

Chapter 501: Bun

Bun

Lin Ruoxi's skin was flawless. The texture of her skin was delicate and smooth rivaling that of fine silk, making Yang Chen enjoy the sensation.

Lin Ruoxi blushed instantly upon the sudden contact on her beautiful face. His actions spoke of him teasing a little girl.

"W—what are you doing?!" exclaimed Lin Ruoxi furiously. She was fortunate that no one had witnessed the scene. Being the highly regarded CEO of a multinational corporate, it was extremely inappropriate for her cheek to be caressed like a little girl .

Yang Chen incongruously replied in a perfunctory attitude, "Ah! My obedient Babe Ruoxi, take a look. We are reaching the city soon. The city lights are already visible. Hmm, do you want to grab a bite? Some fast food like McDonald's? Wendy's? Or Burger King? Since we're abroad, having some western fast food could be part of enjoying the different cultures the world has to offer. Or do you want to have a better western meal in Paris? It's up to you. Haha!"

Lin Ruoxi clenched her teeth. This guy is trying to change the topic again! However, she suddenly recalled a matter and asked. "By the way, how did you know of this place? Have you been here before?"

Yang Chen felt relieved as Lin Ruoxi didn't pay too much attention on the touch earlier. He explained, "Although the driver drove northeast, his real intention was to confuse us—just in case. As night fell, he changed the direction to southeast and even specifically chose a woodland path in rural areas. It was very carefully planned out. Even if we were unable to communicate with the outside world, they had done a lot to remain undetected.

"Logically speaking, we should be nearby Esbly in the northeast of Paris following the driving route and time. However, this kind of trick can only outsmart ordinary people, not me. I calculated the distance and found out that it should have been Romilly-sur-Seine instead. In addition, back when we were in the warehouse, I detected high humidity in the air. Besides, there was a faint sound of a river. So, I managed to guess that we were near Seine River which is past Romilly. And as for why I know these places, it isn't that I had visited prior to this, it's just that I memorized the world map."

Memorized the world map!?

Even Lin Ruoxi who had met various talented people didn't understand how Yang Chen pulled it off. She looked at Yang Chen in a complicated way and she found it hard to believe that her nominal husband was being 'picked up' by her in the market.

Lin Ruoxi turned her head away and looked at the brightly lit urban night scene. Just when the car was about to enter the city, Lin Ruoxi muttered as though she was talking to herself. She asked, "Why is it that the more you explain, the more I don't understand?"

Yang Chen pouted and enjoyed a mouthful of cigarette smoke before throwing the rest out from the window. He said, "It's actually very simple. Don't treat me like a human, just think of me as a monster. Wouldn't things be easier that way?"

"Stop your nonsense!" Lin Ruoxi raised her voice suddenly and reprimanded him.

Yang Chen was dumbfounded as he didn't understand why Lin Ruoxi was making such a fuss.

"You..." Lin Ruoxi knew that she overreacted and yet she finished off her words clearly. "You are not a monster! No matter how the others look at you, I will not think of you that way. So you shouldn't either."

Looking at the seriousness of the woman with her beautiful glowing eyes, Yang Chen grinned. "Silly."

"You're the silly one!" Lin Ruoxi said in a serious manner.

"Right! You're silly and I'm silly too. We're the silly couple." Yang Chen laughed and accelerated the car, entering the city of Romilly.

In the 13th arrondissement of Paris, an ordinary residential area, houses were scattered in the sparse lights.

Most of the houses there had decades worth of history. The exquisite and delicate building structures which were uniquely built portrayed the long-established style of the country.

One of them was a double-storey building with grey walls and a red roof. A family of three was surrounding the oval dining table while enjoying bacons, mashed potatoes, toasts and some other homemade food.

Under the warm and faint light, a boy with yellow, curly hair who was about ten years old put down the spoon in his hand. He lifted his head and looked at the big-sized man who was sitting next to him and said, "Dad, can we go to Disneyland on Sunday? Many of my classmates have already been there."

"Harry, don't be absurd. Dad is very busy recently," whispered the mother while pretending to be angry.

The burly man with whiskers, Harry's father, reached out his hand to stop his wife from scaring their son. He turned his head to the little boy and revealed a warm smile. "Dad is very busy with work recently. Wait for another month then dad will accompany you to Disneyland for circus performances. Is that alright?"

Harry pouted and said, "But Dad will never be free from work."

Upon hearing their son's grievance, the man almost cried out. His wife was rather sad and helpless. She was totally speechless.

At that moment, the man's cell phone which was placed by the table rang.

The man had a look at the incoming call before frowning his brows and answering the call.

"I'm Fodessa, what's the matter?"

There was an urgent report from the other end of the phone. “Deputy Director! We received the news from the cops that the group of missing noble and wealthy individuals have been found in a warehouse by the Seine river in Romilly. According to the report, an anonymous witness tipped us off. We have let the cops to seal all sorts of information from being leaked and rescue the important VIPs as quickly as possible. However, there are quite a number of VIPs expressing their anger and their emotions are rather unstable.”

Fodessa remained silent for a while and asked, “Have you identified the origin of the particular kidnapers yet?”

“Yeah. As expected, it is done by Apollo’s Realm of God. The marks of the golden sun totem could be seen from the dead bodies of the kidnapers. However, there is a much deeper background to this organisation. They belonged to an organisation called the Infernal Three Headed Beast. The analysis result shows that they might have submitted to the Realm of God.”

“Three Headed Beast?” Thoughts flashed through Fodessa’s mind. He asked, “Wasn’t the organization on the verge of dissolution?”

“We used to think so too. However, it is obvious now that the elites of the Three Headed Beast whom we had wiped out were fake. The core power of the organization has not been eliminated yet...”

Fodessa held his hand tightly in a fist upon hearing all his words. “Noted. You have to placate all the VIPs to prevent them from making things worse. I’ll be coming soon. By the way, does Director Depney know about it?”

The staff on the other end of the phone hesitated for a while and whispered, “Director Depney as—asked you to figure it out yourself and meet him after you finish dealing it.”

Fodessa paled. He then took a deep breath before hanging up the call.

The woman noticed her husband’s expression. Concerned, she asked, “Dear, what’s wrong?”

Fodessa finally realized that he was still at home. He forced a smile and said, “Don’t worry, it’s nothing much. I will be back real soon. Continue with the meal, I have to go now.”

Fodessa got up and put on his coat. He took a few steps towards the door before coming to a pause in his footsteps.

Fodessa turned back and had a look at his son Harry who was looking at him helplessly. Fodessa flashed him a loving smile and said, “Harry, Dad promises to bring you to Disneyland next month. Dad will bring you to Zhonghai for the cruise during your summer break. Deal?”

“For real?!” The little boy who was about to cry was overjoyed.

Fodessa nodded heavily and gave her wife a smile before turning to the door. At the same time, on the highway from Romilly to Paris called N4, Yang Chen and the others who were on the Bentley had another situation.

In the middle of the carriage, Goodman who was holding a bag of McDonald’s packaged meal, held a dull expression while staring blankly into the air.

The siblings Stern and Alice who were sitting at the opposite of Goodman also got a bag of McDonald's. Unlike Goodman, they were enjoying their chicken burgers with relish.

It was about ten minutes ago when Yang Chen drove to a McDonald's at the city edge. He bought a few bags of McDonald's set meals at the drive-thru. Naturally, everyone in the car got a share of the food.

"Mr Goodman, aren't you going to eat? In fact, the hamburger is quite delicious," teased Alice.

After all, the siblings were born from a wealthy family. Eating fast food like these were a treat. It ended up that they were eating with excitement.

Goodman said hatefully, "I really don't understand what's on his mind. How can he buy something like this for us? Ruoxi can't be eating all these low-cost food, how can he serve the two of you with this?"

Stern didn't even care about Goodman's words. Finishing the burger in hand, he clicked his tongue and looked at Goodman who hadn't started eating yet. Without hesitation, he snatched the packet of McDonald's from his hands.

"Mr Goodman, if you're not going to eat, might as well just give me your share," Stern said smilingly and pulled out a hamburger from the packet impolitely.

"That's right! Let me have the french fries too. McDonald's fries are pretty good," Alice added on happily.

Goodman widened his eyes and looked at the unscrupulous siblings. He almost burst into tears. Although he felt that the food was too low-end, he was still a hungry man at the end of the day!

In the meantime, Lin Ruoxi who was being abused in Goodman's eyes was sitting at the passenger seat while holding the double-layered beef burger with cheese that Yang Chen bought for her, hesitating to open her mouth.

Lin Ruoxi was unable to recall if she had eaten burgers before. Foods like that was a cool western thing in the eyes of the Chinese. They preferred to sit in McDonald's or KFC to enjoy their meals. However, in foreign countries, the main purpose of a fast food restaurant was to allow quick orders as well as quick consumption. Most of them would only buy when they passed by, without the need to get down from their cars. The food that was bought would be consumed in the car and that was that.

In regard to the price of the food when compared to the social status of Lin Ruoxi, such food would be too low grade for her.

Looking at Lin Ruoxi who wasn't eating, he asked curiously, "Why aren't you eating? Your stomach has been grumbling for a while now. Aren't you hungry?" Yang Chen drove using one hand while he munched on a burger.

Lin Ruoxi bit her lips. I haven't eaten anything since I got off the plane. Half a day has passed since then, how can I not be hungry? she thought.

"Are you doing this intentionally?" Lin Ruoxi asked.

"What do you mean?"

Lin Ruoxi pointed at the thick beef burger in her hand. “This hamburger is so thick! How am I going to eat it?”

“You just have to open up your mouth and bite it,” Yang Chen said before having another mouthful bite.

“Bu—but...” Lin Ruoxi felt particularly hard to open her mouth when she thought that she had to open her mouth to the maximum accommodate the burger.

Yang Chen said, “Yo, your stomach has been grumbling for some food for the past half a day and you care about your demeanor? Are you looking down at people who like hamburgers? Hmmm, only a boorish person like me will eat food like this. It turns out that my Babe Ruoxi has the princess syndrome.”

“You’re the one with princess syndrome! Don’t treat me like a little kid. It’s just a hamburger, you don’t have to use reverse psychology to trick me. You’re childish!” Lin Ruoxi was irritated by his sarcasm. She gave him a stare before fixing her eyes on the hamburger in hand.

Lin Ruoxi closed her eyes and took a bite with her mouth wide open.

If she was being honest, the beef burger was rather aromatic. Although it was fattening, the fragrance of the burger was tempting. Lin Ruoxi was so hungry that she couldn’t hold back after taking the first bite.

For the first time, Yang Chen saw Lin Ruoxi eat in such a manner—with her two cheeks bulging. The originally beautiful oval face now no different from a bun.

“You should look at yourself eat.” Yang Chen didn’t know whether to cry or laugh. Finishing the food in his hand, he reached out and scratched his finger on the corner of Lin Ruoxi’s mouth.

Perhaps she was eating too fast that the white sauce remained there.

Lin Ruoxi was filled with embarrassment. She wanted to jump off the car to hide from embarrassment.

However, the next scene made Lin Ruoxi feel a sudden urge to commit suicide. Yang Chen had sucked the sauce off his finger!

Lin Ruoxi suddenly felt shy and shameful, causing her to almost choke.

Yang Chen realized that his actions were overly intimate. However, his face was thick enough that he didn’t feel a single bit of shame. Looking at Lin Ruoxi with her red ears, he smiled evilly and said, “This doesn’t mean anything. It’s not like we’ve never kissed before. If Babe thinks that she has been wronged, I will allow you to wipe the sauce at the corner on my mouth. Are you going to help me scrape the sauce and suck it?”

Lin Ruoxi almost fainted, thinking how shameless he could be. Knowing that it was pointless to speak, she continued to vent her resentment on the hamburger in hand—by taking large bites on it. However, this time, she had her back facing Yang Chen to prevent Yang Chen from touching her face.

Yang Chen stopped making fun of her as he knew that Lin Ruoxi was really hungry. Everything had to have a limit. So, he focused on the highway ahead and drove quickly to the downtown of Paris.

Chapter 502: Directors of Different Branches

After more than an hour of driving, the extremely dusty Bentley stopped outside Hotel Sofitel in Paris.

Being situated nearby La Madeleine and Place de la Concorde and shone upon by the magnificent street lights, this five-star hotel was not just a hotel but also an enormous sculpture. It was extremely eye-catching.

Two servers dressed in white originally stood proudly by the entrance. They revealed a courteous smile when the Bentley drove inside, but soon appeared rather shocked. That was because of the lines of scratches on the car in addition to the dust and mud stuck on the surface. The servers subconsciously looked at each other, only to notice surprise in each other's eyes.

It wasn't rare for luxury cars to stop outside Hotel Sofitel, but one in such a bad condition almost never happened to drop by.

However, before the two servers stepped forward to open the door, tens of formally dressed individuals rushed out from the hotel suddenly, stopping right beside the Bentley and opening the rear door.

"Director Goo, you're finally back!" The man leading the pack looked moved. He had bent his waist respectfully and almost shed tears.

Dressed in a neat white suit, Goodman had recovered his usual noble demeanor. Nodding his head solemnly, he got off the car and turned around to gesture politely the siblings Stern and Alice out.

"Is it Boss Lin?"

"God bless! Even Boss Lin has returned safely!"

As the crowd chattered, a handsome guy and a beauty whom they hadn't seen before got out from the car.

"Hi," Stern greeted the crowd with a bright smile. Soon, his sister Alice shamelessly accepted the welcome from the crowd.

"Director Yang... these two are..." One of them looked at Goodman curiously.

Goodman coughed and said, "They are the members of the Cromwell clan, the British Lord Protector, Mr Stern and Miss Alice. When I was abducted, I was lucky enough to get out of there with them. Since they were staying in this hotel and attending the Paris Fashion Week, we decided to come here together."

The Cromwell clan?!

Most of the people there were highly ranked managers in the European branches of Yu Lei International, with many of them being locals. Thus, it wasn't surprising that they had heard of the ancient and wealthy clan. Among the crowd, none didn't bow to greet them. Some even panicked a little as such significant people seldomly appeared in public.

The presence of the siblings made almost everyone forget that they were there to welcome the highest-ranked individual in the company—Lin Ruoxi, the CEO. She was the reason they were there after all.

Unexpectedly, not only did they fail to connect with the CEO, they lost contact with Goodman earlier, up till two hours ago when Goodman decided to give them a call. When the group was informed that Goodman was newly released after a kidnap, they quickly regrouped at the hotel.

At this moment, the doors of the driver and front passenger seats were opened at the same time. Yang Chen got off the car and took a deep breath of the fresh air in the night of Paris before stretching his body lazily.

Lin Ruoxi who had fallen asleep in the car tidied up her appearance before exiting the car. Looking sleepy yet elegant, her face was rather pinkish. In addition to her innate beauty and cold aura, dressed in a black laced dress, she was nothing short of a fairy from fictional books. Her flawless look had made the crowd outside the hotel hold their breaths. Even the tourists passing by would stop to admire her charm.

Seeing that a bunch of people stood by the car staring at her, Lin Ruoxi instantly realized that they were her employees in Europe. Being gazed upon in this manner, she naturally felt slightly uncomfortable.

Goodman noticed that Lin Ruoxi got down as well. He quickly squeezed through the crowd and yelled, "Split up, split up! Don't block Boss Lin! Can you guys hear me?!"

Soon, these highly ranked employees finally realized the woman was their CEO whom they had only seen in pictures or on the television before! How was she so much more beautiful in real life?!

"Welcome, Boss Lin!" The crowd quickly stepped aside and opened up a path for Lin Ruoxi.

Taking a deep breath, Lin Ruoxi opened her eyes once again. As if she had recovered her demeanor in the office from her previous relaxed behavior, she swept her gaze across the crowd. The domineering aura which had condensed for years instantly caused all of their hearts to shiver a little.

"I don't know how you guys usually behave at work. But judging from your acts, I have the right to fire all of you without hesitation," Lin Ruoxi said in a dull manner. "You are managers. Managing you is not why I hired you."

The crowd exuded cold perspiration. Although Lin Ruoxi didn't speak furiously, her emotionless tone had sent a chill up their spines.

"Ruoxi, please don't be mad. I believe they're just too excited. It's very rare for you to visit Europe after all. None of them have actually seen you before, not to mention some were your admirers, so it's only natural that they were a little excited. At the end of the day, they're just worried about us which is why they have gathered here. I think it's best if you can forgive them this time," Goodman said to loosen up the situation.

Lin Ruoxi didn't speak a word. She directly walked across the path and entered the hotel.

Goodman exhaled in relief before angrily staring at his subordinates. He then smiled to the siblings and asked, "I believe your servants are in the hotel. I wonder where they are now. Do you need my help to notify them?"

"Servants?" Stern laughed. "Mr Goodman, unlike you, we don't have such a large platoon. We came alone this time."

Goodman was shocked. He found it unbelievable and dug his ears.

However, the siblings didn't plan to give any explanations. They quickly followed behind Lin Ruoxi and entered the hotel.

When Yang Chen who was yawning wanted to return to the hotel to rest, he was stopped by a bunch of the employees of Yu Lei.

"You're the driver, aren't you? Go and park your car nicely. Don't expect us to do it for you." one of the employees ordered.

Yang Chen scratched his head helplessly but was too lazy to explain. I'll just park it then, it's no big deal.

However, before Yang Chen turned back, Goodman smacked the employee's head and scolded, "Are you a damn pig?! He's Director Yang who has come here with Boss Lin. Weren't you told about it?! Quickly apologize to Director Yang!"

The Yu Lei employees were astonished after the scolding. In fact, no one had really noticed Yang Chen's presence. Relative to the perfect combination of the good-looking siblings in addition to Lin Ruoxi's appearance, it was indeed appropriate to label Yang Chen as the driver. Who in the world would expect the average-looking and seemingly lazy man to be on the same level as Goodman?!

"Sigh, Little Girl, forget about it. It's only because he doesn't know me." Yang Chen patted Goodman's shoulder before passing the key to him. "But if you insist, I'll pass the car to you. See you later."

Goodman maintained a smile on the face and agreed to his request without hesitation. "No problem. Feel free to voice any needs you have to me. Just treat this place as your home."

"Woah, your attitude has made a one hundred and eighty degree change. No wonder Lin Ruoxi made you a director. You're indeed rather smart." Yang Chen was well aware of why Goodman wanted to please him. Goodman had had a life-and-death experience just a while ago after all. He knew that Yang Chen was the one who had gotten rid of the men dressed in black.

Goodman's heart was shivering. He dared not disobey Yang Chen whenever he was reminded that the man in front of him had single-handedly ended the lives of multiple criminals. All he could do was bow and nod.

The managers beside were shocked. None of them understood why Goodman was so afraid of Yang Chen when both of them were directors. Furthermore, he was even called 'Little Girl'...

In the company, was it possible for directors of different branches to receive varying treatments?

When Yang Chen was prepared to enter the hotel, police sirens echoed on the streets. Before long, three police cars had arrived in front of the hotel!

Chapter 503: Too Soft

The few police cars stopped in front of the hotel before a few tall and well-built policemen exited the car.

One of them wore a windbreaker. With his windswept white hair and a relatively short and plump figure, the policeman made his way to the front. Glancing at the Bentley parked there, he soon looked at everyone standing at the entrance with a strict expression.

When he noticed Yang Chen, this aged Caucasian revealed a joyous smile and approached him.

“Are you Mr Yang from China?” the policeman asked.

Yang Chen frowned a little as he looked at Goodman beside. Since the police managed to react so quickly, Yang Chen couldn’t help but suspect that a busybody had made a report.

Goodman wasn’t foolish. He hurriedly waved his hands and said with an innocent face, “Director Yang, I didn’t make a report to the police. I really know nothing at all!”

Yang Chen turned his head back to the police. Smiling, he said, “I am. Is there anything I can help you with?”

“I’m Bolton from the anti-terrorism group in the Paris police department. We have reason to believe that Mr Yang is heavily involved in the kidnap and murder cases which had taken place near Romilly-sur-Seine around two hours ago.” Bolton received a piece of paper from the policeman standing beside him. “This is our warrant. May I ask Mr Yang to immediately return to the police station with us to aid in our investigation?”

Yang Chen looked around. There were around ten policemen gazing upon him as if he was the prey. He couldn’t help but say, “Officer Bolton, would you just excuse me for a minute? I have some private matters to take care of. You’re causing a huge commotion here which will terrify everyone.”

“We have to do what’s required. A shootout is incredibly serious. We have to be extremely cautious towards Mr Yang,” Bolton said with a cold smile, “If Mr Yang hopes to get a defence council, you may do so after getting to the police station with us. Don’t worry, we won’t mistreat foreign guests.”

After Bolton finished speaking, Bolton signalled his subordinates. Two policemen then went behind Yang Chen and held both his arms before sending him into one of the cars.

“Stop! What are you guys doing?!”

Everyone turned around to have a look. Lin Ruoxi who had entered the hotel earlier came out again and yelled at the police.

Lin Ruoxi was initially waiting for Yang Chen and Goodman in the lobby but she heard the police sirens coming from the outside. Worried that Yang Chen might’ve gotten into a trouble, she quickly came out to check the situation out, only to find Yang Chen being shoved into a police car.

“Ruoxi, don’t be reckless. This officer has a warrant. We can’t stop them from bringing Director Yang away,” Goodman said as he blocked Lin Ruoxi, “I believe that the police have misunderstood Mr Yang regarding the kidnapping case earlier which is why they’re taking him away. All we can do now is just provide a lawyer for him. He’ll be fine.”

The other managers from Yu Lei knew that it was time to show their loyalty. Although they were unaware of the situation, they quickly agreed that they’d help Lin Ruoxi solve everything to prevent anything from happening to Yang Chen in Paris.

Yang Chen turned around and winked at Lin Ruoxi. He then signalled her to not worry before lowering his head to enter the car.

Lin Ruoxi was stopped by a bunch of people. At last, all she could do was watch Yang Chen leave with the police. The three police cars came very swiftly and left in the same way.

When the red taillights disappeared on the streets, Lin Ruoxi stood frozen for a long time. Coldly, she said, "Goodman, get me the best lawyer in the entirety of Paris right now. I want you to see to it that Yang Chen is back here before dawn tomorrow!"

Goodman exuded cold sweat. He gestured Lin Ruoxi to calm down. Smiling, he said, "Ruoxi, don't worry. I'll get this done personally. Director Yang is my lifesaver so I can't let anything bad happen to him. I believe that some rest is in order. You may return to your hotel room. I'm here to make sure everything is properly dealt with."

Although Lin Ruoxi wasn't put at ease, she was sure that Goodman was the better candidate to solve the problem as she was unfamiliar with Paris. Thus, she listened to Goodman and went back to the hotel to rest. However, her mind was filled with the thought of Yang Chen. It was going to be a sleepless night.

On the other hand, Yang Chen had no realization of being a 'suspect'. During his journey to the police station, he spoke fluently in French to the policemen about the ladies he had seen on the streets, causing them to get speechless. They had felt the dire urge to tape his mouth shut.

After around ten minutes, Yang Chen was brought into the office building of the Paris police department. Although it was nighttime and most police officers had gone off for the day, the lights were still on.

Yang Chen was handcuffed, with two strong policemen holding him. They followed Officer Bolton into the elevator.

On the control panel of the elevator, other than the buttons for each floor, there was a numeric keypad as well.

Bolton's thick fingers quickly inserted a long series of numbers before the elevator turned red. Sono, it started descending...

However, on the control panel, there weren't signs of a basement.

"Tsk, tsk. Officer Bolton, I didn't know this station had an underground base," Yang Chen said as he looked around excitedly.

Bolton felt a major headache coming round the longer he stood in this suspect's vicinity. His mouth twitched a little before he said, "Mr Yang, you're impressively calm indeed, but you're speaking a bit too much."

Around thirty seconds later, the elevator finally stopped. The sliding door opened, revealing a pathway with a metal structure. The white LED's placed behind seams shone light in the entire space, looking like a scene from a science fiction movie.

On both sides, there were a few rooms covered with tempered glass. Various highly advanced equipment were laid there. Complicated data and a few live capture from surveillance cameras were

shown on the huge LCD screens. There were one or two people dressed in white robes working in each of the completely soundproof rooms.

Being held by two officers, Yang Chen followed Bolton through the long pathway and arrived at the end, outside an alloy gate.

Bolton placed his palm to the fingerprint scanner by the door. After a scan, the gate was instantly opened.

Bolton looked back and signalled the two officers before they let go of Yang Chen and left.

“Mr Yang, please enter.” Bolton’s exceptionally cold expression and appearance had a day-and-night difference when the aura he exuded was compared to his chubby body.

Yang Chen tried to suppress his laughter as he looked at him. “Mr Bolton, you look more pleasant before than you do now,” he said before walking inside.

It was an interrogation room made of alloy with an area of more than 100 square meters. Cameras were placed all around and there were pathways at all four directions.

Currently, a burly man with blonde, curly hair was seated behind the table placed at the center. There stood two armed soldiers who were as straight as javelins beside him. They were the French soldiers, more specifically, the anti-terrorism special forces.

Bolton approached the man and delivered a military salute respectfully. “Reporting to Deputy Director, the suspect Yang Chen has been brought for questioning.”

“Thanks, Bolton.” The man nodded slightly at Bolton before looking at Yang Chen. “Mr Yang, you may have a seat. Let’s talk.”

Yang Chen walked forward and sat down opposite the man. Although he was handcuffed, he faced no difficulty in pulling the chair.

The man’s eyes flashed. Evidently, Yang Chen’s indifferent attitude had proven that he was no ordinary man.

“I wonder if Mr Yang has heard of us before. We’re from Directorate-General for External Security, also known as the Seventh Bureau. In a way, we’re like China’s security department. I’m Fodessa, the deputy director here. Bolton is my attendant, also the leader of the anti-terrorism group in the Paris police department,” introduced Fodessa.

Yang Chen nodded and revealed a so-this-is-the-case expression. It wasn’t that he hadn’t heard of the Seventh Bureau before. Compared to the world’s best—America’s FBI, Britain’s Security Service, Russia’s KGB, and Israel’s Mossad, it was indeed too ‘soft’, so pathetically soft...

Built by the French hero General Charles de Gaulle from World War II, although, its development speed did not match the French international status. It was considered an ordinary security organization of a country, unlike America’s Blue Storm which was a poweruser organization. While the other major spy organizations all had similar teams, France only had ‘ordinary humans’.

“I’m not too familiar with you, but I have indeed heard of you all,” Yang Chen answered honestly.

“Very nice.” Fodessa was able to tell that Yang Chen was speaking the truth. He took an image out from his shirt pocket and delivered it to Yang Chen. “Mr Yang, you wouldn’t happen to be familiar with this thing, would you?”

Chapter 504: You’ve Misunderstood My Intention

In one of the business suites of Hotel Sofitel, Lin Ruoxi settled in after dismissing her subordinates who had all come to welcome her arrival. On the other hand, Goodman who had just entered his room as well, removed his white suit and tossed it on the bed. As if his bones had scattered, he lay on the comfortable sofa nearby.

There was a small, delicately crafted wooden table beside the sofa in addition to a lamp which had lit half of the room up. The lampshade was free from dust.

Having rested with his eyes shut for less than a minute, Goodman opened his eyes again. Being shone upon by the yellow light, the expressionless man turned his head to the table beside him.

There stood a file holder on top of the table. He opened the seal and took out a few photostated documents from within.

Goodman pinched on one of the papers with both his hands, staring at the content gloomily...

This piece of document was a photostated marriage certificate whose owners’ picture could be seen clearly on the paper...

The woman looked indifferent and cold, emotionless as she stared at the camera. On the contrary, the man grinned and looked rather nervous and funny. It was the group picture of Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen which they had taken when registering their marriage!

“Lin Ruoxi... you take me as a fool, don’t you? Do you think I won’t be able to find out your relationship with the savage just because you refuse to tell me about it? Humph... Haha! So what if he can kill? Who is he to insult me?! A lawyer? I’ll get him one for sure... But you won’t see the smelly mutton skewer seller tomorrow morning that’s for sure...”

Goodman held a terrible expression, with the corner of his mouth twitching a little. His arms which were holding the document were shivering. After he murmured to himself, he lifted his phone and made a call.

“Mr Goodman, it’s afterhours now,” joked a man.

“Lawyer Charmo, my friend has been brought to the police station around ten minutes ago. I need you to help me do something for him,” Goodman said coldly while squinting his eyes.

“I never knew you to be the bearer of good news... But since you need it, I’ll pay the police station a visit. What’s the name of Mr Goodman’s friend? What has he done?”

“He’s Yang Chen, a Chinese man. It is a... murder crime,” replied Goodman.

Charmo remained quiet for a short while. He then smiled and said, “What an unlucky fellow. Don’t worry, this won’t be a problem for me, the best lawyer in Paris, Charmo.”

"I believe you've misunderstood my intention," Goodman said coldly, "I didn't ask you to bail him out."

"Oh?" Evidently, Charmo didn't understand what he meant.

"I need your help not to save him, but to incarcerate him!" Goodman's eyes were filled with coldness. Smiling, he said, "I believe it's a piece of cake for Lawyer Charmo to get rid of an ordinary Chinese man with little to no background who has committed murder in Paris. He has been captured by the police after all..."

After a while, Charmo finally answered, "Aye. Mr Goodman, you're such a special employer, but I like it. Alright, I'll do it."

"Remember to leave no traces. I have nothing to do with this matter," Goodman added.

Charmo laughed like a maniac. "Of course. I haven't received any calls tonight. I'm now going to seek justice!"

At the same time, in the underground base of the Paris police station, Yang Chen stared at a picture in front with a helpless smile.

On the picture given by Fodessa, it was the symbol of the golden sun totem which Yang Chen had seen before. Moreover, the picture was taken from the dead men dressed in black.

Yang Chen rubbed his forehead. He more or less figured the situation out.

Originally, he thought that the police were in charge of this case, so he didn't expect to be approached in such a short time. However, the Seventh Bureau had been in charge from the start. Thus, even if he used a satellite phone to call the police, his location could still be tracked. They were able to access technology far beyond the likes of the police after all.

Yang Chen didn't plan to hide anything. Nodding, he said, "As you know, I'm the one who has called the police."

Fodessa's gaze turned gloomy. "Then, the kidnappers' deaths wouldn't be unrelated to Mr Yang, would they?"

"That's right. I was the one who had killed them all," Yang Chen answered honestly.

Fodessa felt all the more uneasy when the interrogation process went on so smoothly. Since they were in a hurry, they managed to find out certain abnormalities in this Chinese man's background, but failed to obtain accurate information.

Fodessa tapped the table with his fingers. After a while, he said, "The dead kidnappers in the warehouse used to be members of a terrorist group called Infernal Three Headed Beast. Each of their members has for the lack of a better expression, been baptised with gunpowder. Surprisingly, not only did they fail to carry out any damage, all of them were hit with great precision despite the barrier of helmets. According to our analysis of the scene, such an incident is simply impossible in the dark. Mr Yang, if you're being honest, I have to say..."

"You're undoubtedly dangerous."

Yang Chen shrugged his shoulders. "Perhaps that's the case. But legally speaking, I was merely acting on self defence. I believe Deputy Director wouldn't put me in jail for no reason or end my life here, would you?"

Fodessa snorted coldly. "Self defence is a right given to civilians. As far as I can tell, Mr Yang isn't any ordinary resident. I am totally able to suspect a dangerous man like you to be of a terrorist group's origin. Moreover, your background could cause us more trouble than Infernal Three Headed Beast."

Yang Chen sighed deeply. He initially wanted to head back to the hotel and sleep after the interrogation, but the situation seemed more troublesome than expected.

"Then what does Deputy Director plan to do?" Yang Chen asked smilingly. "As you said, all of these are merely suspicions. Even a detention has a time limit. Also, after my lawyer arrives, this unproven case won't be able to force my stay. I advise Deputy Director to let me go. I've saved quite a lot of noble guests. Shouldn't it say that I was helping instead of hurting?"

When Fodessa wanted to counter, Bolton who had been standing aside strictly received a call.

Bolton looked at Fodessa apologetically before picking it up. "What is it? Didn't I tell you that I was interrogating a suspect?"

"Head Bolton, Lawyer Charmo from the Gordon Law Firm has called us. He said he wanted to provide important information to us regarding the Chinese suspect," a police reported.

Bolton instantly hung up on the call and informed Fodessa about the situation.

Fodessa sighed and gave a complicated gaze to Yang Chen. "Mr Yang's lawyer has come quicker than I expected. Since that's the case, let's go out then."

Yang Chen had no objections naturally. He too felt that the lawyer came very early. However, the next second, Yang Chen turned around to look at the alloy gate doubtfully.

Clink! The alloy door was suddenly opened. A few silhouettes then rushed inside the interrogation room!

Chapter 505: A Reasonable Man

A Reasonable Man "Director?!" exclaimed Fodessa. He was wondering who had intruded the place, but he soon realized intruders would be pretty stupid to have come through the front gate. Taking a closer look, he saw his director Depney!

Depney seemed to have rushed over there. He wasn't even dressed in a military uniform. All he wore was a white shirt while his hair was rather messy. He initially looked pale and unhealthy, but his face was currently a shade of red from all the frustration.

Upon entering the interrogation room, Depney hurriedly sought out Yang Chen who was seated opposite Fodessa. When he saw that Yang Chen was handcuffed, his eyes were widened to its max.

Fodessa felt that something was wrong. He hesitated for a bit before asking, "Director, what do yo—"

Before Fodessa finished speaking, Depney leaped to him in the blink of an eye and grasped Fodessa's collar using his left arm!

Bolton who was behind Fodessa was astonished. He had his gaze fixed on the two-meter-tall Fodessa being held up in midair singlehandedly by Depney who was barely 170 centimeters!

No one would expect the seemingly middle-aged, indifferent-looking Depney to have harboured such frightening strength.

Fodessa was dumbstruck. He wanted to say something but Depney's fiery gaze had stopped him from doing so.

"Moron! Have I allowed you to arrest just anyone you want without my permission?!" Depney yelled using his deep and rough voice.

Being held up in the air, Fodessa whose feet were dangling swallowed his saliva audibly. Trying his best to remain calm, he said, "Director has granted me the permission to deal with the kidnapping case. We found out that this Chinese man Yang Chen was the one who had reported to the police. Through the interrogation earlier, he admitted that he had killed the kidnappers. We wanted to further investigate the matter, but Director, you've—"

"So what you are trying to tell me here is that this is all my fault?" Depney snorted with contempt before forcefully swaying his left arm, tossing Fodessa aside.

Fodessa was thrown to the wall by an enormous force. Following the collision, he felt that he might have broken a bone. However, he immediately stood up and bowed, saying, "This one isn't trying to imply anything."

"You wouldn't dare to do so even if you wanted to." Depney sneered and ignored Fodessa before walking towards Yang Chen.

Upon turning around, his furious expression had been completely replaced with a pleasant smile. Looking apologetic, he said to Yang Chen, "Mr Yang, I'm Depney, this moron's superior. I sincerely apologize for his foolish act. Please pay no attention to his acts of stupidity."

Yang Chen glanced at Depney and Fodessa teasingly. Smiling, he said, "It's alright. You just have to let me go if you know that I'm not the one you're looking for. Director doesn't need to blame Deputy Director Fodessa. He was just doing his duty. It isn't worth the trouble."

"Mr Yang is indeed a reasonable man. I'll remove the handcuffs for you and send you off," Depney said with a smile.

"I can take care of them myself." Yang Chen stood up and swayed his arms outwards, causing the metal handcuffs to instantly break into pieces, as if they were a piece of paper, before falling on the ground.

Depney opened his mouth in shock. Fodessa, Bolton, and the others instantly became speechless. Handcuffs were not toys. They were not made to be broken. Not only was the metal tough, it was malleable to a certain degree. It wasn't impossible to change its shape. But just how shocking must Yang Chen's strength be if he was able to destroy them into pieces?!

Bolton and the other special agents from the security department brought by Depney were dumbfounded. They felt a chill deep down their hearts. Fodessa who had his head lowered in silence furrowed his brows tightly.

“M—Mr Yang, please come with me...” Depney was the first one to react. He walked in front of Yang Chen to bring him out.

Yang Chen waved at Fodessa and Bolton before leaving the interrogation room with Depney.

After they left, Fodessa who had stood still all this time finally stood up straight.

Resentfully, his attendant Bolton sighed in dissatisfaction. “Deputy Director, this is ridiculous. Director had clearly passed this matter to us from the start and was too lazy to get involved. Now that we managed to catch the culprit and obtain what could possibly be a lead, he insulted us and even... hit you...”

Bolton was filled with bitterness. All he could do was nod.

Fodessa raised the image with his teeth clenched while complication filled his face. His eyes flashed at last. Exerting force using his arm, the picture was crushed into a crumple...

On the other hand, Yang Chen felt a lot more relaxed after getting out of the police station with Depney. Although he was unaware of who had sent this director to get him out, he didn't have to stay overnight at the police station which was worth celebrating.

Although Yang Chen wouldn't be harmed if no one bailed him out, he couldn't just destroy the police station. He wasn't afraid to fight, but what he was wary about was the consequences that came with the destruction of a police station.

Walking to the parking area near the police station, Depney stopped walking. Seeing a black Rolls Royce nearby, he found it hard to control his emotions. “Mr Yang, I'm really sorry for bringing you trouble. Please greet the much respected lady on my behalf. If you need help with anything in the future, we'll be glad to lend a hand anytime.”

Lady?

Yang Chen frowned and looked at the direction Depney was facing. When he saw the Rolls Royce parked in the dark, he instantly understood something...

So it's her. Everything makes sense now.

After bidding farewell to Depney and the others, Yang Chen slowly approached the car which was awaiting his arrival.

When he arrived in front of the car, the door was opened from the inside, revealing a handsome face which he hadn't seen in a while. The man's blonde hair was combed neatly as usual. He wore a black suit with a fresh red rose protruding from his chest.

“Ed?” Yang Chen was stunned a little. He didn't expect the person to be one of his good friends. He was Edward from the Rothschild clan, Jane's cousin brother.

“Hello Yang, we haven’t met since the goodbye in Hokkaido back then. I was starting to miss you.” Edward revealed a pleasant smile and moved inside the car to make space for Yang Chen.

Yang Chen sat into the car and closed the door. When he raised his head, he finally saw the lady whom Depney was referring to.

“Long time no see, Catherine.” Yang Chen’s gaze turned gentle all of a sudden. Looking nostalgic, he smiled and said, “Oh yeah, should I call you... Her Majesty the Queen now?”

Chapter 506: Throwing After Using

In the police station, a man was yelling loudly at the policemen, causing their ears to suffer.

“What?! You’re saying that Yang Chen was taken away?! Head Bolton, are you crazy? He’s a murderer! Your decision was made without following legal procedures. This is straight-up illegal! You shall be heavily punished!” a bald white man wearing suit and leather shoes yelled and hit the office table in front violently. He was the lawyer named Charmo.

After receiving Goodman’s request, he had swiftly obtained information about Yang Chen via various channel before rushing over. He initially thought Yang Chen would be detained. However, upon his arrival, it was proven otherwise. Upon arriving at the police station, he was told that Yang Chen was released three minutes ago!

Being the officer on duty, Bolton and Fodessa returned to the office and bumped into Charmo.

Fodessa didn’t belong to the police force, hence his silence. Everything was handled by Bolton instead.

Due to the natures of their jobs, Charmo was extremely familiar with Bolton’s identity as the head of the anti-terrorism group. Thus, he didn’t need to speak with respect.

Bolton frowned deeply. He was frustrated enough to witness his superior Fodessa being beaten up earlier. As of right now, he wasn’t in the mood to entertain Charmo. He snorted coldly and said, “Lawyer Charmo, you’re not supposed to make a scene here at the police station. His release was authorized by people far beyond our pay grade. You’re welcome to sue us all you want, but the only party that would suffer is you!”

“Are you threatening me?! Bolton, you fucking fatty, do you know whom you’re speaking to? I’m the best lawyer in Paris, Charmo! There’s no lawsuit that I can’t win, no evil that I can’t smite!” Charmo was completely fearless. Pointing at Bolton’s reddened face, he shouted, “I’ll send the Chinese man Yang Chen to jail. He will be executed for murder!”

Just as Bolton wanted to revolt, he noticed something and immediately dismissed the intention.

Charmo realized that Bolton was looking behind him. He couldn’t help but turn around to have a look, only to find that a middle-aged stranger was standing behind him.

Displeased, Charmo asked, “Who the heck are you? I know everyone in the police station. You don’t belong here.”

The man was Depney who had recently sent Yang Chen off.

Smiling, Depney looked at Charmo from top to bottom. "You're the guy Charmo from the Gordon Law Firm. The one that everyone considers the best lawyer in Paris?"

"You're right. That's me," Charmo answered, satisfied.

Depney nodded and said, "Did you just say you wanted to send Yang Chen into jail and execute him?"

Confidently, Charmo replied, "You heard it right. What is it? Are you an accomplice in this case?!"

Depney laughed like a maniac. His pale skin turned reddish. Malice soon filled his eyes. With his hoarse voice, he said, "You're no different from a pig. Unfortunately, although I'm not sure what Yang Chen's future hold, jail or not, What I do know is that... you shall go there now!"

"What? Are you trying to frighten me? I—"

Before Charmo was able to finish his words, a fist came flying right at his head!

Bam!

Charmo was totally incapable of dodging Depney's punch. He directly fell on the ground after receiving the blow, instantly causing his face to swell and him to black out.

Depney took out a white handkerchief and wiped his bloody fist. "Place him in death row and find a date to send him to God."

Every policeman there paled. There was nothing they could do except looking at Bolton who was the person in charge there.

Bolton exuded cold sweat. No one had expected the highly influential lawyer to be given a death sentence just like that. Bolton was sure that Charmo had to die just because Depney said so. As a result, he signalled two of his subordinates to bring Charmo away. He did not need a reason. He was too scared to ask.

At this moment, Fodessa who had been standing aside walked forward. Facing his superior Depney, he said, "Director, can we discuss about something at a quiet place?"

Depney glanced at him and nodded his head before leaving the office first.

When the two came to an empty walkway, Depney stopped moving. With his back facing Fodessa, he asked, "You're going to ask who had brought Yang Chen away, aren't you?"

"Yeah, I need an answer. I can't just watch someone that dangerous be let out without a reason," Fodessa said while clenching his fists.

Although Depney had his back facing Fodessa, he was still able to tell all his expressions. Snorting in disdain, he said, "You can't change anything even if you're not convinced. Let's not talk about you for now. For me, or even Mr President, we have to obey that lady no matter what, unless we're prepared for a war amongst the countries. Otherwise... even if Yang Chen was really a terrorist, we still have to release him!"

Fodessa raised his head, confused. "Director, I have no clue who that is."

“I believe you’ve come across the information from one of the secrets documents in the office regarding the bloody incident nine years ago involving the British and Welsh royal families...” Depney said slowly.

Fodessa was slightly surprised. He had no clue why his superior had brought up the so-called grey history of the scandal among the British royal families. He answered, “Yeah, I remember it clearly. Back then, the British royal family attempted to annihilate the previous Welsh royal family and overthrow them. However, due to the involvement by the Rothschild clan and other unknown parties, Queen Catherine and the young Princess Jane of the Welsh royal family miraculously disappeared for a while before returning safely awhile after. After that, a few core members for the British royal family had somehow died one after another. The Security Service had spent much effort to prevent the scandal from spreading so that the civilians wouldn’t panic.”

“Correct. After that, the heir of the British royal power was none other than the ruler of Wales. Although they exist as a hidden royal family, which means their existence hasn’t been publicly announced yet, the true party in power of the United Kingdom lies in the Welsh royal family...” Depney explained.

Fodessa nodded. “I vividly remember the document. There are indeed too many questions in the incident nine years ago including the survival of Catherine and her daughter Jane and the silence of the Security Service. One has to admit that the Welsh royal family has far exceeded the British both for their behind-the-scenes status and economic influence. Moreover, the heir of the Welsh royal family Princess Jane has now become the core of the British royal research center in addition to the leader in this technologically advanced world. With such an inheritor, the power of the Welsh royal family is already firmly established.”

“You’re right. There are indeed too many unanswered questions. But we shouldn’t worry about them since even the Security Service has remained quiet.” Depney turned around while his eyes shone. With his deep voice, he said, “The person who had contacted me to release Yang Chen isn’t just anyone out there. It was Her Majesty Catherine, the former queen consort, who has just ascended to the throne recently...”

As soon as Depney finished speaking, Fodessa was dumbfounded...

... ..

Achoo!

The Rolls Royce slowly proceeded on the roads, so slow that it was no different from walking.

In the carriage, the woman who had sneezed irresponsibly raised her arm and rubbed her tall nose using her violet dress made of silk to wipe her booger off.

She was a tall and slender lady with a tied-up bun. Any signs of aging was not present on her body. Her elegant face contours made her look like an elf in fantasy stories. She exuded an alluring aura, especially due to her emerald eyes and long eyelashes.

If one had to guess her true age, they’d have to judge her curvy figure wrapped in the laced violet dress. The mature woman’s curves were simply unrivalled among young ladies. Every man’s veins would bulge upon seeing her. Moreover, her unintentionally revealed calves were so fair and smooth like the skin of a newborn. It wasn’t something any ordinary man could just resist.

However, such a stunning lady just pulled off the act of a child—wiping her nose using her sleeve.

“Catherine, you’ve just ascended to the throne. Can you finally change your childish habits? Your body is the mature version of Jane, but mentally, you’re only going backwards,” Yang Chen said helplessly. He was sitting beside Edward and opposite the goddess-like Catherine, the queen from the Welsh royal family.

Catherine pouted her bright red lips. She looked like just a seven-year-old girl. “My dear Chenchen, I believe that some bad guy was just thinking of me again. I wouldn’t have sneezed otherwise.”

Yang Chen would stab himself with a knife if he could suddenly had the undesirable urge to stab himself repeatedly. He didn’t know whether to cry or laugh. “I’m not talking about if you sneezed or not. But why do you have to use your sleeve instead of a tissue paper?!”

“It’s convenient this way! Taking a tissue is troublesome enough and I even have to throw it away after using one...” Catherine pouted her lips. “You guys are so annoying. This is not the first time that you’ve found out about my bad habits. You’re the same as Jane Jane. She would correct me all the time at home. I don’t seem to do anything right. Being her mother, I feel that I get no respect. I’m the queen at the end of the day.”

Edward who was sipping on red wine got completely speechless. He hesitated a little and asked, “Erm... Aunt, who told you that you’ll sneeze only when someone misses you? Also, what’s going on with the names Chenchen and Jane Jane?”

Catherine let out a sweet smile. “When Jane was telling me about the Chinese culture, she said that most Chinese would call the people they’re close with by repeating their names. It’s entirely possible for you to be called Wardward instead.”

Edward quickly shook his head, causing him to almost choke on the wine.

“Oh yeah, Chenchen, you might not know this. Jane Jane has studied a lot about the Chinese culture to understand your origin more. As you know, I can barely read, but I want to know more about your country as well, so I would ask her to tell me stories every night and fall asleep while listening... But recently, I haven’t had the privilege of listening to those stories. It’s all because of you. You summoned my baby Jane Jane to China. Now that you came to Paris, Jane Jane hasn’t come back yet. She’s my only daughter you know...” Catherine said angrily.

Yang Chen had a stiff expression. He had no clue what to say. Just like the first time he met Catherine, he would feel helpless whenever he saw at her proud look.

Gloomily, Edward said, “Aunt, being the queen of Wales and the mistress of the Rothschild clan, you can barely read the only language you speak which is English... This is a shame. Also, you’re almost forty already but you still need your daughter to tell you stories at night. What part of this makes any sense?”

Catherine finally got quiet after listening to Edward. She lowered her head and frowned a little in silence.

Edward felt that he might’ve hurt her feelings. He consoled, “Aunt, I’m not criticizing you. But you should start acting like an adult so that Jane can stop worrying about you.”

Catherine suddenly raised her head, revealing her watery big eyes. Nodding, she said, "I understand now. I'll be more careful next time... Wardward..."

Pfft! Edward spit out the red wine in his mouth uncontrollably.

Chapter 507: Nursery Rhyme

In the huge presidential suite of Hotel Sofitel, the set of elegant furniture allowed the room to look like a complete home.

The design and decor of the room were inspired by the French and Roman. One would feel luxury upon stepping foot in the room.

Fresh flowers which were replaced every day were placed in delicate vases at each corner. A certain brand of French perfume was used, causing the room to smell pleasant without being overly pungent.

At this moment, the door of the shower room was pulled open. Lin Ruoxi who had taken a hot bath wore a white pajamas made of real silk provided by the hotel. She used a white towel to dry her wet hair while slowly walking to the window.

The loose pajamas had covered a huge area of her fair skin. Although her flawless curves were hidden, they were as tempting as ever.

The night view in Paris wasn't as vibrant as the one in Zhonghai. It was a quiet city.

Sighing deeply, Lin Ruoxi stopped wiping her hair with the towel. Turning around, she looked at the wooden antique clock hung on the wall.

It had been more than an hour since Yang Chen was brought away. She had yet to receive any news from him. Although she was confident enough regarding Yang Chen, it still didn't manage to calm her nerves.

Silently standing in the room alone, Lin Ruoxi was slightly absent minded. She even found the whole situation comical.

It hadn't been too long since she stopped treating that man as a human being. She even hoped for his death sometimes so that she wouldn't have to be irritated. She would be reminded of the hell-like night where she lost her purity whenever she saw him.

However, unknowingly, the two had been together for more than a year. They had argued, started cold wars, and joked throughout this period. Every little memory that she had felt like it had happened just yesterday.

Her days of waking up early and returning late suddenly included a man who was never serious about work. However, her days didn't feel as lonely and dull as before for some reason.

No matter how hard she tried, she wasn't able to think of a single good thing or character that he possessed. He was lazy, vulgar, and extremely perverted, not to mention he was a smoker. Other men would secretly have an affair if they had one. However, Yang Chen would publicly interact with his other women because his skin was as thick as a steel wall.

He would exasperate her, joke about her, push her into difficult situations, speak sarcastically to her, frighten her, and even make her worry about him...

He appeared obedient on the outside. But at every moment where his actions really counted, he would act to his own will, displaying his machismo to a ridiculous level.

"There isn't anything likable about a man like that, is there..." murmured Lin Ruoxi. It wasn't known whom she was asking.

She had a long flight earlier the day after all. After landing in Paris, she was faced with a kidnapping case. Currently, she was actually exhausted.

Lin Ruoxi felt that she was on the verge of collapse. Thus, she walked to the huge comfortable bed and sat down. She had her head lowered but lacked the courage to lie down."

"If I fall asleep now, will he be back by tomorrow morning?" Lin Ruoxi felt a headache. Painfully shutting her eyes, she shook her head and opened them again. She then mumbled to herself, "There's nothing good about him at all. Why am I behaving like this? Is it possibly because of his confession to me in that night..."

In her mind, a scene of that night surfaced uncontrollably. It was the night when she dashed out of the restaurant and cried on the street...

...I'm as terrible a man as described, who lives in a different world from you!!! But someone like me!!! Allowed to like someone like you?!

When she recalled the moment, Yang Chen's voice lingered beside her ears, causing her to feel a little shy. She then burst into laughter.

"Oh my. Why would a man say how terrible he is when making a love confession... You're really foolish. I've never said that I like you, Stupid..."

"But if I don't like him, why am I always thinking about him? Have I... Have I..."

Ring! Ring! The phone rang, stopping her from talking to herself.

Surprised, Lin Ruoxi sat up straight and rubbed the moisture at the corners of her eyes before stretching her arm to pick up the phone in the hotel room.

"Ruoxi, I hope I didn't disturb you," said Goodman.

Lin Ruoxi hummed in acknowledgement. She then thought of something and asked hurriedly, "Do you have an update about Yang Chen's case? Has the lawyer bailed him out yet?"

Goodman sounded embarrassed. "I've hired the best lawyer in the entire Paris already but there's no news from him yet. But don't worry, I'll definitely try my best. Nothing will happen to him."

"Alright... Then is there anything else that you need to say?" Lin Ruoxi felt disappointed when she heard it wasn't about Yang Chen. Even her tone had gotten cold.

"I believe you're really tired now and in a bad mood as well. I'm thinking of bringing you to a Thailand massage session in this hotel. They have the best female masseurs. I believe you'll destress that way. Also, you merely had a stupid burger just now. I'll bring you to eat—"

"No need." Lin Ruoxi cut Goodman off directly. "Thank you for your intention. But it's really late now, I just want to rest."

Goodman remained quiet for a while. "Alright then. The fashion week starts tomorrow. I'll pick you up in the morning. Regardless if Mr Yang is able to return by then, our work should not be affected."

"They'll be held in Louvre Museum and Tuileries Garden near Place de la Concorde, am I right?" asked Lin Ruoxi.

"You're right. Ruoxi, you indeed have a good memory," Goodman answered with a smile.

"You don't need to pick me up. I'll go there myself. Just arrange a driver for me. To ensure efficiency, I'll participate in the fashion week and you'll be responsible for the communications with the designers and manufacturers. No one will be in charge of the usual operations if you go with me. I find it unnecessary," Lin Ruoxi said in an indifferent manner.

"But—"

"The decision is made." Lin Ruoxi hung up the phone immediately.

Listening to the busy signal on the phone, Goodman was stunned. He then violently slammed the phone on the ground and breathed heavily while his eyes were filled with malice.

"Lin Ruoxi, you may look down on me now, but you'll belong to me sooner or later..."

Goodman squinted his eyes. Right before he wanted to turn off the lights, his doorbell rang.

Annoyed, Goodman got down from the bed and walked to the door. Through the peephole, he saw a smiling server standing outside.

Frowning, he opened the door and asked, "What do you need? Don't you know guests have to sleep at this hour?"

The man dressed in a server uniform of the hotel was smiling in silence. He took a black card from behind and delivered it to Goodman.

Goodman found it rather familiar, but didn't remember when and where he has seen it before.

"What is this?" Goodman asked, confused.

The smile on the server's face vanished. As his eyes shone, he suddenly drew a pocket-sized pistol. The next moment, the gun barrel was pointed right at Goodman's forehead!

Dumbstruck, Goodman stared at the gun and finally remembered what the golden sun was. It was the symbol of the kidnappers earlier!

"I have something to discuss with you. Let's go inside, shall we?" the 'server' said coldly.

On the other hand, Lin Ruoxi who had hung up on the call was sitting on her bed absentmindedly. She then sighed silently and planned to turn off the lights. However, the doorbell rang.

Since she stayed in a presidential suite, she normally wouldn't be disturbed. There were quite a lot of bodyguards standing outside after all.

Lin Ruoxi felt a little doubtful. She had no friends in Paris, while Goodman wouldn't dare to come over after being rejected.

She put on her slippers and walked to the door. Carefully seeing through the peephole, she was terrified!

All she saw was an eye!

Lin Ruoxi hurriedly rushed back as she hugged her chest. She then realized that she was pranked as someone had blocked the peephole using their eye.

Lin Ruoxi stomped the ground angrily. She wanted to ignore the person outside and go back to bed. However, the person outside started singing.

"Little Ruoxi, please be obedient and open the door. Quickly open the door, your husband is back..."

The voice clearly belonged to Yang Chen!

Lin Ruoxi violently turned around and opened the door. As expected, Yang Chen was standing outside with a naughty smile.

"What do you think about this nursery rhyme? It still sounds good after I changed the lyrics, doesn't it? Hehe, I'm not the worst candidate for the director of Yu Lei Entertainment, or—"

Yang Chen who was delighted didn't manage to finish his speech. That was because Lin Ruoxi had leaped into his arms!

Through the thin layer of silk pajamas, Lin Ruoxi's body was incredibly soft. Her hair had both the smell of shampoo and her body scent. Yang Chen indulged in the fragrance which had filled his nose.

Yang Chen had repeatedly imagined that his wife would one day stop treating him coldly, jump into his arms like any of his other lovers, and allow him to express his love in whichever way he desired.

However, when this moment became a reality, Yang Chen realized that his mind had gone completely blank, for only one reason—the woman in his arms was tearing up...

Chapter 508: Carrying You to Sleep

Lin Ruoxi herself couldn't explain her actions. The energy circulating inside her body had gathered at the instant she saw Yang Chen, with only one intention in mind—she must hug the man tightly! Other than pouncing over to hug the man, her mind couldn't process anything else. Self-restraint, worry, courage—nothing else mattered in that moment!

Having felt the woman's arms crossed around his waist forcefully, Yang Chen was stunned for quite a while before slowly regaining awareness. He revealed a small smile and felt an indescribable emotion which had made him feel the long-awaited warmth.

Slowly, Yang Chen held Lin Ruoxi's back with both his arms. Although she was covered with silk, Yang Chen still managed to feel her smooth and flawless skin.

Taking a deep breath, Yang Chen placed his chin on Lin Ruoxi's head. Tapping her back with his right arm as if he was comforting a child, he said gently, "Alright, stop crying. I'm back now, am I not?"

Lin Ruoxi had stopped tearing up but was sobbing a little. While her eyes were covered with tears, she felt that she had depleted her energy.

Yang Chen noticed that Lin Ruoxi seemed to be struggling to stand. Feeling a heartache, he bent down and held her legs from behind before carrying her up horizontally.

Lin Ruoxi subconsciously hooked Yang Chen's neck with her arms. Blushing, she asked out of surprise, "What are you doing?"

"Carrying you to sleep," Yang Chen answered before walking into the room and closing the door with his foot.

Lin Ruoxi's heartbeat instantly quickened upon hearing the term 'sleep'. She was all the more worried when Yang Chen looked like he was expecting something.

Probably because she was abroad, she had felt incredibly insecure as she had no close friends and families there, not to mention she wasn't close with her employees there. Furthermore, having been kidnapped in addition to experiencing the life-and-death explosion scene, Lin Ruoxi felt that there was only so much more that she could take.

During Yang Chen's absence, she finally realized just how huge of a difference the man's presence made.

However, even if that was the case, it didn't mean that she was required to do anything with Yang Chen!

Although she had long realized man's importance, through her experience, she too realized his usual worrying behavior.

As Lin Ruoxi was overthinking, Yang Chen had placed her on the large, comfortable bed already.

At this moment, Lin Ruoxi quickly noticed that she was wearing nothing but a thin layer of silk pajamas. Clothing made of such material was see-through to some degree.

Embarrassed, Lin Ruoxi nervously pulled the blanket on the bed to wrap her body, only did she have the courage to raise her head to look at the man standing by the bed.

The elegant woman was wrapped in a rose-color blanket, sitting on a white bed sheet. Her black hair was smooth and slightly reflective. This stunning scene was indeed tempting, especially when the lady was Yang Chen's own wife. However, all he did was stand, quietly observing Lin Ruoxi's actions as if he was immersed in a very interesting movie.

"W—why are you looking at me like this?" Lin Ruoxi slowly noticed that she might have had over thought. The man's eyes were crystal clear. It was clear that he held no dirty intentions towards her.

"I'm wondering if I'm just a guy who would try to trick you to bed all day in your eyes. Although I really want to sleep with you, I've never intended to do it by force. I've always respected your decisions. Must you raise your guard around me as if I'm a thief?" Yang Chen asked with a smile.

Lin Ruoxi bit her lips as she was troubled by the question. If she answered yes, she could hurt his feelings. He wasn't currently forcing her into doing anything after all. If she answered no, however, she would be contradicting herself as it was true that Yang Chen loved to mess with women outside.

"I don't need an answer. Although I'm not a very smart man, I'm not considered stupid. I know that you only hugged me by the door just now because you were worried about me. Everyone behaves impulsive sometimes, am I right?" Yang Chen asked and winked.

Lin Ruoxi lowered her head as she dared not look at Yang Chen. Indeed, her long-restrained emotions had burst earlier. She didn't intend to completely accept Yang Chen.

Lin Ruoxi remained quiet for a while before raising her head to ask, "How did you come out? Were you helped by the lawyer Goodman hired?"

Yang Chen seemed a little confused. "Lawyer? What lawyer? Did Goodman get me one?"

Lin Ruoxi frowned. "So there was no lawyer? Did the police let you go then?"

Yang Chen waved his hand. "I have a close friend in Europe who had helped me speak to the police and got me released. It was a misunderstanding after all. I'm not a criminal."

"I see..." Lin Ruoxi suddenly recalled that Yang Chen had 100 billion euros in the Union Bank of Switzerland. Why wouldn't someone like that have connections? The whole time, Yang Chen might have not taken the police seriously.

"Look at how foolish you appear. Don't overthink anymore. It's not my first time getting into a police station. Wasn't I always arrested in Zhonghai back then?" Yang Chen smiled.

Lin Ruoxi looked at him in dissatisfaction. "You're the one who's foolish. But when you mentioned the police station in Zhonghai, I'm starting to miss Yanyan..."

"Cai Yan?" Yang Chen suddenly regretted bringing it up.

"Yeah," Lin Ruoxi said, worried, "Since Sister Cai Ning came over last time, I haven't managed to contact Yanyan, not even once. I'm quite worried about her as I have no idea where she is. I don't have many friends to begin with. I'm wondering how she's doing recently."

Yang Chen rubbed his nose awkwardly. How else can she be? She's still foolishly training at a seaside. Your husband had even slept with her before. After a while, I even have to report the 'marriage proposal' to her family in Beijing! he thought.

Of course, Yang Chen would never confess the truth. He had just proclaimed himself as an innocent guy. He couldn't afford to be exposed at this moment no matter what. Hence, he acted sincere to comfort her, "Don't worry. The Cai clan is not an ordinary one, so nothing bad will happen to Cai Yan. Take care of yourself for now, Ruoxi. Aren't you going to attend the fashion week tomorrow? You should go to bed early."

Lin Ruoxi didn't notice anything unusual. Nodding, she said, "Alright, I'll rest now. Go and find Goodman at the eastmost business suite, he'll pass you the key to your room."

"Oh, so I'm not sharing the same room with you," teased Yang Chen.

Lin Ruoxi was too lazy to entertain him when he became playful again. Indifferent, she asked, "When can you finally change your habit? You were serious just a second ago. Don't talk nonsense anymore, remember to attend the conference tomorrow morning with me. We came here to work, so you mustn't slack."

"Tsk, tsk. You're back to your usual self again to monitor my work. Alright, alright, I understand." Yang Chen waved his hand and blew a kiss before leaving the room.

Upon getting out of the room and closing the door, Yang Chen saw a figure rushing out from the elevator.

"Director Yang! God bless! You're finally back. I had been so worried just now!" Goodman looked anxious. He panted heavily as he approached Yang Chen in his pajamas.

Yang Chen laughed and said, "Little Girl, you're right on time. I was going to get my key from you but it seems you have beat me to it."

Goodman was stunned. He slapped his head and said, "I'm sorry, the key is still in my room. I made a call to the police station and was informed that you had returned safely, so I quickly came up to see if you're with Ruoxi, and you're indeed here. Director Yang, you're not harmed, are you? The lawyer I sent to you was delayed."

Yang Chen looked at Goodman for a while as he suppressed his laughter. "Little Girl, you're surprisingly enthusiastic."

"This is what I'm supposed to do. Director Yang is my lifesaver, so I have to of course try my best to help." Goodman wiped the sweat on his forehead and giggled. "Since Director Yang is fine, I can finally be at ease."

Yang Chen tapped his shoulder and whispered to him, "I'm really happy as well to see that you're fine."

"Huh?" Goodman was shocked as he didn't understand what Yang Chen meant. Thus, all he could do was smile.

After getting the key from Goodman, Yang Chen slowly walked to his business suite. His room was the furthest from Lin Ruoxi's. It could be seen that Goodman had 'worked hard'.

However, right before Yang Chen opened the door, he noticed something wrong. As expected, before he inserted the key, the door was opened from the inside!

Chapter 509: A Unique Mass by the Man of Scarlet

It was a lady dressed in a chiffon nightdress. She was as delicate as a sculpture faintly covered by clouds. She would remind people of the goddess of Classical Athens represented in western oil paintings. They all had elegant curves and soft gazes. Any single one of them would challenge male hormones to the extreme.

Her maroon, beautiful hair stretched all the way to her waist like satin. Her tall nose, plump red lips, and her charming emerald eyes made her look like an elf from a fairy tale, appearing noble, seductive, and mysterious at the same time.

Currently, she was lazily leaning against the door frame, with a shy expression only found on teenage girls.

“My dear Chenchen, am I pretty?” Catherine winked as she gazed upon Yang Chen with high expectations.

Yang Chen raised his head before his breath was taken away. He didn’t know how to react. “I knew that no one would mess around like this except you.”

Catherine pouted her lips. She walked forward and held Yang Chen’s arm before using her bosom lumps to embed it.

“I haven’t had fun with you for almost two years already. You’re overly cruel. Even when you have travelled all the way to Europe, if I didn’t come to look for you, you definitely wouldn’t have come to Wales to find me,” complained Catherine as she pulled Yang Chen into the room before closing the door.

The room was dimly lit with dimly lit candles around. A relaxing music by Liszt was played, creating an ambiguous environment in the night.

Yang Chen didn’t rush to utterly devour the delicacy sent to him, although the charming woman looked like she would allow him to do anything to her. Instead, he walked to the bed and signalled Catherine to sit down first.

Catherine was reluctant to let go of Yang Chen’s arm. At last, Yang Chen helplessly allowed the woman to cling onto him. “You should know that I’m not the same man I used to be two years ago.”

“Is it because of your marriage? I totally understand. I know that your wife is in this hotel now.” Catherine rested her head against Yang Chen’s shoulder. Smiling, she said, “I even heard from Jane that you have many other women, don’t you?”

“Why would she tell you about that? I really am at a loss when dealing with you and your daughter... It’s not just because I’ve gotten married. A lot of things have happened in the past two years, especially the last 12 months, which have changed my view of women. I have to admit that during the time I first met you, most women were just tools for me to vent my emotions on, so none of them had any significant value. But now... I treat you, Jane, Edward, Sauron, Makedon, and the others as my friends. You’re now my friend, not some pleasure tool used for my benefit...”

Yang Chen mocked himself, “So, don’t do this anymore, Catherine. You don’t need to try so hard to please me. We’ve known each other for almost 9 years now. You’re still my friend even if the way you treat me changes.”

A strange light flashed in Catherine’s elegant eyes. A teasing smile surfaced at the corners of her lips. “You’ve indeed changed a lot, Chenchen.”

“Hmm?” Yang Chen noticed her change in expression. Smiling, he said, “You look like a woman in her early thirties now, instead of a foolish little girl.”

“I really hate you. I’m not allowed to behave like a young one but you won’t spare me from acting my age. Have I really gotten that old?” Catherine let go of Yang Chen’s arm and stood up before circling Yang Chen. She then bent her body down to stare right into Yang Chen’s eyes. With her fragrant breath, she said, “Chenchen, who said that friends aren’t allowed to sleep together?”

Yang Chen remained quiet and moved his gaze to Catherine’s bosom.

Due to her half-bent posture, her loose nightdress lowered at the neck area, revealing a pair of round masses which were rubbing against one another. The endless cleavage was an abyss which would tempt a person to commit a crime.

“Do they look good?” asked Catherine.

Yang Chen nodded and answered honestly, “They’re beautiful.”

“Hehe,” Catherine chuckled. Her posture made the soft flesh look like they would fall anytime. Furthermore, its scent was exuded from her neckline.

“Chenchen, do you know that no other men except you have touched them before after my husband died?” Catherine said before sitting on Yang Chen’s lap, pressing her bosom against Yang Chen’s face and burying him at the center.

“I want to sleep with you and please you. I didn’t get on your good side because I need your help. It’s only because this is what I like to do.”

As Yang Chen’s face was buried in the soft, warm flesh, he found it hard to breathe.

After a while, Yang Chen reached his arms to Catherine’s waist and pinched the meat there.

Catherine’s body was extremely good to the touch. The seemingly extra meat had coincidentally complemented her age.

“Mmh,” moaned Catherine. She was able to feel the warmth of Yang Chen’s burning hands.

Yang Chen withdrew his face from the two surging waves. His eyes turned bloodshot while he stared at the noble and charming queen. With his hoarse voice, he said, “I was doing quite well in holding back. But since you’re asking for it, I do believe that it will be a sleepless night.”

Catherine’s eyes turned watery. Her alluring body was just like a slim and delicate willow in the wind. She wrapped Yang Chen’s body with her arms and bit Yang Chen’s ear with her blazing red lips before licking it with her tongue. Breathing heavily, she said, “Do you still remember the time we first met? I want you to treat me as who I was back then...”

The seductive tone had given rise to a flash flood in Yang Chen’s mind which countless intentions had gushed out from...

... ..

Salerno lay on the coastline of Southern Italy. Except that it was facing the vacation spot Mediterranean Sea, the city was just like every other city there—dim and old. The lives there were repetitive. Except the occasional football matches which could interest the citizens there, the place seemed to lack the future that they desired.

Although it was winter, the Mediterranean had a warm weather, allowing the residents to wear relatively thin clothing. Lots of them were crossing the busy streets.

It was a weekend. The relaxed Italians drove on the streets, stopping at an intersection, awaiting the aged traffic lights to turn green. Being shone upon by the strong sunlight, their colors weren't very apparent.

One could probably only be able to feel the city's undying vitality by looking at what remained of the Gothic architecture from the Middle Ages. The tall steeples and fancy windows together with the flying buttress were unique and distinct.

Located near a port, Nachecisolo Church was an unknown Catholic church among the countless churches in that city.

It could be said that no one knew when the church was built. The granite monument which recorded the church history had been buried in the bush outside the church for many years, while it's presence was long forgotten.

Italy had way too many churches treated as classic national treasures after all. This church indeed looked unremarkable.

It had an ordinary square design. Its center had a tall steeple as well. The black and grey appearance of the weathered walls made it hard for a person to determine its original color.

In the afternoon, the door of the church was pushed open. A group of peaceful-looking Italian residents walked out from there. There were the elderly, women, youngsters, and children.

The Sunday Mass had come to an end.

After the people participating in the Mass had left, the pastor of the church Marino stood by the entrance with a slight smile on his face. Sending the people off with his gaze, he drew a cross on his chest as he murmured something.

Marino was an orphan. The pastor who had adopted him had passed away right around the time he turned twenty. Since then, Marino had inherited the responsibility to take care of this small church. Time flew by in the blink of an eye; he was almost fifty now. He had dedicated the most precious moment of his life to God who had never appeared before him.

Turning around, he closed the main door and ended up alone in the entire hall.

Sunlight shone through the gaps of the fancy windows into the church, causing the bumps on the mottled walls to look apparent.

The smell of decay filled the air. Due to years without repair and maintenance, the church was dilapidated. The structure of the building was slowly giving way and showing its age. Marino had often felt that the roof of the church would one day collapse when he was sleeping.

Agony could be seen on Marino's face. Though he was yet to be in his fifties, he looked much older than his age. Raising his head, he gazed upon the cross of Jesus in front of him with his eyes filled with mania and worry.

Marino stood still silently for quite a while before walking to the podium. There lay a long table whose surface had a basket of white bread and a bottle of half-finished grape wine.

These items were leftovers from the believers earlier. Marino had never wasted food. That was because poverty didn't give him that privilege.

Marino lifted the basket and the grape wine bottle before walking to the back of the church, where he lived. As far as he could remember, the old pastor had stayed with him for over a decade, after which he started living on his own. Today, it had been more than two decades since those days.

After taking two turns, Marino didn't return to his own room, but instead proceeded to the only guest room there which used to be empty.

Opening the door, a single bed with a white bed sheet, a table, and a seemingly unstable wooden chair were revealed.

Currently, a woman who was dressed in an overly large clothing, carrying a girl aged around ten years old, was silently reading a tattered Old Testament on the wooden chair.

One would be easily able to tell that they were mother and daughter since both the woman and girl had extremely beautiful amber hair and an incredibly fair, porcelain-like skin. Even when looked from the side, their faces were so flawless that they looked like angels.

They're the masterpiece of God indeed, thought Marino. He had long considered them as so ever since he took them in about half a month ago.

The girl was the first to turn her head over when she heard the door open. Although she had an adorable face like that of a Barbie doll, there was no smile on her face. She held a pair of delusive, sapphire-blue eyes, as if she had the ability to see everything through.

"Good afternoon, Pastor," greeted the girl.

At this moment, the woman turned her head over as well. Although she had no makeup on and her hair was rather messy, her noble aura was evident as ever. She let out a smile in delight. "Good afternoon, Pastor Marino. I'm reading the Old Testament with my baby. There are a lot of stuff we don't understand. Do you mind explaining them to us?"

The girl glanced at her mother in dissatisfaction. "When can you finally learn to read? You're almost thirty already but you still can't read the Old Testament. I was the one reading it for you."

The woman stuck her tongue out in a playful manner. She pinched her daughter's cheek with baby fat and said, "Baby, how could you talk about your mother like this in front of Pastor? You shouldn't embarrass Mother. Haven't I warned you enough times?"

"Le—let go of me!" Frowning, the girl removed her mother's hand. Using a voice soft enough that only the woman could hear her, she said, "When do you ever behave like a mother? Had I not noticed that our hiding spot was discovered, we would've died two weeks ago."

The woman pouted her mouth resentfully. "Alright, alright. Baby, you're the smartest. Mother will stop pinching your cheeks."

Marino's expression turned complicated when the mother and daughter whispered to each other. Having stood at the door for a while, he said, "Madam Catherine, I brought some bread and grape wine over. You must be hungry."

The resentment on Catherine's face instantly vanished. She let out a sweet smile and said, "Thank you Pastor. I'm indeed really hungry. Actually, I was going to ask you this morning on what we were going to have for today, but I dared not interrupt your Mass session."

"It was me who had failed to be thoughtful. I should've prepared some food earlier," Marino replied in English with an Italian accent. Smiling faintly, he walked to the mother and daughter to put the bread and wine on the table.

Catherine couldn't wait anymore. She wasn't disgusted by the dry bread at all. Instead, she took a piece and tore a small portion before delivering it to her daughter's mouth. "Come here, open your mouth. Ahh..."

"I'll eat myself!" The girl looked like she was having a headache when her mother wanted to feed her. She then took the bread and started chewing away.

Catherine clenched her teeth and snorted in dissatisfaction. "I'm so pissed right now. Why are the children from other families so obedient but my Jane behaves this way?"

"Don't push the responsibility to me. No one else has a mother that acts the way you do," the little girl explained the key reason to her mother and rolled her eyes.

Looking at the mother and daughter argue, Marino coughed to interrupt their conversation.

"Madam Catherine, can I ask you a question?" asked Marino seriously.

Catherine blinked her large eyes in an innocent manner. Nodding, she answered, "Of course you can. Pastor, please ask away. But since I'm not very smart, if it's regarding academics, you should ask my daughter Jane instead." She then pointed at Jane who was on her lap cheerfully, causing the little girl to feel annoyed once again.

Marino squinted his eyes. He held a strange expression as he reached into the pocket of his black robe to take a piece of paper out before placing it on the table.

Catherine and Jane were instantly speechless upon seeing the content. Catherine was dumbfounded while Jane had turned serious. It was weird for such an expression to appear on the face of a ten-year-old.

"Wanted Criminals... Catherine and Jane. 10 million British pounds in rewards..." Marino announced the few key words on the wanted poster. Holding an ice-cold expression, he said, "I got this secret document from the bishop in charge of this district yesterday night. The two of you have become wanted criminals in certain places in Europe. Anyone who shelters you would most likely die for abetting criminals, while surrendering you will earn 10 million pounds in rewards."

Silence filled the room. The only sound was Marino's heavy breathing which had shown the instability in his heart.

"Pastor," Jane suddenly said and raised her head, "Pastor, you're looking to hand us in, aren't you?"

Marino's expression changed drastically when he faced the little girl. "If handing you guys in will really earn me 10 million pounds, I'll do it without hesitation. But after thinking about it the whole night last night, since you're wanted only in secret channels, the process of handing you over will be done secretly as well. As I have no support from any powerful party, the 10-million reward isn't guaranteed."

"You're really smart, Pastor. If you had really done so, you would just end up dead earlier than we did," Jane replied coldly. "The best you can do is pretend you know nothing. This way, all of us will be safe. Until the day when my mother and I gain the opportunity to go out again, you'll become our lifesaver."

After listening to Jane, Marino started laughing like a maniac. He laughed so hard that he stomped the ground while his body moved back and forth.

The sudden change made Catherine subconsciously hug Jane tightly. However, Jane seemed completely fearless. She wasn't frightened by his action at all.

"What are you laughing about?" asked Jane.

"What a pathetic child. Although you're really smart, you're still a child at the end of the day." Marino became calm again. Surging flames were suppressed in his eyes. "You're right, handing you guys over will be extremely dangerous. But what makes you think I lack the guts?!"

"I've had enough! I've had enough!!! I'm sick of this broken church! I'm sick of having dry bread and low-quality grape wine! I'm tired of having my church operation funds taken away from the arrogant pricks, the big fat bishops all day!"

[Warning: Skip the next 10 paragraphs if you're a Christian and easily offended.]

"God?! I've been serving him since young with the old pastor. I've committed the most precious time of my life to keep Him company! Now that I'm almost fifty already, I've never had a decent steak before. I've never once left the country for a vacation. I haven't even felt a woman's body before!"

"No one knows who I am. No one has ever bothered to get to know me, not as a Pastor but the real me. No one will care if my church collapses or not! Even if I suddenly die, no one will give a damn!"

"D—do I deserve to live like this?! Is it for the day when I die alone in this broken, decaying place?!"

"Fuck the bishops! Fuck the Vatican! Fuck God! They shall all go to hell!!!!"

The entire room was filled with nothing but Marino's deafening scream, causing Catherine and her daughter to be dumbfounded.

"Get out of my way!" Marino yelled and pulled Jane off Catherine's body, causing her to fall on the ground!

"Jane!" Catherine screamed in shock. She rushed forward in an attempt to get Jane up. However, her waist was suddenly grabbed by Marino's arm!

Jane felt pain throughout her body as a result of being thrown on the ground. The cold, hard wooden floor made the girl feel that her bones had shattered. Seeing that her mom was seized by Marino, she instantly found out what he was up to!

“Since I have nothing to lose, why wouldn’t I take this chance? Since God has sent a beauty like you to me, why would I be willing to give up this opportunity?” Marino laughed uncontrollably while his face twitched. Swallowing his saliva, he neared his head to Catherine’s body...

Astonished, Catherine struggled with all her strength. She was just a woman after all. Despite Marino’s age, Catherine still failed to resist.

“Let go of my mom now! Are you crazy?! You’re a pastor! How could you do this?!” Jane was finally frightened. The tough girl had finally teared up for the first time. Pouncing on Marino, she grabbed his foot before biting him forcefully!

“Argh!” cried Marino in pain before he swayed his foot violently!

Bang! Jane’s small body was flung away with ease, causing the back of her head to hit the table!

“Jane!!!” Catherine screamed at the top of her lungs. She witnessed her own daughter faint away just like that!

Marino couldn’t care less if Jane was alive or not. There was nothing in his eyes except the stunning woman. She was the only path which would lead him to heaven!

“Catherine... don’t reject me anymore. You’ll be my first woman... I—I’ll be sure to treat you well. I won’t tell anyone that the two of you are in my care... As long as you’re obedient, I will definit—”

“No! Pastor, please don’t do this! Please let me go... Argh! Why must you do this...”

Tears fell from Catherine’s eyes when she was faced with Marino’s insane, devil-like expression. She had never felt this level of terror before. The more she cried, the more she felt she was stuck in a mire which she had no way to escape from. She would even end her own life by biting her tongue if she should.

However, Catherine knew that she couldn’t allow herself to die as her fainted daughter was behind!

She was a mother. She couldn’t abandon her child!

“Pastor, you’ll face God’s punishment by snatching my prey away...” the hoarse voice of a man echoed suddenly.

As if the man’s voice had the ability to freeze a person alive, Marino who was tasting Catherine’s face suddenly stopped moving.

Catherine who had almost given up on resisting looked outside with her reddened eyes.

It was a young man wearing a white shirt and a black suit, looking like a gentleman. Furthermore, judging by his premature face, it could be seen that he was just a teenager.

Except his particularly bright eyes, everything about the average-looking, yellow-skinned guy was ordinary.

However, the ordinary-looking youngster gave off an unexplainable cloudiness, as if everything about his appearance was fake.

“W—who are you...” Marino asked nervously as he finally realized that the situation had gone south.

The youngster looked at the unconscious girl before turning his attention to the messily dressed gorgeous Caucasian lady. Smiling relaxedly, he said, “Tsk, tsk. Such a beauty. No wonder even the western monk couldn’t keep it in his pants.”

The perverted look on the youngster’s face didn’t match his perceived age at all, causing Catherine to forget the situation she was in.

“W—who the heck are you?!” Marino yelled furiously. He became immensely afraid as he wasn’t taken seriously by the young guy.

The youngster walked into the room and smiled brightly. “I’m codenamed Thirteen from Zero, an assassin sent to kill these two ladies.”

Zero? Assassin? Thirteen?

Listening to the bunch of unfamiliar terms, Catherine and Marino failed to react.

After a while, the pastor Marino finally regained awareness. “Y—you’re a killer?!” He couldn’t believe that a well-dressed teenager was an assassin.

Thirteen shrugged his shoulders. “Is there a problem?”

Contempt filled Marino’s face. “Young Man, don’t underestimate pastors. You must’ve overheard our conversation earlier, didn’t you? You want to save them now to claim the 10-million reward. Humph. If someone who looks like you is an assassin, I can be one as well!”

Thirteen scratched the back of his head, confused. “Why wouldn’t you believe me? Do you want me to prove it to you?”

“How can you prove anything? You should go home and drink some milk instead.” Marino laughed in an insane manner. “Stop pretending. Let me tell you this. So what if you happened to stumble upon my little escapade? No one will believe a brat li—”

Marino didn’t manage to finish his words. That was because his head had been smacked into chunks already...

Dumbstruck, Catherine gazed upon the rain of blood in front of her eyes. Just a second ago, a youngster who called himself Thirteen had destroyed Marino’s skull with lightning speed, using merely his hand!

Catherine had never imagined that ending someone’s life could be this straightforward. There were no warnings or whatsoever. He used just his hand to accomplish something which couldn’t be pulled off even with a knife.

Furthermore, she had never thought that an exploding human skull was this beautiful. The pungent smell of fresh blood filled the scarlet scarlet. Also, there was a broken neck with spewing a fountain of blood...

Chapter 510: The Final Reason

Marino's body finally fell. The headless corpse looked extremely unnerving. Everything happened too quickly for Catherine to react in any way.

"Killing was the only one way to prove that I'm an assassin. I hope you're satisfied with the answer," murmured Thirteen. His left hand was drenched in fresh blood. It had stained him and Catherine as well.

The place was once again silent.

Catherine widened her reddened eyes. Wiping her face, she looked in front and mumbled, "It's... it's blood..."

Thirteen didn't give Catherine much time to react to the incident earlier. Ending a person's life was evidently a normal routine for him. As he swayed his hand to get rid of the flesh, Thirteen said, "Catherine the queen and Jane the eldest princess from the Welsh royal family, am I right?"

Catherine's body shivered slightly. Thirteen's indifference made her realize just how invaluable her life was.

"Initially I didn't actually want to take up this mission since it was a bit too easy, but coincidentally, I'm here on vacation. Since there's a 10-million-pound reward, I'll just kill the both of you and free you from the suffering that lie ahead. You at least don't need to feel pain by dying in my hands. If you get caught by the British royal family, I guess torture is inevitable," Thirteen said confidently before looking at Jane who was unconscious. "Such a beautiful little girl. It's unfortunate that she doesn't have a chance to grow, otherwise she'll definitely be a beauty whom everyone is attracted to."

"No!!!"

Suddenly, Catherine raised her head and stared right at Thirteen fearlessly, as if she was a completely different person. "Mr Thirteen, my daughter actually has a chance to grow up!"

"Hmm?" Thirteen was surprised. He let out a wicked smile and asked, "How so?"

Catherine took a deep breath and stood upright, causing the curve of her upper body to appear particularly obvious. Her charming face stained with scarlet blood revealed an embarrassing yet incredibly alluring expression.

"Since you can kill me for 10 million pounds, if I offer you a higher price, will that mean that it is possible for me to hire you?"

Thirteen squinted his eyes. "This is a wanted poster. I'm not hired by the British royal family technically. If the price you offer is higher than the poster offers, I'll agree to work under you of course."

"Then I want to hire you. I want to return to England and kill the people who want to get me and my daughter killed. I want to become the queen of England!"

Catherine's voice started soft and became louder as she spoke. The terror and anxiety she displayed earlier had completely vanished. The woman stained by blood stood solemnly, as if she had really become the condescending queen instead of a downhearted wanted criminal.

Interested, Thirteen looked at Catherine from top to bottom. "Although I don't know why you trust me so much that you think I can achieve what you described, I'm really curious as to whether you actually have sufficient capital to employ me."

Rip! Catherine tore her clothing apart using her sharp nails!

Beneath the poorly made shirt lay a velvet-like, stunning scenery. It had instantly made the dark room captivating...

"If you're indeed capable of doing what I said, I believe a person like you isn't just looking for money." Catherine caressed her amber hair in a seductive manner. Smiling, she continued, "I have the royal bloodline. I'm the true inheritor of the royal family. I have the most beautiful appearance in the entire England. As of right now, there is no one else that can compare to me. If I die now, I'll just be a beautiful corpse, but if I'm alive..."

At this moment, Catherine stuck her fragrant tongue out before withdrawing it. As her fascinating eyes shone, she said, "If I'm alive, my body and all of my wealth in the future will belong to you. They definitely don't just add up to 10 million pounds..."

The disparity between her noble demeanor and inferiority had caused her oestrogen to spike. At the same time, the entire room seemed to have turned rose red.

Thirteen walked forward and extended his right arm to hold Catherine's chin. Leaning his head forward, he inhaled the scent of her pinkish neck. To the young but experienced youngster, the fragrance of the woman was overwhelmingly tempting.

"I have to admit you're one of the most attractive women I've seen, but it doesn't mean that it would actually be enough to convince me to make a trip to England and slaughter the large number of royals." Thirteen smiled coldly and said to Catherine in front of her face, "Although I'm not afraid, I am weary of the consequences that may follow."

Catherine suddenly covered Thirteen's lips using hers. She bit his lips as if she was a wild cat. When they separated, a silver line of saliva could be seen.

"You will agree with me. That's because I believe you will never ignore my other identity." Catherine's final resolution had filled her eyes.

Thirteen shut his eyes in indulgence. He was able to clearly feel the excitement the curvy woman could bring him.

"You may reveal your final reason. If you still fail to convince me, I don't mind killing the both of you after I finish enjoying your body," Thirteen said in an indifferent manner.

Catherine bit her lip nervously. Her seductive expression was nowhere to be seen. Her eyes then turned so clear that they looked like the azure ocean, leaving solely melancholy and regret. She then let out a vague smile.

"I'm a mother. A mother... who would do anything to save the life of her child..."

... ..

The white curtains danced as the wind blew, allowing sunlight to shine upon the room, revealing the situation inside.

It was a new day in Paris. Yang Chen quietly opened his eyes.

There were clothing and socks on the floor. The tables and chairs had been repositioned incorrectly. A lamp had somehow ended up on the floor while the bed placed at the center had moved from its original location for more than ten centimeters.

On the huge and soft bed, two bodies entangled together. There was nothing but a thin blanket covering their bodies.

There laid a lazy-looking gorgeous woman with amber long hair had most of her skin exposed in the air. Her bosom was groped by a hand which had changed its shape.

Regarding her lower body, her white and beautiful long legs were pressed by the man in a domineering manner, not allowing her to move at the slightest. When looked closely, there were hand marks on her backside. They were the traces which had stayed throughout the night after it was slapped for countless times.

“Mmh...”

The woman moved her body and opened her eyes. She then realized that she couldn't get up at all. Her body was in the man's arms, so she moved her backside to the back in a naughty manner.

However, the woman had made a big mistake!

“Ouch!” cried the woman. She realized that the gap between her backside was clutching a ‘naughty stick’...

“I knew that you'd move once you wake up, so I've stuck my weapon into your backside for the entire night,” whispered Yang Chen delightfully as he opened his eyes.

Catherine pouted her mouth angrily. “You did something evil again when I fainted.”

“Simply put, you're weak. Having rested for more than two years, you fainted after just the ninth round.” Yang Chen sighed regretfully, as if he didn't manage to enjoy the madness yesterday night.

Catherine felt that the object inside her body was continuously enlarging, as if it was expanding. While her heartbeat quickened, she started breathing heavily. “Chenchen, please don't do this. Keep your baby now, can you? I—I want to get up already.”

“Do you not like it best when I insert it from behind? It's so warm inside and surprisingly soothing after two years. Do me a favor in this morning. Help me calm this fellow down,” Yang Chen said seriously.

Catherine paled. “Please don't! I'll be late for the fashion week later if we do it again! I hate you so much. Don't you know that I'll suffer even when walking if you place it inside me for the whole night?”

“Actually, I just forgot to take it out, and you held it really tightly. Hehe,” Yang Chen giggled.

Catherine pouted her lips. “You're such a bad person. Even my Janejane wants to become your woman. If that really happens in the future, doesn't she have to be bullied by you in the same way?”

Yang Chen was shocked. The wicked smile on his face then dissipated before moved away from Catherine's secret body part. Sitting on the bed, he said, "Catherine, help me persuade Jane, can you? In her eyes, I might be the person who's helped you two retrieve the throne and kill the enemies. I believe her main reason for doing so is to repay a favor. I dare not talk about it when I'm with her, my deal was with you and only you..."

Catherine was relieved when the burning hot object got out of her body. Smiling, she said, "Do you expect my baby Janejane to not know about what kind of a deal I had with you?"

Yang Chen frowned. "So she's aware of it all this time?"

"Of course. I'm not as smart as Janejane. There's no way I can hide it from her." Catherine smiled and sat on the bed as well. Having experienced insanity throughout the night, most of her body was now numb, forcing her to rest for a while. "Actually, to us, you're not just someone who has made a deal with us. In fact, without you, the two of us would've been abandoned by the entire world a long long time ago."

Yang Chen raised his head and looked at Catherine's fair-skinned back absentmindedly.

"I'm the young lady of the Rothschild clan. To ensure the family's benefits, I got into the Welsh royal family through a marriage. However, when we were facing the British persecution, the clan had given up on us both. Even our relatives refused to help us. So who else in this cruel world could we have turned to for help?" Catherine turned her head and smiled at Yang Chen. "If it wasn't for you who had made a stupid deal with me, we wouldn't even be people anymore."

Yang Chen opened his mouth a little, but decided not to speak what he had in mind. Smiling, he said, "You make me sound like a pastor now."

Catherine chuckled a well. Evidently, the sorrowful past had turned into wonderful, nostalgic memories.

At this moment, the doorbell of the room rang.

Chapter 511: I'll Answer You Now

Following the sudden ring of the doorbell, Yang Chen instantly leaped out of the bed and gestured Catherine to keep quiet. Softly, he said, "Get dressed quickly. I'll check who it is outside and open the door."

Catherine, who was still sitting on the bed seemed to have realized something. She suppressed her laughter and said in a playful manner, "I initially thought that your marriage was just a farce. It sure seems that there's more lurking under the surface than I originally thought. Even I'm feeling a little jealous now... Oh yeah, are you afraid of having all of these seen by your wife and failing to explain?"

Yang Chen knew why she was laughing. Back then, he had basically treated women as nothing more than objects. Now that he was this worried and nervous, it was evident that he had changed a ton.

"Good, so you know. If it really is her, once she sees you in my room naked, even if I survive, I would have to endure being frozen by her eyes for three months minimum," Yang Chen said gloomily.

Catherine snorted in dissatisfaction before sticking her tongue out like a child. The fact that her behavior varies this greatly made it hard to determine which side of hers was real.

“What made you think I was fine with being seen naked? I’ll put on clothes myself even without your order,” complained Catherine as she picked up the clothing on the floor before putting them on one by one.

The doorbell rang several times more. Yang Chen quickened his pace as he walked to the door, scratching his messy hair, before looking through the peephole.

Despite having a high-level cultivation, Yang Chen felt that observing with his eyes was the better choice. He dared not rely on his senses to determine who the person outside was.

Yang Chen relieved when he saw the person outside. Tapping his chest, he turned his head back and said to Catherine, “It’s Edward. He must’ve come to pick you up.”

Catherine had used a relatively thin white shirt to cover her curvy figure. Through the translucent shirt, her purple laced underwear was showing slightly. She wore light blue jeans which had wrapped her round and firm thighs tightly, allowing the already young-looking Catherine to exude a lively and playful aura, similar to that of a lady in her twenties.

She might’ve chosen this clothing to hide her identity, otherwise it would be overly casual on a social occasion.

“I actually know that already. Yesterday night, I asked Edward to pick me up in the morning. Since Janejane isn’t with me, I’m more comfortable asking him for help than anyone else.” Catherine walked to the door and hugged Yang Chen’s neck before giving him a fragrant kiss on the lips. Smiling, she said, “My dear Chenchen, I’m leaving now. I shall return if you still want it tonight, but no going through the backdoor this time...”

The words she said before leaving almost caused blaze to ignite in Yang Chen’s eyes. Not only did the woman look like a soul-hooking, alluring spirit, her speech and movements were incredibly seductive as well.

“You’re still behaving the same way even after your ascension to the throne,” Yang Chen said with a bitter smile.

“I just want to be a pathetic and dependent woman in front of you forever, just like how I was in the beginning. I like how it feels,” Catherine said with a smile.

“I really have no way to deal with you.” Yang Chen patted her cheek with his hand. “You should go out now. Although Edward isn’t an outsider, we can’t make him wait for too long.”

Catherine stopped fooling around as well. “Edward, you’re up so early. I hope the menopause doesn’t come as early as you did.”

Edward who was about to joke about Yang Chen and Catherine instantly have the urge to spit blood. Rolling his eyes, he said, “Aunt, you’re surprisingly pre-emptive.”

“Of course. Janejane came out from my stomach after all. That apple didn’t fall too far from this tree.” Catherine pointed at her tummy cheerfully.

The two joked and bade farewell to Yang Chen. Standing by the door, he wanted to say goodbye as well, but he couldn’t speak a single word...

That was because a slender figure had appeared at the corridor after taking a turn.

She wore in a blue blouse and a short pleated skirt with a laced edge. Beneath her bright white stockings wrapping her beautiful legs was a shiny pair of black heels.

Lin Ruoxi who was properly dressed up seemed to be in a good mood as her footsteps were light. She walked over with a posture elegant as ever. However, when she raised her head, she witnessed the moment when Catherine walked out from Yang Chen's room...

At that moment, Lin Ruoxi's cold face was filled with shock...

Yang Chen had naturally noticed the change. When he sent Catherine out of the room, he even smacked her backside once. His actions were irreversible.

Gazed upon by Lin Ruoxi's astonished face, Yang Chen's heart suddenly turned bitter, especially when her face slowly formed glaciers. Yang Chen held a bitter smile on his face. Except crying, he had no other intentions, but he found out that he didn't even have tears.

Catherine and Edward had noticed Yang Chen's odd expression as well. They turned to the direction Yang Chen was looking at, only to find a woman standing nearby at the corridor. Almost instantly, they realized the predicament that they were in.

Catherine looked no different from a child who had made a mistake. She lowered her head and secretly signalled Edward to leave quickly before running away.

Edward displayed a helpless expression before quickly escaping from the scene with Catherine.

When Catherine passed by Lin Ruoxi, she couldn't refrain from taking a glance at the latter. Catherine would've been totally fine if she avoided taking a look. However, since she failed to do so, she suddenly felt the air around her freeze her bones, causing her to pout her lips and almost tear up. Yes, she's really beautiful, but what's wrong with the terrifyingly cold aura? I'm almost frozen to death! thought Catherine.

The bad guy isn't an ordinary person indeed. I can't imagine anyone else having the courage to marry such a wife. Catherine was extremely anxious but she didn't stop moving. It didn't take long for her and Edward to take the elevator downstairs.

Yang Chen stood at the door without moving. He felt that his legs were immensely uncomfortable and his hands were awkward no matter where he placed them. Faced with Lin Ruoxi's expressionless look, he let out a guilty smile and said, "Erm... Wife, why are you awake so early? I thought you wanted to rest for a while longer. I'll tidy up my appearance and I'll be with you soon."

Lin Ruoxi ignored Yang Chen utterly, as if she had heard nothing. She turned around and walked away immediately.

Yang Chen swiftly rushed to her. In the blink of an eye, he had appear in front of Lin Ruoxi. He placed his hands on her shoulders, forbidding her from walking away.

Yang Chen wanted to calm her down, but he realized he was totally clueless on what to say. What could be a logical explanation? Catherine was just a visitor or an ordinary friend?

Even he himself found excuses like that contemptible.

Lin Ruoxi raised her head, revealing her freezing abyss-like gaze. Smiling coldly, she ridiculed, "What is it? I bet you have no way of explaining it to me, don't you?"

Yang Chen stayed quiet. He knew that he wasn't able to trick this woman. Although Lin Ruoxi had little to no experience on romance, it didn't mean that she was completely oblivious to everything in that nature.

More importantly, Yang Chen didn't want to lie to her.

Lin Ruoxi's eyes had reddened, but she wasn't going to cry over something like this. It was exactly for this reason that Yang Chen felt a major headache.

"Let me go. Don't touch me," ordered Lin Ruoxi coldly while staring into Yang Chen's eyes.

Yang Chen's hands shivered a little. He wouldn't shake the slightest bit even after holding a gatling gun with a single arm for the entire day. Currently, he felt that his energy had been sucked away completely. His arms fell to his sides like boneless sticks, letting go of Lin Ruoxi's shoulders.

"I am sorry." Yang Chen shut his eyes. "Although I know that these three words are disdainful, especially at times like this, I really have nothing else to say except 'I am sorry'."

"Nothing else to say. Humph, what a perfect answer." Depressed, Lin Ruoxi forced a smile and took a deep breath, trying to calm herself down. Turning her head away, she said softly, "Didn't you ask me yesterday if you're, in my eyes, a man who intends to trick me to bed all day? I couldn't figure out an answer then, so I didn't give you one."

Lin Ruoxi stopped for a while. She sneered, "I'll answer you now. What I think of you doesn't actually matter. You are exactly that and nothing more."

Ding! The sliding door of the elevator opened. A server then walked out from there.

Without saying anything else, Lin Ruoxi walked into the elevator.

Yang Chen didn't turn around. Listening to the door of the elevator closing slowly, he stood at the exact same position, stunned.

After a long time, a self-mocking smile appeared on the corners of his lips. As if he had gotten insane, he laughed while his body moved back and forth.

Slapping his forehead, Yang Chen sighed yet again. He murmured to himself, "Yang Chen oh Yang Chen, it is indeed tough to be blessed with multiple women."

In the grand and large living hall of Hotel Sofitel, when Lin Ruoxi exit the elevator, her eyes were reddish and watery. However, her rationale made her aware that it wasn't time to tear up for that man. At the same time, he wasn't worthy of her tears.

When no one was paying attention, Lin Ruoxi used her fingers to wipe the corners of her eyes. Although her eyes were still rather red, no one wouldn't notice anything without taking a double look.

Goodman was a dependable employee. The driver for these few days that she was here, was arranged. He was waiting outside the hotel at the VIP parking spot.

Knowing that she had work to do, Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but speed up her footsteps as she dared not delay her work schedule.

No matter how painful and resentful she felt, she managed to conceal it well. Her strong mental strength had been her largest dependence throughout the years since the days when she had to go through everything alone.

When Lin Ruoxi walked past an Italian cafe, she heard that someone was calling her name.

"Miss Lin! Miss Lin!"

Lin Ruoxi looked towards the cafe as she found the voice rather familiar.

"Over here, over here! Could you please come here for a while?"

Wearing a pink Versace shirt, a handsome guy with a great figure was waving at her from one corner of the cafe. There sat a slender, silver-haired lady beside him who was similarly greeting Lin Ruoxi with a smile.

"Mr Stern, Miss Alice," murmured Lin Ruoxi. Aren't they the Cromwell siblings? Why are they calling my name?

In Lin Ruoxi's eyes, members of the ancient and established Cromwell clan wouldn't take businesspeople seriously. As a result, despite having been through a catastrophic event with the siblings, she didn't expect to have anything to do with them in the future after returning to safety.

Thus, when Stern passionately greeted Lin Ruoxi, she felt deeply confused. She had even forgotten about the heart-tearing matter caused by Yang Chen.

Chapter 512: Isn't My Own Younger Sister

"You guys are up surprisingly early," Lin Ruoxi said after clearing her thoughts. Trying her best to smile gently, she walked into the cafe and approached the siblings. "Is there anything I may be able to help you with?"

Stern's smile was getting brighter. Soon, even embarrassment could be seen.

"Erm... Miss Lin, I wonder if you have any money with you," Stern asked softly.

Lin Ruoxi was shocked. Had she not known that the siblings weren't lacking in the money department, she would've suspected them for being comen.

"I do. Why do you ask?" Lin Ruoxi was really curious.

Stern giggled and said, "So this is what happened. Dear and I have come down for a coffee in the morning, but after we finished drinking, we realized that our cash and credit cards were all left in the car when we were abducted yesterday. We don't have a single cent to our name as of now. Erm... may I..."

Lin Ruoxi almost burst out laughing in a discourteous manner when the siblings looked at her pitifully. Nodding her head, she said, "Alright, I understand. Let me treat you his time. But you guys really should contact your clan. Even if you can't retrieve your lost items, you could ask for new ones to be delivered."

"Miss Lin is really the best! You're just like our Mother of God Mary!"

Alice suddenly stepped forward and hooked Lin Ruoxi's neck before giving her a kiss on the cheek!

It was Lin Ruoxi's first time being kissed by a woman since she was born, not to mention she somehow became the Mother of God. Hence, she ended up being stunned.

"Babe Alice, I want a kiss as well." Jealous, Stern asked for a kiss from his younger sister.

Alice let out a charming smile before generously kissing his lips with passion.

Lin Ruoxi quickly recalled that the siblings were in an incestuous relationship. She couldn't help but feel disgusted. The part of her cheek kissed by Alice became itchy which could be a psychological affect.

After paying for Stern and Alice, when Lin Ruoxi was about to bid a farewell to them, Alice suddenly asked, "Miss Lin, you're going to the fashion week conference, aren't you?"

Lin Ruoxi nodded. "I was invited as a merchant representative. How about you?"

"Hehe, I knew it. Yu Lei International is one of the largest companies in the fashion industry, so it makes perfect sense for you to be there." Alice happily clapped her hands. "We're invited as well, to represent the clan. However, we lost our car, driver, and money... Miss Lin, could you..."

Lin Ruoxi found Alice's embarrassed look funny, especially when Stern looked like he was full of expectations. Although the siblings were a little 'messy', they were honestly quite cute.

"Did you guys plan on waiting here for me all morning?" joked Lin Ruoxi.

Stern widened his eyes in shock. "No, no, no. We were just trying our luck, to see if we could meet anyone we know and catch—"

"Elder Brother!" Alice interrupted Stern, and stared at him with a dissatisfied look. Softly, she said, "Why did you announce the truth..."

Stern then looked rather embarrassed while he scratched his head awkwardly.

The comedic performance put up by the siblings had made Lin Ruoxi's mood significantly better.

"Since that's the case, come with me if you guys don't mind. I was going alone, so I could use your companion." Lin Ruoxi didn't mind improving her relationship with the Cromwell clan. It would definitely help her company's operations in Europe after all.

The siblings were naturally delighted. Once again, they praised Lin Ruoxi like there was no tomorrow while walking out of the hotel nonchalantly.

Goodman had prepared a black Maybach 62. The Bentley used earlier had been sent for repairs as it was severely damaged. However, compared to the Bentley, this Maybach was significantly more expensive and more luxurious.

Being the host, Lin Ruoxi naturally sat on the front passenger seat allowing the siblings to sit behind.

Buckling her seatbelt, Lin Ruoxi said to the driver, "Get to Tuileries Garden."

"Yes, Madam." The driver's voice sounded rather familiar.

Lin Ruoxi violently raised her head. Astonished, she realized that the driver was none other than Yang Chen who had pissed her off just a moment ago!

Yang Chen wore a formal suit with a tie which matched his figure. He looked unappealing, especially when he sat on the driver's seat, which was why Lin Ruoxi failed to notice him earlier.

When Lin Ruoxi wanted to get down the car, it had already departed from the hotel.

"Stop the car and get out," Lin Ruoxi said before clenching her teeth in anger.

Yang Chen wouldn't obey her naturally. Pointing at the address of Tuileries Garden on the GPS display in the car, he said, "Dear, we have guests. Let's not argue now, shall we?"

Lin Ruoxi finally realized that the siblings behind were looking at her with the gaze of a busybody, as if they really wanted to know why she was this displeased with Yang Chen.

Being gazed upon by outsiders, all Lin Ruoxi could do was suppress her fury. Furiously, she looked at the streets in front and ignored Yang Chen.

Tuileries Garden used to be a leisure place for the royal family. Located right in between Place de la Concorde and Louvre Museum, it had quite a number of sculptures. Some even called the place an open-air museum.

Due to the well-known river Seine beside, Tuileries Garden became the best place to experience the Parisian leisure. Many tourists sat by the large pond in the garden and coffee shops to enjoy fragrant Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee.

The chestnut and lime trees in addition to the colorful flowers had brought a sense of peace to Tuileries Garden while the bronze sculptures added majesty. Furthermore, the neat and refreshing landscape design was one of the classic features of a French garden.

Because of the fashion week, the garden was much busier than usual. A large police force had been sent out to ensure that the highly regarded guests could safely watch without hindrances.

After parking the car at a VIP spot, Yang Chen and the others walked towards the entrance of the garden.

Before arriving, they were greeted by courteous guards who asked them to show their invitation letters and other documents before checking if the four of them had brought any dangerous objects or not. The body search was done by male and female guards to take care of their respective genders.

Alice was displeased when she was touched by a female guard. Pouting, she said, "The Parisian government must've been frightened by the kidnappers. The fashion week last year didn't have this many inspection procedures."

“This must be done for the safety of the guests. No one knows if there’ll be another wave of kidnappers or not after a group has been killed. Babe Ruoxi, am I right?” Yang Chen winked at Lin Ruoxi who looked indifferent.

Lin Ruoxi continued ignoring Yang Chen. After she was searched by a guard, she took the lead and walked in front alone.

Delighted, Stern leaned towards Yang Chen and said, “Mr Yang, did anything happen between you and Miss Lin? I’m best at solving problems between men and women. I might be able to provide you with the perfect solution to it.”

Yang Chen wasn’t surprised by Lin Ruoxi’s reaction. Based on his rich experience on ‘cold wars’, he was mentally prepared to be treated that way.

Smiling, Yang Chen tapped Stern’s shoulder after listening to him. “Brother, I feel that your experience in romance is useless to me. This woman isn’t my own younger sister.”

Stern rubbed his chin and asked, “Is there any difference?”

“Yes, the difference is enormous,” Yang Chen said seriously.

Stern looked like he was seriously considering the problem. “Then I’ll have to find time to do some research.”

“Do you intend to go to hell?!”

Alice pinched Stern’s cheeks after listening to the conversation. As she pulled her arms, she yelled, “If you dare to experiment with other women, you will be sorry you even considered it!”

“No, no! You’ll be the only one I love forever, my dearest sister Alice,” said Stern hurriedly as he begged for mercy.

Their behavior had instantly attracted a lot of attention. Many passersby were gossiping to each other, and Yang Chen was able to hear most of them.

“Are they the incest siblings from the Cromwell clan?”

“It’s really them! Their exceptional appearance is really unfortunate.”

“Humph. How shameful. They’re ruining their ancestors’ names...”

“What a disgrace in the noble clan...”

Yang Chen grinned after listening to the discussions. “It sure looks like you two are really popular.”

“That’s for sure.” Stern nodded his head happily. Holding Alice’s arm, he walked towards the garden confidently, ignoring the gazes around completely.

Yang Chen didn’t mind any of those to begin with, so he followed the siblings to catch up to Lin Ruoxi’s speed. They then arrived at the booth for the fashion week conference.

The morning sunlight was warm and bright and the fragrance of flowers filled the air. The shuttling of guests and servers made the entire open-air event appear busy yet orderly.

Rows of white chairs were arranged surrounding the stage. The front rows were meant for people of high status. Noble guests were naturally arranged at the frontmost seats while ordinary merchant representatives naturally sat behind.

After Lin Ruoxi showed her identification card, she was brought by a Caucasian lady server to the first row. Although it wasn't the central seat, it was already one of the highest a person of her grade could have gotten.

Stern and Alice seemed to be surprised when Lin Ruoxi sat at the front row. Alice said, "I heard that Yu Lei International has become the leader for the new material in the entire world. But I didn't know that it had far surpassed my expectations already. Miss Lin is indeed an exceptional entrepreneur, and she's just in her twenties. How impressive."

No one would dislike being praised. To Lin Ruoxi, she wouldn't be bothered if her beauty was praised as her appearance was innate, not to mention she had long gotten used to it. When she was praised for her achievements instead, she was delighted. "Thank you," she said, "Where are you two sitting at?"

Stern pointed at the seat beside Lin Ruoxi. "What a coincidence. We're sitting right beside Miss Lin."

Based on the Cromwell's influence, Lin Ruoxi wasn't surprised to find out that the siblings sat at the front row. She then nodded with a smile before sitting now.

Being Lin Ruoxi's 'attendant', Yang Chen naturally didn't have such a great treatment. He was advised by the server to sit behind Lin Ruoxi, which he didn't mind. To him, thinking of a way to solve Lin Ruoxi's dissatisfaction for him was priority.

However, after the four had sat down for ten seconds or so, a few unfamiliar figures suddenly approached Lin Ruoxi and stood there without moving.

Chapter 513: Red-Haired Demon

Lin Ruoxi wanted to take a file and a paper out from her briefcase to take down important notes at the conference, but she was suddenly encompassed in some shade. Being surrounded, she couldn't help but raise her head out of curiosity...

The person who appeared was a lady with maroon hair wearing a light pink bucket hat, dressed in a Milanese-style dress. She was at least 170 centimeters, exuding a noble and proud aura that filled her vicinity.

She applied a brilliant lipstick while her nose was tall. Through the pair of sunglasses, her long and curvy brows could be seen. She used a delicate foundation and a Saint Laurent perfume.

There also stood bodyguards beside the lady, two on each side. With sunglasses on, they all looked domineering due to their strong and tall physiques.

Lin Ruoxi furrowed her brows. She was able to tell that the woman didn't hold good intentions, but she had no clue who she was.

"Piss off," said the lady in English with a British accent.

Lin Ruoxi was slightly surprised. She didn't expect such an elegant and grand lady to be this rude.

However, Lin Ruoxi managed to react in just a few seconds' time. Her face gradually turned ice-cold before lowering her head. She chose to completely ignore the lady, and started searching for what she needed in the briefcase.

"Humph," snorted the lady. "You're ignoring me, aren't you? Is it possible that you're either deaf or blind?"

Lin Ruoxi stopped moving her hands. Raising her head, she said, "Although I have no idea who you are, I'm not in the mood to argue with an arrogant and crazy woman. This is my seat, I don't know why you're asking me to leave, but I'm telling you right now that it won't happen."

The lady took off her sunglasses, revealing the eyes of a phoenix. Literally looking down on Lin Ruoxi, she said, "The first row isn't meant for small merchants like you. Except you, everyone on the first row knows who I am. The only reason you don't know me is because you're not qualified enough to sit here."

"Meryl, behave yourself. This seat belongs to Miss Lin. Since you failed to book a spot beforehand, there's no reason for anyone else to surrender theirs for you," Stern intervened. He evidently knew who this mysterious lady was.

"Stern, you should continue hugging your Alice and take care of yourselves. If I were either of you, I wouldn't be so shameless to walk out of the house. You siblings are scums among the noble. What makes you think you hold a high enough position to talk to me?" Meryl said in disdain.

Alice caressed her hair and pouted her lips. "Miss Lin, this brainless woman with large breasts is called Meryl, the granddaughter of the British queen. She's this bad-tempered because she takes advantage of her grandmother's fondness, also because of her clan Stert's status and authority. There's no better way to describe her than calling her a good-for-nothing stupid woman. So, I advise Miss Lin to ignore her completely."

"Alice! Did you just insult me?!" yelled Meryl. "Do you think I'll be afraid of you just because you're from the Cromwell clan?! You're provoking my clan now!"

The noise caused by Meryl had naturally attracted lots of attention from the guests around. Most of them knew who the three noble members were. Although they were aware that Meryl was making a fuss, no one was willing to stand up for the 'new and tender' Lin Ruoxi due to Meryl's status.

Yang Chen found it really interesting. He gazed upon Meryl yelling at Lin Ruoxi while sitting down. Although he had decided to make the lady suffer, there was no need to rush things. He wouldn't mind taking action at the public occasion, but Lin Ruoxi had a business relationship with most of the people present. If he was overly violent, he'd have to face lots of consequences.

The workers there dared not let a situation surface. An organizer immediately came to solve the problem. A man dressed in a white suit humbly came to Lin Ruoxi and Meryl. Bowing, he greeted Meryl before asking, "Miss Stert, may I ask what you are dissatisfied about?"

It could be seen that Meryl was a highly regarded guest based on the man's tone.

"I didn't expect the front row of Tuileries Garden to downgrade this much after merely a year. This woman is a nobody. Why is she seated here?" Meryl asked as she pointed at Lin Ruoxi.

The organizer smiled stiffly. "Miss Stert, please allow me to explain. This seat originally belonged to you, but we were told that you wouldn't be free to attend this event because you'd be in Sweden instead. Hence, we've reallocated this seat for Miss Lin, the CEO of Yu Lei International. The company is by far one of the largest companies in the fashion industry, so she's our VIP as well. Please forgive us."

"Haha! Yu Lei International? What a joke! No one knows when the stupid company will collapse, but you guys treat this woman like a treasure. How absurd!" Meryl yelled with contempt. "Yes, it's true that I went to Sweden to attend the crown prince's marriage, but I've returned earlier than expect. Are you guys going to make me sit behind this woman?!"

The organizer exuded cold sweat. Troubled, he looked at Meryl and Lin Ruoxi back and forth. He dared not enrage either side.

Lin Ruoxi had been listening to the conversation silently. When she heard Meryl's request, she let out a faint smile. Staring at Meryl with her freezing gaze, she said, "I'll sit here because this is my job. This seat also belongs to me. Whatever you think or intend to do is none of my business."

After she finished speaking, she stopped paying attention to Meryl. She took a document out from her briefcase before reading away.

Meryl was infuriated when disregarded. "Peasant! Do you think I'm afraid of a cheap looking woman like you?!"

"Meryl, you should stop now, otherwise you'll end up having to suffer," said Stern cheerfully.

"Shut up! You do not frighten me!" Meryl clenched her teeth and said, "Since the organizer dares not do so, I'll personally get rid of you... It was you who asked for this. I originally wanted to let this matter slide if you were willing to surrender this seat which doesn't belong to you. You've challenged the glory of the Stert clan with your inferior status. You Chinese woman, don't think too highly of yourself just because you managed to earn a bit of money. I'll let you know just how worthless you are!"

Meryl waved her hand and ordered the four bodyguards, "Throw this woman into the river Seine. I want her to float far away. I'll take the responsibility for all consequences!"

"Yes, Madam!" The bodyguards were really decisive as they were used to doing stuff like that.

Lin Ruoxi didn't expect the woman to be this crazy. Meryl dared to pull off such an action despite being around the upper class.

Lin Ruoxi finally got nervous at this moment. Being an ordinary lady, how was she supposed to resist the four tall and strong bodyguards?!

Looking around, she realized that Stern and Alice were sitting with a strange expression. She had no idea what they had in mind. On the other hand, the workers and guests all behaved like they had seen nothing, some of whom were whispering to each other, waiting to witness Lin Ruoxi getting thrown into the river. No one was going to stop Meryl!

In that instant, Lin Ruoxi noticed her only savior was Yang Chen!

However, when she turned around, she saw that Yang Chen had his arms crossed, as if he was prepared to enjoy a good show. He even raised his brows at her!

Is this despicable fellow waiting to see me thrown into the river?! Is he mad about what happened this morning?!

Or is it because he's afraid as well?!

"Ahhh!!!" A scream of agony could be heard behind Lin Ruoxi.

She violently turned around, only to realize that one of the four bodyguards who was coming to her direction looked like he was in excruciating pain. It didn't take long before he fainted and collapsed.

A burly, red-haired man appeared behind the bodyguards. His hand had silently grabbed the bodyguard's neck from behind. He exerted his strength and caused the bodyguard's arteries and blood vessels to be blocked, instantly making him faint.

"Tsk, tsk. What a wonderful take down!" praised Stern, elated, breaking the silence at the venue.

When the remaining three bodyguards saw the red-haired, middle-aged man, their legs had instantly softened. They subconsciously staggered backwards in fear while their faces paled.

On the contrary, Meryl managed to recognize the man who had come. Terrified, while her lips shivered, she murmured, "Sau—Sauron..."

The sudden change in events came as a surprise to many of the guests. However, being people who had witnessed various events, they were neither agitated or afraid when the bodyguards collapsed one after another. Some of them even started to speculate regarding who the red-haired man was.

"Sauron? What's happening? Why would he be at a place like this?"

"Brother, do you recognize him? Who's this red-haired fellow? He looks rather fierce."

"What? You don't know who he is? He's nicknamed Red-haired King of Eagles, but since he has pulled off countless terrifying acts, many nobles actually refer him as Red-haired Demon privately..."

"It's him?!"

"No wonder he dares to knock out the people from the Stert clan here... I heard that when the former commander of the British Security Service was hunted by the opposition due to a political conflict, he miraculously returned to Britain despite his time abroad, before secretly slaughtering ten or so of the core members in the opposition, forcing the British government to cancel the arrest warrant against him. In that same year, he was made the hereditary earl by the Welsh royal family. The British royal family who had intended to kill him made history when they decided to compromise... Till this date, no one knows how he had managed to achieve the impossible massacre. This man isn't just any man on the street. Meryl is in deep deep trouble right now..."

Many nobles and the wealthy from Europe were discussing about Sauron's identity. It was indeed rare for such an impressive character to show up at the fashion week event.

Sauron, however, had utterly ignored the respectful gazes. Instead, he took a step back and bowed his large body sincerely before speaking in ancient English from the Middle Ages which only Lin Ruoxi was able to hear clearly.

“It’s the first time we met. My name is Sauron von Ibroklanka. I’m honored to be of your service, Madam Persephone.”

Persephone? It’s this name again?! thought Lin Ruoxi.

She finally calmed herself down after listening to the name. She recalled being called the weird name by the manager of Union Bank of Switzerland.

Although no one else managed to hear Sauron’s speech, his action of bowing in high regard was not hidden to the crowd.

This time, the nobles were deeply surprised. None of them was able to understand how an ordinary Chinese businesswoman managed to earn the respect of the Red-haired Demon.”

However, before they could understand, the next scene left them dumbfounded.

After standing up straight, Sauron could be seen walking past Lin Ruoxi towards a lazy- and average-looking young man sitting behind, before bowing slightly and seriously paying respect to the man.

Chapter 514: A Small Punishment

The guests present and organizers dared not officially start the fashion week although it was time, due to the unusual turn of events.

Everyone’s gazes were focused on Yang Chen and Sauron, but no one had the courage to go near them. All they could do was focus on listening and try to pick apart their conversation.

Compared to Sauron’s prominent nickname in the European upper clan, no one there was able to recognize Yang Chen. Some people even suspected him for being a secret member of the Welsh royal family. Sauron had directly devoted his loyalty to them after all.

“Oh my, although I knew that you’d take action, you didn’t have to knock them out, did you? This fellow has hyperemia in his brain, I bet he would have to be bedridden for some time, assuming he hasn’t lost his sanity.” Yang Chen said smilingly. He felt rather helpless for the way Sauron chose to deal with the problem, but didn’t blame him at all.

Sauron looked dull. Looking displeased, he said, “Your Majesty, this woman is from the Stert clan. Shall I take care of her here or outside?”

Sauron’s question had sent a chill up everyone’s spines, causing them to shiver a little.

To kill her here or somewhere else?

The life of the lady from the Stert clan of high status sounded so worthless that the only question asked about it was the place it would end!

Demon! That man was a demon!

More depressingly, Meryl who was behaving exceptionally arrogant just a moment ago had completely lost her strength to resist after recognizing Sauron.

The remaining three bodyguards had long backed off to whichever place, losing all professionalism. Their lives were of more value than their jobs.

"I—I beg you... Please don't kill me. I've made a mistake, Mr Earl, please forgive me this time..." Meryl stood there alone. She didn't have the courage to run away. Moreover, her feet were planted to the ground despite her intentions to run.

Quite a few guests had sighed when they looked at Meryl whose eyes had turned watery. No one expected the noble lady known for oppressing the weak to end up this way.

Sauron completely ignored Meryl's begging. He was still waiting for an order from Yang Chen.

Yang Chen thought for a while before standing up and leaning towards Lin Ruoxi. Smiling gently, he said, "Babe Ruoxi, since this woman tried to get rid of you earlier, I feel that it is up to you to make the decision. Do you want to kill her here or outside? Shall we execute her by ground or let her be crushed by a car? If you're not satisfied with either or them, we can arrange for her to be thrown into a pond of sharks. My old friend Sauron has quite a few great white sharks as pets which all love to devour human eat. We could slowly lower her into the pound, and allow the sharks to bite her body away chunk by chunk, starting from her feet. We'll let her look at her own body slowly getting shorter..."

Yang Chen had intentionally spoken in English as he wasn't planning on hiding his intentions. The guests present were all able to listen to the speech with great clarity. Some ladies started to feel disgust while the men paled, subconsciously getting fearful of Yang Chen.

Lin Ruoxi wasn't concerned about who Sauron was anymore, and even forgot that she was pissed off by Yang Chen this morning. When he spoke cheerfully, she felt rather confused and nervous. Having hesitated for a bit, she tried to remain as calm as possible when saying, "There's no need for all of that is there? Her mistake isn't so serious..."

"That isn't necessarily the case. She wanted to throw you into the river Seine earlier. If she was dealing with someone of a lower status than yours, that person would've been dead by your hands. Also, I bet her temper hasn't formed in just these few days. You're definitely not the only victim of hers," said Yang Chen.

Lin Ruoxi knew that Yang Chen was telling the truth, but throwing Meryl into Seine in front of everyone would make her feel more pain than killing herself.

Meryl initially thought that Lin Ruoxi would let the matter slide. However, when Lin Ruoxi remained quiet, she knelt down and started sobbing.

Although the organizer was terrified, he thought that Yang Chen was just be messing around. Thus, he walked forward and forced his mouth to speak, "Sir, please don't make jokes like this. Miss Meryl is begging for mercy and offering an apology. Let's all get along in peace—"

"Piss off."

Before the organizer finished speaking, Sauron had stepped in front of him, muttering an ice-cold phrase.

Feeling a bone-penetrating chill, the organizer was terrified, especially when he felt that the smell of blood was getting more evident. Thus, he ran away without hesitation.

“Miss Lin, you should quickly make a decision. Everyone’s waiting for you,” said Stern. He giggled while gloating over Meryl’s misfortune. He wasn’t at all afraid, the same went to Alice.

It was the first time in Lin Ruoxi’s life that she had to decide whether someone lived or not. At last, she shook her head. “We will not kill her today. Please let her go. Just give her a small punishment at most to prevent her from repeating her mistake.”

“You’re soft-hearted as expected,” said Yang Chen with a smile.

Meryl was delighted when she heard that Lin Ruoxi didn’t plan to kill her. She crawled closer to Lin Ruoxi and thanked her repeatedly.

Lin Ruoxi frowned as she felt disgusted when Meryl fawned over her.

“Miss Lin, I will never forget your mercifulness. O—our Stert clan will repay you one day!” Meryl exclaimed while weeping.

“Humph. Shut your damn mouth, Stupid Woman. Your clan’s name isn’t of any worth here,” said Sauron coldly.

Meryl immediately shrank away involuntarily and nodded continuously.

Although she was arrogant in nature, it didn’t mean she wouldn’t be aware of the position she was in. Facing a madman like Sauron who wasn’t even afraid of royal families, her life was indeed worthless.

“Since Dear has decided not to kill you, you shall be left alive then.” Yang Chen pouted his mouth and thought for a while. “Sauron, why don’t we do it this way? Tell her family that we’ll teach this woman a lesson on their behalf.”

“Your Majesty, may I ask what exactly will the lesson be?”

“You don’t have to be too violent. Since my wife said to give a small punishment, you’ll just have to crush all her fingers and toes,” said Yang Chen casually.

Meryl who had felt relieved just a second ago felt like she had fallen into a depthless abyss again. She was so shocked that she forgot to breathe.

However, Yang Chen wasn’t done talking yet. He continued, “You mustn’t crush them all at once. Crush one a day, so it’ll be a 20-day cycle. This way, while some are recovering, the others can be crushed. Let her go through three cycles I guess. Remember to monitor her vitals to ensure she stays alive for the whole thing.”

“Understood,” answered Sauron casually.

Having listened to the conversation, Meryl instantly fainted away on the spot.

The others in the venue had held their breaths as well. The ‘small punishment’ described by Yang Chen was more than enough to numb their scalps.

Two well-built soldiers dressed in blue military uniforms came from nowhere. They carried the unconscious Meryl out of the venue without being stopped by anyone.

Lin Ruoxi was feeling complicated when she looked at the series of events taking place in front of her eyes. She silently darted Yang Chen a glance, but he was currently smiling at her.

“Let’s talk somewhere else,” said Yang Chen with a smile. Before Lin Ruoxi gave him an answer, he walked towards the rest area near the river alone.

Lin Ruoxi bit her lips and took a deep breath. Standing up, she placed her bag and documents on her seat before walking to the same direction.

No one dared to underestimate Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen based on the sudden change in events earlier. Thus, the crowd at the rest area where the two were heading towards instantly walked away.

Yang Chen walked to the railing by the river and looked at it for a while. He only turned around when Lin Ruoxi came to his side.

“Do you feel that I’m overly violent, or do you have too many questions?” asked Yang Chen.

Lin Ruoxi swept her hair to the side as it was blown messy by the wind. Shaking her head, she answered, “I don’t know... I don’t know if I should feel happy for what you have done, or regretful for not stopping your actions.”

“Is that it? Don’t you have other doubts?” Yang Chen smiled as he felt disdain for himself. “To be honest, Babe, I’ve always been wondering if you hold even the slightest bit of curiosity.”

“I remember telling you that you’ll inform me anything you want me to know, and I won’t question whatever you don’t intend to mention,” Lin Ruoxi said with indifference.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. “But I feel like this isn’t working too well. I’ve found it hard to explain many things when you don’t ask.”

“Alright then.” Lin Ruoxi calmed herself down asked, “What do you think I should ask you?”

Yang Chen was slightly shocked. He thought about it for a while and pouted at Sauron who had been standing not too far behind. “For example, who this fellow is, or why I know him. For example... why I don’t treat ending someone’s life as anything significant. Also, aren’t you curious about who the woman was from this morning? Actually, shouldn’t you have asked about these questions long ago?”

“What can I do even if I have all the answers?” Agony surfaced in Lin Ruoxi’s eyes. “To be honest, I’m able to tell that you’re not an ordinary man even without you telling me. The longer we interact, the more I feel that we don’t belong in the same world. You could withdraw 100 billion euros from the Union Bank of Switzerland anytime you want. You’re much wealthier than I am. The little wealth I have is an astronomical figure to lots of people, but to you, it doesn’t even measure up to a grain of salt in your world.

“When it comes to power, I believe it’s a lot more obvious. You could kill anyone at will. You could cause an enormous commotion in the underworld of Zhonghai with ease, and you could... make Rose the absolute leader there. I know that the only reason you’re not stopped by the government is due to your extraordinary identity.

“But so what if that’s the case? Am I supposed to tolerate you for getting together with other women just because you’re richer, more powerful, and can achieve what I can’t? Should I be happy when I saw the unfamiliar foreign woman coming out from your room? Should I feel that you’re born to live among groups of women?”

Although Lin Ruoxi spoke gently, each of her words was just like a thunder strike in Yang Chen’s ears.

Yeah, she’s right. Why should she ask? So what if she did? Doesn’t she know enough already? thought Yang Chen.

Is it possible that I thought by her knowing everything, she would be happy and willingly cling onto me, and dedicate everything she has to me?

If she did, she wouldn’t be my wife anymore, but just a woman I bought at a high price.

“Your speech is really hurtful, isn’t it?” Yang Chen smiled faintly.

Lin Ruoxi took a deep breath. She looked at the cruise ship slowly drifting across the river with her slightly watery eyes. Softly, she said, “If you really hope that I’ll ask about you, I’ll just ask you a question then.”

“Alright, go ahead. I’ll tell you the answer if I have one.”

“Seventeen... Who is she?”

Chapter 515: Shut Up

The reflective river Seine appeared as peaceful as ever. By the shore lay a few large London Platanus trees. The leaves of green and yellow were swept up and carried by the wind.

It was common for this tree species to survive through winter, after which it would slowly lose its strength in spring before withering.

At present, a few of the yellowed leaves had fallen. They floated downwards slowly before finally arriving at the railing by the river.

Yang Chen gazed upon the leaves landing on the black muddy land in front of his toes absentmindedly. Time seemed to have stood still, for each second felt like a passing hour. It felt like forever, or just a few seconds at the same time. All he knew was his mind had gone completely blank for a moment. After a while, he turned his head to look at Lin Ruoxi’s dull expression before forcing a smile. “So you know about her already,” he said.

“Are you now wishing that I didn’t?”

“Actually, I don’t have to feel surprised. The big mouth Christen must’ve told you about her, didn’t she?” Yang Chen let out a bitter smile.

“She told me a thing or two, but I want to hear it from you in person. Of course, you may refuse to do so,” Lin Ruoxi replied.

“There’s no reason for me to hide it from you. Regardless if you know about it or not, it is a period of my past which exists. It’s just like many would feel ashamed when looking back at the childish acts they had

done when young, but the past is still true. One may try his best to forget, but there'll always be a person out there who remembers it," Yang Chen said with a vague smile, "Of course, the matters between Seventeen and I weren't just childish acts, and I have never intended to forget about her... Despite that, I'm really glad that you found out about Seventeen from Christen. At the very least, it means you're willing to chat with her privately for me."

Lin Ruoxi remained expressionless. Silently staring at Yang Chen, she asked softly, "Do you still love her?"

Yang Chen shook his head. Staring right into her eyes, he replied, "Love? I'm not sure. We had known each other since we were kids. In the 21 years before I returned to China, she had always meant the world to me. She wasn't my friend, because we had a much deeper connection than just friends. We needed each other to live. She wasn't my girlfriend, because we had never dated before; there wasn't even a gift from either of us. She also wasn't my lover, as she had never listened to me, otherwise she wouldn't have left my side recklessly back then... She... was that special..."

Lin Ruoxi listened to him quietly. For unknown reasons, when Lin Ruoxi noticed the agony hidden in Yang Chen's smile, she felt an intense heartache as well, as if her heart was being stabbed repeatedly. However, Lin Ruoxi wasn't able to tell if it was because of him or herself.

"You asked me if I still loved her. I don't know how to answer you. I've never said, 'I love you,' to Seventeen before. I've spoken less love to her than you. But having said all that, I felt that she was still the other half of my world to me. When she was together with me, even when I knew that my world was in the dark, I would feel in peace somehow..."

"This is how I felt for her. Does this qualify as an answer?" Yang Chen asked with a smile.

Lin Ruoxi didn't answer his question. Instead, she asked, "Christen said that I look really similar to Seventeen. Is it true?"

"It is. Your aura and the expression in your eyes look like hers, a lot, actually. But Seventeen wasn't as beautiful as you are... I believe Christen has only seen her once. They met by coincidence in America, so she doesn't know much about Seventeen. Ignore her garbage," Yang Chen said.

Lin Ruoxi held the railing in front using her slender arms. She couldn't help but shiver a little. She calmed herself down before asking, "In your eyes, am I a replacement to Seventeen?"

Lin Ruoxi looked like she had completely depleted her energy after asking that question. But she forced herself to stand upright in resolution, staring right at Yang Chen's eyes.

Yang Chen suddenly recalled something. He thought of the day when he went to Yoo Yeonhee's concert where Lin Ruoxi had spoken something strange at the backstage...

In your eyes, I'm nothing more than a replacement, am I not?

That's it! She was aware of Seventeen's existence at that time, and even knew that they looked similar! So that was why she said it so suddenly! Yang Chen thought.

Yang Chen found it really laughable. He laughed so hard that he almost teared up. He sighed, "No wonder you asked me if you were nothing more than a 'replacement' out of the blue back then. Babe

Ruoxi, please don't overthink. You are you, and Seventeen is Seventeen. To me, Seventeen is an unforgettable memory, but you're my wife now.

"If I had indeed seen you as Seventeen's replacement, I wouldn't have spent so much effort in hopes of getting accepted by you. Simply put, if you were just a replacement, why would I care so much about your feelings?"

Lin Ruoxi stared at Yang Chen for a while before a strange faint smile surfaced on the corners of her lips. "Back then at the cafe, I made you marry me. You rejected me, but soon accepted readily after stopping me from jumping off the building... At that time, I would've guessed that you'd have made the connection between Seventeen and I, thus the abrupt change. Am I right?"

Yang Chen couldn't understand why Lin Ruoxi suddenly mentioned about the incident so long ago. It was indeed because of the glance Lin Ruoxi darted before jumping, which Yang Chen had clearly witnessed, that reminded him of the resolute gaze Seventeen held when she decided to leave back then. He had to admit that if it wasn't for the glance, Yang Chen certainly wouldn't have accepted the marriage request so quickly, while all the other events wouldn't have followed.

"Yeah. As I said, your gaze and aura are really similar to that of Seventeen." Yang Chen nodded. "However, it doesn't mean I see you as a replacement to her! Having been through so much together, I believe we've already proven our feelings for each other, haven't we?"

Lin Ruoxi lowered her head and laughed. "So I conclude that it is Seventeen that I should thank. If I didn't look so similar to her, I would've died back then after jumping off the building. Even if I didn't, I would've been killed by that man together with Xu Zhihong. Everything I had would be taken away by force, and I might've become someone else's toy already... I should really thank Seventeen, shouldn't I?"

At last, crystal-like tears suddenly dropped from Lin Ruoxi's eyes. They flowed down her face and fell on the grass uncontrollably.

Although she was trying her best to hide her emotions, the shivering of her body became more and more obvious.

Yang Chen was rather confused. He didn't understand why Lin Ruoxi suddenly started crying. He initially thought his answers could grant her a peace of mind and solve the conflict between them, or even improve their relationship. Judging by the situation, the result seemed to have gone south!

"Lin Ruoxi, what happened to you? Weren't we talking nicely?! Why are you crying?! I've said many times that you're not just a replacement! You're unique to me, you are my wife! Wh—why are you crying? Tell me!"

Yang Chen was frustrated when things went out of control. His tone had turned harsh. He even called Lin Ruoxi by her full name.

Lin Ruoxi, however, continued to lower her head in silence while tears fell like beads of a broken string.

If it wasn't for the fear held by the people in the venue, and Sauron who was guarding behind them, Yang Chen might feel more gloomy than he already was.

Which man on Earth was willing to let others look at him make his wife cry?

Finally, Lin Ruoxi forced herself to stop tearing before raising her head, revealing her reddened eyes. Some of the light foundation on her face was washed away by her tears. The woman who had always behaved independent and tough was just like a wilted tulip, looking exceptionally charming and pitiful.

Yang Chen let out a sigh of relief. He tried his best to talk gently. “Ruoxi, what happened to you? I don’t know what I should do or say in times like this one.”

Lin Ruoxi’s red and watery eyes stared at Yang Chen’s face. Smiling, she said, “Christen said that Seventeen is the only woman with your child. Is it true?”

Yang Chen nodded his head reluctantly. Seventeen and the child in her womb will and always will bring about a wave of painful memories. He wouldn’t have lost all his intentions and awakened from bloodlust and desires if this woman and the unborn child didn’t die before him and fall from the cliff into the icy tides. After that, he returned to China alone and planned to live there for the rest of his life.

Lin Ruoxi’s smile became brighter when she realized Yang Chen’s dull-witted expression. “Then I’ll ask you one last question.”

“Al—alright...” Yang Chen seemed to have expected something. He started feeling deeply concerned.

Lin Ruoxi opened her mouth and said clearly, “If Seventeen and the child were alive and could give you a second chance, will you still allow me to be your wife?”

“Shut up!!!” Yang Chen suddenly shouted at the top of his lungs. His expression suddenly turned ferocious while his eyes which were gazing upon Lin Ruoxi became bloodshot.

“Seventeen... Seventeen and her child... are... no longer here,” Yang Chen said with his trembling voice. “There’s... there’s no need to consider such a question...”

Lin Ruoxi wasn’t afraid at all when Yang Chen appeared to fallen into a frenzy of rage. On the contrary, she smiled relaxedly and said softly, “I knew this would be the case... Although you said that I’m not a replacement of Seventeen, the truth is, that is your subconscious thought since the moment you accepted to marry me.

“In your heart, you have never truly separated me with the real Seventeen. If it wasn’t for Seventeen, I wouldn’t be standing here as your wife.”

Chapter 516: Stop Lying to Yourself

It was as if Lin Ruoxi’s words were digging a hole in Yang Chen’s long settled past, and the many ideas he didn’t dare touch.

“Shut up! Shut up!! How many times must I tell you for you to believe me? It’s not what you think!”

Yang Chen’s mind was like an exploded boiler—aches he had not felt for ages made him rage, and his temples began throbbing!

Yang Chen didn’t know why he was so furious, why he would yell at Lin Ruoxi uncontrollably—he didn’t want to, but all he could think about doing is exactly that!

Lin Ruoxi’s gaze became keen and cool, as if she was able to see everything through.

“Stop lying to yourself, Yang Chen. The fact is you’ve always known that you could never tell me and Seventeen apart; you believed that she and I were different only because you wanted to convince yourself, to numb yourself; you didn’t want to be the weak one in the relationship; you didn’t want to dwell in that past any longer than you already have; you tried to reinvent yourself, instead of being a pitiful wretch who was depressed because Seventeen left him... To you, I am just an excuse for you to use as painkillers for your past... You deceive yourself. In fact, everything between us began only because of Seventeen...”

Lin Ruoxi’s words were like an icy rain, falling on Yang Chen’s ears, immobilising him.

“If you could really tell Seventeen and I apart as you said, then what about Rose who knew you long ago—why isn’t she your wife, don’t you love her? Is it because she’s from an underground syndicate? Do you care about that? If you want to, would she refuse you? And Jingjing who’s already left for the United States, couldn’t you see her feelings for you? They were with you long ago, they have treated you far better than I ever have and are more suited to be your wife... a woman like me, with no understanding of relationships, who only knows work, who is disdainful and cold, and won’t even let you in the door, yet somehow you want me to be your wife... You’re aware of everything I’ve said, don’t you?”

“You never wanted to let go of Seventeen, you’re only with me because of her!!!”

Body limped against the railing, Yang Chen’s face was pale, as if his soul was depleted, or had gone through a long weary battle.

Yang Chen stared blankly at the distant riverside with dim eyes, mumbling, “Ruoxi, stop it... I’m begging you... I’m begging you to stop...”

Lin Ruoxi raised her head, reached out to wipe her eyes, and smiled apologetically. “Sorry, I know this seems harsh, and you’ve done a lot for me... some of which I’ve witnessed and the others I haven’t. But I couldn’t just sit here and take anymore of it... I’ve been suppressing these doubts deep down, like a slow poison eating into me. It’s not easy for me either.

“Ever since Christen told me about Seventeen, I’ve wanted to ask you, but dare not to. I worry too about what will happen afterwards, afraid that the truth would hurt more than the lie I tell myself. But fortunately I’m stronger than I thought. And I know you won’t be beaten down by these words either.

“Maybe because I’m abroad, I don’t have as much work or people to distract me, and have more time to overthink. It happened again just now, all those many tiny reasons coming together, and you let me question you, so I said everything I’ve never said... Next time, I won’t tell you off like this...”

Yang Chen remained silent, like he didn’t hear a thing.

Lin Ruoxi bit her lip. “The conference is starting soon, I should return to my seat. You don’t have to join me, if your mood is still sour. Plus, your friend must have a reason for coming here. Don’t take my words to heart, it’s just me venting my complaints. Don’t we always fight? It’s the same. At the end of the day... we have to still keep on living like usual.”

After she finished speaking, Lin Ruoxi tidied her appearance before returning to her seat calmly. As she passed Sauron, he nodded respectfully, and she gave him a polite smile.

Everyone saw that Lin Ruoxi was returning to her seat, and a murmur arose as they wondered what had happened. After all, anyone perceptive could see that she had just cried.

Conversely, the siblings Stern and Alice were much quieter. Worried, they remained in silence as they noticed Lin Ruoxi's state.

Lin Ruoxi didn't care about the whispers or gazes, entering business mode quickly as she examined her documents.

Just then, the missing manager appeared before her with a flattering smile, asking softly, "Miss Lin, may we begin with the conference?"

Lin Ruoxi was caught unawares, puzzled. "Why ask me? It's not up to me."

The manager giggled. "We can wait if you're not ready. Oh right, Mr Yang hasn't returned yet, shall we wait for him as well?" The manager glanced with reverence at Yang Chen who was still by the riverbank.

Lin Ruoxi understood suddenly. It was almost funny how everyone there was intimidated by Yang Chen's mysterious identity, and subconsciously decided to allow him to call the shots.

"There's no need to be anxious. What happened just now was a personal matter, don't let it affect the fashion week," Lin Ruoxi advised.

The manager nodded immediately. "Miss Lin is indeed gracious. At the afternoon reception later, please honor us with your presence. As it's your first time attending a fashion week, we must be good hosts..."

Lin Ruoxi replied carelessly, indicating they should start soon. She wasn't interested in receptions and the like at all.

Only, she couldn't help but glance at the figure by the riverside, feeling an indescribably complicated emotion...

At this point, Yang Chen, who had stood rooted by the railing, gradually came to his senses.

He raised his left hand, and beckoned with a finger.

Sauron noticed the gesture and moved towards him.

Yang Chen sighed, asking, "Sauron, I'm going to ask you something, be honest with me."

Sauron's scarred face remain expressionless while only his lips moved. "Your Majesty Pluto, I never lie."

"Very well," said Yang Chen, "tell me then, in your eyes, am I someone who will cower in the face of my own weaknesses..."

Sauron's milky pupils gleamed. "Your Majesty Pluto, although I am your subordinate, in terms of age, your question is as childish as your years."

"Hmm?" Yang Chen couldn't help laughing. "When you put it like that, my question seems so silly."

Sauron replied directly, "I think that deceit and honesty are only a means, as long as one acknowledges one's own intention—that's what the strong does. True strength lies not in the physical, but in whether one is able to confront and resolve problems in the face of adversity."

Yang Chen squinted, pondered for a while, then laughed at himself. “It seems like my question is silly indeed... That’s right, it doesn’t matter if I’m weak or strong, as long as I face my problems there’s nothing to be ashamed of.”

Sauron said nothing, but his eyes twinkled.

Although they couldn’t talk all his troubles away, Yang Chen soon settled his heart for now, and asked, “You couldn’t have come here just to see me. You’ve noticed, that once you arrived, the situation nearly got out of hand.”

Sauron became solemn. Nodding, he said, “Indeed there’s something important. I believe Your Majesty Pluto have heard that the International Special Organisation Secret Meeting hosted by France’s External Security will convene in Paris.”

Yang Chen frowned. “I’ve heard that it’s to counter ‘the Realm of Gods’ or such an organisation, and its leader Apollo. In fact, I’ve crossed paths with them already—when I was kidnapped in France, it was by one of their subsidiary groups.”

“Indeed, so Your Majesty has had contact. However, I came here especially, other than to see Madam Persephone, with an urgent matter to discuss with Your Majesty,” said Sauron.

“What? Are you possibly going to tell me that you’ve identified the authenticity of that Apollo?” laughed Yang Chen.

Sauron shook his head. “Apollo’s legitimacy is not a major concern for us, nor is it something we can deduce. What I wanted to tell Your Majesty is that tomorrow’s secret meeting, besides addressing how to hunt out and vanquish Apollo and the Realm of God, will discuss a matter relevant to Your Majesty. It’s about the debate on the ownership of a divine weapon.”

“Divine weapon?” Yang Chen blanked out, then laughed. “You’re not talking about the weapon that the previous Pluto lost—that’s no ordinary weapon. Previously when I fought with Ares, I got to know that a god’s divine weapon has truly astonishing power. Ares’ spear can suspend spacetime; the divine weapons of the other gods could only be equally or more impressive. If something like this surfaces, there’s no way I won’t feel it.”

Sauron was slightly startled—it seemed like he didn’t know about the battle with Ares. But he didn’t press the matter, and explained, “This ‘divine weapon’ is not held by any of the Twelve Olympians, but its owner shares a most significant past with Your Majesty Pluto.”

“Don’t keep me in suspense. Who is it, what divine weapon?” Yang Chen prodded.

“It’s the divine weapon of the God of Death—the Sword of Thanatos,” answered Sauron.

The God of Death Thanatos?

Chapter 517: Thanatos

Yang Chen definitely didn’t think it would be that god.

As far as he knew, there existed many other gods outside the Twelve Olympians. However, following history’s long development, almost every other god had been slaughtered except the Twelve Olympians.

A portion of them who had managed to survive, due to overly long lives, decided to take their own lives like the former Pluto. Furthermore, they had chosen to let go of their consciousness instead of proceeding to rebirth.

“I believe Your Majesty is familiar with the former Pluto’s assistants, the God of Death Thanatos and the God of Sleep Hypnos, who are siblings given birth by the Goddess of the Night Nyx. I don’t believe that you have met them before. While their divine weapons couldn’t rival the Helmet of Invisibility owned by the first-generation Hades, they were and are still no ordinary items,” said Sauron solemnly.

Yang Chen pondered for a while. “Sword of Thanatos, eh? I heard that once the sword touches any part of a human body, including a single hair, the soul of the body could be instantly sucked away. According to the current mythological story, Thanatos would cut off a dying person’s hair with the sword to take their souls. As far as I know, Thanatos has disappeared for almost a millennium already just like most other gods. Why would the sword be here?”

Sauron explained, “I don’t know, this has happened too abruptly. The sword now belongs to the French External Security. However, France didn’t disclose their source. They just said that they’d need to find an appropriate place for the sword through the secret meeting. France doesn’t have a special organization that is powerful enough to ensure the safety of the sword. In the battle realm of international special organizations, they won’t have a say at all. So if it wasn’t for the Sword of Thanatos, there wouldn’t be so many elites from different organizations gathered here in Paris.”

“So that’s why... I was wondering how they had managed to invite elites from all over the world just based on their measly reputation. Even if Apollo and the Realm of Gods posed a threat to the whole world, and wait to first get the President of France killed, it wouldn’t be France’s turn to solve the issue,” Yang Chen said with a smile. “Before I came to Paris, the representative of Yellow Flame Iron Brigade mentioned about the secret meeting before, but didn’t talk about the Sword of Thanatos. I’m guessing that they were worried that I was going to steal the item from them. They’re surprisingly thoughtful, aren’t they?”

“It’s very possible. Your Majesty now lives in China after all. Any of your actions could greatly increase the pressure to Yellow Flame Iron Brigade,” said Sauron.

Yang Chen thought for a while before replying, “I’m actually not interested in the sword. But... if the sword is real, I feel the need to see it in person even if I don’t plan to bring it back with me.”

“Why? Your Majesty is totally capable enough to retrieve that sword,” Sauron answered, confused. “That is the divine weapon of the God of Death after all. Giving it to you, the current Pluto, is most appropriate. Although I’m not sure of its authenticity, since so many organizations have been gathered here already, I can assume that it’s not completely baseless. If Your Majesty wants to avoid troubles, this one will send Sea Eagles to quickly take care of the situation.”

“You will never understand. Divine weapons actually aren’t that much of a use to me anymore.” Yang Chen waved his hand to convey his lack of interest. He had almost utterly comprehended god’s space methods after all. The only aspect which Yang Chen felt had rooms of improvements was the mysterious world of Rebirth, the ninth level of Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture, he had yet to understand after stepping foot in the Xiantian stage.

Furthermore, the mysterious person who had abruptly torn spacetime and snatched the divine power of the Holy Grail surfaced in Yang Chen's mind.

If this sword is real... will the fellow appear again? thought Yang Chen.

Although Yang Chen wasn't as persistent as Ares to retrieve the God's Stone, he felt a little insulted when it was taken by someone who managed to remain unknown.

"Sauron, where will the secret meeting be held tomorrow night?" Yang Chen asked in a dull manner and stared at the ships far away.

"At Le Havre, the cruise ship Louis XVI at the harbor. It'll be open for boarding at nine o'clock before heading towards an empty island which holds the secret training base of the French military," Sauron explained.

"Le Havre? Isn't that right beside the English Channel? I believe we need at least two hours to reach there from here," Yang Chen said as he frowned.

Sauron nodded. "Yes, Your Majesty. But it's actually understandable. They had gathered special people from all over the world. It's inevitable that they would fight to compete for a certain item like the Sword of Thanatos. If it was held in Paris or a certain major city instead, it'd be hard them and the rest of us to conceal their arguments."

Yang Chen shrugged his shoulders. "Probably. Alright, I'll head there tomorrow night. You're invited to the event as well, aren't you?"

Sauron answered, "Yes, but if Your Majesty Pluto hopes to attend the event instead, I'll be more than willing to give up my seat."

"There's no need for that. Just watch out at a meeting like this. I'll just look for you after wandering around for a bit. Do what you're supposed to. Don't focus on me just because I'm there, and don't mention about me to anyone from other organizations."

Sauron seemed to be rather helpless toward Yang Chen's behavior. Sighing, he said, "Your Majesty Pluto, you've indeed changed a lot in the past two years of staying in China."

Yang Chen giggled. "Yeah, just let it be. Living a peaceful live like this isn't too bad. I just have to deal with the occasional troubles. Although it isn't as excited as my life back then, I've long gotten bored of that life. Sauron, I'm guessing that somehow you can relate?"

A smile was finally shown on Sauron's scarred face when he nodded his head.

Yang Chen shook his head. "Sauron, your smile is as ugly as ever. Tsk, tsk..."

... ..

At the same time, in the north of Paris, an enormous silver-bodied, fifty-meter-tall cruise ship called Louis XVI was silently parked by the harbor in Le Havre. It was at least as long as two and a half football fields long.

Outside the entrance, there were long stairs attached to the shore with a red carpet, with fresh flowers on both sides. The locals didn't know that the ship was welcoming a special group of people unknown to the public, instead of ordinary tourists.

Depney dressed in casual wear had finished patrolling the cruise ship together with Fodessa and a few members of the Seventh Bureau, so they were walking down the stairs.

Depney turned around to look at the luxury ship. "Has the Sword of Thanatos been sent to the base at the island yet?"

"Yeah, it is under the watch of our anti-spy department. After it's sent to the base via a destroyer, it'll be guarded with an even tighter security force," answered Fodessa.

Depney nodded. "Alright, we can't afford any losses. As long as the Sword of Thanatos is in our hands, we'll definitely end up being benefited by the meeting this time."

Fodessa frowned while he displayed a complicated expression. Reluctantly, he asked, "Director, when did we even get our hands on that sword anyway? Why is it that I have not caught wind of this news?"

"Humph," Depney snorted with contempt. "Who do you think you are? Do you believe that you deserve to know everything in the Seventh Bureau just because you're the deputy director? Fodessa, fulfill your duty nicely. I'll be inside the temporary base at Le Havre to take care of the behind-the-scenes work during the meeting tomorrow night. You shall monitor the situation of the island and be the host tomorrow. There can't be any mistakes!"

Fodessa was stunned. "Director, aren't you going to the island?"

"Nonsense! If I were to host the meeting on the island, why are you needed as the deputy director?! I'll be taking a step back in the bureau in the next following years. It isn't every year that you get to experience being the host of such an event. What is it? Are you going to dismiss the opportunity?" asked Depney coldly.

Fodessa hurriedly shook his head. "This one understands now. Thank you Director for the encouragement!"

Depney finally looked less displeased. He then left with a few of his subordinates.

After Depney and the others left, the fatty Bolton who had been following closely behind Fodessa walked over furiously. "Deputy Director, it's obvious that Director is backing off because of fear. He's afraid of the organization members from the entire world. You'll definitely be in danger should any conflict arise during the course of the meeting. Even the significant responsibility of watching the Sword of Thanatos is passed to you. This is absurd! How could he treat you this way?!"

Fodessa stared at Bolton in dissatisfaction. "Shut up, you shouldn't comment about Director behind his back."

Bolton nodded as he had no choice but suppress his anger.

Fodessa turned around and gazed upon the azure ocean. "Actually, although Director said that we'll have a say in the meeting for having the Sword of Thanatos I've always felt that we shouldn't have been asked to organize this meeting. Although the treasure is with us, it doesn't mean we have the ability to

keep it safe. Passing it to England or America which have similarly both been attacked by Apollo before might be the better of the two options.”

“Is it because England has the Sword in the Stone while America has Blue Storm?” Bolton asked after raising his head. Bitterly, he said, “Compared to them, we are indeed too weak.”

Fodessa shut his eyes and said, “Regardless if this decision is right or wrong, the meeting will still be held tomorrow night. We have no choice but try our best to serve the guests appropriately. Although the elites from each country are strong, due to the common shared fear among them, they wouldn’t dare to behave recklessly. We just have to take advantage of that at this point. I believe that we will gain to a certain degree in the end. Let’s just hope that the Sword of Thanatos can really bring us sufficient benefits through this discussion to deal with the Realm of Gods.”

Fodessa sounded indifferent while he stared at the horizon with his grey-blue eyes, as if he had fallen into some sort of contemplation.

Chapter 518: Hypocrite

By the time the fashion week in Tuileries Garden had gone through the morning and approached noon, quite a number of brands had finished the launch of their new products. In fact, due to the emergence of the arrogant woman Meryl earlier which had caused a disturbance in the venue, a few relatively small designers didn’t get the chance to display their artwork on stage.

Sauron left himself after he finished the discussion of the meeting with Yang Chen.

Having wandered in the venue drinking cups of coffee and walking aimlessly, Yang Chen didn’t return to his seat at the fashion week. His mind was filled with neither the Sword of Thanatos nor the secret meeting, but how he would patch up his relationship with Lin Ruoxi instead.

Lin Ruoxi had put it really well. Regardless of what the two of them had in mind, they still had to live their lives as usual.

Things just aren’t going to be the same as they were in the past. When they first met, they behaved like strangers instead of husband and wife. At that time, they kept mentioning the keywords like ‘divorce’ or ‘marriage’, but this evidently wasn’t possible anymore.

Although they knew that they were separated by a strait, or even thousands of mountain, they had to admit that both of their lives would be significantly affected should they leave each other.

At the very least, Wang Ma, Guo Xuehua, Hui Lin, and Zhenxiu, all of whom being closely related to them, wouldn’t be able to accept it. Their working lives and relations would be disturbed as well, causing their initially peaceful lifestyles to turn into a mess.

After the event, Lin Ruoxi kept the documents into her bag. When she wanted to stand up, she realized that the siblings Stern and Alice had fallen asleep.

Stern was hugging Alice on her slender waist, while the latter leaned against the shoulder of her brother like a kitten, with her silver hair spreading downward. The facial expression of these siblings appear adorably naive.

Since young, among the people whom Lin Ruoxi had interacted with, Yang Chen was the most carefree one. But after coming to France, she was really surprised to see how Stern and Alice behaved.

Although she still felt that the siblings who partake in incest were a little disgusting, through the interactions of the past two days, she found a unique charm in them which was lacking in other nobles.

Lin Ruoxi hesitated for a bit before tapping Stern's shoulder. "Mr Stern, you might catch a cold should you stay out here any longer."

Stern was so deeply asleep that there was no reaction from him.

"How are you supposed to wake them up this way? They're getting intimate in their dreams." Yang Chen suddenly walked over.

Lin Ruoxi raised her head before her gaze met Yang Chen's. Her face immediately heated up a little as she felt rather awkward and uneasy when she recalled the conversation she had with him earlier.

Yang Chen smiled understandably. It was just like a small argument within a married couple where the female realized that her words might've been hurtful, but wasn't willing to put down her pride to apologize. On the other hand, the male had no idea how he should get back into the subject, so he chose to talk about something else.

"Let me help you." Yang Chen walked forward and raised his foot before kicking Stern's chair forcefully!

"Shit!"

The chair was kicked from behind, causing Stern to directly fall on the ground in an unsightly manner!

"Who did it?" Stern finally woke up.

Usually, a laughter would break out as an unusual situation had taken place at such a large venue. However, the people there all acted like they had seen nothing as they dared not talk about Stern. Some of them even left the place.

Evidently, the mysterious guests Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi had evoked fear in their hearts. Thus, no matter how funny it was, no one was willing to risk getting themselves into trouble by laughing.

Following Stern's fall, Alice who was in his arms almost fell head-down. Hurriedly grabbing onto her chair, she turned her head and looked at Yang Chen, displeased. Pouting her lips, she said, "Mr Yang, you're really rude!"

"I was doing this in regards to your health. I don't want you to catch a cold so I was forced to ruin my upstanding demeanor," answered Yang Chen.

Stern stood up and swept the dust on his knees away. Pouting, he said, "Since Miss Lin will be treating us for lunch, we won't mind."

"What? We're treating you lunch as well?" Yang Chen then looked at Lin Ruoxi gloomily.

Lin Ruoxi appeared to be surprised as well. She had never mentioned about it to Stern before. However, when she thought of his identity, she nodded. "Mr Stern and Miss Alice have lost their belongings. It's only right that we help them."

“Why should we help? They’re members of the Cromwell clan. What’s the worst that can happen to them? Also, everyone attending the fashion week is allowed to attend the banquet. I’m sure they have plenty there to go around!”

I’m trying to be alone with my wife to improve upon our relationship. Why must they cause a trouble now?! thought Yang Chen.

“Buffet? Oh my, Mr Yang, can you bear looking at us unique sibling lovers to be stared upon by strange gazes? We’re Miss Lin’s loyal supporters. We believe Miss Lin will not be so cruel to us!” Stern said righteously.

“Stop being shameless! You guys had never cared about anyone’s gaze before. Why care now?!” asked Yang Chen loudly.

Alice suddenly pouted while tears somehow filled her eyes. She complained to Lin Ruoxi, “Miss Lin, Mr Yang is too fierce on us. We’re not trying to trick you to treat us a meal. We’ll definitely repay Miss Lin’s kindness...”

Lin Ruoxi almost went crazy. Why does Yang Chen mind such an insignificant matter so much? It’s not like he lacks money, but he’s this stingy. He also isn’t uncultured, but he speaks like he is all day.

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at Yang Chen. Gently, she said, “Please ignore him. What do you two want to eat? I’m not too familiar with Paris so I’ll let you guys decide.”

Alice instantly raised her hand. “I know a great Italian restaurant at Avenue des Champs-élysées. I recommend Miss Lin to try the food there.”

“I’ll eat whatever Babe Alice wants to have,” Stern answered without hesitation.

Yang Chen rubbed his face gloomily. He then secretly darted a disdainful glance at the siblings, but the latter acted like they had seen nothing. Instead, they began to thank Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi didn’t notice anything abnormal. “Let’s go, we still have to come back for the afternoon event,” said Lin Ruoxi to Yang Chen in indifference.

“You’re indeed hardworking,” Yang Chen replied helplessly.

“I came here to work.” Lin Ruoxi was dissatisfied with Yang Chen’s sloth.

Sighing, Yang Chen had to obey his wife.

Among the four, Yang Chen was responsible to drive. They didn’t take long to arrive at the world-famous street Avenue des Champs-élysées.

Stepping out of the car, Stern and Alice dashed out like overjoyed birds while Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi trailed behind, slowly walking on the street.

The pathway of the street had dense London planetrees on both sides, exuding a relaxing vibe, matching the Parisian life and romance. There were various shops around including a cinema.

Gorgeous, elegant, cosy, and beautiful soon became the descriptions of this street.

Although Yang Chen used to come here often, it was his first time experiencing the leisure and elegance of the place. Being a leader in the fashion trend, Lin Ruoxi was deeply immersed in the manifestations of the place.

Among the crowds were people dressed in their own unique ways. Some looked glorious and elegant, while the others were simple and casual, but none of them looked unpleasant.

Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but smile again when she looked at just how cheerful Stern and Alice were, not to mention they would give each other a kiss occasionally.

Yang Chen walked beside Lin Ruoxi, so he naturally realized her behavior. "What is it? Are you jealous that they get along really well? There's no need to feel jealous, I actually don't mind hugging and kissing you."

"How vulgar." Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes.

Smiling, Yang Chen answered, "So what if I'm vulgar or noble? Look at Stern and Alice. I bet most people can't understand what they have in mind. But despite all that, can't you see that they are still enjoying life?"

Lin Ruoxi's eyes flashed. She remained silent for a while before saying, "Do you know the implied meaning of the street name?"

"Hmm?" Yang Chen blinked his eyes. "I don't. What do you mean?"

"Elysée actually means bliss. I guess this place is the land of happiness for the French," Lin Ruoxi said.

Yang Chen nodded. "Now that you mention it, I feel that this street looks a lot better. How unfortunate..."

Lin Ruoxi was confused. "What's so unfortunate?"

"In my eyes, the beauty of this street is still incomplete," Yang Chen said with his brows furrowed, looking regretful.

"Why?" Lin Ruoxi asked as her interest had been aroused.

Yang Chen turned to look at Lin Ruoxi with a naughty smile. The next second, his right hand grabbed Lin Ruoxi's empty left hand from behind...

Lin Ruoxi instantly blushed when she felt that her left hand was covered by Yang Chen's rough and burning-hot large hand. She struggled to get away from him but failed.

"What are you doing?" Lin Ruoxi was nervous. She wasn't used to holding a man's hand in public.

"Holding your hand. Take a look around. Can't you see that that's the way people walk around here?" Yang Chen pointed at the couples around with his lips.

Lin Ruoxi bit her lower lip as she panted a little. Lowering her head, she dared not face the passersby, although no one would look at her and Yang Chen in a discourteous manner.

"To me, only by holding your hand to walk on this street, will it truly be a land of happiness..."

Lin Ruoxi heard the words Yang Chen murmured. Her face reddened even more. She knew that Yang Chen was expressing his feelings honestly, but she chose to act unaware.

After a long time, Lin Ruoxi mumbled, "What a hypocrite."

Yang Chen was able to tell that Lin Ruoxi had said it with delight. He then laughed and pulled Lin Ruoxi's hand. "Let's go, the shameless siblings are waiting for us in front. Do you want them to mock us? We're a long-married couple already, what's there to feel shy about?"

"No one wants to be your long-married wife..." Lin Ruoxi finally raised her head, revealing her large eyes and pouting lips, looking incredibly adorable.

Even a goddess had a charming side, but it was exclusive to that special person.

So what if I'm a replacement? Even if I'm one, I'll just dismiss the thought of it like a fleeting memory... thought Lin Ruoxi.

The two caught up to Stern and Alice while holding hands. After walking for a few more minutes, they arrived at the Italian restaurant.

Chapter 519: The Crooked Merchant

The baroque design of the restaurant's decoration and the surrounding shops came together to present the people of Paris an unforgettable unique aura of luxury. There were many who stopped to take pictures even if they didn't intend to have a meal there.

Lin Ruoxi seized the chance to stealthily extract her hand from Yang Chen's. Her blush receded as if nothing had happened.

Privately, Yang Chen marveled at women's natural ability for performance, and was about to enter along with Stern and the rest when a small figure ran in front of him unexpectedly, blocking his path.

"Uncle, some flowers?" a boy asked crisply in French-accented English.

Yang Chen looked down. The boy before him was not even ten years old, with a petite frame of one who hadn't yet reached his adolescent years. He had blonde hair, thick eyebrows and large eyes, looking strong and sturdy with freckled cheeks—an overall smart appearance.

The boy's hands clutched bunches of fresh flowers tied with red string, but these weren't the roses, tulips, lilies, or other flowers that are very commonly found in florist's, but rather flowers you could find in flower beds and at roadsides all around France. Simply put, these were wildflowers picked from the roadside.

Before Yang Chen could speak, Lin Ruoxi crouched down beside him and leaned toward the boy, asking with a soft smile, "Little Boy, what flowers are you selling, how much are they?"

Seeing Lin Ruoxi's rare display of tenderness, Yang Chen rubbed his eyes and smiled bitterly. This woman had not visited the orphanage for a long time—it seemed like the lovingness she kept hidden was about to overflow here in Paris.

Lin Ruoxi's severe demeanor made her frightening ordinarily, but upon meeting a child, she would melt completely like chocolate, while her sweet mannerisms made her delightful to kids. Otherwise, she wouldn't be so welcomed at the orphanage in Zhonghai.

Sure enough, the boy's bright pupils shimmered as he spoke in a young voice. "Elder Sister, you're so pretty."

At his praise, Lin Ruoxi's smile became even brighter, as she reached out to pat his blonde curls affectionately. "You're adorable too, what's your name?"

"Harry. I'm Harry. Elder Sister, are you from overseas?" asked Little Harry.

"Yes, I'm from China," said Lin Ruoxi.

"Where is China?" asked Harry curiously.

Lin Ruoxi thought for a while. "It's somewhere very far away. You would need an aeroplane to reach there."

"Aeroplane?" cried Harry in excitement. "Elder Sister, is it fun to ride the plane? I've always wanted Papa to take me flying, but he said that he's too busy to take me anytime soon. But Papa said that in a few days he will take me to Disneyland, then we can watch the flying cars show... Hmm... I don't know if flying cars are the same as the aeroplane. Elder Sister have you seen it?"

Because the boy's vocabulary in fact slipped into French sometimes, Lin Ruoxi frowned slightly, and look towards Yang Chen for help.

Yang Chen thought helplessly, if only she treats me with half of the attitude she has with kids, but still helped Harry translate those words.

Lin Ruoxi caught on, and said, "I haven't seen Disneyland's flying car show, but it must be great, you will surely be overjoyed."

Harry nodded vigorously. "I think so too, Mama will also come, then we can all ride the pirate ship, and the roller coaster... But I'm a little scared that the roller coaster will be too high, what if Papa says I'm a scaredy-cat..."

"Little Fellow, aren't you selling flowers, why are you talking about roller coasters?" Seeing how Little Harry couldn't stop rambling on really tested Yang Chen's patience.

Lin Ruoxi turned to shot him a glare. "Why are you butting in on a conversation that's not concerning you? He's talking to me, not you, why are you irritated at him?"

"I'm not irritated at him... weren't we supposed to have lunch?" Yang Chen became gloomy.

"If you want to go in and start, no one's stopping you." In the midst of her dissatisfaction at his impatience she flashed Harry a smile. "Harry, don't listen to this bad man, if there's anything you want to say just tell me."

Harry blinked, then stuck out his tongue and made a face at Yang Chen, saying to Lin Ruoxi, "Elder Sister is the best!"

Yang Chen felt like his lungs were about to explode. This little brat called Lin Ruoxi 'Elder Sister', yet called me 'Uncle', doesn't that make me Lin Ruoxi's elder?!

But Harry also didn't mean to ramble on like this. With Yang Chen's reminder, he held up the flowers. "Elder Sister, what flowers do you like?"

Truth be told, the bouquets are simply picked wildflowers. Lin Ruoxi couldn't recognize them and picked a relatively pretty indigo bunch, asking with a smile, "What are these? They're quite pretty. I'll have this bunch."

Harry beamed. "It's only one euro!"

Yang Chen tutted by the side. "Little Boy, if you can sell wildflowers from the roadside for one euro, I'm sure that you would have no problem becoming a crooked merchant in the future."

"Why are you still here? You can go in first," Lin Ruoxi said to him curtly, and then fished out a dark-brown five-euro note from the purse she took out.

Lin Ruoxi didn't hand over the money as she take the flowers, but asked, "I can buy the flowers, but can you tell me why you're selling flowers for money? If you tell me I'll give you five euros."

A small child trying his luck selling wildflowers on the street—it made her wonder if the boy was abducted and exploited by some criminal gang.

Harry stared anxiously at the money in Lin Ruoxi's hand, and answered softly, "I... I saw Papa was still wearing one sock with a hole in it, so I wanted to buy a new pair for him... but I wanted it to be a surprise, so I can't ask Mama for money, so I thought of selling flowers..."

The boy's English wasn't very good, perhaps it was because he never needed to use it save some occasions where it was spoken, and that he didn't learn it officially, so he spoke with a heavy accent. But the simple words strung together were still vaguely intelligible.

After hearing his explanation, Lin Ruoxi's eyes became soft. She patted his curls once more and placed the five-euro note in his hand.

"Thank you Elder Sister." Harry let out a smile like sunshine. "Now I have enough money!"

"Socks can't be bought one by one, only in pairs." Lin Ruoxi tapped Harry's nose as she spoke.

Harry widened his eyes upon hearing this bad news, feeling disappointed. "Can't I just buy one? I thought I could buy it separately."

Lin Ruoxi's resistance crumbled in the face of his innocent expression, and took out a red ten euro note from her purse, saying, "I'll give you ten euros. The socks you're buying for your dad are so expensive, I didn't know socks are so costly in France."

Initially Harry's face flashed with glee, but he immediately became downcasted, and didn't take the money. "I want to give Papa a pair of Santa Claus socks, those socks can hold presents."

Hearing this, Yang Chen laughed. "Santa Claus socks? Your father's feet are large indeed."

"Papa's feet have always been big," Harry argued stubbornly.

Conversely, Lin Ruoxi didn't laugh at Harry's choice, she understood why a pair of socks could have costed so much. Affection was the present, and although Christmas had long passed, for children, timing isn't a huge consideration.

"Just take this money as a present from me to you." Lin Ruoxi stuffed the ten-euro note into Harry's hand.

Harry mumbled, "Mama told me not to take presents from strangers..."

Seeing his troubled expression, Lin Ruoxi thought for a moment, and said, "How about this: you give me a kiss, and we'll call it a trade."

Yang Chen, hearing this by the side, almost felt like crying, and pulled a face. "Wife, don't play about like that! Why should that darn kid kiss you, what's more, at the loss of your money; yet as your husband I have to always seek approval that is often denied in the end?!"

Lin Ruoxi glanced at the surrounding passerbys—luckily no one noticed his hollering. Her almond-shaped eyes fixed on Yang Chen as her face turned pink. "What are you shouting for? But most of all, why are you competing with a kid? You're an adult but all day long you do things you're not even ashamed of. Even the kids in the orphanage are much more likable than you. You want a kiss? Sure, I'll consider it when you're as well-behaved as Harry!"

At these words Yang Chen was practically grief-stricken.

At this moment, Harry approached Lin Ruoxi's cheek and kissed it with a smack.

"Elder Sister, I kissed you, did I do it right?" Harry said happily.

Lin Ruoxi nodded. "You're so good. Our trade is successful, you can now buy socks for your father."

Harry grunted joyfully, then stuffed the fifteen euros he had gotten into his trousers' pouch, which was bulging most likely with coins from his previous flower sales.

"Elder Sister, Uncle, bye bye!" Harry waved separately at Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen.

Seeing Harry rush off, Lin Ruoxi stood up, and only entered the restaurant when he was far off.

Yang Chen couldn't help grinning. "If you like kids so much, why not have one yourself?"

Lin Ruoxi trembled inside. Although she did like children, she didn't even dare to entertain the thought of her having her own child. Too embarrassed to speak, she pretended not to hear anything, and kept to herself as she walked inside to look for the Cromwell siblings.

Yang Chen was unperturbed, except some doubt which suddenly surfaced in him. Although Lin Ruoxi having a child is not something which would happen in the near future, they hadn't even managed to join their homes as of present. Yet when he was together with Rose, Mo Qianni, Liu Mingyu, An Xin, and the other women, there was no need for safety precautions of any sort.

Especially for Rose—if she could become pregnant that would make her so happy, plus she wasn't like those who had secret enemies from the underground.

However, it was almost like as his strength grew formidable, his ability to procreate became inexplicably obstructed. Otherwise, Yang Chen couldn't bear to think why in the past years, only Seventeen had borne his child. It wasn't like he would simply do that thing with his woman every time without a thorough plan. Could it be...it was God's Stone that affected me this way?

Yang Chen involuntarily got a headache from thinking about these matters.

Chapter 520: Something You Can Never Cover Up

The decor inside the restaurant was full of medieval gloom. The lighting made it as dark as night even though it was daytime.

All around were lighted aromatherapy candles, along with rose petals which seemed to be randomly scattered, yet still creating a pleasing aesthetic. Old news periodicals of past years, an old-fashioned gramophone, the posters of old-time celebrities—different ornaments which looked completely unrelated to the rest of the restaurant were arranged everywhere with great ingenuity.

Lin Ruoxi located the Cromwell siblings without difficulty, because there weren't too many people as lunch time had just passed. So it was easy to notice the waiter standing beside the ordering couple.

"Hey, Miss Lin, we're here!" Alice waved excitedly. "They're known for their butter garlic giant lobster—we've ordered one, should we get one more?"

"The beef here is also air-shipped from Kobe, Japan, so it's very fresh. The braised beef with mushroom is also not bad," suggested Stern with a grin.

Lin Ruoxi took a seat opposite them with a helpless expression. "I'm not very familiar with the food, you guys may order on my behalf."

"Miss Lin, you are a kind person indeed." Alice clutched at her chest, and spoke in a touched voice.

Upon seeing her antics, Lin Ruoxi smiled. "Miss Alice is so easily satisfied."

Being more familiar with each other, Lin Ruoxi had also relaxed and made a joke.

"Babe Ruoxi, you're underestimating them." Yang Chen sat down next to Lin Ruoxi, and said gloomily, "How are they easily satisfied? Do you know how much the dishes they ordered will cost? It's basically extortion, and you're still acting like they ordered randomly?"

"Hey now, Mr Yang, Miss Lin had already promised us. Do you want her to go back on her promise?" Stern said with a righteous expression.

Yang Chen picked up a knife from the table and made as if he was going to hurl it at Stern's head.

Stern rose hurriedly, and adopted a Bruce Lee pose with a loud 'Oh!', thumbing his nose and staring provocatively at Yang Chen, daring him to throw the knife.

"That's enough! What are you guys doing?!"

Lin Ruoxi almost fainted observing this scene—it was bad enough that Yang Chen tried to scare Stern, but this British guy actually played along like they were in an action film.

Fortunately the waiters at these posh restaurants had undergone vigorous training, and merely stood there with a smile upon seeing the ‘mystical’ actions of these customers, and waited to take their orders.

Lin Ruoxi gave the waiter an embarrassed smile to indicate that he should proceed with Stern’s orders. Only then did the waiter retreat respectfully.

Yang Chen wouldn’t actually throw the knife. After scaring Stern, he said with a curl of his lips, “The lobster here is shipped from Canada, the price of just one will be over five hundred euros; that Kōbe beef, if it’s for four it’d cost at least eight hundred euros. For just this one meal, they would have you spend over ten thousand Chinese yuan, and that’s not even including drinks.”

Lin Ruoxi was stunned. She really didn’t know that the two dishes the siblings ordered were so expensive.

“Tsk tsk, it looks like Mr Yang has eaten far and wide to actually know the prices so well.” Alice stared at him with despise. “Or don’t you want to let your own wife try what you’ve had before? I’m absolutely sure that women don’t like men who are just all about saving money.”

Hearing this, Lin Ruoxi blushed slightly, and asked in puzzlement, “Miss Alice... How... how did you know that he’s my... that... that that’s our relationship?”

Alice chuckled. “Miss Lin, when you’re with Mr Yang, anyone attentive can tell that your relationship is no ordinary one, from the way you talk to your glances. Plus it doesn’t feel like you guys are actively courting each other, it’s more like you’re a family.”

“Miss Lin, you’re too confident in your own acting. Last night, my love and I had already figured out your relationship,” Stern added.

“Haha! Buying you guys this meal is worth it indeed—turns out you guys are still able to say such nice things,” Yang Chen spoke leisurely as he was glad for what he heard. He then leaned back in his chair.

Lin Ruoxi reached out and pinched Yang Chen’s thigh savagely. She felt like running out the door—initially she thought that her relationship with Yang Chen was hard to detect, but it turned out it was her own misperception. Accordingly, most people in the company must have realized something was out of place but just didn’t dare say anything.

“What are you afraid of? It’s bound to become public knowledge sooner or later.” Yang Chen felt helpless for her shyness.

Although Lin Ruoxi understood this, but because something she thought was well-hidden was actually easily seen through by others, she still felt uneasy.

“Miss Lin, did you know?” Alice came close to Lin Ruoxi, and said mysteriously, “In this world, there are two things that people always want to cover up although it is impossible to do so.”

“Huh?” Lin Ruoxi didn’t get it.

“The first is poverty. No matter how hard poor people try, they can never change their depressing reality.” Alice’s pretty eyes shone humorously. “The second thing... well, it’s when one person loves another—with their heart.”

A hot sensation was burning in Lin Ruoxi's ears. Alice's words were a fine needle piercing in her heart, making her cool protective shell collapse into an indistinguishable heap.

"Woah! Miss Lin is blushing, it seems like I guessed correctly!" Alice smiled delicately and threw herself into Stern's lap, giving him a few kisses as if in celebration.

Lin Ruoxi touched her cheeks—her face was as red as an apple—with her head bent and her lips pursed. Now it was her turn to be overcome with the urge to throw a knife over.

Although Yang Chen heard what Alice said, he didn't go on teasing Lin Ruoxi, but simply watched her reaction silently from her side.

Lin Ruoxi also sneaked a glance at Yang Chen from the corner of her eyes. When she saw that Yang Chen was staring at her with something like a tight smile, she turned away quickly to avoid seeing his face anymore.

In the following moments, other than Stern and Alice discussing by themselves where to go after the fashion week was over, Yang Chen sipped the specially made lemon tea quietly, quietly observing the people surrounding him and the streets. Whereas Lin Ruoxi stayed in her seat in silence, occasionally saying a word or two to the siblings, but more often staying lost in wordless thought.

The lobster and beef were served only after over half an hour later. Stern further ordered a thirty-year-old Lafite and was lectured again by Yang Chen. On the contrary, Lin Ruoxi who was paying, didn't bother with their actions. No matter how absurd the spending would be, it would only carry on for a few more days. Despite the fact that Yang Chen was much wealthier, she felt that she was a lot more generous.

Because of the butter and cream in Italian cuisine, although Lin Ruoxi thought that the lobster and beef were tender and delicious, she felt bloated after a few mouthfuls and couldn't eat anymore.

The siblings didn't have big appetites either. Although they were very picky, they weren't big eaters.

In the end, it was Yang Chen—who didn't order any dishes—who stuffed himself with half of a huge lobster and a large portion of the leftover beef, finally letting out a burp. "What a wastrel," said Yang Chen in response to the smirking Stern.

"That's enough. It's not like the food is bad. Why do you always have to argue with Stern over a bit of money for a meal?" Lin Ruoxi frowned.

"Don't you know your own husband started out by selling mutton skewers?" replied Yang Chen in shame. "How could I compete with you businesspeople and aristocrats?"

Lin Ruoxi said softly between gritted teeth, "Can't you control yourself? It's come to the point that I'm more embarrassed for you than yourself. It's clear that you're the richest one, why is it that ultimately it's also you who seem the most modest?!"

Still, when it was time to settle the account, after the waiter printed the bill, he assessed everyone at the table, and instantly placed it in front of the most senior Yang Chen.

Yang Chen stared at the bill before him. "Two thousand four hundred and eighty-six euros?!"

Yang Chen blinked to make sure he wasn't seeing things, and immediately placed the bill in front of Lin Ruoxi with a smile. "Wife, you handle it."

As if she'd known that Yang Chen wouldn't carry money with him, Lin Ruoxi had already taken out her purse, retrieved five purple five hundred euro notes, added on a yellow two hundred euro note as a tip, and handed it all to the waiter.

The waiter's eyes almost fell out when he spotted the large stack of five-hundred-euro notes in Lin Ruoxi's purse. The customers here usually used a credit card; not many of them carried large sums of cash like this lady here.

In fact, it wasn't that Lin Ruoxi wanted to use cash specifically, it was just that for someone of her personality, using a card required a signature which would take time. She had wanted to leave as quick as possible.

Before leaving, Lin Ruoxi didn't neglect to put in her bag the indigo flowers she 'bought' with fifteen euros—although it was nothing valuable, she didn't want to leave it behind snobbily.

Seeing Lin Ruoxi's carefree extravagance, the meal-scrounging pair of siblings couldn't stop praising her as they exit the restaurant.

Although spending almost twenty thousand Chinese yuan for a lunch was rather excessive, Lin Ruoxi didn't feel that it was too much; conversely she was embarrassed by what the siblings had said.

Just as the four were about to head to their car to go for the afternoon fashion conference at Louvre Museum, a wizened Caucasian wearing short sleeves and ripped jeans suddenly ran in front of them.

"This beautiful lady over here, do you have time?" The man's face had thin skin and protruding bones, with heavy dark circles under his sunken eye sockets. His speaking voice was raspy—at first glance he seemed like a heavy drug addict.

Lin Ruoxi subconsciously took a step back, subconsciously drawing in closer to Yang Chen. "Who are you?"