai in no time!"

An Xin felt irritated when she saw her father's look. Previously, when he forced her to marry Liu Yun, it was because of An clan and his own sake as well. Now that she was together with Yang Chen, all he cared about was still his reputation and enterprise. He mentioned nothing about giving her any blessings for her future.

Nothing unusual could be seen on An Xin's face, but she felt dismal at heart.

"Is this what you want to tell me, my dear father?"

An Zaihuan still didn't notice anything wrong. Smiling, he asked, "When are you going to get married with Yang Chen?"

An Xin snorted scornfully. "Don't you know that Yang Chen has a wife? Your daughter is merely his outside lover."

An Zaihuan was stunned for a while, and pondered with his eyebrows frowned. Soon, he smiled and said, "There's nothing wrong about being a lover. It's normal for a man as competent as him to have more than one wife. It's not as if he's mistreating you. You should never get mad at him, but always obey him instead. Serve him properly, so that your father can benefit as well. Do you understand?"

An Xin clenched his fists tightly until her knuckles turned white. Smiling coldly, she asked, "Are these all the things you have to say?"

"Pretty much. I'm just afraid that you'd annoy him. He doesn't look like a good guy," An Zaihuan said before sighing. He then changed the topic, saying, "My daughter, my great daughter, is it possible for you to snatch the position of Yang Chen's wife? Can you be his real wife? He may really be so in love with you that he's willing to be your husband."

"Enough!!!" An Xin couldn't continue listening to him anymore. Trying her best to restrain her anger, she said, "I want to be his lover because I love him. When I thought I had nothing left, I would think of him in my heart. It isn't because he can bring wealth and power to An clan, or bring you face, that I'm willing to stay with him. But also, a person like you wouldn't understand what true love is. After you go back, you better behave yourself. If you do anything wrong, I won't even blink if Yang Chen wants to kill you."

An Xin furiously turned around and walked away, leaving An Zaihuan who was tranced. He seemed extremely confused.

The others stayed in the resort comfortably in the following three days.

Yang Chen brought An Xin fishing at a seaside and skiing at a ski park. An Xin didn't know how to ski, but she was glad to be carried on the back of Yang Chen as he swooshed through the forest.

At night, the two who were deeply in love naturally entangled together like glue.

Yang Chen finally got a taste of what it meant by seductive in nature. An Xin's desire and stamina in bed was definitely one of the best he had encountered in his entire life. She would daringly ask for one or two rounds when they had free time during the day. Naturally, she'd go on a rampage, until late into night before she was willing to go to sleep.

If it wasn't for his unnaturally sturdy body, any other ordinary men definitely couldn't satisfy and stand this stunning woman.

Actually, An Xin did it intentionally. Although both of them understood how each other felt, there was still a lack of understanding between them. Now that she was sure to follow this man for the rest of her life, An Xin started planning how she could earn more recognition for herself. Even if she was merely a mistress, she still wanted to be the war machine among mistresses.

Especially when the western beauty Jane was around, An Xin certainly couldn't 'an xin'. What if she lost her favor in the future when more beauties wanted to snatch the man away?

[TL note: 安心 (ān xīn) means to be at ease.]

An Xin was very aware of her appearance. Although her body was outstanding, she was still inferior when compared to a lady like Jane who had an incredible appearance and aura. As a result, An Xin was most concerned about establishing a place in Yang Chen's heart. No matter how she thought about it, freeing her restraints to be a vixen around him seemed to be the best choice.

Yang Chen could vaguely feel An Xin's intention. He couldn't help but to think of the imperial harem of ancient emperors. An Xin should be feeling like a concubine who was competing for the love of the emperor.

However, the queens would allow the emperors to sleep with the concubines. Sister Lin from his house wouldn't even pick up his phone calls since the day she picked up his call, let alone allowing him to enter her room to get intimate...

Yang Chen was wondering if he should hold a strong attitude when he returned to the country, to talk about other things only after forcefully doing it, to subdue the rouse using a gun!

However, when he thought of how stubborn Lin Ruoxi was, he soon gave up his thought while exuding cold sweat, as she'd really commit suicide by banging herself into a wall.

The vacation was finally coming to an end. Yang Chen and An Xin had to return to the country to celebrate Chinese New Year. Thus, they needed to go to the airport on the fourth day.

During the night before they left, in the luxury room of the resort, Edward sat on the sofa, while his cousin Jane was standing on the opposite while staring into the distance.

Jane's amber hair looked like it was just washed. Being reflective, it seemed like the most precious of silk one could find.

Edward was holding a glass of Lafite in hand. After carefully tasting the wine, he said, "Jane, Yang Chen has stuck with Miss An Xin for the past three days. I have to say it isn't a good sign for you."

"That's none of your business. I've said this before, I'll decide myself on how I'm getting along with Yang Chen," Jane said calmly.

Edward shook his head. "The problem is you haven't even been able to talk to him. How are you going to improve upon your relationship this way? The time where it's too late for you to get his heart will come one day."

"I'm his doctor. He won't be able to leave me," Jane said.

"If his illness doesn't strike, he will leave you!" Edward sounded very serious. "My dear sister, you should know that our clan has their eyes set on you."

"I have contributed to the clan more than most members. Do I have to live my life as a mission to accomplish as well?"

Edward squinted as a light flashed in his eyes. He then sighed and said, "Jane, you must be aware that there are almost more than thirty pairs of married couples in Rothschild family who are close relatives of the clan. Our royal bloodline is slowly decaying. We need a brand new, absolutely noble bloodline to mix into our clan.

"You are the female member we're most proud of, while Yang Chen will be the most important key to secure our position in the world. We need to establish a substantial relationship with him before he can be considered one of us. We can gain deterrence towards other clans from him. You should understand this simple principle. The expectations the elderly have towards you are far beyond your simple comprehension."

"Edward." Jane turned around and look at her cousin furiously. "Did you only become Yang Chen's friend to take advantage on his influence?"

"Of course not, but other than being his friend, I'm also a proud member of the Rothschild clan, as well as a brother who hopes for his sister to be happy!" Solemnly, Edward said, "Jane, stop being so cowardly. This doesn't look like you. You should confess to him since you love him. Even if he already has Persephone as his wife, and has other lovers at the same time, it doesn't mean you can't also obtain his love!"

Jane looked dismal as she remained silent. After a long time, she said softly, "Edward, I'm tired now. Leave."

Edward sighed deeply before downing his grape wine and leaving the room.

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Chapter 343: Arriving at Home

It was a direct flight to Zhonghai. This time, Yang Chen could finally board business class, since he booked the ticket himself instead of the company.

It was his second time boarding a plane with An Xin, but she wasn't working as a stewardess this time. She slept on his chest like a lazy cat, ignoring the weird gazes she received from the people around.

Yang Chen sighed as he looked at the business class food, since he didn't have the space to eat when An Xin was lying on his body.

If his thoughts were broadcasted to the other male passengers on the plane, it was safe to say that they'd be willing to switch their lunches with Yang Chen's woman.

After a few hours, they arrived at Zhonghai. Due to different time zones, it was only afternoon there.

The two didn't bring any luggages. Walking to the exit of the airport, Yang Chen planned to take a cab home, since he came to there by bus earlier. He asked, "Why don't you go back with me? I'll send you home after that."

An Xin shook her head. "No need, it's not like I can't take care of myself. I know that you've starved for the entire afternoon on the plane. You should quickly go back to eat."

"So you were awake the whole time. I should punish you by spanking your butt," Yang Chen said gloomily.

An Xin pouted. "We were going to be separated again. I don't know when a heartless man like you would be willing to play with me again. I had to lie on your body for a while more of course."

Yang Chen got speechless. He had the urge to bring this chick home, but this would obviously cause the explosion of a certain iceberg, so he dismissed the thought.

After hugging An Xin lovingly, Yang Chen left the airport while she boarded another cab.

Yang Chen came to the parking lot of Yu Lei International to retrieve his car before driving back to the villa in Dragon Garden.

He didn't feel that there was anything unusual at the airport, but he wished to quickly rush home when he was driving.

The feelings of yearning and joy were too intense, causing Yang Chen to step on the accelerator particularly hard.

Yang Chen could finally feel that he had treated the place as his home. In other words, he subconsciously looked at the two women at home as his family members.

He recalled how he forced himself to bring up the divorce to Lin Ruoxi around two weeks ago. Currently, he didn't have the intention anymore.

In Japan, the moment he killed the fake 'Seventeen' with his own hands, Yang Chen finally realized people couldn't be resurrected after dying.

The slap he received from Jane made him understand he certainly shouldn't dwell in the depressing past.

Since it was so hard for him to give up that person in his heart, why should he give her up now for the unpredictable future?

However, the problem in front of him was also very obvious—how was he supposed to take back his words, before calming Lin Ruoxi down?

Evidently, she wouldn't shed a tear before she saw the coffin, not to mention her stubborn personality. It seemed much harder for him to make her accept him now than before.

[TL note: 不见棺材不掉泪 (not shedding a tear before seeing the coffin): Refuse to be convinced until one is faced with grim reality; resolute.]

She isn't even picking up one of my many phone calls. Is she silently cutting off all relations with me in the future?

As he pondered about these headache-inducing problems, he arrived outside the villa of Dragon Garden.

Chapter 344: Embarrassment

Upon exiting the car, Yang Chen opened the door with his key before walking into the living hall. All of these were done in an incredibly quick manner.

Although he informed them that he would come home today, the two women who were watching television at home were surprised to see his sudden emergence.

However, Lin Ruoxi wasn't among them. They were Hui Lin and Wang Ma who were resting at home. The two were watching a Beijing opera, while Wang Ma was happily humming along.

Seeing that Yang Chen suddenly burst into the house, Wang Ma who was immersed in the TV show patted her chest while she scolded smilingly, "Young Master, you're causing too huge of a commotion. You're coming home like Sun Wukong causing a havoc in heaven."

[TL note: Sun Wukong is a reference to the classical novel Journey to the West from the 16th century.]

Wang Ma's metaphor is so vivid... Nervously, Yang Chen looked around as he sweated. He asked, "Where's Ruoxi? She should've come back ages ago. Is she still on holidays? Did she go to work again?"

Hui Lin felt weird that the first thing Yang Chen did upon coming home was asking for Lin Ruoxi's whereabouts, while he was the one who brought up the divorce first. Why is he a husband who misses his wife now?

"Elder Sister went to a small town to inspect a factory. She said there was a strike of workers," Hui Lin said.

Yang Chen frowned. Factory? Strike?

Wang Ma sighed and said, "She left less than an hour ago. Young Master, you would've been able to see her if you came home earlier."

Yang Chen vaguely felt that something wasn't quite right. Since Yu Lei International manufactured a broad range of products, naturally there were numerous factories. However, how was it possible that Lin Ruoxi, the CEO of Yu Lei, needed to personally inspect the lowest level of management?

"Wang Ma, tell me what happened briefly," Yang Chen said.

Wang Ma nodded, and explained the general situation to him.

A clothing factory among tens of other factories under Yu Lei International had delayed payments of wage distribution right before Chinese New Year.

The reason the factory gave was a lack of finance, since they had sustained losses this year. However, most employees refused to believe them, and started intercepting the management, in addition to causing problems to the leaders of the district.

Most of these employees were migrants who came to work in Zhonghai. They wanted to take bring money home for the festival. There was less than a month left until Chinese New Year started, while they hadn't received half of their yearly wages yet. This naturally caused them to stop working.

Lin Ruoxi originally didn't have to deal with this problem, but Yu Lei International started their year-end rotating vacation. The few managers of the marketing and human resource departments were coincidentally absent, while the others weren't qualified enough to deal with such issues.

The problem ended up being known to Lin Ruoxi. She pondered over the matter and eventually decided to go over personally to take care of the situation.

"Actually, Miss Qianni said she'd go there earlier, but for some reason Miss didn't want to stay at home, so she took up the task herself," Wang Ma said helplessly.

Didn't want to stay at home?

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. Isn't she straight-up avoiding me since she's unwilling to see me? Furthermore, she was on her holidays recently, so she purposely looked for a reason to leave the house to stay away from me.

"Did she go alone?" Yang Chen asked.

"Who else could she have gone with? Miss said she could take care of it, so the other supervisors didn't dare to go against her will," Wang Ma said.

Yang Chen felt rather anxious. His worry for Lin Ruoxi was far beyond what he expected. He couldn't even sit still currently.

The problem of hundreds of outraged factory employees on the lowest level wasn't something a young lady like her could deal with. The other party wasn't well-educated. They wouldn't reason properly. All they wanted was money, while nothing else could be discussed. If the problem were so easily taken care of, local government officials would have solved it long ago. Why would the headquarters be forced to send someone over?

Moreover, despite having an exceptional mind in the business world, her emotional intelligence was obviously low. Otherwise she wouldn't have to entrust the task of attending every social event to the

human relations department, and she would have more than just a few friends. Dealing with the uneducated, violent people at a place full of sly acts was more difficult for her than to step into heaven.

The more Yang Chen thought about it, the more worried he got. He asked Wang Ma, "Which district is Ruoxi going to?"

"Oh, it's Yuping District. It'll take an hour's time if you drive there from Zhonghai, but the roads aren't well-built, and there are many small villages. I bet you'll take two hours," Wang Ma said.

Yang Chen stood up and said, "I'm quite worried about her. It's better that I follow her there to take a look. Wang Ma, don't wait for me for dinner."

"Brother Yang, can I go as well? I'm worried about Elder Sister as well." Hui Lin's big, watery eyes were filled with concern.

Yang Chen thought for a while before shaking his head. "I won't be at ease if Wang Ma is home alone. It's better that you keep her company. You're a lady after all, you wouldn't induce fear there even if you went."

Hui Lin knew that what Yang Chen said was true. She couldn't just take out her sword and shout, "The magnificent heroine is here, you shall all obey me." Furthermore, she didn't bring her sabre with her when she left the mountain, so she didn't continue asking.

Yang Chen's BMW had an inbuilt GPS system, while Lin Ruoxi's car naturally had one as well. So Yang Chen wasn't worried that he'd fail to locate her. If he drove slightly faster, it was even possible for him to catch up to her.

Before leaving, he asked for the name of the factory. It was Yuping Garment. After typing in the address, Yang Chen departed immediately.

After around twenty minutes, he drove into the provincial roads of the outskirts. There were numerous intersections during the journey, so it was hard to drive fast. People and non-motor vehicles would cross the road often.

Judging from how well Yang Chen knew Lin Ruoxi, he guessed that she definitely didn't dare to drive so quickly. This made his chances of catching up to her higher.

However, Yang Chen still underestimated the 'fate' between him and Sister Lin.

After around fifteen minutes, Yang Chen entered a rural area at the edge of Zhonghai. In front of a small supermarket, Yang Chen suddenly noticed that Lin Ruoxi's red Bentley was parked there.

Yang Chen parked his car at the front of the supermarket. He got down from his car and searched the surroundings, but failed to locate Lin Ruoxi's figure.

As he was planning to ask around in the supermarket, a tall lady making a phone call whose black hair was scattered on her shoulders walked out from there. She was wearing a beige British-style coat and holding a brown Gucci handbag.

Yang Chen revealed a bright smile as he discovered the familiar, incredibly cold face, before waving at Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi was talking on phone while frowning slightly. When she noticed Yang Chen's sudden appearance, she almost forgot to speak as her body stiffened.

After a few seconds, Lin Ruoxi ended the call before walking towards Yang Chen without speaking a word. She was staring at Yang Chen, as if trying to study something.

Yang Chen was rather confused when he was gazed upon. Smiling awkwardly, he said, "Although I don't think I'm ugly, I don't feel that I'm very handsome as well. I'll feel proud if you look at me like this."

Lin Ruoxi utterly ignored Yang Chen's joke. Coldly, she asked, "Who asked you to come here?"

"Wifey Ruoxi, how can I be at ease when you're dealing with this group of men in a small town..." Yang Chen said honestly.

"Mr Yang, please mind your words. Who's your wife now?" Lin Ruoxi's cheeks were just like frosts, while her gaze acted like a knife which pierced through Yang Chen's face. "Also, whether or not I can deal with them is none of your business. We're merely a married couple tied by contract. We're getting divorced in a few months' time, you better keep your distance from me. I don't want to see you."

Yang Chen felt embarrassed, but didn't get angry. This was what he expected. Directly, he asked, "Aren't you going to Yuping District? Why did you stop here?"

"Mind your own business. You may go back now, I'll deal with my own problems," Lin Ruoxi said before turning around and walking back into the supermarket.

Yang Chen felt rather helpless. He walked around the car and immediately found out the problem. One of the front tyres of the Bentley was pierced by a nail!

Something like this was inevitable on the roads of a suburb. No wonder Lin Ruoxi couldn't continue her journey anymore.

Although Bentley couldn't be considered an extremely rare car, its wheels still couldn't be repaired by just any mechanic. Moreover, even a motorcycle repair shop wasn't necessarily present at the small village they were in.

Yang Chen rushed over and asked Lin Ruoxi, "Have you contacted the repair shop yet?"

Although Lin Ruoxi wasn't willing to entertain Yang Chen, she wasn't an unreasonable and insane woman. So when Yang Chen asked a serious question, she'd answer him. Coldly, she said, "Wu Yue already sent someone over to load the car."

"How about you? After the car is brought away, are you going to stay here?"

"I'll ask someone to pick me up," Lin Ruoxi replied coldly.

"Why do you want to ask someone else? I'm here already," Yang Chen said.

"I want to get to Yuping."

"I'll bring you there. I can be your mini assistant in addition to a part time bodyguard. You know that I can fight very well, those people won't be able to get near you." Yang Chen winked at Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi pondered his suggestion for a while. She didn't plan to forgive Yang Chen so quickly and break the ice. However, she'd be lying if she said she wasn't afraid to head to a low-level factory to face thousands of employees. Lin Ruoxi was certainly worried about the a violent outbreak.

Even when Lin Ruoxi thought Yang Chen wouldn't be too big of a help, two people were still stronger than one. If Wu Yue wasn't on her holidays, Lin Ruoxi would definitely bring her along.

"This is only because you want to go. I didn't force you to come with me," Lin Ruoxi added. She didn't want Yang Chen feel that she needed company.

Yang Chen smiled in his heart. She's still holding onto her pride. He said, "Yeah, that's right. I'm going as an employee of the company, and not because of personal matters. Is Boss Lin satisfied now?"

Lin Ruoxi knew that her thoughts were exposed. Blushing, she snorted coldly and turned her head away to cover her awkwardness.

However, after she put up the act, her stomach started rumbling...

Lin Ruoxi pressed onto her belly hurriedly. She immediately flushed, causing her face to be so red that water threatened to burst from there...

Damn it, damn it! Why do I have to embarrass myself in front of this fellow so many times in a row?!

Yang Chen was stunned as well. He immediately knew that Lin Ruoxi didn't have lunch before leaving the house. Seeing her gloomy look, he smiled and said, "What's there to be shy about? Even if you're a CEO and a beauty, you're still a human being after all. Everyone has to eat, otherwise their stomachs would shout. This is the same logic as any human being would fart."

Lin Ruoxi bit her lower lip tightly, and acted as if she heard nothing. However, she felt rather relieved in her heart. She had never felt this much shame in front of a guy. Her attempts on covering her malfunctioned tyre and pride were exposed, while her stomach was so hungry that it growled... It was too pathetic.

Yang Chen didn't laugh at her. Something like this which was insignificant to others would be taken seriously by Lin Ruoxi whose self-esteem was high, especially in front of him. Therefore, he smiled relaxedly and said, "Let's go inside the supermarket and get some food."

Chapter 345: Insensitive Fellow

Who else is a fan of the interaction between Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi?

The supermarket in the small village wasn't that large. There were only three shelves in total. Other than dried tofu and biscuits, there was instant noodles which could complement their meal. There was dried beef as well, but it was made from an unknown factory, so they didn't dare try it.

Yang Chen took out a hundred-yuan note and bought seven to eight packets of instant noodles in addition to a few packs of dried tofu before asking the shop owner for a pot of hot water and two bowls. They went to sit by the windows as they prepared to eat.

Since Wang Ma had been cooking all of Lin Ruoxi's meals at home, she hadn't had instant noodles before, so she didn't intervene, but opened a pack of dried tofu instead. Although her stomach was growling, she still chewed slowly as she wasn't taught to gobble food.

Yang Chen made a bowl of instant noodles before making yet another one, with two packets together in the second bowl.

Lin Ruoxi noticed his actions and quickly stopped him. "One packet is enough. Why did you buy so many packs? Return the remaining ones."

Yang Chen smiled helplessly and said, "Wi— Oh no, Boss Lin, one packet is enough for you, but I have to eat a few of them as well."

"You're eating as well?"

"Of course, I haven't had lunch yet," Yang Chen said gloomily.

Lin Ruoxi's hand which was holding the dried tofu stopped moving as she stunned on the spot.

Yang Chen must've returned home earlier, otherwise he wouldn't have known that I came to Yuping District. He must have reached home around lunchtime. I left home more than an hour ago, while he managed to catch up with me. Judging from this speed, he definitely didn't have time to eat at home.

Is he so worried about me that he didn't even bother filling his stomach?

Lin Ruoxi felt that her heart went numb, while her cheeks involuntarily heated up.

Yang Chen felt confused when he saw that Lin Ruoxi suddenly kept quiet while turning around for some unknown reason. He minded his own business as he opened the packets of dried tofu before putting them all into his bowl, to eat them together with his noodles.

After the noodles were cooked, Lin Ruoxi started eating while she glanced at Yang Chen who was wolfing his noodles down. Suddenly, she felt like the fellow's rude act wasn't as despicable as before.

After the late lunch had ended, the trailer had arrived as well. Since Lin Ruoxi was unfamiliar with such procedures, Yang Chen dealt with them on her behalf.

When Lin Ruoxi got into Yang Chen's car as they prepared to depart, she finally noticed how accurate Wang Ma's words were—there needed to be a man at home.

There was still quite some time for them to reach Yuping District. It'd be a miracle if they could reach there by evening. Since it was off-peak hours, numerous villagers were on their way home after working, so the traffic was rather jammed.

Lin Ruoxi looked at the densely packed bicycles and motorcycles as her scalp went numb. If she was the one driving, she wouldn't have much difficulty proceeding forward.

She then looked at Yang Chen who was relaxedly pressing the horn while inching forward, Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but feel impressed by the driving skill of the man beside her who didn't even own a driving licence.

Of course, Yang Chen noticed the occasional glances of Lin Ruoxi. He couldn't hold back from smiling when he saw her adorable look of carefully glancing in an attempt to remain stealthy. "Ruoxi, let's reconcile."

Lin Ruoxi's body lightly shivered. She vaguely felt that Yang Chen intentionally called her to try to please her when she was in Hainan, before repeatedly calling over after hanging up the call. In addition to seeing Yang Chen rush over to find her today, Lin Ruoxi had a feeling that Yang Chen seemed to have changed his mind. He wasn't willing to divorce her.

However, now that she listened to his statement... Lin Ruoxi was so nervous that she couldn't speak a word.

"I said something earlier which may have hurt you. I know that you hate me very much. I also feel that I'm useless, since I'm often distracted by the things happening around me. I went through something in Japan, I feel that it's better if we can get back together... Let's not talk about the divorce anymore. It's really hurtful, isn't it?" Yang Chen looked at Lin Ruoxi in high hopes as he waited for her to speak.

Lin Ruoxi felt that her heartbeat was incredibly fast. After a short moment of silence, she cleared her throat and turned her head to look outside the window. She said, "You wanted a divorce because you said so, and now you want to reconcile because you say so. Am I a doll who is expected to obey you all the time? I have my own thoughts. Furthermore, we'd never been on good terms before, is there a need for reconciliation?"

Yang Chen swallowed his words which he was about to say as he sighed helplessly. He knew that the matter couldn't be rushed. He had to look for another chance to speak to her again.

However, he didn't know that Lin Ruoxi felt extreme regret after saying that. She only made such a statement because of her pride. After all, if she listened to Yang Chen immediately and became his wife obediently, she'd seem like she really wanted to get back together with him, appearing much more vulnerable.

Lin Ruoxi hoped that Yang Chen could beg her again, or try to advise her. It'd even be fine if he would reveal sorrow in his gaze...

However, this insensitive fellow! He actually acted like nothing happened and continued driving, not saying anything!!!

Lin Ruoxi almost couldn't hold herself back from giving Yang Chen a few slaps. He'd call me 'my dear baby', 'my obedient wife', and 'Babe Ruoxi' all day when I didn't need him to act cheesy. However, at such a key moment, this piece of wood! He keeps quiet!

As she pondered over the matter, Lin Ruoxi clenched her teeth in fury and hatred. Reconcile? Reconcile with yourself!

When Yang Chen was driving, he felt that Lin Ruoxi's entire body seemed to have exuded a bone-penetrating, cold aura, as if she was utterly assimilated into darkness. He didn't dare to breathe too loudly. Did I annoy this CEO again? But why...

Yang Chen was distressed. He didn't dare to bring up reconciliation during the journey anymore. They didn't talk again afterwards in the car.

It was dusk when they arrived at the clothing factory in Yuping District. Cold wind blew occasionally on the desolate streets.

Although Yuping District was near Zhonghai, there were more foreign people staying there temporarily, as the local security and standards of living weren't great. But the local government collected plenty of tax revenue, since there were quite a number of factories there.

Such a place wouldn't be too lively. This made Lin Ruoxi, a city girl, panic.

When the car was parked outside the main entrance of Yuping Garment, the two could see quite a few tents set up by the walls. Many of the people were dressed in old and worn-out clothes as they had their meals using porcelain bowls. Their dishes were even cooked by the road using barbecue grills.

Numerous banners were hung there, with words like 'unethical factory delaying employees' wages' and 'Yu Lei International is a liar'. Some of them even insulted Lin Ruoxi herself. The people surrounding the factory were evidently workers who came to ask for their wages to be paid.

Lin Ruoxi paled when she looked at the situation.

Yang Chen knew that she mustn't be feeling well in her heart. Yu Lei was passed down to her from her grandmother, which was a business empire she worked hard to maintain. As the owner of Yu Lei, now that she received these insults, it was no different from getting a slap in the face.

"As long as the problem is solved, they'll take back their words. These people are not very well-educated. They're merely intuitively expressing their anger. I believe they don't mean to intentionally hurt anyone. Don't worry too much about it," Yang Chen advised.

Lin Ruoxi didn't reply him. Taking a deep breath with her eyes shut, she took her phone out and dialed a number.

A man's voice echoed from the phone. He sounded confused. "Who's this?"

"I'm Lin Ruoxi."

There was no reply for a very long time. At last, he chuckled and replied, "So it's Boss Lin... Hehehe... I'm surprised. May I ask what Boss Lin personally called over for?"

"Wu Liangzhu, being the director of Yuping, are you going to tell me everything's fine now?" Lin Ruoxi asked coldly.

The man called Wu Liangzhu replied, "Boss Lin, I don't have a solution for this. No matter how much trouble the workers cause, I'm only a person and not the God of Wealth. If I had money, I would've distributed it to the them, but there really isn't any money in the factory..."

"Whether or not there's money isn't decided by you. Immediately gather the main managers to the factory. I'm right outside it now," Lin Ruoxi said.

"Bo—Boss Lin, you're outside the factory?" Wu Lianzhu obviously stunned. Soon, he said, "I thought some department head would come down to solve the problem. I didn't expect Boss Lin to come personally. How can this problem be delayed further? But Boss Lin, if the workers see me now, they would smash me with bricks to death. My car was destroyed yesterday. Boss Lin, why don't you go to

Yuping Hotel now? I'll wait for you there. I'll gather the managers there as well. We'll have a meal to welcome Boss Lin as well."

Lin Ruoxi snorted in contempt. "You can't distribute the money, but you can afford to treat me for a meal. Wu Liangzhu, I don't need you to buy me a meal. Ask your accountant to send all the accounts to my email. We can skip the meal part."

"Don't! Boss Lin, it's rare for you to come see us at such a place. Please show yourself, and we shall talk about this matter carefully. The money for the meal comes from my own pocket. It has nothing to do with the factory. I hope Boss Lin can come see us..." Wu Liangzhu sounded aggrieved.

Lin Ruoxi knew that she'd be too merciless if she rejected his request again. He was an employee under her company after all. As a result, she accepted as she said, "Alright, don't forget to ask your accountant to send me the details immediately."

"Aye, aye. I'll do it now. Let's meet later at the hotel." Wu Liangzhu finally felt relieved, and happily promised her

Chapter 346: Grievance

Having asked a few passers-by in Yuping District, Yang Chen drove to the entrance of Yuping Hotel.

It was supposed to be a huge hotel, but it was merely a three-storey restaurant located at the corner of a street. Two huge lanterns were hung in front of the door, while the scarlet carpet was full of stains. Since it was located right opposite an agricultural market, the air was also filled with the smell of raw fish.

Lin Ruoxi felt disgusted upon stepping out of the car. Although she frowned, she didn't say anything. Together with Yang Chen, she walked into the hotel.

Dressed in a grey suit, Wu Liangzhu had been waiting by the staircase by the living hall. Upon seeing Lin Ruoxi, similar to most people, his gaze stunned for a while, before he finally revealed a friendly smile.

"Welcome here, Boss Lin. It's unfortunate that there's not a single presentable restaurant in a small district like this. I'm left with no choice but to treat Boss Lin to meal at this small shop. Boss Lin, let's go in."

Wu Liangzhu noticed Yang Chen who was following behind Lin Ruoxi, but didn't pay much attention to him as he mistook Yang Chen as Lin Ruoxi's assistant. He let out a friendly smile and nodded at Yang Chen.

Lin Ruoxi's mind was occupied with the scene she witnessed earlier at the factory. She didn't find Wu Liangzhu pleasant so to speak, so her mouth stayed shut the entire time. Coming to the biggest room on the second floor, there were four men seated inside who were dressed formally.

Wu Liangzhu introduced them to Lin Ruoxi one-by-one. They were the deputy director Qian Hao, the union president Wang Ze, the accountant Meng Fan and Wu Liangzhu's assistant, a young man called Little Liu.

These people looked rough, but Lin Ruoxi wasn't too surprised as they probably grew up locally. She greeted them in a simple manner, and introduced Yang Chen as her driver and personal assistant.

The huge table was more than enough to accommodate the six people. Lin Ruoxi sat at the main seat, while Yang Chen and Wu Liangzhu sat beside her.

“Mr Meng, are the accounts I asked for ready?” Lin Ruoxi asked Meng Hao upon sitting down.

Meng Hao stunned, as if he didn't know what was going on.

“The accounts for this year's operation at the factory. Didn't I call you earlier? Have you possibly forgotten about it?” Wu Liangzhu stared at Meng Hao in dissatisfaction.

Meng Hao slapped his head. Embarrassed, he said, “I'm sorry, Boss Lin. I... I got too excited and immediately rushed over when I was notified of your arrival to a small place like ours for inspection. Rest assured, I'll immediately send them to you after the meal!”

Lin Ruoxi frowned, but didn't press on.

“Boss Lin, although work is important, we still have to finish this meal.” Wu Liangzhu took two bottles of brand-new Chinese liquor of the brand Maotai. It was highly likely that he brought them over himself, it was impossible that a place like this hotel sold alcohol of that quality.

Although Lin Ruoxi didn't like alcohol, and hated strong liquor even more, she'd still drink a little. It'd be too cruel if she didn't grant face during her first time meeting these managers of the low-level factory. As a result, Lin Ruoxi didn't stop him from pouring the liquor into the two glasses.

[TL note: Read this if you're not familiar with Chinese 'face' concept.]

Smiling, Wu Liangzhu asked Yang Chen, “Assistant Yang, would you like a glass as well?”

Yang Chen waved his hand with a smile. He reached out to Lin Ruoxi's glass and took it over. He said, “I'll drink Boss Lin's for her. She has to look through the accounts tonight and think of solutions to solve the issues surrounding the factory. Also, our Boss Lin doesn't like to drink, am I right?”

Lin Ruoxi didn't expect Yang Chen to be so caring to drink on her behalf. She certainly had lots to deal with at night. Thus, she nodded and said, “It wouldn't be too late to drink after dealing with the problems. I'll just take a few simple bites while you guys brief me through the situation of the factory.”

Wu Liangzhu smiled awkwardly. “Alright, we'll drink later then.”

After the others filled their glasses with the liquor, the six of them started eating.

Wu Liangzhu noticed that Lin Ruoxi had been staring at him without eating much. Similarly, he put down his chopsticks and said, “Boss Lin, the blame cannot be put on us for this. You too know that the fashion industry hasn't been performing well lately, especially clothing factories like ours. Although we frequent have orders, many customers wouldn't settle their credit payment even until the end of the year. Furthermore, you've been aggressively expanding our workspace and added over hundreds of jobs. Once we get more employees, building an accommodation and a canteen in addition to buying various insurance all amount to a huge sum.

“Yu Lei is a legitimate business. We can't just refuse to sign employment contracts with the others, right? Once the contract is signed, a lot of money has to be paid. In our factory, most employees are women. These foreign women don't really practise contraceptive measures. Basically a few women

would get on maternity leave every month in the factory. At this place, we don't dare to impose overly strict management, in fear of enraging the citizens. If we were exposed online, the government image would be affected as well.

"In addition to all this, we had invested in feeding a huge number of people. However, these people don't produce the desired results. More than half of our credits offered aren't repaid yet. We managed to pay half of their yearly wages this year, but we can't cope with the other half, not to mention we're still in debt from the bank. How can we fork out tens of millions just because we want to? Originally, I wanted to tell the employees that we'd slowly repay them when we get back on track next year. However, they refused to go home without the money no matter what, and formed a rebellion. They even smashed my car. We're actually more innocent than anyone else..."

As Wu Liangzhu complained, Yang Chen raised his glass in a toast to Little Liu, the assistant of Wu Liangzhu.

"It sure seems like your factory's director hasn't been having a good time." Yang Chen pouted. Upon returning to the country, Yang Chen hadn't had many opportunities to try Maotai liquor. The taste was indeed great.

Little Liu had a rather dark skin, while his accent was from the north. "Yeah, these people are indeed douchebags. Didn't we just owe them 20 thousand bucks? They want to celebrate Chinese New Year, but we want to do it as well, am I right?"

Yang Chen held back his laugh. Nodding, he said, "What you said makes sense."

Little Liu chuckled as he seemed to have thought of something. He asked, "Assistant Yang, how are you feeling now?"

"What do you mean how?" Yang Chen asked with a smile.

"Are you feeling unwell?" Little Liu asked happily.

Yang Chen rubbed his temple. "I feel like the alcohol content of this liquor is a bit high. Why do I feel like sleeping now..."

"Aye, Assistant Yang, just get a rest if you're feeling dizzy. All will be fine," Little Liu sneered, elated.

After listening to Wu Liangzhu's grievance, Lin Ruoxi looked incredibly cold. Her gaze could totally freeze his body into ice.

"Wu Liangzhu, it seems like I don't even have to look at the accounts now. Do you think I'm a fool, or do you feel that you're really smart? All of the things you mentioned are regular expenditures of the factory's operation. You said the credit payments weren't retrievable. Do you think they aren't afraid of getting sued if they refuse to pay? The development of this factory was planned by me in the beginning of this year, and our budget is very much overestimated, but you still managed to go in debt. Are you going to tell me you used all the money I gave you to buy milk powder for the pregnant employees?" Lin Ruoxi asked coldly.

Wu Liangzhu's face stiffened. He appeared helpless under Lin Ruoxi's mocking look.

At this moment, Wu Liangzhu looked delighted. Pointing at Yang Chen who was beside Lin Ruoxi, he said, "Boss Lin, look. Assistant Yang looks unwell."

Lin Ruoxi stunned before turning her head to have a look, only to find Yang Chen silently lying on the table asleep!

"Yang Chen, what's wrong with you?" Lin Ruoxi pushed Yang Chen's arm, but he didn't respond in any way. He looked like he wasn't sleeping, but was unconscious instead.

Instinctively, Lin Ruoxi felt that something wasn't right!

She turned her head back to look at Wu Liangzhu again. He put on a malicious look. Just like admiring a rare treasure, he gazed upon Lin Ruoxi from head to toe in a shameless manner.

Chapter 347: Karma

Wu Liangzhu's malicious gaze allowed Lin Ruoxi to understand the situation!

Yang Chen consumed something similar to sleeping pills. It was a trap planned beforehand!

Little Liu who was drinking with Yang Chen walked to the exit of the room and guarded there, to block Lin Ruoxi from leaving.

The deputy director and union president revealed a perverted look as well. Greedily, they stared at Lin Ruoxi's beautiful face and bosom.

"Elder Brother, this chick is too damn hot. We still get to entertain ourselves with such a beautiful chick. Will we get reluctant to leave in the future?" Meng Hao asked with a smile before licking his lips.

"We should just tie her up and bring her with us!"

Lin Ruoxi clenched her teeth and gazed upon the few people furiously. "They aren't even the employees from the factory, are they?!"

Judging from the aggressive looks they displayed, it was evident that they wouldn't be intellectuals who could manage a huge factory. No wonder when Meng Fan was asked to present the accounts, he looked utterly clueless. He was a fake accountant!

"Did you just notice this? It's a bit too late." Wu Liangzhu stood up proudly and used an arm to support his body on the table while using the other to tidy his hair up. "Lin Ruoxi, you came to us yourself. I would've fled long ago if you simply sent someone over. However, since you came here personally, I might as well enjoy myself."

Lin Ruoxi's heart shivered. She forcefully pushed Yang Chen who was beside her, hoping that he'd wake up. However, Yang Chen directly fell onto the ground and remained unconscious.

"It's useless. He got drugged. He'll be sleeping for at least an hour or so. You were supposed to be the one unconscious, but who knew this idiot would drink the liquor on your behalf. Well, it's great either. Either of you fainting is a good thing to us."

Seeing that Wu Liangzhu walked towards her, Lin Ruoxi quickly stood up and took two steps back. Cautiously, she looked at him and yelled, "Wu Liangzhu, if you dare to do anything inappropriate, I'll see to it that you will be put in the prison for the rest of your life!"

"Haha! Prison?" Wu Liangzhu let out an evil smile. "After I'm done with you, I'll immediately bring my brothers out of the country. How would you still have the time to catch me?"

"So the money was stolen by you...?" Lin Ruoxi finally understood why the wages weren't distributed, not to mention so much profits disappeared into thin air. It was all part of Wu Liangzhu's plan to escape abroad! Although it wasn't known where he was going to, as long as he managed to leave silently, it would be really difficult to catch him again.

Furthermore, Wu Liangzhu evidently had been planning for his escape long ago. He may have built a foundation in another country. This would further decrease the likelihood of his repatriation.

Wu Liangzhu snorted in contempt. "Bitch, if it wasn't for you, we wouldn't have to take such a huge risk to steal money and escape. All of this is because of you. This is karma... You landed in my hands at last."

Lin Ruoxi finally felt afraid when she noticed Wu Liangzhu's hostile gaze. No matter how calm she usually was, she was still a young lady after all, not to mention she was rarely involved in social events. Facing four of these atrocious fellows, Lin Ruoxi couldn't stand still anymore as her legs softened.

"Just what did I do that made you hate me so much..." Lin Ruoxi didn't understand his intention. Why did he intentionally come for me? Logically speaking, since he had everything in place to leave, he should've fled earlier. Why did he stay because he heard I was coming?

Wu Liangzhu's eyes were filled with blaze of anger. Revealing a wicked smile, he asked, "Do you still want to act ignorant? Think carefully about how you treated our family three years ago..."

Three years ago?

Lin Ruoxi contemplated the past. Frowning, she said, "I bought Liangyu Garment owned by your family three years ago, and changed it to Yuping Garment to go under Yu Lei International. But can that even be considered the reason why you hate me?"

"Bitch! What do you know!" Wu Liangzhu shouted. "Do you know that Liangyu Garment was built by my grandfather together with his brothers in their generation! Ever since I was a boy, I witnessed my grandpa and father work so hard for factory and get sick in the process. My grandfather collected pebbles to build the pebble walkway in the factory. The tree which stands at the factory was grown by my father and I. All of this was a result of our family's hard word! Before my grandfather died, he told me to take care of this business properly. I mustn't let anything happen to it..."

"I had been working so hard to ensure this factory to pass down to the next generations, only then would I feel worthy for the efforts of the past two generations.

"Three years ago, when the economy wasn't doing so great. I was forced to take up a loan of a few million bucks, so that I could get some cash flow to allow the business to continue operating.

“What about you? Being the dignified CEO of Yu Lei International, you exploited your connection with the local government and banks to give our loans pressure, to force us to merge into the low-level factories of Yu Lei International. Otherwise you wouldn’t stop troubling us!

“Why didn’t you build your own factories if you want to develop Yu Lei? Why did you have to devour this business built on top of our family’s sweat and lives? Was your conscience tainted by dogs?! Do you know that the mayor and party committee secretary all came to our house because the government wants to establish a good relationship with you, and forced my father to finally decide to pass the factory to Yu Lei International?!

“In that same year, my father died from his sickness. Before he died, he told me to not deal with you, since I can never defeat you... That’s right, I certainly can’t defeat you. In this society, whoever’s the richest rules. As long as Yu Lei wants to invest and expand, sidint with the small officials on our government’s side, even the party committee leader in Zhonghai has to obey you to a certain degree...

“But so what if that’s the case? At the end of the day, you’re still a monster that swallows the bones together with the meat!!!”

Wu Liangzhu was so furious that his face reddened. At last, he smiled disdainfully. “I made a mistake. How would a beautiful lady like you be a monster... In the past three years, I thought of every possible way to hide almost half of all the money. Needless to say, I took more this year. The amount of money is enough to let me live comfortably for the rest of my life abroad. You caused the Wu family to lose our pride. We’re forced to work under your feet like stray dogs... In the end, haven’t you eventually landed in my hands?”

After listening to his story, Lin Ruoxi had calmed herself down, while sorrow appeared in her eyes.

“It’s not what you think it is...” Lin Ruoxi said. “I’m very sorry for your father’s death. Believe it or not, when I decided to purchase your family’s factory, all I thought was such a small family business like yours, which was stagnant in development, like a headless mosquito, was better off coming under Yu Lei International, to integrate into our management. Also, if I wanted to build my own factories, not only would I waste resource, it would be ineffective as well, not to mention your factory would similarly go out of business if we built our own factories.

“I only tried my best to invest rationally... I didn’t think that the leaders and banks here would treat you that way because of a sentence I said. That really wasn’t my intention. I didn’t force you guys to sell your factory. It’s their fault for doing it, I was completely unaware of their doing.”

“Humph, nonsense! At the end of the day, if it wasn’t for you, why would the shameless officials treat our family that way?” Wu Liangzhu shouted angrily.

“But you should’ve noticed how the factory has been developing for the past two years. Following the route I planned, the number of employees has more than quintupled. The profits the factory yields increased from a few million to hundreds of millions, not to mention Yuping Garment is already the biggest clothing manufacturer in the district. Wasn’t this what your ancestors wanted?” Lin Ruoxi asked.

Wu Liangzhu burst into laughter. “Are you really dumb or are you just acting? Yuping Clothing... What I, my grandpa, and my father wanted was Liangyu Garment! Liangyu Garment! It was what belonged to our family! We want our pride, not your rusty machines or useless workshops! As a son, when I

witnessed my own father kneeling before the director of a bank, do you know how I felt? You're cold-blooded. You only know how to expand and earn money. Bitch, do you even understand everything that I have said?!"

His words made Lin Ruoxi widen her watery eyes. She couldn't speak a word anymore. She didn't know how to refute these seemingly absurd statements.

Chapter 348: Nothing Is Absolute

At this moment, the three people who were still drooling at the sight of Lin Ruoxi ran out of patience.

"Elder Brother, why are you still talking to this pampered lady? She knows nothing at all. It's better for us to do her in now before fleeing. I can't wait anymore!" Wang Ze exclaimed with a wicked grin.

Wu Liangzhu looked at Lin Ruoxi who backed off to the corner. Smiling scornfully, he said, "Idiot, do you think she can run away? Go and do her if you guys want to, it's also fine if you want to do it together. I'll just stand aside and witness the expression of this beautiful CEO who's almost as rich as a country... Hahaha... Look at how tightly closed her thighs are. It's possible that she's still a virgin."

"We're in luck! I'll be more than willing to trade this day for ten years of my life!"

Seeing that the two men Meng Fan and Wang Ze were approaching her, Lin Ruoxi couldn't think about anything else. She looked at her surroundings to think of a way to escape. She was even considering jumping down from the window... However, being on the third floor, she'd become handicapped if she didn't die!

Becoming disabled is better than being contaminated by these filthy people!

At this moment, a voice resounded behind Wu Liangzhu...

"Hey, the lot of you. Scold her all you want, and piss off if you plan to flee abroad. Why are you having thoughts on my woman? Aren't you forcing me to stop acting asleep?"

Astonished, the four people who had their attention previously focused on Lin Ruoxi suddenly turned around upon hearing the voice.

Yang Chen, who was originally lying on the ground, slowly stood up. Any dizziness or abnormalities couldn't be found on his face, appearing as if he was completely fine. Currently, he was pouting helplessly.

"You... you... why do you..." Meng Fan stammered as he pointed his finger at Yang Chen.

"Why did I wake up so quickly, is that what you want to ask?" Yang Chen smiled in an indifferent manner. "It's mainly because the drugs you guys bought have already expired, so they're quite ineffective. Also, you guys are so bad at acting. No matter how I look at you, you are all nothing like managers, but gangsters instead. Your faces are so tanned they are similar to those working in the streets. How are you an accountant who sits in the office all day?"

"Seize him!" Wu Liangzhu nervously ordered the three to grasp Yang Chen.

Including Little Liu who was guarding the door, they all rushed over in an attempt to tackle Yang Chen.

However, these people naturally couldn't do anything to Yang Chen. Expectedly, each of them received a smack before falling onto the ground. Yang Chen then slowly walked towards Lin Ruoxi whose forehead exuded cold sweat. Gently holding her hands, he said, "You must've been horrified. It's fine now. I'm still here."

Lin Ruoxi finally regained awareness. Although she was curious as to how Yang Chen suddenly woke up, she could finally be relieved as she noticed the situation, as if she just took a walk past the gates of hell.

"I'm fine." Lin Ruoxi immediately took her hands out from Yang Chen's. Doubtfully, she looked at him and asked, "You didn't faint earlier, did you? It was intentional, wasn't it?"

Since Lin Ruoxi knew that Yang Chen had an unusual background and fighting ability, she wondered why he got so easily drugged earlier. When she thought about it, she came to the conclusion that she got tricked again.

Yang Chen scratched the back of his head awkwardly. "I just wanted to see what they were up to. Even I thought they were particularly pitiful. I merely wanted to get the money back from them and ask them to leave. However, I feel like it's more practical to put them in jail."

As Yang Chen spoke, Wu Liangzhu silently walked towards the door and wanted to escape.

However, Yang Chen naturally wouldn't let him succeed. Dashing over without being noticed by Wu Liangzhu, Yang Chen kicked his leg to flip him over before launching yet another kick. Although his kicks weren't too damaging, Wu Liangzhu still fainted away.

Lin Ruoxi wasn't as surprised as before when she witnessed this fellow's horrifying strength once again. Looking at the four fainted guys, she sighed and said, "Just leave them here. I'll call the police to handle them. Wu Yue and Lawyer Zhang will take care of the legislation."

After an hour, through calling the cops, the local officers arrested all of the four low-spirited people. They even contacted their superiors to investigate Wu Liangzhu's misappropriation of funds.

Wu Liangzhu wasn't a high-level criminal after all. His plan was revealed, which ended up being pretty laughable. He wanted to take the huge sum of money he collected and bring it into Myanmar from Yunnan Province. At a country like that which was controlled by the military, everything could be done with money. Furthermore, he wasn't a government official. The country wouldn't negotiate his repatriation.

Since Lin Ruoxi personally called the police, the people in charge of Yuping District got anxious. It should be mentioned that Yu Lei International had three to four other companies set up in that place other than Yuping Garment. The economic profit coming from Yu Lei was enormous. They wouldn't dare to irritate this goddess of wealth.

Around eight o'clock at night, Lin Ruoxi finally met up with the real managers of Yuping Garment. These people deplored Wu Liangzhu's act of threatening their safety should they leak his plan. They hoped that Lin Ruoxi could forgive them, and allow them to continue working in the company.

However, Lin Ruoxi didn't generously agree to their request. Without hesitation, she swapped up the core people in administration introduced a change in the management inside and out.

Yang Chen understood her intentions. After all, none of these people secretly reacted to the filthy act. They mustn't be solely threatened through violence. There must be some other reason. It was possible that they received a portion of the money. As a result, firing all of them was the right move.

After the problems were dealt with, it was almost ten o'clock at night. The remaining procedures including the rectification of the factory and distribution of wages weren't something that could be solved within a day.

When Lin Ruoxi, who was evidently exhausted, entered Yang Chen's car, he could easily tell that there was a dense layer of dark clouds surrounding her body.

"Going home?"

"Yes..." Lin Ruoxi answered softly. After that, no sound could be heard anymore. She silently sat on the front passenger seat like a ice sculpture. She was so cold that she seemed like she wasn't breathing.

Since it was late at night, the traffic was smooth. There weren't many cars and people, allowing Yang Chen to drive incredibly fast.

However, unlike before, Lin Ruoxi didn't ask him to slow down, but quietly sat there absentmindedly.

Yang Chen looked at her and said, "Are you still thinking about what Wu Liangzhu said earlier?"

It wasn't known if Lin Ruoxi heard him properly. "Ah," she said. It sounded like a confirmation and a question at the same time.

"Do you know why I didn't get up and whack them immediately when I clearly heard that he was scolding you?" Yang Chen asked.

"Didn't you feel sorry for him?" Lin Ruoxi asked.

Yang Chen smiled faintly as he didn't deny her question. As if he was talking to himself, he said, "Actually, from Wu Liangzhu's point of view, he certainly had many reasons to hate you. Our ethnic has had thousands of years of history in this world. Many things which we thought were our glorious tradition have been slowly discarded and abandoned. However, much of our ingrained nature is simply unforgettable, like our ancestor's honor and our roots.

"On many occasions, the people from the capitalist countries like America, would feel that our people have strands of humanity when they come here. This is because we have things we care for, for instance, our family members, our ancestral home and our hometown. All of these are usually overlooked in developed countries. Many people wouldn't own a single house in their entire lives, let alone Wu Liangzhu's factory which was built on top of three generations.

"These things are more valuable than money. So at that moment, I actually felt it wasn't something significant when you were scolded by him. Of course, it was merely weighted through my values."

Lin Ruoxi silently turned her around to look at Yang Chen. In the dimly lit car, the BMW's orange indicator lights shone upon the man's face which looked incredibly familiar to her. This average-looking face in fact moved her when he calmly narrated his views.

Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but to ask, "So what are you trying to say?"

“It’s actually not something that can be considered mind boggling. You may just be feeling overly down, that you had forgotten that.

“I just felt that what you did indeed caused suffering to Wu Liangzhu’s family. At the same time, countless families are deeply grateful for you.

“Have you thought about it? These laborers who came all the way here aren’t very knowledgeable. They don’t have many connections as well. In this strange city, even in this small suburb, they are the minority. This isn’t their hometown. They don’t have family members here, nor do they have a house here. Some of them don’t even have legal identities.

“These people are only trying to get by, or even start a family. They need a job for those. The original factory owned by Wu family is certainly unable to employ thousands of employees at the same time. Those people only got a stable job because you acquired the factory and planned its development.

“You saw the situation outside the factory earlier. They brought their entire family there just for the six-month wages. The fact that they held porcelain bowls to eat by the road meant they completely gave up their dignity, in hopes of getting the capital for survival which they deserve.

“To them, the social security provided by the country isn’t enough. Since they don’t excel in management, their best choice is to follow a person who can grant them stable jobs and lead them to continue growing the company. You are the person who can do both of those. So, what you’re doing is actually helping a lot of people. Although Wu family have indeed been mistreated, your act actually helped a lot more people.”

Various complex emotions emerged in Lin Ruoxi’s eyes. She seemed to have brightened up. She let out a faint smile, which was a rare occurrence, and asked, “Are you trying to cheer me up?”

Yang Chen shrugged his shoulders. “I’m merely voicing out my thoughts. All people have a good and a bad side. We can’t only focus on one. Nothing is perfect, isn’t it...”

As he spoke, Yang Chen immediately grasped the opportunity. With high expectations, he asked, “Babe Ruoxi, do you think what I said made any sense? I think so. For example, when I said I wanted to leave you earlier, something must’ve gone wrong with my brain. Just like acquiring the factory, everything has pros and cons and nothing is absolute. No one can do everything perfectly. Just treat the words I said as fart which has dispersed into the air. Let’s reconcile, shall we?”

Chapter 349: Diamond

This time, Lin Ruoxi didn’t attempt to say anything that adverse, upon hearing Yang Chen’s request of reconciliation. She acted much calmer than before, as compared to Yang Chen mentioning it earlier.

However, Lin Ruoxi stared at Yang Chen for a short while. Jokingly, she asked, “Is it? Since you said nothing was absolute, and everyone makes mistakes, what if you want to divorce me again in the future after I agree? When you claim that you’re afraid of witnessing me die or something like that once more, am I going to wait for you to say ‘nothing is absolute’ again?”

“This... Why would that happen...”

“Nothing’s absolute, that’s what you said,” Lin Ruoxi said in an innocent manner.

“Erm...” Yang Chen frowned tightly as his forehead exuded cold sweat. Why do I feel like I’m always digging holes for myself?

Lin Ruoxi fiercely rolled her eyes at Yang Chen. “Only ask me after you’ve thought it through. I’m not a piece of junk that can be cast aside at will. You’re throwing me away and picking me up whenever you please. Even if you don’t want to break the marriage, I won’t necessarily abide by your decisions. I implore you to think it through.”

Bitterness could be seen on Yang Chen’s face. “No need. Dear, we’ve already gotten so close. Even our house address is the same and we live on the same floor. But you’re still so merciless...”

“That’s my house!” Lin Ruoxi yelled furiously. “Nothing’s absolute. There may come a day where I’m not merciless if my mood is good. Currently, nothing’s stopping me from being merciless. This is what you taught me.”

After Lin Ruoxi finished speaking, she turned her head away and started ignoring Yang Chen.

Yang Chen’s brows had been scrunched up the whole time while he was driving. His mind was a complete mess. Unknowingly, he returned to the city of Zhonghai.

When their surroundings became well-lit again, Yang Chen finally regained his sense of awareness. Driving back to his area, he relied merely on his instinct. It was still safe even when he had other things on mind.

When the car drove by the business district, Yang Chen noticed that although he had dinner, he didn’t take in much food as a result of playing the fainting role in front of the four people. His stomach was currently very empty. He remembered that Lin Ruoxi who was with him, hadn’t eaten too.

He looked at the time. It was ten thirty at night, but quite a number of restaurants were still operating although there weren’t many customers. He definitely couldn’t eat at home. Even if Wang Ma was willing to, Yang Chen wouldn’t want wake her up to make dinner.

As a result, Yang Chen drove his car into an underground parking area.

Lin Ruoxi noticed and asked, “Why are you parking here?”

“To have dinner of course. You only had a few bites earlier. You can’t just go to bed on an empty stomach, can you?” Yang Chen asked.

Indeed, Lin Ruoxi did feel rather hungry, but didn’t expect to eat together with Yang Chen this late at night. Although she had an unusual feeling in heart, naturally she didn’t show it.

Walking on the streets, Yang Chen was slowly looking for an appropriate restaurant. He was so attentive that he looked like he was searching for valuable treasure, while Lin Ruoxi was gloomily following behind.

Compared to other couples who walked together, these two certainly looked rather unique.

Moreover, since Lin Ruoxi couldn’t cover her inborn elegance, she received countless gazes from the passers-by. This made Lin Ruoxi have the urge to rush forward to make some conversation with Yang Chen! It was too awkward!

“Hey, are you done looking? Just pick whichever one.” Lin Ruoxi couldn’t help but to complain.

Yang Chen suddenly stopped walking. Turning around with a smile, he said, “It’s my first time going to a proper restaurant to have dinner with you. I have to pick one carefully, so that when I look back at this memory, it will be a good one.”

Lin Ruoxi was stunned. She didn’t expect Yang Chen to say something like that.

A proper restaurant?

Lin Ruoxi finally noticed that it had been almost six months now since the first time they met. Although they couldn’t be considered an intimate pair, they were bound to see each other often.

After such a long time, the two who were only married by law, hadn’t had a proper meal together before.

The only time they even had a meal together with no one else, was at the small storefront where Yang Chen brought her to eat crayfish. However, Yang Chen wouldn’t see it as a proper restaurant.

Regarding their move date back then, they only had cakes together afterwards, which couldn’t be considered a meal.

Yang Chen felt rather ashamed as well. Out of nowhere, he said, “Actually when I was previously looking for a restaurant, I thought about many things. I really don’t come across as a pleasant man. I feel that it’s reasonable for you to treat me this resolutely.”

As he spoke, Yang Chen noticed a restaurant serving Hangbang cuisine. He thought the kind of light and fresh dishes should be what Lin Ruoxi liked. Since there weren’t many people inside, it had a rather quiet environment. Without reacting to Lin Ruoxi’s abstracted look, he waved his hand and said, “Let’s go there, quickly before they close.”

The two were basically the last customers the restaurant had, but the server still held a smile and led the two to a table by the window before taking their order.

Yang Chen knew that Lin Ruoxi didn’t like ordering food. Thus, he ordered Songsao fish, Longjing prawns, gladiolus, and steamed pork with dried vegetables, before asking the kitchen to prepare their meal.

The two sat on either side of the table facing each other. They didn’t know what to talk about. Lin Ruoxi had always been a quiet person. With her head lowered, she didn’t feel uncomfortable because of the silence.

However, once Yang Chen got quiet, his mind was filled with various past events, including the little things between the two...

The passionate kiss which felt like glue and paint in the pub followed by the lingering entanglement at night;

On the balcony of the cafe where she treated death like nothing as she demanded him to marry her;

The tenacity and helplessness facing her ruthless father;

Her cuteness of secretly chewing glutinous rice balls on the sickbed;

Her fearlessness when standing up for her employee;

Her tricks to force him into committing to work;

Also her unwavering quality and coldness while obliterating her opponents;

Also her kindness and affection towards children...

Also, also... also her fate of being heavily burdened in addition to her struggling, stumbling, lonely, yet self-enclosed shadow.

Some have said that women were like diamonds. Before being polished, one would never know her true brilliance.

Yang Chen suddenly noticed his thought back then was rather laughable.

Lin Ruoxi could only be Lin Ruoxi. She would never be the other person in his mind. She was one of a kind, just like there wouldn't exist two diamonds in the world with the exact same pattern after getting modeled. She was so complex that no one could understand her, but at the same time would torture you into thinking about her all the time.

Maybe, even she was unaware that certain relationships in the world didn't have starting, but only ending points.

As Yang Chen pondered over the past, a few dishes had already been served. Lin Ruoxi lifted her chopsticks to pinch a small gladiolus before putting it into her mouth and chewing away.

Seeing that Yang Chen had been silently gazing upon her the entire time, her cheeks blushed slightly. Fortunately there weren't many people in the restaurant, so she didn't feel too awkward.

"What happened to you? Start eating. Didn't you say you were hungry?" Lin Ruoxi got stared until she felt uncomfortable, especially due to the surging emotions found in Yang Chen's eyes.

Worried, she thought, Is he making a decision?

Yang Chen took a deep breath. Solemnly, he said, "Ruoxi, although I said nothing was absolute, I guess there are certain things that are destined to be, even if they will never be absolute."

"What do you mean..."

"What kind of a man do you think I am?" Yang Chen asked with a faint smile. "What I mean is, not as a woman living in the same house, not as a superior in the company, and of course not as a woman who got into the bed because of an accident. Judging solely from the perspective of a woman, what kind of a man do you think I am?"

Lin Ruoxi's hand which was holding a pair of chopsticks shivered lightly. She didn't manage to hold them tightly enough, and caused them to fall onto the table. Silently, she looked at Yang Chen's sincere gaze, trying to piece together what he said.

Chapter 350: Such a Me

Yang Chen had expected that Lin Ruoxi would remain silent. He couldn't help but to ridicule himself.

"If you don't want to say it, I'll answer it myself." Yang Chen pondered for a while. As if he was describing someone totally unrelated to him, he slowly said...

"Unlike you, I haven't had the privilege of growing up with parents. I have no idea who abandoned me, or left me behind. In short, I haven't gotten a good upbringing before, let alone know my ancestors or origin. If it wasn't for the experience that I got which ordinary people may never ever encounter, I would be nobody, like a rat in the drain. On the other hand, you had an impressive grandmother since you were born, which allowed you to be the CEO of a multinational company the moment you started working.

"I don't look handsome and although I cannot be considered ugly, when I'm standing together with a beauty like you, it's just like the outer shell of an emerald ore waiting to be stripped off. No one would notice my presence.

"When it comes to my educational background, to be completely honest, I have never attended school before. My certificate from Harvard was forcefully given to me. You may not believe this, but I have never touched that thing since I entered the company. I heard you skipped a grade in school, I don't even know what that means.

"I believe my ambition is quite insignificant. If eating and waiting for death is counted as an ambition, then I believe mine are slightly better than that, I still want to hug beauties as I eat. Relative to an entrepreneur like you who provides thousands of jobs and helps the economy grow, I'm indeed a scum.

"Now, I'm going to talk about how I treat relationships. I'll be completely honest with you. During the years I spent abroad, I have done countless despicable things.

"I'd have quite a number of women with me in a day. On the days where I was not in the mood, there'd still be a few women around me.

"After returning to the country, I planned to settle down after looking for a woman I can sincerely live the rest of my life with. But I didn't know I'd bump into you, together with a few other women whom I find irresistible. I'm overly soft-hearted, and useless at the same time. I really don't know how to reject them. Although I have tens of thousands of reasons, I still feel that it's me being excessively greedy at the end of the day.

"I like each and every one of them, so I'm not willing to abandon any of them. In the past six months, I've been doing things that other men would despise me for. I have a wife like you around me, but I'm still messing around with other women outside. This is not a psychological problem. I'm not the kind of person who's so desperate, and fail to resist temptations. It's merely because I tend to fall for people easily, and I'm contemptible.

"If I have to talk about my other weaknesses, there really are too many of them. I don't have money, the wages I get are paid by you. I don't have a car nor a house, both are fulfilled by you. I think about slacking all day. I might have been too busy back then that I'm not willing to do anything serious now. I just wanted to relax and play computer games.

"I have a feeling that you'd look down on me more for saying this. I don't think about how bad my current lifestyle is. This is how I want to pass time. I won't scourge other people, but if you want me to get something done occasionally, I'd definitely complete the task perfectly. However, hehe, I'm really too lazy to move around myself..."

As Yang Chen spoke, he paused for a while to get himself together. He continued talking, "I don't think I need to say what I'm good at. Things like fighting would scare people to death even if they can be considered as strong points. The cigarettes I smoke are very cheap, they're two bucks per packet. I don't smoke them often as well. The alcohol I consume is even cheaper, and I'm not addicted to it. Regarding things like gambling, I'm not the slightest bit interested even if I'll definitely win money."

Yang Chen bitterly thought in silence. He couldn't think of anything else to say at the moment. Forcing a smile, he said, "That's about it. Having heard them, you must think that I suck. I sometimes think that I'm a damn pile of shit as well. Why do I seem so dead while I'm only a little older than twenty... Every time I see you working so hard, I feel that I'm in a completely different world from yours..."

"Enough!!!"

Lin Ruoxi suddenly stood up with her handbag in hand. Her gaze was fixed on Yang Chen which acted like an icy cold breeze. Her eyes had slightly reddened, while her teeth were tightly clenched, as if she wanted to scoop out his eyes.

Due to immense anger and agitation, her hands were slightly trembling.

"Yang Chen, you talked about just how terrible you are. Are you trying to tell me we belong in different worlds, that it's a mistake for us to be together?"

"You don't have to explain so much to me. Since you're aware of just how awful of a man you are, I won't judge you anymore.

"You're right. Nothing's absolute, but there are certain things set in our hearts. We're not suited for each other. The ones who are supposed to leave should leave. You don't have to give me a long-winded speech. You know that I'm very busy. I don't have the time to talk about nonsense with you!"

After Lin Ruoxi finished speaking, she furiously turned around and left the restaurant. The moment she left her seat, tears fell from her eyes uncontrollably .

Having gone through various happiness, anxiety, and disappointment, the end result is still the time. Since he wanted to say goodbye from the start, why did he still look for me?!

Lin Ruoxi quickly ran out of the restaurant and arrived at the streets. She tried to hold her tears back, but they didn't seem to be stopping no matter how many times she wiped her eyes.

Under the night sky, north wind rustled through the streets lit by raindrop-like lights.

The passersby couldn't help but to turn their gazes to this extremely beautiful woman who was sobbing uncontrollably, but no one would approach her to console her. It was the sense of distance which was pathetic and yet intimidating.

Lin Ruoxi gave up on wiping her tears. Since young, she had almost forgotten how to cry, but after meeting this person, tears would flow down her heart while dripping from her eyes. However, it was still a waste of effort, like scooping the moon out of the water.

However, just as Lin Ruoxi was planning to run away from the place where this person was, to find a secluded corner for her to cry at, Yang Chen suddenly rushed out.

Seeing the back of the figure which was walking away, Yang Chen took a deep breath before suddenly shouting.

“Lin Ruoxi!!! I’m a terrible man as described who lives in a different world from you!!! But someone like me!!! Allowed to like someone like you?!”

...

On the streets, everyone’s ears were occupied by this sudden and weird confession. Time paused at this exact moment.

Lin Ruoxi’s tears wandered in the wind, while her entire body which seemed like it was spellbound, stiffened like a piece of wood. Standing in the middle of the street, she found it hard to even take a step forward.

Lin Ruoxi didn’t turn around. Although the surroundings was noisy, she could listen to the footsteps of the man approaching her. They sounded so vigorous and bold.

Two arms slowly wrapped around Lin Ruoxi’s shoulders from behind, causing her entire upper body to be tightly hugged, as if the two bodies were melting into one.

Lin Ruoxi was still crying. She felt that she had deeply embarrassed herself tonight. But how was she supposed to stop crying?

The fiery warmth and the familiar breath of the man could be felt. They could even feel each other’s surging heartbeat.

At this moment, the world belonged to only the two of them.

A few people around started clapping, while the sounds of whistles could be heard.

Shortly after, the majority of the crowd started clapping. On the street, the round of applause was as loud as one found in a theatre.

“Don’t... don’t hug me anymore... Everyone’s laughing at us...”

“Then tell me if I’m allowed to like you or not...”

“Who would ask someone a question like that...”

“I won’t let go if you refuse to tell me...”

Lin Ruoxi bit her lips while she lowered her head. Her eyes were still watery. Inaudibly, she said, “Yes.”

“What? I can’t hear you.”

Lin Ruoxi pouted. "I'll get angry if you don't listen to me."

Yang Chen smiled helplessly and released her before turning her around. With both his hands, he rubbed her soft face tenderly.

"Got it. How is an old married couple this shy? Let's go home, Wife," Yang Chen said before holding Lin Ruoxi's hand and walking towards the parking area.

"Ah, but you haven't eaten yet," Lin Ruoxi hurriedly said.

Yang Chen waved his hand. "I got full from hugging you, I don't need food anymore."

"How about me?"

"I'll make food for you at home!"

Lin Ruoxi pouted as she held back from smiling. Under the tremendous cheer from the crowd, she quickly walked towards the parking area with Yang Chen.

She held Yang Chen's hand tightly, as did he. It was the first time that she was reluctant to let go of his hand.

Chapter 351: The Old Cow Is Unwilling to See You

After they arrived at the underground parking area and got into the car, Yang Chen didn't immediately start the engine, but turned his head to the side instead. Silently, he stared at Lin Ruoxi whose face was still rather red.

Lin Ruoxi's heart was still pounding furiously, while she panted heavily. Being stared upon by Yang Chen in the dark made her face start to heat up.

It stayed this way for more than a minute. Lin Ruoxi couldn't stand it anymore. She said, "You... Stop looking and start driving..."

Yang Chen conveniently hadn't heard a word she uttered. A smile full of expectations emerged on his face. "Wife, let's do something memorable, to commemorate this day that we have rescinded our plan to divorce, that our peace has been recovered... Oh no, we should be considered to have finally gotten intimate."

"Who's gotten intimate with you?!" Being thin-skinned, Lin Ruoxi certainly wouldn't admit it directly.

"Didn't you say earlier that you allowed me to like you?" Yang Chen asked with a smile.

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes. "But I didn't say I liked you. What are you getting so excited for?"

"Ah..." Yang Chen chuckled and said, "It's fine. It's alright if you don't acknowledge me like that for now. I still like you either ways. How about obediently giving your husband a kiss? At such a meaningful night, we should do something even more meaningful..."

As Yang Chen spoke, he leaned towards Lin Ruoxi. He aligned his lips at hers, and positioned it in such a way that all it took was a slight tilt forward to kiss her.

Astonished, Lin Ruoxi pushed Yang Chen's head away while she subconsciously backed off. "No way! I... I'll get off the car if you do that again!"

Although she had secretly acknowledged their relationship, she was still somewhat afraid to generously do something intimate with Yang Chen. There seemed to be a gap deep down her heart, which made her unwilling to progress past that point.

Lin Ruoxi herself felt rather uneasy, but more so helpless. Logically speaking, since she didn't hope to divorce this man, their relationship as husband and wife should be well-established because he publicly announced his feelings for her.

The problem was that she felt there was something lacking between them. She couldn't toss everything aside to fulfill her responsibilities as a wife. Regarding what specifically, even she herself wasn't so sure.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "It's just a kiss. You don't have to avoid me so much."

"I... I don't like it," Lin Ruoxi said.

Jokingly, Yang Chen asked, "This wouldn't still be your first kiss, would it? It shouldn't be. Babe Ruoxi, who did you give your first kiss to?"

Lin Ruoxi felt shy and angry at this moment. This fellow knew that she had given him all of her first times, while he intentionally came up with these questions to make her speechless.

"I don't remember," Lin Ruoxi said.

Yang Chen looked very serious. "According to a research done by scientists, a women's first kiss is more unforgettable than their first night. Why wouldn't you remember?"

Lin Ruoxi clenched her teeth before snorting coldly. "You suddenly seem very knowledgeable on that matter... Then I'll ask you this, do you know why people originally kissed?"

Yang Chen blinked his eyes in confusion. What else can a kiss be for? It's the most common thing people do when they're feeling most passionate for another. When he thought of his current passion, it had long been washed out by Lin Ruoxi's continual rejection.

"You can't answer now, can you?" Lin Ruoxi asked, elated. "People started kissing since the ancient times. However, they used to kiss both genders to spread bacteria amongst each other, to improve on everyone's immunity. Originally, it's the same idea as mothers kissing their children, just like giving vaccination."

Yang Chen opened his mouth widely. What? How is it related to me kissing my own wife?

Lin Ruoxi continued speaking, "I can safely say have maintained a rather strong body, while I'm rather healthy as well. Let's avoid things like spreading bacteria when we can."

Something which was meant to be romantic suddenly became an tedious act. Gloomily, Yang Chen asked, "Wife, be honest with me. How did you come to know about stuff like this?"

"Do you think all the books in my study room are for decoration?" Lin Ruoxi smiled faintly.

“What’s so good about reading? Having read so many books, even the act of kissing becomes spreading bacteria. No wonder people say that untalented women are the luckiest. I suddenly understand why it’s difficult for female professors to get married...” Yang Chen complained before sighing deeply. He then turned on the car engine and drove back home.

On the other hand, Lin Ruoxi felt secretly relieved herself. If Yang Chen had really wanted to kiss her, she didn’t know if she could escape.

However, the more she thought about it, the more she felt apologetic towards him. They were married after all, and all this while she had always been avoiding him. But the knot in her heart always made it difficult for her to open her mind to such acts...

Before I understand all of the reasons clearly, I’ll just be greedy for once... Lin Ruoxi thought as she glanced at Yang Chen apologetically.

Upon arriving home, they noticed that both Wang Ma and Hui Lin were still downstairs. They hadn’t gone to sleep yet.

“Miss, Young Master, you’re back. Has everything been settled?” It was evident that Wang Ma had been waiting for them since she wasn’t resting at ease.

“Yeah, it’s almost done,” Lin Ruoxi answered. “Wang Ma, haven’t I reminded you countless times to not wait for me at night? You’ll be exhausted.”

“How tired could I get? Hui Lin is here to keep me company. We were wondering when you two would come home, and whether or not we should give you a call or not,” Wang Ma said smilingly.

Hui Lin saw that Yang Chen rushed towards the kitchen without saying anything. She asked, “Brother Yang, what are you doing?”

“I’m looking for something to eat. I haven’t had dinner yet,” Yang Chen replied.

Wang Ma was shocked. “Why haven’t you eaten this late into the night? Young Master, I’ll go heat the dishes up for you.”

However, before she started moving, Lin Ruoxi said, “Wang Ma, I’ll go. You and Hui Lin may go upstairs and rest.”

This time, Wang Ma didn’t say anything. An unusual look appeared on her face. Shortly after, she chuckled and said, “Aye, roger that.”

Hui Lin knew that the two weren’t skilled to do stuff in the kitchen. She said, “I’ll help. Sister Ruoxi, I’ll make a dish or two for you guys. The food there may not be enough for Brother Ya—”

However, before she finished speaking, Wang Ma pulled her arm. “Miss knows how to cook. She learned it before, remember? Hui Lin, go upstairs with me.”

As Wang Ma spoke, she repeatedly signalled to Hui Lin with her eyes.

Hui Lin instantly understood that Wang Ma was trying to create an opportunity for the two to spend time alone. As a result, she followed Wang Ma upstairs.

However, Hui Lin was still very confused. The two said they were going to divorce a while ago, and had been giving each other the cold shoulder for a long time. Why did Yang Chen want to cook in the kitchen together with Lin Ruoxi this intimately, during his first night home? Furthermore, it was the all-conservative Lin Ruoxi who took the initiative to help Yang Chen.

Hui Lin didn't know what she was feeling in heart. She was happy, but sour at the same time, in addition to a tiny bit of jealousy. In short, Hui Lin suddenly didn't know what to feel anymore when she looked at the two who were busy in the kitchen.

It was still Chinese New Year, which meant Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen didn't have to work these few days. Of course, Lin Ruoxi would still go back to the company if something urgent happened.

Having gone through a night full of ups and downs, which was resentful and sweet, Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but blush when she came downstairs the next morning and once again noticed Yang Chen who was devouring the buns and porridge on the table.

Yang Chen didn't feel any different, just that the pressure on him was considerably less when he didn't have to face Lin Ruoxi's ice-cold demeanor. Regarding how he would create harmony with him and his wife, Yang Chen felt that he'd take one step at a time, as long as progress could be made.

As he thought, Yang Chen grinned at Lin Ruoxi who was walking down the stairs.

Lin Ruoxi held back from smiling. She stared at him fiercely and said, "What are you giggling about? Continue eating."

Yang Chen almost choked on the bun he was chewing. Their relationship didn't seem to have made much progress.

At this moment, the door of the villa was opened. Dressed in a thin, long-sleeved clothe and track pants, it was Hui Lin who had just returned from jogging. There were still sweat droplets on her forehead.

Due to practising martial arts since young, Hui Lin had felt that there was nowhere she could spend her energy since coming to the city. Thus, jogging in the morning became a daily outlet to do so.

However, when Hui Lin pushed the door open, she wasn't the only one who walked into the house.

"Brother Yang is still having breakfast with Sister Ruoxi. You guys came too early," Hui Lin said smilingly to a guy and a girl. She then yelled in the house, "Brother Yang, Elder Sister, there are two people who came to pay you a visit for the new year!"

New year?

Yang Chen was holding a pair of chopsticks in one hand, and a bun with the other. When he raised his head, he was surprised. They were Yuan Ye and Tang Tang whom he hadn't seen in a while. Ever since this couple got together, they hadn't kept in touch with him. He didn't expect them to come over this morning.

Tang Tang who was wearing a red coat seemed to have gotten slightly taller. Her face started developing into a mature woman. Upon seeing Yang Chen, she cheerfully yelled, "Uncle," before rushing over to hug him, ignoring the fact that he was still eating.

“Uncle, I miss you so much,” Tang Tang said with a smile.

“Kid, why didn’t you call me or something if you missed me?” Yang Chen frowned.

Tang Tang stuck her tongue out and said, “I have been busy with my studies. I have college entrance exams this year. My mom has been monitoring me strictly. It’s even become more difficult for me to see Brother Yuan Ye.”

After she finished speaking, Tang Tang instantly turned her gaze towards Lin Ruoxi who didn’t have any makeup on and was wearing a loose sweater. Her eyes immediately shone. “Elder Sister, you must be Uncle’s wife. You’re so beautiful!”

Lin Ruoxi wasn’t too happy about this lively girl earlier who rushed over to hug Yang Chen upon entering the house. She thought Tang Tang was a woman who came to challenge her, but she later heard that Tang Tang referred to Yang Chen as ‘Uncle’.

After that, she heard that Tang Tang was still a high schooler before finally lowering her guard. Judging from her identity as a junior student, it wasn’t likely that she’d mess with a married man.

However, Lin Ruoxi burst into laughter when Tang Tang called her ‘Elder Sister’. She then turned her gaze towards Yang Chen as she chuckled.

It could be seen that Yang Chen was suppressing his anger. He almost crushed the bun in his hand into dough.

Yuan Ye put down two big packages that looked like gifts at a corner. He brisk walked over and tapped Tang Tang’s shoulder. “Tang Tang, you call Yang Chen ‘Uncle’ but call his wife ‘Elder Sister’. Doesn’t this mean that Yang Chen married a lady so young that she could be his daughter?”

Yang Chen pouted. Indifferent, she asked, “What’s wrong about that? This elder sister obviously looks younger than Uncle. Uncle is an old cow that eats young grass, how impressive.”

[TL note: An old cow that eats young grass (idiom): The man in a romance who is significantly older than the woman.]

After that, even Hui Lin held a weird smile towards Yang Chen. She felt that Yang Chen’s situation was rather pitiful. He suddenly became one of the older generation.

Yang Chen got so pissed that the corners of his lips bent out of shape. He took the glass of milk prepared by Wang Ma and gulped it down in one go, before he finally felt a little bitter. Pointing at the door, he shouted at Tang Tang, “Kid, you’ve said nothing nice since coming here! Get out! Get out! I don’t want to meet you guys anymore! This old cow is unwilling to see you!!!”

Chapter 352: Getting Discarded into the Cold Palace

Yang Chen’s incessant shouting wasn’t effective, but instead, it made Lin Ruoxi, Hui Lin and Tang Tang, the three ladies, look at him smilingly. They enjoyed witnessing his suffering.

Yuan Ye walked forward to tap on Yang Chen’s shoulder helplessly. “Brother Yang, what’s there to be mad about? I’m in the same generation with you. If Tang Tang calls you Uncle, doesn’t that make her a generation younger than me as well? I’m never annoyed about it.”

“What’s done is done.” Yang Chen didn’t feel anything when Yuan Ye suddenly called him (Elder) ‘Brother Yang’. Waving his hand, he said, “It seems like I’m not entitled to basic human rights in this house.”

“Oh, you just realised?” Lin Ruoxi said. She then ignored Yang Chen’s gloomy look. Turning her attention to Yuan Ye, she asked, “Are you the grandson from the Yuan clan?”

Yuan Ye appeared nervous when he faced Lin Ruoxi. Forcing a smile, he answered, “Yeah, I’m Yuan Ye. Nice to meet you, Boss Lin.”

Lin Ruoxi smiled faintly. “You don’t have to be this nervous. Since you’re Yang Chen’s friend, that means we’re from the same generation. You’re not my subordinate.”

“I’ve heard about the various deeds that you have done prior to my visit. My father would often talk about your operations strategies as setting good examples for me. I’ve actually always looked up to you. I’m not too business savvy, so I’d often receive lectures from my father. He said if I could be half as good as you, he wouldn’t have to worry about anything for the rest of his life.” Yuan Ye was completely honest about what he said. He didn’t make anything up.

Lin Ruoxi was slightly surprised. Although she had met Yuan Hewei a few times at Liu clan’s banquet, she didn’t expect to be this highly praised in front of his son.

Tang Tang blinked her big, shiny eyes. “Woah, Elder Sister, you’re so impressive. Uncle Yuan rarely praises people!”

“Your father is exaggerating my abilities. I’m actually not that impressive. Since you guys came to visit this early, and we didn’t prepare anything, go sit at the sofa while I make tea for you,” Lin Ruoxi said before going to the kitchen and asking Wang Ma for tea leaves and hot water.

Since no one in the house frequently consumed tea, stuff like the water dispenser wasn’t always ready for use. As a result, they had to boil water when they had visitors.

After Yuan Ye and Tang Tang sat down, Hui Lin came to the table and started eating breakfast together with Yang Chen. Noticing Yang Chen’s irritated look, she said smilingly, “Brother Yang, stop being so petty. Tang Tang is obviously a straightforward girl. When I was outside earlier, she still... still...”

Yang Chen got curious as he saw that Hui Lin suddenly blushed as she spoke. Confused, he asked, “What are you trying to say? Just voice it out.”

“She mistook me... as your wife.” After Hui Lin finished speaking, she lowered her head and didn’t dare to look at Yang Chen.

After listening to her, Yang Chen knew that Hui Lin must’ve thought of the ‘mission’ planned by Abbess Yun Miao. The daoist nun really didn’t bother asking about her granddaughter after throwing her over, which he was speechless about. Smiling, he said, “Don’t overthink and start eating. Do you think I look like someone who’d get annoyed over something this insignificant?”

“Oh...” Hui Lin was rather disappointed.

When Lin Ruoxi walked out with a teapot together with Wang Ma who held a smile on her face, Yuan Ye seemed to have recalled something. Nervously, he asked Lin Ruoxi, “Erm... Boss Lin, can I... can I...”

Lin Ruoxi noticed that his face reddened severely. Cheerfully, she said, "Just say it. I'm not a monster who'd eat you."

After the iceberg between her relationship with Yang Chen started dissolving, Lin Ruoxi started holding a smile on her face more often than before.

"Can I refer you as Sister-In-Law?" Yuan Ye asked with a stiff smile.

In fact, before leaving the house, Yuan Ye's mother Yang Jieyu repeatedly informed him to call Yang Chen 'Elder Brother' and Lin Ruoxi 'Sister-In-Law'. Yuan Ye wasn't particularly comfortable with it, but he just thought his mother wanted him to see Yang Chen as his sibling. Furthermore, Lin Ruoxi was one of the wealthiest women in Zhonghai with enough assets to rival a country. There was nothing wrong with seeing her as his sister-in-law.

Lin Ruoxi flushed upon listening to the form of address while she got stunned like a deer in headlights. Glancing at Yang Chen who was still eating, she thought, Is this possibly requested by the fellow?

On the other hand, Wang Ma grinned so happily that her mouth couldn't stay shut. Her eyebrows raised when she smiled. "Yuan clan's young master, what's wrong about it? It's really intimate this way."

"Hehe, is it?" Yuan Ye foolishly scratched the back of his head. "I'll call you Sister-In-Law in the future then."

This matter seemed to have been settled just like that.

Tang Tang murmured something after listening to the conversation. Mimicking Yuan Ye, she sweetly called Lin Ruoxi, "Sister-In-Law!"

Lin Ruoxi had the urge to run out the door. She blushed so much that her ears reddened in front of the two visitors. Even though she felt awkward at heart, she felt a hint of sweetness and satisfaction as well. She couldn't explain the feeling, but she seemed to like it a lot.

Yang Chen who was having breakfast seemed to have thought of something after listening to Yuan Ye's form of address. Sorrow could be seen between his brows, but he didn't say anything and continued having his meal.

Yuan Ye and Tang Tang instantly got familiar with Lin Ruoxi, as if becoming family. Being the sister-in-law, she chatted with the two young fellows and asked them questions like what they usually did, how they got to know Yang Chen, and how their family members were like.

Lin Ruoxi didn't have many friends to begin with. She suddenly got to know two little friends from the same generation as her who referred her as 'Sister-In-Law', appearing immensely intimate. She couldn't help but to feel elated at heart.

Wang Ma notice the entire situation. Satisfied, she went back to the kitchen to continue preparing food. She must be planning to ask Yuan Ye and Tang Tang to have dinner at the house before leaving.

Yang Chen looked at Lin Ruoxi who was happily chatting with the two kids. He asked, "Dear, are you not going to eat anymore?"

Lin Ruoxi was deeply immersed in the conversation with Tang Tang. She simply answered, "Eat yourself."

Yang Chen rolled his eyes. It only took him one night to get discarded into the cold palace again.

[TL note: Whenever a (usually) concubine, or anyone else who had fallen out of favor but were not allowed to leave the imperial palace, that would qualify as being in a "Cold Palace" (打入冷宮)]

However, before he opened his mouth to take a bite on yet another bun, the doorbell rang again.

Yang Chen was surprised. "Oh no, how unfortunate. Did someone come to visit again?"

He looked at Yuan Ye and Tang Tang who looked ignorant before asking, "Did you guys partner up with someone else to disturb me from having breakfast?"

"Elder Brother, we're not that bored." Yuan Ye smiled bitterly.

Hui Lin stood up and said, "I'll get the door," before running to the door and pulling it open.

However, upon opening the door, Hui Lin's body appeared to have stiffened, as if witnessing something horrifying. Dumbstruck, she wasn't able to speak a word.

Everyone turned their attention over there. A tall and well-built man with black, short hair and fair skin wearing a black leather jacket, who looked handsome, walked into the house.

The man's gaze looked incredibly dignified, as if he could look through anyone's heart with ease. He was just like an extraordinary sharp, peerless sword, which looked particularly dazzling.

More surprisingly, dressed in a light-colored windbreaker, Cai Ning whose hair loose followed the man into the house as well. She looked at the people inside helplessly.

"I'm sorry. I couldn't stop him from coming here to find Hui Lin," Cai Ning said.

The people present all recognized Cai Ning, and knew that she was the elder sister from the Cai clan which had given her an imposing identity. But who was the man in front of her, who made her say 'unable to stop him'?

"Why did you come here..." Hui Lin looked at the young man and finally said something slowly.

Strong passion emerged in the man's eyes. "Hui'er, why are you here?"

"What does where I am have to do with you..."

After Hui Lin finished speaking, she turned around and wanted to run away, as if she wasn't willing to meet this man.

However, the man's arm grasped Hui Lin's tightly in a lightning-fast manner. "Hui'er! I won't let you leave me again!"

"Yang Lie! Who are you to control me?!" Hui Lin seemed infuriated as she used all her strength to struggle away from the man called Yang Lie.

However, Yang Lie's hand was just like the mouth of a tiger. No matter how much force Hui Lin used, she wasn't able to get away from him.

It should be mentioned that Hui Lin had been practising martial arts since young. Although she wasn't the best in fighting, she was still personally taught by Abbess Yun Miao. If she cultivated internal energy, the strength of ten ordinary men would still pale in comparison. However, this strength was still powerless in Yang Lie's hands!

"You're the woman I, Yang Lie, like. Of course I should be the one to control you!"

Having said something so commanding, he turned his attention to the other people present, looking down at them disdainfully, as if he was the creator of lives.

"Regardless of who you are, or how you're related to my Hui'er, I must bring her away today." After he finished speaking, he planned to immediately bring Hui Lin away.

Hui Lin knew that she wasn't able to escape. She turned her head to signal Yang Chen for help. Her gaze was filled with melancholy and worry, appearing immensely pitiful.

Yang Chen sighed. Originally, he merely thought that the guy called 'Yang Lie' was rather weird. However, he wasn't able to think about anything else at the moment. He interacted rather well with Hui Lin after all, and she was Lin Ruoxi's blood-related sister. He wouldn't allow 'a man who likes her' to simply take her away.

If this happened to Lin Ruoxi, wouldn't all the guys on the streets want to bring her with them?"

"Let Hui Lin go," Yang Chen said to Yang Lie who was about to step out of the door.

Yang Lie stopped moving. He turned his head to look at Yang Chen, while Hui Lin looked delighted. She knew that although she couldn't deal with Yang Lie, Yang Chen was a being above all.

"What makes you think I'll listen to you?" Yang Lie asked scornfully.

Yang Chen put down his bowl and chopsticks. Frowning, he stood up and asked, "Do you really believe that you're so powerful and no one can stop you from doing what you want?"

"Isn't that the—"

Before Yang Lie finished speaking, he suddenly felt an enormous pressure engulfing all the meridians of his entire body. The horrifying pressure made his aura become disoriented!

This is...

Before he could analyze what it was, instinctively, he let go of Hui Lin's arm and cultivated all of his internal energy towards the front to block the oncoming force!

However, the result proved to be ineffective!

A seemingly gentle force could be felt sweeping across his body. Yang Lie got pushed out of the door forcibly by a mass of air!

Yang Lie continuously spun for a few rounds, which forced him to unleash all his strength to stabilize himself. Cold sweat dripped from his forehead. When he raised his head again, the man could be seen standing at the place he was previously standing at, with Hui Lin behind him under his protection.

Having broken through the ninth level of Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture and achieved its full cycle, his strength couldn't be compared to that of before. Cai Ning was dumbfounded by the horrifying force. Although she wasn't able to understand just how strong Yang Chen was, it was evident that he was much stronger than when she previously saw him launching an attack!

However, Cai Ning finally believed that she was inferior to Yang Lie. If it were her who was blocking the attack earlier, she was certain that she couldn't remove the overwhelming force.

Unfortunately, so what if that was the case? Facing the man whom people called 'God', all his opponents could do was to look up to him.

"Who the heck are you? How is there someone like you in Zhonghai..." Yang Lie refused to believe what he just witnessed. He then turned to look at Cai Ning who had remained silent all this time. "Flower Rain, who's this fellow?"

"He's the one whom you felt was 'unworthy' and 'famous but useless'..." Cai Ning replied.

Yang Lie squinted. "So it's you... I heard that you helped Dragon Group a lot in Tibet. The fellow Sky Dragon kept talking about how strong you were. It sure seems like you have a trick or two indeed."

Yang Chen was rather surprised as well. Yang Lie seemed to be able to feel just how much he was inferior to Yang Chen, but he didn't look the slightest afraid. Yang Chen didn't understand if he was ignorant, or had something he could rely on.

Chapter 353: Xiantian Full Cycle

The battle outside the door caused Lin Ruoxi and the others to come over to Yang Chen. They relieved themselves when they saw that Hui Lin was fine. However, the situation was still tense. They then looked at Yang Lie outside who held a fierce gaze.

When Yuan Ye saw Yang Lie close up, he felt that his face looked rather familiar. When he recalled that Hui Lin called him 'Yang Lie', Yuan Ye started looking at him more carefully with suspicion...

"Yang Chen, you better mind your own business. This matter is between Lin Hui and I. I advise you to step away." Yang Lie still kept his domineering demeanor.

"Her grandma asked me to take care of her while she is here, which means I can't allow you to do whatever you want. Whether you like it or not is none of my business. All I see was she wasn't willing to leave with you and asked for my help. I have no reason to stand aside. So, stop talking nonsense and prove that you've got what it takes to do what you want." Yang Chen got rather impatient. This young man looked a few years younger than him, but spoke like he was a senior, arrogant as hell.

Yang Lie snorted scornfully. "Do you think that I, Yang Lie, dare not fight you? Do you think that I'll be afraid of you just because you're stronger than me? Let me tell you. In this world, there are countless experts whom you would never have a chance to meet in your entire life. Your insignificant strength is nothing in my eyes. Within a few years, I'll be a few times stronger than you! You should back off now,

or you'll have to beg for mercy from me come that time... I know that you hold evil intentions towards Hui'er. Why would you step in to make her stay at your house otherwise? You have nothing to do with her. Do you think I'm an idiot?!"

His words ignited a blaze within Yang Chen. Yang Chen wasn't the slightest bit interested in knowing the experts that Yang Lie mentioned. He knew that there was definitely something wrong with this kid's brain.

Why didn't he lower his head when he was in somebody else's realm?

"Do you believe that I can't make you disappear from this world if you say something more?" Killing aura surged in Yang Chen's body. Even if he really disliked killing people, it was an appropriate way of dealing with the matter. Leaving such an unscrupulous person alive would be a disaster for others.

Having listened to what Yang Chen said, Cai Ning immediately frowned and said, "Yang Chen, don't get reckless! It's just that he doesn't understand the situation..."

"Yeah, Brother Yang, beating him is good enough. Please don't kill... please?" Hui Lin was aware of the difference in strength between Yang Chen and Yang Lie. If Yang Chen said he wanted to kill him, he really couldn't be saved anymore.

On the other hand, Yang Lie who burst into laughter appeared to be fearless. "Do you think I don't dare to do it? You're finally revealing your true side. I exposed your hostility towards Hui'er, didn't I? You managed to earn her trust because she's naive and pure. You're merely an ugly being living in darkness..."

Before Yang Lie could speak anymore, Yang Chen's figure had moved in front of him instantaneously!

Yang Chen's face was emotionless, like dark clouds in a thunderstorm. The overwhelming force his body exerted started oppressing Yang Lie!

"You shall die..."

As he spoke, Yang Chen's palm landed on Yang Lie's chest!

What Yang Lie didn't know, was that he would have had no chance to react to Yang Chen's speed once he got serious!

Such a great disparity caused the presumptuous grin to remain on his face the moment his chest was smacked by Yang Chen!

Slap!

Following the echoing of the strike, Yang Lie's body was just like a kite with a broken string, launching backwards seven to eight meters, flipping in the air a few times before falling onto the lawn!

Yang Lie violently spit out a mouthful of blood while his eyes were wide open. As his hands shivered, he raised his finger to point at Yang Chen...

"You... you... dare..."

Yang Lie couldn't complete his sentence. He felt countless mini bombs exploding away within his organs. His meridians fell into complete chaos. His internal energy was shocked so hard that it was not unlike mice who were frantically scurrying around, making him lose most of his energy!

Yang Chen's eyes looked brutal and ice-cold. His body seemed like it was utterly immersed in darkness. Even if bright sunlight shone upon the house, Yang Chen's surroundings still felt like it was in the realm of darkness.

Cai Ning was dumbstruck. She didn't expect Yang Chen to strike so quickly just because he said so!

If the smack earlier landed on her body, Cai Ning believed that even if she possessed three times her power, she would still die. However, the fellow Yang Lie was still alive. His internal energy is indeed far superior to mine!

But, I really can't let him die!

Cai Ning hurriedly rushed towards Yang Chen and blocked his way, stopping him from further getting closer to Yang Lie. Her cold face was currently filled with anxiety. "Yang Chen, enough. You can't kill him. You'll get into trouble!"

Lin Ruoxi and the others were astonished when they witnessed Yang Chen's sudden outbreak, especially Yuan Ye and Tang Tang. Although they knew that Yang Chen was proficient in fighting, they didn't know he was this powerful.

Lin Ruoxi didn't speak a word, but her face paled severely. She didn't pay much attention to whether Yang Chen was committing murder or not. However, she heard Yang Lie referred Hui Lin as—Lin Hui?!

Lin Ruoxi quietly gazed upon Hui Lin who looked anxious, before immersing into contemplation...

"Go away," Yang Chen stared at Cai Ning indifferently. "You know that you can't stop me."

Cai Ning clenched her teeth while her eyes were filled with resolution in addition to pleading. "Yang Chen... please don't do this. He really cannot die..."

"Why?" Yang Chen asked coldly.

"His background is extraordinary. If something happens to him, you'll..."

"What'll happen to me? Who can stop me?" Yang Chen laughed loudly. "I tolerated him repeatedly, but he chose not to back off. He's conceited, ignorant, and foolish. Why should I spare his life?"

Yang Lie who was lying on the lawn hadn't experienced such insults before. He got so pissed that he spat out yet another mouthful of blood on the ground. Pointing at Yang Chen and opening his bloody mouth, he said, "You... you dare scold me..."

Cai Ning instantly paled. Why doesn't this fellow understand his situation?! Is he an idiot?!

Expectedly, Yang Chen didn't speak any more nonsense. He swept his hand in front of Cai Ning and simply pushed her aside.

It only took Yang Chen one step to arrive in front of Yang Lie, literally looking down on him in a condescending manner.

"I like how you look at me. Killing you will make me feel very pleased." As soon as Yang Chen finished speaking, he launched a kick at Yang Lie's head!

However, Yang Chen frowned as he swung his foot down. He turned his body around in the blink of an eye and swung his leg towards the sky!

Boom!

An explosion-like sound echoed midair!

A green and gray figure suddenly emerged mid-air. After his foot collided with Yang Chen's, he flipped in the air and landed behind Yang Lie.

The green and gray figure pulled Yang Lie towards his back for protection. He was then revealed to everyone.

He was an old man dressed in a green robe. His black hair was aging slightly, but his face was ruddy while his skin was bright and smooth. No one could tell just how old he was. Keeping a solemn expression, he gazed upon Yang Chen as if he was facing his biggest enemy.

Cai Ning was stunned when she saw the person approaching. She then thought of something and got surprised, but soon relieved herself. Judging from this senior's ability, he might be able to stop this murderous god.

"Master..." Yang Lie coughed blood. Upon seeing the person who came, joy immediately emerged on his paled face.

The old man leaned downwards before striking a few meridian points on Yang Lie's body before standing straight again to face Yang Chen.

"Young Man, isn't it our practice to be forgiving whenever we can. My apprentice is still young. Don't you feel that it's wrong to attack him so severely?" the old man asked as he frowned.

Yang Chen looked at the old man's actions. Earlier, he felt an enormous oncoming force. Although he could forcefully take the blow, he'd receive a slight injury. As a result, he merely impacted the old man once.

Yang Chen didn't expect he'd really meet someone who could withstand his attack without being affected. At this moment, he snorted in disdain. "He's young, but I'm not old as well. If he didn't choose to provoke me repeatedly, I wouldn't have taken action. So he's your apprentice. Shouldn't you lecture him before telling me these?"

"My apprentice is at fault as well, but you didn't have to punish him so brutally..." The old man's eyes revealed emotions. "As far as this one is concerned, you've already achieved Xiantian Full Cycle. Even this one is far from reaching this level. With great power comes great responsibility. Although I don't know how you managed to obtain such abilities at a young age, do you have to quibble about such a trivial matters with my apprentice?"

[TL note: 'This one' is a humble way of referring to oneself.]

Yang Chen looked indifferent when he listened to the old man, while Cai Ning and Yang Lie were dumbfounded. Cai Ning didn't know Yang Chen had entered the legendary level of Xiantian Full Cycle! No wonder he's this strong!

Yang Lie didn't expect even his master to be inferior to this man! Previously, he wanted to ask his master to take action, since he was certainly stronger than Yang Chen. However, this dream of his got crushed when the old man spoke. He finally realized that he really could die in Yang Chen's hands!

"Old Man, don't think I'm unable to kill you just because you could block my kick. Your apprentice pissed me off. If you want to talk more nonsense today, I'll kill you as well." Yang Chen immediately lost his patience when the old man started telling him life lessons. Fight me if you want to. Rescue him if you can. Why must you bullshit in the process?

There was no fairness in this world, it had always been this case. At the end of the day, the strongest would forever be the fist, instead of the ability to reason. Only fools would believe that God was fair and just.

However, at this moment, Yuan Ye who had been observing Yang Lie suddenly rushed over. Hesitatingly, he asked, "Are you... are you my cousin from the Yang clan?"

Chapter 354: Stop Talking About It

he thought of something, staring at Yang Lie who was panting heavily.

Yang Lie's brows creased as he took a closer look at Yuan Ye. "You are..."

"I'm Yuan Ye. We met before when we were younger!" Yuan Ye said as he pointed at himself, feeling rather excited. However, the situation made it awkward for him to put a smile on his face.

"You are... Aunt's son?" Yang Lie asked doubtfully. He looked as if he was recalling something similar as well.

"Yeah, my mom is Yang Jieyu. I was wondering why you appeared so familiar, and looked very similar to Uncle. So you're my cousin... But... but we haven't met for so long, I couldn't recognize you immediately and I wasn't thinking straight." Yuan Ye awkwardly turned around and said to Yang Chen, "Elder Brother, for me, can you spare his life? Please don't kill him. I heard that he started following a master to learn martial arts, so he may not understand you well. He's been punished enough now..."

Although Yang Chen didn't rid himself of his hostile look much, his killing aura had long dispersed the moment Yang Lie recognized Yuan Ye. Negative emotions of sorrow and loneliness made him feel like his heart was at its freezing point.

He didn't have to analyze the situation much to understand why he felt a subconscious, bizarre emotion the moment he saw this young man earlier.

With a complex gaze, he glanced at Yang Lie before looking at the old man who acted cautiously. Sighing, he said, "Leave. I won't kill you guys for this little brother of mine."

Cai Ning's face revealed shock. She knew that Yang Chen wouldn't mind killing anyone even if they are related to him once he was in action. Did Yuan Ye's presence manage to stop Yang Chen from committing murder?! This... is too strange!

However, Cai Ning truly relieved herself since Yang Lie didn't have to die. After all, Cai clan was much weaker when compared to Yang clan. If something really happened to Yang Lie in Zhonghai, while he was coincidentally brought over by Cai Ning, Cai clan would definitely get into trouble. When that happens, they'd have no place to cry at. Anywhere they went to would lead to certain death...

The old man squinted his eyes. He felt rather surprised towards Yang Chen's rapid dismissal of his killing aura. But he still rested at ease, and treated Yang Chen's action as kindness. He clasped his hands and said, "Yu Jizi from Kunlun Sect thanks Little Brother for your generosity."

After he finished speaking, Yu Jizi lifted Yang Lie who was crippled and low-spirited up, before leaping away and leaving the villa.

His lightness skill was indeed formidable. Even Yang Chen might have not been able to defeat him in the air. If he wanted to abandon Yang Lie and escape, Yang Chen was certain that he couldn't catch up to him.

[TL note: Lightness Skill (轻功 qīnggōng): The ability to lighten the body and move with great agility & swiftness. At high proficiency, practitioners of this skill can run across water, leap to the top of trees, or even glide through the air.]

Following his leap, even when he was carrying a person, Yu Jizi's figure was nowhere to be found anymore.

Cai Ning gloomily looked at Yang Chen. Nodding, she said, "Thank you," before leaving the scene as well.

Having witnessed such a magical incident early in the morning, Yuan Ye and Tang Tang were astonished, feeling like they'd just woke up from a dream. Fortunately, it wasn't their first time seeing Yang Chen in action. Otherwise they would've fainted out of surprise earlier.

Melancholy could be seen on Hui Lin's face. She noticed that Lin Ruoxi had been staring at her with a weird gaze. Although Lin Ruoxi didn't explicitly state anything, Hui Lin vaguely felt that she seemed to have found out something.

Yang Chen wasn't in the mood to stay at home. Walking to the door, he said, "Ruoxi, I'll go take the car out for a spin. Take care of Yuan Ye and Tang Tang."

Lin Ruoxi stunned slightly. She'd rarely seen Yang Chen this serious. He even talked to her this solemnly, which rendered her speechless. She even felt a small heartache coming. Nodding gently, she said, "Alright. Come back soon, we'll wait for you to have lunch."

Yang Chen hummed in acknowledgement before walking to the garage and leaving the villa with his car.

He needed some time for himself to calm his mind. The feeling of love and hate mixed together made him fall under the illusion that he was being heavily tortured.

The feeling one faced when thinking about something compared to actually experiencing it, was not unlike the difference between heaven and earth. Similar to the time when he met up with Yang Jieyu at the cafe, Yang Chen found it hard to rationally look at the things which he had never felt he owned, that he tried very hard to forget about.

After Yang Chen left, the atmosphere at home got rather awkward. Yuan Ye and Tang Tang didn't expect a life-and-death scene to emerge when paying a new year's visit. Luckily, Yang Lie was Yuan Ye's cousin brother whom he hadn't met in a while. Otherwise the scene would definitely have gone south.

However, the matter was only temporarily delayed. The main issue still remained.

At the very least, including Yuan Ye, they felt it was extremely odd for Yang Lie to have taken a fancy towards Hui Lin—Yang Lie isn't an ordinary person! How about Hui Lin?

Although Lin Ruoxi didn't have much connection with Yuan clan, she was well aware that they were quite steady in their position as the strongest clan in Zhonghai. It was mostly due to Yuan Ye's mother, Yang Jieyu from the Yang clan in Beijing.

Since Yang Lie was Yuan Ye's cousin brother, he was undoubtedly from the top clan in China, the Yang clan. The reason why he is this strong and has such a domineering master was all because of his extraordinary family background, although, even his master could barely stand a few strikes from Yang Chen.

Why would such a man come to look for the seemingly normal Hui Lin, who claimed to be Yang Chen's cousin sister, this resolutely?

Although Hui Lin was a rare beauty, she paled in comparison when she stood beside Lin Ruoxi. She could be considered pleasant-looking at most. It was impossible for her to attract a man so much that he would lose his mind, let alone a child from a wealthy family like Yang Lie! He must've seen countless beauties in his life before. Even when he met Lin Ruoxi, he wasn't the slightest bit affected.

As a result, Yuan Ye couldn't help but to ask, "Miss Hui Lin, how do you know my cousin brother? I heard that he left the city at a young age to learn from his master, who's likely to be the daoist that came earlier, Yu Jizi. Are you an apprentice of a master from Kunlun Sect as well?"

Hui Lin paled. Being naive, she didn't expect Yang Lie to come find her. This time, she was afraid that she would really get exposed.

Expectedly, Lin Ruoxi turned her cold gaze over to Hui Lin after Yuan Ye asked the question. She was the CEO of a multinational company with tens of thousands of employees after all. Giving subordinates pressure was something she was good at doing. When Hui Lin saw that she was looking at her in such a way, she felt rather distressed at the question.

"I... I'm not... I'm just..."

Hui Lin really didn't know how to explain herself. She wasn't one who was good at lying. Yang Chen was the only one who claimed that she was his cousin. She found it hard to cover herself as she couldn't come up with a perfect lie.

"It's fine. Stop talking about it, this isn't a problem to be discussing now," Lin Ruoxi said out of the blue while her sight met Hui Lin's for a while. "Hui Lin, go give Wang Ma a hand in cooking lunch. Yuan Ye and Tang Tang, please stay to have lunch with us."

Hui Lin stunned. She didn't know Lin Ruoxi would let her go just like that, and even help her change the topic.

Doesn't she want to ask about me being 'Lin Hui'?

Regardless what the reason was, Hui Lin instantly nodded and proceeded to the kitchen.

Yuan Ye didn't feel the need to get an answer. Since she wasn't willing to tell, he was too lazy to delve into the matter. She wasn't the girl he was interested in after all.

Hui Lin felt relieved when she ran to the kitchen. She helped Wang Ma wash and cut vegetables, but her attention was focused at the living room. She really had no clue what Lin Ruoxi was thinking about. Based on Lin Ruoxi's intelligence, it was impossible that she missed such an obvious issue. Furthermore, her gaze earlier proved that she must've found something out.

It's all because of Yang Lie!

Emei Sect, where Hui Lin was in, had always been connected to Yang Lie's Kunlun Sect, not to mention that the Lin clan and the Yang clan were close. Although the Lin clan wasn't as powerful as the Yang clan, they could still be considered on the same tier.

When Yang Lie first met Hui Lin, he quickly fell in love as he was still young. Since then, he had been thinking that Hui Lin would certainly end up being his wife. On the other hand, Hui Lin had no interest in the arrogant Yang Lie who came from a wealthy family, which allowed him to have a master of Xiantian level, although he was extremely gifted. As a result, such a scene emerged earlier.

When Hui Lin busied herself in the kitchen, Lin Ruoxi came into the kitchen as well to get some snacks for the visitors.

Seeing Lin Ruoxi, Hui Lin immediately wanted to explain something. "Elder Sister, I'm actually—"

"Stop talking about it." Lin Ruoxi gazed upon her for a short while. "You don't need to tell me, while I don't know anything. You're Yang Chen's cousin, which means you're my cousin as well, am I right?"

Hui Lin felt sour at heart when she saw that Lin Ruoxi was repressing her emotions. Biting her lips, she nodded and said, "Yeah..."

Lin Ruoxi forced a smile, before walking out of the kitchen with some dried fruits.

Hui Lin got stunned as she stood up. She wasn't able to calm herself down. Her eyes reddened while she tried her best to hold back from crying.

Chapter 355: You'll Go First

When lunchtime came round, Yang Chen promptly returned home. His gloominess was replaced with one of relaxation. He had managed to calm himself down.

Yang Chen looked at Yuan Ye and Tang Tang with disdain upon seeing them. "I merely asked you guys to stay for lunch out of courtesy. Did you really take me seriously?"

Tang Tang could tell that Yang Chen was himself again. Pointing her middle finger, she said, "I heard from Sister-In-Law that this house belongs to her, and not you. Uncle, you're just a man who relies on his wife!"

Yang Chen exuded cold sweat. Gloomily, he looked at Lin Ruoxi who was carrying dishes out from the kitchen and said, "Wife, you can't reveal everything. I'm not given any human rights in this house."

Lin Ruoxi finally felt relieved when Yang Chen returned safely and started joking again, but didn't entertain him. Minding her own business, she turned around and walked back to the kitchen.

"Uncle, look! Even Sister-In-Law is ignoring you." Tang Tang said as she stuck her tongue out at Yang Chen, which made him sigh deeply.

Everyone sat down and started eating while relishing the present pleasant atmosphere. Wang Ma appeared particularly joyous, especially when Yuan Ye and Tang Tang referred to Lin Ruoxi as 'Sister-In-Law'. She smiled so brightly that her eyes creased like a crescent moon.

"Elder Brother, I have a request," Yuan Ye suddenly said to Yang Chen.

Yang Chen was stuffing in a big mouthful of rice as he chewed on a chicken drumstick. He nodded as he signalled him to continue talking.

"Can you teach me martial arts?"

Yang Chen had originally wanted to spit out the rice which was in his mouth to express his astonishment, but the moment he was going to open his mouth, Lin Ruoxi who was sitting opposite him, gave him a cold stare, which caused him to immediately swallow his food.

"Erm... I think that it would be in your best interest to stick to playing computer games. Fighting doesn't suit you," Yang Chen said. "If all you want to do is deal with small time gangsters, just learn boxing or something. I don't know how to teach you martial arts."

"But you do know martial arts. The person earlier was so powerful but still paled in comparison to you. If I learn from you, wouldn't that make me super strong as well?" Yuan Ye asked in excitement.

Yang Chen put down his bowl and chopsticks. Solemnly, he gazed upon Yuan Ye and said, "I don't understand martial arts."

"Elder Brother, stop joking. Everyone saw what you did." Yuan Ye thought that Yang Chen was unwilling to teach him.

"I don't know martial arts, but I know how to kill. Do you want to learn how to kill?" Yang Chen asked.

Yuan Ye got stunned, while the four women dining on the table stopped what they were doing. Dissatisfied, Lin Ruoxi looked at Yang Chen. What he said must've frightened Yuan Ye very much.

Yuan Ye looked troubled. At last, he nodded his head and said, "Nevermind, I probably won't be able to stand the training anyways."

"Don't think that I'm being petty. If I really wanted to teach, the least qualified people I'm willing to train is the special forces. You lack the commitment, qualification and foundation. It's better if you stayed away from all this," Yang Chen said.

In fact, he could have taught him the internal energy technique of Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture. But his master Song Tianxing didn't specify if he could pass on the technique or not. Thus, it was out of respect for his dead master, that Yang Chen wasn't readily going to teach others the technique.

Furthermore, he only managed to successfully practise the technique because of his unique body type. Ordinary people would find it difficult to even achieve the first level.

Yuan Ye didn't mind it too much. Although he felt that it was rather unfortunate that he could not learn, he wouldn't go so far as to argue with Yang Chen just because he didn't agree to teach him. After that, he continued chatting with the others relaxedly.

Their lunch ended shortly after. Tang Tang suddenly suggested, "Sister-In-Law, Uncle, let's go for some karaoke later, can we? Everyone's on vacation anyway. Let's have some fun!"

"Karaoke?" Lin Ruoxi frowned. "I haven't gone to one before."

"Really..." Tang Tang looked dumbfounded, as if she was witnessing something supernatural. "Sister-In-Law, you're the CEO of such a huge company but you haven't been to one before?"

Lin Ruoxi blushed slightly as she nodded.

Yang Chen wasn't surprised at all. He felt that Tang Tang's suggestion could be used to improve his relationship with Lin Ruoxi. As a result, he said, "Let's go. We'll leave after resting for a bit."

"We have a well-decorated and considerably large karaoke owned by the Yuan clan. I'll register a platinum card for you guys later, so that you can go for your subsequent times," Yuan Ye said with a smile. "I don't mean anything else than just that by it, take it as a gift for my seniors."

Yang Chen snorted. "You know, the more you speak, the older I feel."

Lin Ruoxi felt rather moved when she heard that Yang Chen agreed. Turning her head, she said to Hui Lin, "Sister, you're coming with us as well."

Hui Lin had been feeling rather down during the meal. When Lin Ruoxi suddenly invited her to join as well, she almost dropped her bowl. "I'm allowed to go as well?"

"Of course you can. We're going as a family. You're related to us, aren't you?" Lin Ruoxi said.

Hui Lin felt sour in her heart. She wasn't sure if Lin Ruoxi found out about their relationship. When Lin Ruoxi mentioned the word 'relative', she immediately felt guilty.

She had been lying to her all this time, even though it wasn't malicious in intent. She was extremely grateful that Lin Ruoxi was willing to tolerate her even when that was the case.

"Alright, I'll go," Hui Lin agreed. She knew that Lin Ruoxi wanted someone to keep her company, although she herself hadn't been to a karaoke before as well.

After the meal, they rested at home for a short while, before preparing to leave. Lin Ruoxi and Hui Lin wore a overcoat before going out with the others.

Lin Ruoxi's car tyre hadn't been replaced yet, so she boarded Yang Chen's. They followed Yuan Ye's R8 to Yuan's Dream Karaoke owned by the Yuan clan.

In the car, Yang Chen drove as he asked Lin Ruoxi who was beside him, "Honey, do you know where I went earlier?"

She glanced at Yang Chen and said, "I don't want to know."

Yang Chen pouted. "Ah, how uncooperative... I went to look for Zhenxiu."

"Zhenxiu?" Lin Ruoxi finally got interested. "How is she these days?"

Yang Chen nodded. "I've asked her to sign up for school again, to get ready for the college entrance exam this summer. I went to visit her today. Her place was filled with huge piles of books. She must've started to treat it seriously."

Lin Ruoxi looked at Yang Chen in satisfaction. "You've finally done something good."

Yang Chen felt dismayed. When have I ever done bad things?

Hui Lin didn't know who Zhenxiu was, but she felt that it was fun to see Yang Chen's troubled face.

Upon their arrival at the karaoke, the general manager rushed out to welcome them inside. Yuan Ye gave him a call earlier. When he found out that the young master of the Yuan clan and the CEO of Yu Lei International were coming over, he immediately asked his subordinates to empty out the largest room, and handpicked two of the best-looking employees to serve them.

"Young Master, how come you have time to visit us today?" the general manager asked with a smile.

Yuan Ye pointed at Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi beside. "This is my elder brother and sister-in-law. I'm quite free today, so I decided to come over to have some fun. You don't need to do anything meaningless, but continue doing your job instead. None of us here likes the extra attention."

The manager took a glance at Lin Ruoxi, and immediately realized that she was the well-known CEO who seldom showed herself in public events. He got slightly stunned, before quickly nodding his head to Yuan Ye.

Upon entering the specially prepared, incredibly large and luxurious room, huge portions of fruits, snacks and beverages could be seen on the table.

Being led by the ever so active Tang Tang, the atmosphere quickly became bright again. Holding the mic, Tang Tang sang a fast song passionately before singing a love song together with Yuan Ye.

Yuan Ye's singing was rather out of tune, but it wasn't too terrible. The two resembled professionals when they sang, relaxed and natural.

After they finished singing the two songs, Yang Chen and Hui Lin clapped in encouragement, while Lin Ruoxi looked immensely bothered, as if she witnessed something that made her exceedingly nervous.

"Uncle, it's your turn now," Tang Tang said as he passed the mic to Yang Chen.

Yang Chen received the mic before putting it in front of Lin Ruoxi. "Ladies first."

Lin Ruoxi hurriedly pushed the mic back to Yang Chen. "You go first, I don't need you to let me go first."

Yang Chen felt rather helpless. Using the mic, he said to Yuan Ye, "Kid, help me pick a song."

“What song do you want?” Yuan Ye asked.

“Pick whichever one you like, anything will do,” Yang Chen said.

Lin Ruoxi stared at him doubtfully. “Stop lying. What if you don’t know how to sing the song?”

“Haha, I will certainly know how to sing all the songs this kid listens to,” Yang Chen said joyfully.

Yuan Ye didn’t believe a word he said. Having pondered for a while, he picked a rather new song, Rolling in the Deep, sang by the award-winning singer Adele. Due to its unique tone, it was rare for other people to convey the same emotions when singing the song.

Hui Lin was delighted. The equipment in the karaoke room made her really excited. When she heard that Yang Chen was going next, she looked at him with high expectations.

Yang Chen followed the rhythm and started singing the song. His hoarse voice was suitable towards this style of music.

The relaxed yet powerful voice filled the room with wildness and indulgence. Yang Chen even used a pure American accent, to sing the song, making it sound particularly unrestrained.

Yuan Ye and Tang Tang were immersed in his voice, while Hui Lin’s face revealed astonishment. However, Lin Ruoxi looked more and more anxious. Her palms were clenched while they trembled.

After Yang Chen finished singing the song, he happily passed the mic back to Lin Ruoxi. “Wife, it’s your turn.”

Lin Ruoxi, after watching his performance, quickly passed the mic to Hui Lin. “Sister, you’ll go first.”

“Ah?” Hui Lin blinked her eyes. Although she wanted a turn as well, she didn’t expect Lin Ruoxi to let somebody else go first again.

Seeing Lin Ruoxi’s serious and nervous look, Hui Lin received the mic and stood up.

Chapter 356: Reading Better Than Singing

Hui Lin didn’t know how to use the equipment in the karaoke room. As a result, she blushed as she timidly asked Tang Tang to pick a song for her.

“Sister Hui Lin, what song do you want to sing?”

Shyly, Hui Lin bit her lower lip and said, “I don’t know many modern songs. Can I sing an old one instead?”

“Yeah, sure. Classical songs are great as well,” Tang Tang said as he nodded.

“I want Ye Qianwen’s Possibilities of Love,” Hui Lin said.

Tang Tang quickly picked the song before looking at Hui Lin out of curiosity, while Yuan Ye brought round the same anticipation, since he hasn’t heard of the song before as well.

Hui Lin’s voice was highly praised by the major producers in Yu Lei Entertainment. Since she regarded as a singer with unlimited potential, she naturally picked a song she liked.

She began singing.

“You appeared before me.”

”Like a miracle that took place. I didn’t expect him to be you.”

”You make me feel like I lost my soul.”

...

“Because you have your path to go, I have my own journey.

”There are people waiting for you in front.”

“You’d cry, laugh, love and get hurt...”

Hui Lin was deeply immersed in her performance as she sang the classical love song. Especially due to her delicate voice, the others were fully immersed as well.

It only took her one song for Tang Tang to clap her hands so hard that her palms reddened.

Hui Lin let out a shy smile as she passed the mic to Lin Ruoxi. “Elder Sister, sing us a song as well.”

Lin Ruoxi’s face showed bitterness written all over it. There was not a hint of her smile to be seen. However, everyone already had a go. She didn’t have a reason not to sing anymore.

“Wife, you couldn’t possibly be afraid of merely singing a song, are you?” Yang Chen could tell that Lin Ruoxi didn’t want to sing. Is it possible that she is shy?

Lin Ruoxi angrily rolled her eyes at Yang Chen before picking up the mic. “Who says I’m afraid? It’s just singing”

After she finished speaking, she stood up and walked towards the monitor before starting to pick a song.

However, almost five minutes had gone by but Lin Ruoxi was still choosing a song. She wasn’t sure what she wanted to sing.

“Do you want to sing ‘Two Little Tigers’?” Yang Chen said as he ribbed at Lin Ruoxi.

[TL note: Two Little Tigers is a Chinese nursery rhyme.]

Lin Ruoxi gave him a death stare, with the main reason being she really had the urge to choose ‘Two Little Tigers’!

However, Lin Ruoxi being who she is, naturally wouldn’t do something so trivial. Thus, having thought for some time, she chose the song ‘Dark Skies’ by Mo Wenwei.

The song itself isn’t too difficult to sing in general. But Mo Wenwei’s unique voice managed to make this song particularly touching.

Yang Chen had never listened to Lin Ruoxi sing before. After all, she wasn’t privy to talking much after all. Why would she sing for him out of nowhere?

Lin Ruoxi's back was facing the others, while her forehead exuded sweat. Her palms were sweating as her body stiffened like a log, not to mention her face was filled with sorrow.

When the lyrics turned red to indicate it was time for her to sing, Lin Ruoxi clenched her teeth and started singing...

"Dark skies... in... the room... of a... a person..."

When Lin Ruoxi finished singing the first sentence of the song, everyone else in the room revealed 'astonishment' on their faces!

It was because none of the words in the first sentence was sung at a correct pitch by Lin Ruoxi!

To put in simpler terms, it was more difficult to score zero in a test than to score full marks. If one wanted to sing every single word of a song out of time, it was much more challenging than accurately singing all the words!

However, somehow, Lin Ruoxi managed to do it! She made the tune of the song sound unrecognizable!

Yang Chen and Hui Lin subconsciously looked at each other, while Yuan Ye and Tang Tang did the same as well, completely astonished!

Lin Ruoxi ignored the people behind, and continued using her flawless voice to sing a totally unmatched melody!

In fact, the truly significant aspect of her voice wasn't her ability to go out of tune, but her tone instead. It was straight up noise. In short, she'd sing the song better if she read the lyrics aloud!

In this world, there were people who are better at reading the lyrics than singing it who exist...

Yang Chen didn't know if he was supposed to cry or laugh. His wife had a hidden side. No wonder she didn't want to sing earlier. She got afraid when she heard that all the others could sing better. As a result, she had to force herself to perform in embarrassment.

It was exactly as Yang Chen guessed. Lin Ruoxi initially thought that a rough guy like Yang Chen wouldn't know how to sing, so she promised to come with them as she wouldn't be the only one in shame. To her surprise, Yang Chen was excellent at singing!

In such a situation, Lin Ruoxi got herself into an awkward situation. She couldn't just escape this. In her dictionary, running away in fear wasn't part of it. Hence, even if she had to embarrass herself, all she needed to do was to sing calmly.

When Lin Ruoxi turned around after she finished singing, Yuan Ye and Tang Tang sat there silently, as if having just experienced trauma.

Hui Lin turned her head away as she didn't dare to look at Lin Ruoxi in the eye. It was out of respect for Lin Ruoxi that she decided not to voice out any of her opinions.

Yang Chen smiled awkwardly and said, "Not bad, I'm impressed."

Lin Ruoxi snorted in dissatisfaction. "You don't need to pretend. I'll be honest with you guys. Since young, I have always been the worst in music. My teacher said that I was tone deaf. In high school, my

music teacher allowed me to skip all her classes, in sheer pity. You guys must have some high tolerance if you haven't run out of this room yet."

Yuan Ye and Tang Tang glanced at each other. Actually, it's not that they didn't want to escape, but their legs were softened after they heard Lin Ruoxi's horrifying voice.

Yang Chen smiled and said, "Wife, it's fine. The number of people who can sing every word out of tune is certainly less than the ones who can sing it in tune. You're one-of-a-kind."

"I'm not a singer, it's fine if I can't sing. I don't need your petty consolation." Lin Ruoxi's face was as cold as an iceberg. She walked to the sofa and put down the mic.

Tang Tang quietly took the mic away and passed it to Hui Lin. "Sister Hui Lin, sing one more song for us." They were in need of a pleasant voice that could calm their injured minds.

Hui Lin smiled awkwardly before choosing the song 'Warmth' by Liang Jingru, while avoiding to glance at Lin Ruoxi who was exuding a violent and cold aura.

Her intentions didn't have to be explained. The name of the song she picked was self-explanatory.

After her horrible performance, Lin Ruoxi didn't sing a single sentence anymore. She had sat there silently as she listened to Hui Lin sing. Although she didn't say anything, it was evident from her eyes that she felt rather envious.

Yang Chen secretly thought, This woman is indeed a treasure. The moment she opens her mouth to sing, her iceberg-beauty attitude instantly falls into pieces!

The following hour was simply Hui Lin's solo performance. Having heard enough, under Yang Chen's suggestion, they left the karaoke place.

Yang Chen knew that Lin Ruoxi was so heavily affected, that her body would be left with no skin from her seething, if she heard anymore of Hui Lin's singing.

After bidding farewell to Yuan Ye and Tang Tang, the three returned home. Hui Lin helped Wang Ma with some housework, while Lin Ruoxi wanted to walk upstairs to work, looking down.

Yang Chen approached her with a smile and said, "Babe Ruoxi, let's go sing again tomorrow." Yang Chen took out the platinum member card given by Yuan Ye and waved it in front of her.

Flushing, Lin Ruoxi stared at him angrily. "Do you want to see me embarrass myself?"

"No, it'll be just the two of us. I'll teach you how to sing. You have an excellent voice, it isn't logical that you can't sing well. You can't avoid it for the rest of your life, can you?"

"So what if that's the case? It'll be fine if I never sing again in the future," Lin Ruoxi said in an indifferent manner.

"What if someone else invites us out again? Are you going to look for an excuse to avoid going every single time? Also, your employees may request for you to sing during company events. Are you going to grace them with your cold gaze that kills, everytime this happens?" Yang Chen asked.

Lin Ruoxi pondered for a while. It certainly seemed like she was going to be asked to sing again in the future. She said, "Then promise me something, and I'll go with you."

"What is it?"

"You have to work everyday seriously from now on. You can't go missing out of the blue and pass everything to Wang Jie and Zhao Teng," Lin Ruoxi said strictly.

Yang Chen sighed in his heart. So she's been monitoring me all this time. She's really worried about me, isn't she?

"Alright, I promise." Yang Chen felt that if he wanted to live a good life with his wife, he had to compromise in some ways.

Lin Ruoxi finally nodded in satisfaction and promised Yang Chen to learn how to sing. However, before she went upstairs, her phone rang.

Lin Ruoxi took her phone out to have a look before frowning slightly, hesitating if she wanted to pick up the call or not.

"What happened?" Yang Chen noticed Lin Ruoxi's actions.

Lin Ruoxi sighed deeply. "It's Jingjing."

After she finished speaking, she picked up the call.

Chapter 357: Invincible

Ever since they went their separate ways at the hospital, Li Jingjing had never contacted Yang Chen again. As for him, he wouldn't have gone out of his way to ask Lin Ruoxi if she was contacted by Li Jingjing.

Deep in his heart, Yang Chen didn't blame Li Jingjing for her mistake. She was just an ordinary girl. Everyone has good and bad sides. There weren't many people who were completely free of malevolence.

Although Li Jingjing was at fault as well, when she was manipulated by Zeng Xinlin, she was still in a rather pitiful situation after all. Yang Chen only got angry at her the other day, but didn't hate her for doing so.

When it came to this aspect, Lin Ruoxi who was similarly a woman, would look at this matter with an open mind. Thus, she picked up the phone call.

Lin Ruoxi seemed to have heard something shocking from Li Jingjing. It was rare for astonishment to be seen on Lin Ruoxi's usually stoic face. It was soon followed by one of sorrow.

"Have you made up your mind?" Lin Ruoxi asked on the phone.

After a while, she said, "Since you have decided, I'll send you off tomorrow at the airport. He'll be coming as well. There's nothing left to be said, I'll be there on time."

After Lin Ruoxi ended the call, Yang Chen frowned and asked, "What happened to Jingjing?"

Lin Ruoxi looked at Yang Chen, eyes filled with complex emotions, and said “She told me that there was a program at her school sending excellent and young teachers to America, to further their studies. She was selected as a candidate for the program, and she had decided to go as a result. Her flight is tomorrow. The visa application and other procedures had long been dealt with. She felt that she would be disrespecting us if she left silently, which would indicate she was trying to avoid something. As a result, she called to tell me about it. I plan to send her off tomorrow morning at the airport. You’re coming as well. You’re closer to her after all.”

“Further her studies in America?” Yang Chen got stunned. He suddenly felt that his heart shifted oddly in his chest. Having pondered about something, he sighed and asked, “Did she say how long she would be there for?”

“I think it’s one and a half to two years. She’ll be receiving professional training for the English language in San Diego, California,” Lin Ruoxi said.

Yang Chen nodded. “Alright, I’ll go with you.”

Lin Ruoxi didn’t continue talking to him after he acknowledged her. She turned around and walked upstairs.

Yang Chen stood by the staircase. It trouble could be seen through his eyes.

Earlier, Li Jingjing stopped keeping in touch with him, and even though he didn’t know how to face this girl who was like his own sister, they were still in the same city after all.

Soon, this young girl was heading to America alone for her studies. Although it was a great opportunity, Yang Chen still felt a vague feeling of dismay and regret in his heart.

Even if she’s not someone I love, she still can be considered my half relative. Yang Chen shook his head, to stop himself from thinking about it.

Around the same time at the villa of the Cai clan located in a military prone region, things were very different from where Yang Chen was.

Although the Cai clan wasn’t considered a large clan in Beijing, they had gotten rather influential as their clan master, Cai Yuncheng, managed to serve a high post in Zhonghai, which had benefited them in both Zhonghai and Beijing.

Currently, the lieutenant-ranked Cai Yuncheng, who was dressed in a dark green military uniform stood by the entrance of a room as he stared at the young man lying on the sickbed, looking rather annoyed.

He was Yang Lie, who was fortunate enough to survive Yang Chen’s attack.

Yang Lie’s master Yu Jizi was still in his green robe, but it was drenched with Yang Lie’s fresh blood as he personally carried him over.

Yu Jizi’s brows were tightly wrinkled as he gazed upon his heavily injured apprentice who had a pale face. He couldn’t come up with an idea to save him.

“Daoist Yu Jizi, is he really as heavily injured as he looks? If he can’t join us in battle this time, it’d be a huge loss to our team,” Cai Yuncheng said solemnly.

Yu Jizi shook his head as he sighed. "Here at the Kunlun Sect, we excel in offence and not defense, mainly good at curing, and not healing. I only know a trick or two when it comes to giving treatment. Lie'er had followed me since young, to learn the art of cultivation. I would use anything I had, if I had any. All of his organs are injured, which caused internal bleeding all over his body. The injury is overly severe..."

"Why has he sustained such a terrible injury? Yang Lie's power level is only second to Abbess Yun Miao among Group of Eight," Cai Yuncheng said, confused.

"If Lie'er didn't have the foundation of Kunlun as a result of consuming medicines, he would've ended up much worse. I had basically transformed his body since he started following me." Misery could be seen on Yu Jizi's face. "If I was the one who got hit by the young man's palm, I think I would have ended up in a similar position myself. He didn't even use all his strength. In all of China, I bet the only people who can rival him are the few people who are never leave the mountains."

At this moment, the voice of a woman echoed from outside the door...

"Humph, the few hiding in their mountains won't be able to deal with the kid Yang Chen even if they came out. Do you think the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture from our Shushan is this easily countered?"

Abbess Yun Miao wearing a purple robe and a nun's hat walked inside, with Cai Ning trailing behind.

"Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture?!" Yu Jizi was dumbstruck. "Abbess, did you just say the young man earlier cultivated Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture from Shushan?! How is this possible! Wasn't your senior brother Song Tianxing the only one who managed to practise the legendary technique?! Is this young man possibly an apprentice from Shushan?"

Yun Miao looked at Yang Lie lying on the sickbed in contempt. "Yang Chen is an apprentice that Senior Brother Song obtained abroad. He managed to cultivate his Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture to a much stronger level than Senior Brother Song. He had long entered the full cycle level, at the eighth level. A joker daoist like you wouldn't be able to withstand an attack from Senior Brother Song's level seven power, let alone Yang Chen's domineering level eight."

"Level eight..." Yu Jizi wasn't mad when he was insulted by Yun Miao. Gloomily, he murmured, "The internal energy of Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture... can it allow people to step into Xiantian Full Cycle?"

"What?! Xiantian Full Cycle?!" Yun Miao was dumbfounded. "Are you trying to say that Yang Chen stepped into Xiantian Full Cycle?!"

Yu Jizi asked, "Abbess, you didn't know that? When he launched an attack this morning, I could immediately sense that he had achieved Xiantian Full Cycle. It'll only take him one more step to become a legendary character in this world."

Abbess Yun Miao pondered for a short while. With a serious expression, she said, "Although the eighth level of Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture, can allow one to step into Xiantian level, one has to achieve level nine to reach Xiantian Full Cycle... Only after reaching the peak of level nine could make it possible..."

This time, Yu Jizi was utterly astonished. "Isn't... isn't the creator of Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture, the senior from Shushan himself, the only one who managed to reach that level?"

"That's right. Since then, almost no one has managed to reach level eight." Abbess Yun Miao was elated. "It seems like yet another peerless successor of Shushan is born."

Yu Jizi pondered for a while. Gloomily, he asked, "However, even if he's at Xiantian Full Cycle, how can you claim that the few masters who reside in the mountains, are unable to defeat Yang Chen?"

Abbess Yun Miao looked at Yu Jizi like he was a fool. "Before you came out, didn't you bother reading about the current power distribution provided by Yellow Flame Iron Brigade?"

"What do you mean?" Yu Jizi indeed hadn't looked it up before.

Annoyed, Yun Miao said, "Don't you know that Yang Chen is also the successor of 'Pluto's Ring'?"

"What?!"

Yu Jizi felt that his mind wasn't sufficiently prepared to process all of these. He couldn't keep his demeanor of a Xiantian expert anymore. As his forehead exuded cold sweat, he asked, "Are you saying that... he comprehended divine power?"

"According to our data, he's the only one in history who killed a god and obtained god's position in addition to inheriting divine power. This means that he's the only human who managed to become god by slaying a god. If all he could do was cultivate, the few old folks may be on par with him. However, if you want to talk about true power, unless the old folks managed to break through the legendary limit, they certainly cannot harm him," Yun Miao said.

Cai Yuncheng was lost for the better part of their conversation about Yang Chen's strength. After all, he was a core member in the military, not someone in the cultivation world.

Thus, Cai Yuncheng asked his daughter Cai Ning, "Ning'er, is Yang Chen really invincible?"

Cai Ning remained solemn even when she was facing her father. Nodding, she said, "In this world, many strong organizations want him dead but can't do anything to him, including our general."

"Why? I heard that he hadn't provoked anyone since returning to the country." Cai Yuncheng was confused.

"That's because he's holding something that too many people want..." Melancholy filled Cai Ning's eyes. After she finished speaking, she turned around and left as she was unwilling to stay.

Cai Yuncheng gazed upon the cold back view of his elder daughter before sighing, while his eyes were filled with love.

Chapter 358: Pandas

The next morning, Yang Chen boarded Lin Ruoxi's car and they both left for Zhonghai International Airport.

Lin Ruoxi's Bentley was finally fixed. Her tyres had to be imported all the way from England. It was unknown if the manufacturer kept no stock in the country, or the car's design was too unique, which made Lin Ruoxi have to impatiently wait.

She owned so many cars, which made Yang Chen wonder why she was unwilling to drive any of them. The reason Lin Ruoxi gave, made Yang Chen feel rather touched. She had developed a special connection to her car, and was reluctant to make a switch.

How nice would it be if she could too, develop a liking towards me, Yang Chen thought.

When they arrived at the departure hall of the airport, Li Jingjing could be seen standing there, silently waiting. She wore a pink sweater under a white coat and held a small luggage bag in hand.

When she saw Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi coming towards her, Li Jingjing's eyes went slightly red and watery and revealed a smile on her face.

"Sister Ruoxi... Brother Yang... you... thank you for coming to send me off." After making the phone call yesterday, Li Jingjing wasn't very confident that Lin Ruoxi would have come, considering what had happened before. However, Lin Ruoxi had really kept her promise.

Yang Chen sighed as he patted Li Jingjing's head. He did not mind doing such an act in front of Lin Ruoxi. It was merely an act of affection a brother would have done towards his sister. He knew that Lin Ruoxi would understand.

"After you reach there, you'll be alone for quite a while. Don't trust other people too much, especially men who seem to treat you exceptionally well. Don't feel reluctant on spending money just because the dollar is more expensive than the yuan. Spend on whatever you should, or else your well-being would not be taken care of. Take care of yourself. May you have a safe journey," Lin Ruoxi said gently, as if she was talking about something trivial.

Li Jingjing couldn't stop herself from tearing away. Other than repeatedly nodding, she didn't seem to be able to speak.

Lin Ruoxi smiled faintly and said, "You are one of my few friends here. I'll wait for your return and learn to cook from you again. Oh yeah, after you come back in two years, there'll be more adorable children at the orphanage."

Li Jingjing grinned while she sobbed and forcefully nodded her head. "Thank you guys. Brother Yang, Sister Ruoxi, goodbye."

"Goodbye."

Li Jingjing didn't say anything else. Turning around, she walked towards the exit without turning her head to look back.

Lin Ruoxi was the first to turn and leave the airport.

Yang Chen quickly followed behind. Smiling, he said, "Babe Ruoxi, I sense that you have a warm heart but a cold shell. Women like you are too charismatic."

“Stop spouting nonsense. Say this to other women.” Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes. Evidently, sweet talk had little to no effect towards a rational woman like her.

Yang Chen chuckled. “Then we’ll go to the karaoke place now. You promised me yesterday that you’d learn singing from me. It’s really a crucial skill the rest of your life could use.”

Lin Ruoxi stopped moving, while her face revealed bitterness. “Can I not go?”

“No, you can’t,” Yang Chen rejected. “You can’t break your promise. Look at me, I’ve lived up to my promise to you.”

Lin Ruoxi pouted and remained silent. She then quickly walked to the parking area.

After half an hour, they arrived at Yuan’s Dream Karaoke where they were yesterday. The manager, naturally, wouldn’t have forgotten Lin Ruoxi. Yang Chen didn’t even have to take out his platinum member card, but the manager offered a huge room to them for free.

Yang Chen realized that he was tricked by Yuan Ye! The platinum card was a useless piece of decoration! They could enter for free based solely on Lin Ruoxi’s face!

Yang Chen felt that he had to take revenge on the kid. It was wrong to play a trick on an elder brother like that.

However, his current priority was to teach Lin Ruoxi how to sing.

Yang Chen insisted on bringing Lin Ruoxi here, for another major reason—his face.

[TL note: Face: side; reputation; self-respect; prestige, honor; social standing.]

His wife could do everything well, but would instantly annihilate everyone’s perception of her once she opened her mouth to sing. Wouldn’t this pull down his social standing as her husband?

It was the same principle when a woman hoped that her partner was handsome and attractive, to make other women envious. A man would hope that other men get jealous once his woman starts to singing. Although he would be fine as long as Lin Ruoxi could avoid singing, Yang Chen felt that he had an uneasy feeling his heart.

As a result, Yang Chen began teaching Lin Ruoxi seriously, starting from the most basic vocalization to explain basic music theories.

Yang Chen merely had to simply flip a few books to memorize this professional knowledge. It wasn’t difficult for him at all.

Thus, various complex conversations could be heard coming from the karaoke room...

“Ah—ahhhh—ahhhh...”

“Use your voice! Not your nose!”

“How is my nose making the sounds when it can’t?”

“Dark... dark skies... dark skies at...”

“Stop, stop, stop! Stop!!! How did you manage to sing the first word out of tune?! You could have just read it out loud and have gotten it more accurately.”

“Dark skies... at...”

“Stop!!! Did you really read it aloud just because I said you could do it nicely?! Sing it!”

“Dark skies...”

“The first word is off again!!!”

...

After some time, Yang Chen finally managed to get Lin Ruoxi right on the first sentence. Although her singing was so slow that it was akin to reading, it was at least sung at the right tone.

Yang Chen thought left and right for a solution. He finally recalled a technique he read about in a book. He waved his hands up and down while moving his legs from side to side, causing his entire body to start moving rhythmically. As he nodded, he said, “Come, do this with me.”

Lin Ruoxi pouted as he looked at Yang Chen’s posture which was unlike a bear. Shaking her head, she said, “No, it’s too ugly. What are you doing? Didn’t you say you wanted me to sing?”

“This is called a rhythm. Once your body starts following the rhythm, you’ll start to get a sense of rhythm when you sing. You have to look for a rhythm now. Follow the music, and mimic my actions. One, two, three, four, two, two, three, four, three, two, three, four... Just follow what I do. One, two, one, two... Do it now!”

Yang Chen’s limbs swayed like a standing panda as he shouted at Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi got frightened by Yang Chen’s yell. Yang Chen looked so serious that he seemed to have started seeing her as his student.

Lin Ruoxi clenched her teeth as she gathered what remained of her courage. Since there was no one looking at her in the room, she put down her mic and stood up before swaying away together with Yang Chen like a panda.

Thus, the couple kept singing as they swung their bodies, singing away in the room.

Lin Ruoxi felt that the series of weird movements really managed to help her get a feel of the music. Therefore, she slowly got immersed as she sang...

After three songs had passed, when Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen were completely absorbed in their swaying and singing, as if they were people diagnosed with epilepsy, the door got pushed open!

A server holding a tray, who was standing outside the door saw a guy and a lady with swaying oddly, as if they were turtles.

They couldn’t help it, since their movements switched to turtles.

Lin Ruoxi pounced onto Yang Chen’s chest like a terrified rabbit. She had the urge to bang her head against the wall to commit suicide! How am I supposed to meet people in the future?!

The server noticed that he witnessed something he wasn't supposed to see. Although he didn't have to be killed for knowing their secret, he quickly put down the tray of fruits and escaped.

On the other hand, Yang Chen was elated and satisfied by the sudden encounter. Lin Ruoxi herself jumped into his arms!

He hugged the fragrant and delicate jade. Since Lin Ruoxi moved for very long earlier, she was sweating quite a bit, causing her to exude her bodily scent, which made Yang Chen take a few deep breaths as he appreciated the rich fragrance.

"Hehe, I knew that singing like this will make you improve a lot quicker," Yang Chen said happily while he hugged Lin Ruoxi's elegant waist.

Lin Ruoxi suddenly realized what she just did. Forcefully, she pushed Yang Chen away as she panted. Blushing, she yelled, "It's all because of you! I don't dare leave this room anymore!"

"What's wrong about that? We even have a marriage certificate. No one can stop us even if we get a room at a hotel," Yang Chen said gloomily.

"I'm not talking about that!" Lin Ruoxi almost cried. "The server will tell others about it for sure, and say that we... we did ... the kind of weird movements..."

Yang Chen pouted. Is it really weird? Who cares? It's effective!

Suddenly, Lin Ruoxi's phone which was on the table started to vibrate. Lin Ruoxi stopped minding the awkwardness anymore. Taking her phone up, she frowned before picking up the call.

"Hi, Wu Yue, did anything happen?"

Her secretary, Wu Yue, had suddenly called over during the holidays.

Lin Ruoxi listened quietly for a while. Slowly, the red on her face started fading, while she turned strict and serious.

Chapter 359: Let Me Pass

After Lin Ruoxi finished speaking on the phone, Yang Chen walked to her and asked, "Is it possible that someone from the company died? Why are you acting so serious?"

"You're the one who's gonna die!" Lin Ruoxi exclaimed in dissatisfaction. "Don't you know how to be polite and speak positively?"

"Then why do you look so solemn?" Yang Chen asked.

Lin Ruoxi thought as she said, "Premier Ning is coming to Zhonghai tomorrow for a meeting with the representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. Wu Yue was informing me to get ready for my participation tomorrow."

"Premier Ning?" Yang Chen had returned to China for almost a year by now. He usually paid close attention to the media, so he immediately thought of the current Chinese premier. He asked, "Are you talking about Ning Guangyao?"

[TL note: Premier=prime minister, but more commonly used in China.]

Lin Ruoxi nodded. "Who else can it be?"

Ning Guangyao had the highest authority in the Chinese government, and was the second most powerful man in all of China.

He was also the youngest premier in the history of China. He was able to obtain his position before reaching the ripe age of 50. Furthermore, since he had an inborn charisma, and was known to deal with problems in a swift and decisive manner, he had earned the respect of many citizens. He could even be considered as an idol-like leader of the country.

"Tch, even the second most powerful man in all of China wants to see you. Babe Ruoxi, it sure seems like you're seen as the leading the flock of sheep in the business world," Yang Chen said.

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes. "I too didn't expect to have been asked over. It must have been because Yu Lei has made a few significant moves this year. But I'm not the only one. The master of the Yuan clan, Yuan Hwei, will be going as well, together with Secretary Fang Zhongping and a few other CEOs from various companies. There would most likely be around twenty people in attendance."

Smiling, Yang Chen said, "It's a good thing, isn't it? Why do you look so troubled?"

It showed on Lin Ruoxi's cold face that she was struggling. "I'm troubled because Wu Yue said I had to bring two other representatives to attend the meeting. So I considering who I wanted to bring along. I made my decision, you and Qianni will be coming with me."

Yang Chen's face stiffened. She's bringing me and Qianni? What's this woman trying to do?!

"This... Won't it be a bit too awkward..." Yang Chen couldn't be too straightforward. You know that your sister-like buddy has something going on with your husband. Are you doing it to intentionally cause trouble for me?

Lin Ruoxi seemed like she had been waiting to see Yang Chen's expression. Coldly, she said, "I have made up my mind. How it's going play out is entirely up to you. You're the director of the company's subsidiary, while Qianni is the vice president. Bringing you two along isn't inappropriate at all. If you mess it up due to personal reasons, beware of what's going to happen to you."

She was straight up threatening him. At the same time, she could observe Yang Chen's actions. Even if I can't get rid of her, I can at least know who you're biased towards!

You can't avoid going, since this is legitimate work.

If you piss your wife off because of personal reasons, you'll have to bear the consequences.

This time, it was Yang Chen's turn to be troubled. How am I supposed to deal with the both of them at the same time tomorrow?

Should I call Qianni and ask her not to come no matter what? No, I can't do that. That woman is not easily handled. If she finds out the reason, she'll certainly go up to Ruoxi face-to-face.

Urgh! Why are they all 'heroines'... Yang Chen thought gloomily.

At the same time, within the military region of the Cai clan, Yang Lie who was in the midst of being examined, was still lying on the sickbed, unconscious.

Yang Lie had initially wanted to prove himself in a war-like scenario soon after coming down from Kunlun Mountain with his master Yu Jizi. However, he fell before the war had even started.

It couldn't be said that he died right after he finished training before winning, but the kind of pain he experienced was not unlike what a mother would feel when her child died inside her prematurely.

Yang Lie's injury was not one that could be concealed. After all, the position he held was too recognized. He was a gifted disciple of Kunlun, personally taught by the Xiantian expert Yu Jizi.

At the same time, Yang Lie was also the young master of the top-notch clan in all of China—Yang clan. His identity alone was already more intimidating than his fighting ability.

As a result, once the news of his injury was spread, a considerable amount of commotion had been caused, although only the high-ranked people knew about it.

Of course, his father Yang Pojun who was coincidentally on duty at the military region in Jiangnan quickly rushed over to visit his son.

Within a few hours, Yang Lie's mother rushed over as well. The elegant lady dressed in simple but stylish clothing, who looked like she was in her thirties due to excellent maintenance, was Guo Xuehua whom Yang Chen had met once earlier at the orphanage.

Seeing her own child lying on the sickbed unconsciously, she paled, matching a sheet of white paper, with the reason being Yang Lie didn't look like the energetic young man he was.

Guo Xuehua's vision turned pitch black while she almost fainted. Luckily, her bodyguards Little Wen and Little Li held her up.

In the ward, the master of the Cai clan, Cai Yuncheng, Cai Ning, together with Yu Jizi and Abbess Yun Miao were all facing the husband and wife Yang Pojun and Guo Xuehua respectively in silence.

They could all tell that Yang Pojun was in an incredibly bad mood. The reason was really simple. Yang Lie could be considered the sole inheritor of the Yang clan, while he himself was exceptionally qualified. Now that the situation has turned out to where he was barely alive, how was his father supposed to bear with this?

Yang Pojun swept his gaze across everyone present in a dignified manner. Being the chief commander of the military, there weren't many people who dared to defy him in China, including Abbess Yun Miao and Yu Jizi who were older than him and thus were his seniors.

"What did the doctor say?" Yang Pojun asked Cai Yuncheng.

Cai Yuncheng sighed and said, "The doctor assessed him and said that Yang Lie's major organs had all been severely damaged, to the point where its unfathomable by ordinary people. It's already a miracle that he is still alive. Basically, he can't be healed by surgery or drugs."

“Can’t be healed?!” Yang Pojun yelled in anger. “Fuck them! They’re incapable doctors! There’s nothing that’s incurable in this world! Even cancer has been cured already hasn’t it?! Lie’er is obviously still breathing. Didn’t you say that he could speak before coming here?!”

Yu Jizi stepped in and said, “Commander, the doctor isn’t wrong. Lie’er only managed to survive due to his body’s enhanced stature through secret medicines and medicated baths from young. In addition to his practice of Kunlun’s technique, various aspects of his body are different from that of an ordinary person. This time, he got harmed by the internal energy of a Xiantian expert. It’s possible that if he was moved slightly, Lie’er would... So, it isn’t a problem that can be solved through a medical treatment.”

“Then what should we do? Is Lie’er possibly going to lie there for the rest of his life...” Guo Xuehua’s eyes reddened severely like peaches due to crying. She really wasn’t willing to talk about it more.

Yang Pojun gazed fiercely upon his wife. “What nonsensical things are you talking about?! There will be a way! How can my, Yang Pojun’s son, spend the rest of his life this way?!”

Yang Pojun then turned his sharp gaze towards Yu Jizi. “Daoist, isn’t there something we can do to treat Lie’er?”

Yu Jizi frowned. Actually, he had an idea. Although he wasn’t sure if it would work, it really was the only way he could think of...

As he pondered, Yu Jizi looked at Abbess Yun Miao who was standing beside him.

Abbess Yun Miao had been silent the whole time. When Yu Jizi looked over, she sighed slightly and said, “There’s actually one way.”

“Abbess, what is it?!” Yang Pojun immediately became excited. Even the father and son from the Cai clan who stood by the door looked at Abbess Yun Miao curiously.

Abbess Yun Miao said, “I have discussed about this carefully with Daoist before. Since Yang Lie’s injury was caused by an expert with incredible internal energy, internal energy of the same level can naturally be used to treat him. However, the person who attacked him is an expert of Xiantian Full Cycle. As far as I know, in all of China, there are maybe even less than five people who managed to achieve this level, while the ones who did are all living in secluded places as they aren’t willing to make contact with other people. It may not even be possible to track them down. So...”

“We need to try to find them even if we can’t! Lie’er must recover!” Yang Pojun shouted before clenching his teeth.

“Actually... there’s another way.” Yu Jizi had been hesitating on whether he should suggest this idea.

“Actually, we could try to ask the young man who hurt Lie’er to treat him... The young man practices a technique that is so profound that it can be used for treatment. As long as he’s willing to help, Lie’er has a very high chance of full recovery... Even if we managed to find other experts, Lie’er won’t necessarily be able to recover his abilities.”

Astonished, Yang Pojun exclaimed, “What?! You’re suggesting that we ask the same person who injured Lie’er in the first place to treat him?!”

“That’s right. As far as I know, the person actually doesn’t have a connection if any, to Lie’er. It was caused by a misunderstanding. So... if we can beg him politely... maybe...”

What Yu Jizi meant was obvious. The person he mentioned was Yang Lie’s only chance. However, it was impossible to invite him over without setting aside their pride.

This mission naturally wouldn’t be passed down to someone else. Even Yu Jizi as the master was unqualified to carry it out. Moreover, it wasn’t appropriate for him to do such a thing when Yang Lie’s parents were present.

Yang Pojun wrinkled his brows tightly. Although he wanted Yang Lie to recover, he certainly couldn’t bear with begging someone sincerely.

“I’ll go!” Guo Xuehua suddenly shouted. “I’ll beg the person. Daoist, quickly tell me where the young man is. What’s his name?”

Everyone looked at Guo Xuehua whose tearing face looked resolute which made some of them feel touched. The love of a mother was the same regardless of where they came from.

She knew that she’d be humiliated if she went. Being the wielder of such a high position, it was impressive enough that Guo Xuehua was willing to do so.

Yu Jizi saw how determined Guo Xuehua looked. Ignoring Yang Pojun’s gaze, Yu Jizi told Guo Xuehua Yang Chen’s address.

“Madam Yang, the young man is called Yang Chen. He’s distantly related to our Shushan. You may tell him that I wish he can offer his help. Please forgive me as the situation doesn’t allow me to step in. I hope you can succeed,” Yun Miao said.

“Yang... Chen...” Guo Xuehua murmured before nodding. “Thank you, Abbess.”

However, Yang Pojun who caught the name suddenly realized something, which caused a chill in his brain!

Seeing that Guo Xuehua was going to leave with her bodyguards, Yang Pojun immediately went towards her.

“Xuehua, you can’t go!” Yang Pojun shouted before blocking Guo Xuehua’s way.

Guo Xuehua’s eyes were still red. Softly, she mumbled, “Let me pass. I want to save my son.”

“You’re the wife of the chief commander, and you’re married into our Yang clan. You’ll also be the wife of the Vice Chairman of the Military Commission in the future, but you’re going to beg a man who practices martial arts, a young man! How is this acceptable?!” Yang Pojun yelled loudly.

Guo Xuehua let out a disdainful smile. “Is this about your position, reputation, and pride again... Yang Pojun, I’ve had enough... More than 20 years ago, I had already lost a son because of your negligence towards this... Is your own offspring, your only son left less important than your damn face?! Do you want me to experience losing a son for the second time?!”

“Shut up!!!” Yang Pojun shouted as if his heart was stabbed by the words to the furthest it could reach.

“Let me pass!!!” Guo Xuehua didn’t mind Yang Pojun anymore. Striding with huge steps, she walked past him from the side, looking resolute.

Yang Pojun got stunned in the corridor. When Guo Xuehua’s footsteps got softer and softer, he started murmuring...

“The mother is going to beg her son... Is this possibly the work of karma...”

The more Yang Pojun thought about it, the matter became more ridiculous. If he really is the same Yang Chen... How did he become so domineering in martial arts? Is he really as described as Jieyu, that he’s grown to such pre-eminence?

Yang Pojun squinted his eyes. Yang Lie’s injury was now secondary. Yang Pojun felt that he had to carefully investigate Yang Chen’s situation...

Chapter 360: Like Father, Like Son

The next morning, Yang Chen reluctantly followed Lin Ruoxi to Zhonghai City Hall, to attend Premier Ning’s meeting.

Being the financial centre of China, in addition to it being a major exporting city, Zhonghai’s position in the country was crucial. The premier organized a meeting with representatives from the chamber of commerce before the year ended, to discuss about the performance of their companies and possible future developments.

In the past, when the organizers were other leaders of China, Lin Ruoxi would push the task to Mo Qianni without hesitation, even if she was planning or hoping to show up. However, this time around, the premier was the organizer instead of the regular ministers. She couldn’t skip the meeting just because she wanted to.

Mo Qianni drove them to the city hall. During the journey, the two ladies chatted happily while Yang Chen acted like a log of wood, silently seated and still.

Gloomily, Yang Chen thought, Shouldn’t they be jealous for me? Or did I overestimate my charisma?

The two ladies who had long entered in a business-like mood, didn’t pay too much attention to Yang Chen. Upon entering the building, they followed the employees there to the venue as they waited for Ning Guangyao’s arrival.

In the hall, Yuan Hwei, Fang Zhongping, together with a few other representatives from the committee and CEO’s from the chamber of commerce were seated around.

However, these CEO’s were mostly fifty to sixty years old. When they looked at Lin Ruoxi and Mo Qianni, they didn’t give rise to their more carnal desires, but instead acknowledged the person behind them with gazes of approval.

Yuan Hwei noticed that Yang Chen had come as well, and thus greeted him politely with a smile. “I heard that you have become the director of Yu Lei Entertainment.”

“It’s not very much different from before. I’m living life, earning by being my wife’s subordinate.” Yang Chen was shy to take credit for it, as he really didn’t do anything at all.

Yuan Hewei didn't take him seriously. "You're obviously not as good as your wife when it comes to working habits. There's nothing wrong with being her subordinate. Oh ya, Yuan Ye told me something the last time he returned home. He said you seemed to have picked a fight with some guy. There are a lot of things that can't be explained simply. Don't feel too pressured or burdened by this. Everything will be fine. You're a mature young man. You should have an idea of what I mean."

Finally, he got to the point. Smiling faintly, he said, "I understand. It's fine now."

Yuan Hewei sighed. Although he knew the situation in the Yang clan, he wasn't in a position to interfere, being related only as their son-in-law. After that, he chatted with Lin Ruoxi for a short while before leaving to converse with the elders.

Due to his relationship with Tang Wan, Fang Zhongping didn't look too happy when he saw Yang Chen. He greeted Yang Chen curtly before going away to mind his own business.

Yang Chen felt rather blue. He hadn't contacted Tang Wan in a while. The well-cooked duck seemed to have flown away as a result of Tang Tang causing trouble.

[TL note: Decided to translate this literally to add some fun. It simply means Tang Wan who had appeared to already be in his hands suddenly wasn't anymore.]

Although Yang Chen wasn't so raveneous that he had to eat the fat duck, he still felt rather regretful for not getting the chance to.

At this moment, a group bodyguards brimming with energy, dressed in black, wearing headsets rushed in from the entrance before scoping the situation. Soon, a middle-aged man wearing a casual suit walked into the hall.

The man appeared well refined and dignified. Although his hair had whitened slightly, his energy and appearance appeared excellent nonetheless. He held a faint smile on his face, looking rather friendly.

There was a young guy who was similar in looks and style who trailed behind him. They were accompanied by a few other government officials.

Yang Chen naturally recognized the man who had been the hot topic in the news all day, Ning Guangyao.

Upon entering, Ning Guangyao took the initiative to shake hands with the people from the government and chamber of commerce individually.

However, when Ning Guangyao saw Lin Ruoxi, he was stunned for a moment and appeared distracted, while his eyes revealed a weird gaze. He made Lin Ruoxi's hand stiffen in mid-air for a second.

Yang Chen felt displeased. This man is in his fifties. Is it possible that he fell for my wife?

Lin Ruoxi felt rather uneasy as well, but since she was facing the premier, she didn't keep the cold gaze which deterred people and drove them thousands of miles away. All she could do was to bite her lower lip as she acted like she didn't notice Ning Guangyao's weird gaze.

“Women indeed are not inferior to men. Now there’s even such a young and valued member in the Zhonghai Chamber of Commerce now,” Ning Guangyao said with a smile to cover his loss of courtesy earlier, before shaking Lin Ruoxi’s hand.

The young man behind Ning Guangyao hadn’t moved his gaze away after seeing Lin Ruoxi, as if he was heavily attracted by a magnet to her. If it wasn’t for the occasion, he probably would have squeezed in front of the premier to shake Lin Ruoxi’s hand himself.

Yang Chen felt a major headache oncoming. I shouldn’t have let Ruoxi here. Who are all these people?

Mo Qianni noticed Yang Chen’s annoyed look and felt a clench in her heart. When no one was paying attention, she reached her arm out to twist Yang Chen’s waist.

Yang Chen instantly understood what it meant. Seeing that Lin Ruoxi wasn’t paying attention to him, he leaned towards Mo Qianni and asked, “What’s there to be jealous about? I’d feel irritated if you were starred upon this way as well.”

“Humph.” Mo Qianni rolled her eyes before following Lin Ruoxi to get seated, ignoring Yang Chen.

Following that, the boring reports regarding the city were shown. Yang Chen couldn’t be bothered to look at this economic information. They’ve got nothing to do with a regular citizen like him. The rules were set by others, he just had to play according to the rules.

What made it hard for Yang Chen’s hatred to dissipate was the fact that Ning Guangyao would glance at Lin Ruoxi occasionally!

Although Ning Guangyao pretended for it to be unintentional, Yang Chen’s keen senses still noticed Ning Guangyao’s glances. Most of the time, his gaze was left on Lin Ruoxi’s face.

The young man seated at the back had been staring at Lin Ruoxi from the beginning to the end. He hadn’t even bothered to look at the booklet he was holding ever since he sat.

Yang Chen couldn’t hold it anymore. He asked Mo Qianni softly, “Babe Qianni, who’s that fellow? Why are his eyeballs so far out it looks like its about to fall out?”

“Are you jealous?” Mo Qianni asked softly as she stared at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen smiled as he felt embarrassed. “I don’t want the two of you to be gazed upon by others.”

“Cut the ‘two’. He has been staring at Ruoxi alone,” Mo Qianni said in dissatisfaction. “That is Premier Ning’s son, Ning Guodong. I heard that he was one of the helpers in the deputy office. Premier Ning only brought him here because this isn’t an important meeting. Rumor has it that he’d take over his father’s position in the future.”

Like father, like son indeed, Yang Chen thought. If they really hold any wicked thoughts, I don’t care if he is the premier or not. He’s just going to be replaced after I slash him!

When the meeting was coming to an end, Ning Guangyao proposed a partnership between the few major corporations in Zhonghai to develop a piece of land in Beijing in an attempt to link the capitals from both cities. It was going to be considered a partnership between both parties led by him.

Many of the older CEO's immediately expressed their approval. To them, taking a few hundred million out for investment was as easy as counting to three. Moreover, it was a chance to form a stronger bond with the premier. Why wouldn't they want this?

However, when it was Lin Ruoxi's turn, she pondered for a while before answering, "I refuse to participate in this plan."

Ning Guangyao originally looked at Lin Ruoxi politely. When he was suddenly rejected, he appeared rather shocked. He asked, "Is there anything inappropriate Boss Lin thinks exists?"

There was a sign in front of Lin Ruoxi, with her name and her company written, so Ning Guangyao had long been aware of her identity.

"There's nothing inappropriate. I just feel that I could generate more profit with the same amount of money on my own effort," Lin Ruoxi said straightforwardly.

It had to be mentioned that her words made the others feel nervous for her. They felt that this lady was too careless in her speech. She was speaking to the government. Even if Yu Lei was strong, it could collapse any time if it was targeted!

However, Ning Guangyao didn't look enraged, but his brows were creased slightly. His gaze at Lin Ruoxi was particularly deep. Nodding lightly, he said, "Since that's the case, Boss Lin doesn't need to participate. This is a plan based on voluntary involvement after all."

"Thank you, Premier," Lin Ruoxi replied. She knew that it was rude to do so, but she wanted to run her business in an unbiased manner. Moreover, she was used to making decisions alone.

The meeting soon ended. Ning Guangyao together with the other people who came for inspection started bidding farewell to the Zhonghai's chamber of commerce and party committee. This was one of his stops after all. He still had many other places waiting for his appearance.

During the year end, leaders would naturally have countless tasks to deal with.

However, before they left, Ning Guodong finally couldn't hold himself back anymore. He walked forward to approach Lin Ruoxi as he revealed a gentleman's smile. "Nice to meet you, Boss Lin. I'm Ning Guodong. I know that it may seem inappropriate for me to approach you, but I'm thinking of having a meal with you someday. May I know if I can have this opportunity?"

Being the son of the premier in addition to having an extraordinary appearance and position, there were naturally countless number of ladies admiring him. However, he wasn't a playboy. Being shrouded by a father like Ning Guangyao, every action he took was being monitored.

He only dared to invite Lin Ruoxi this way because his heart was moved.

Lin Ruoxi didn't pay too much attention to Ning Guodong's request, but carefully darted a glance at Yang Chen beside her. She noticed Yang Chen's gaze which was almost enough to take Ning Guodong's life, and felt rather pleased.

"I'm sorry, Mr Ning. Maybe next time." Lin Ruoxi was aware of Ning Guodong's identity, so she didn't speak too crudely.

Ning Guodong didn't expect a rejection from Lin Ruoxi. He felt slightly disappointed but brushed it off easily. "Alright. Although it's unfortunate, I hope that Boss Lin can give me a chance next time."

After Ning Guangyao and the others left, Yang Chen felt annoyed and said to Lin Ruoxi, "Why is there a next time? You should have just rejected him immediately! Reject! You can't go no matter what!"

Elated, Lin Ruoxi looked at him and said, "I just want to let you know that you're not the only man in this world. Whether or not I want to dine with another man depends on how well you behave. It is your choice to make." After she finished speaking, she turned around and skipped away.

Yang Chen looked stunned before looking extremely bitter. He didn't know how to react. When did i suddenly become this passive?

Is this girl trying to take revenge on me for making her act like a panda yesterday?

This time, Mo Qianni didn't get jealous, but chuckled beside him instead.

"What are you laughing about? Little Qianqian, are you happy that your man is bullied this way?" Yang Chen asked.

Mo Qianni pouted and said, "I'm just thinking that if you mistreat me in the future, I'll just act the same way Ruoxi does. It's not like no men want to treat me for a meal."

"You..."

Yang Chen who wouldn't be injured even when his heart was stabbed by a knife suddenly had the urge to vomit blood...