

Chapter 561

Humiliation and Shocking Revelation

"The real Mt. Olympus?" a cold jolt went through Yang Chen. *What is this? Was there ever a fake Mt. Olympus?*

But Yang Chen knew, there had to be a reason that Yan Sanniang asked, which led him to filter through his memories to find any name similar to Mt. Olympus other than the one in Greece.

The entire map of the world was imprinted in Yang Chen's mind. He could name every peak and every trench in the world, but after several thorough searches, he came to the conclusion that there just wasn't a different Mt. Olympus.

Questioningly, he asked, "Grandmother Yan, you wouldn't be describing a certain molehill in the middle of nowhere right? There's no way I'd know."

Yan Sanniang grinned and pointed to the sky.

Yang Chen gazed up to the overcast sky, where nothing but gloomy dark clouds could be seen. Frustrated, he asked, "Sky? What about the skies?"

Right the next moment, an idea burst through his head. Yang Chen exclaimed, "Could it be that you meant... the Mt. Olympus of Mars?!"

"Exactly," said Yan Sanniang with a smile.

Yang Chen stood there foolishly with his mouth wide open, not sure if he should laugh or cry.

Anyone who knows astronomy would not be surprised about the presence of another Mt. Olympus located in this solar system.

Mt. Olympus of Mars is widely known as the greatest volcano ever discovered in the solar system.

It is shaped like a shield, with a total land mass encompassing a surface area larger than the United Kingdom, with its height towering up to 3 times that of Mt. Everest!

"Grandma Yan, are you telling me that the gods of Olympus were all from the Mt. Olympus of Mars?" Yang Chen questioned while shaking his confused head. "So basically, aliens?"

"Aliens?" Yan Sanniang nodded, and said, "You could call them that, but for us the cultivators of China, they are better known as mutants."

Yang Chen glared at Yan Sanniang, looking calm as ever. He was speechless. It took what felt like forever for him to finally speak up. He mumbled, "Are they really from Mars? Are they really Martians?"

Yang Chen felt like he was starring in a science fiction movie, because what else could really explain the paranormal things that happen to and around him. *Well, my life is already extraordinary enough, so what's so surprising about the gods being Martians?*

Yan Sanniang saw the weird look on Yang Chen's face this whole time. She knew it would definitely be hard for him to take it all in, she sighed while she decided on a tough decision. She slowly told the entire story from the beginning, everything she was taught by her master from generation to generation.

Tens of thousands of years ago, the earliest of men were still barely sentient. They were known as the primitives.

At the same time in the boundaries of China, however, existed a group of people, who had made groundbreaking experiences. They were enlightened with knowledge that put them ahead of the rest and were able to cruise through the odds of mother nature; they understood the natural laws and developed cultivation methods that empowered mankind to the next level.

What could be described as a verdict of fate allowed this small group near the great lands of China to create one of the earliest recorded civilizations.

In other words, these people were regarded as gods and immortals in the myths of the Chinese civilization. But as stories and myths went, there were always multiple versions of the same story. Regardless, they all referred to the same group of people.

Those were the primordial precursors of China. They abided by heaven's will and put their minds and souls into cultivating their skills, hoping to one day uncover the roots of the Dao, and didn't interfere with the dealings of mere mortals.

Time flew by and a millennia passed until the day everything changed for those people!

At that time, the Earth's sky was filled by a shower of shooting stars, with most striking the Eurasian plate.

The precursors of China were unaware about the origins of those. It wasn't until much later did they discover them when some fell within the vicinity of the China. Those beings, although in different dressings, looked no different from the people of Earth.

These people however were emboldened in their superiority and showed no respect towards the primitives on Earth.

The primitives saw these people descend from the skies and immediately regarded them as gods. The truth was that humans had always revered anything of celestial origin, so knowledge about those celestial people wouldn't be relevant at all.

However, these outsiders from the skies despised the primitives due to their low intellect. They found no use for them, so they slaughtered and massacred the lot! They would spare animals over humans!

As animals were better at reproducing than humans, they were more valuable as livestock than filthy human beings, who were nothing but wastes of resources.

Seeing those foreign occupants land on the great lands of China and butchering their kin enraged the precursors of China!

Possessing the cultivation abilities for over a thousand years, they were now masters of the world as they would have put it, far exceeding the abilities of mere mortals. A clan of well-trained grandmasters, with a swift hand, was more than capable of decimating the tyrannical foreign occupants. They

subsequently returned the favour that the invaders came with, leaving them in ruins of the dead and fear for the living, cleansing the lands of China of their influence!

The forefathers of China did not take long to notice that these foreign invaders were not without their special abilities. They could cross into parallel spaces. Upon destruction of their physical selves, they were able to shift their consciousness through a strange portal of space and time and go through a process called rebirth...

But, in the eyes of the forefathers, the abilities of the foreign race were far inferior to theirs. After all, they had uncovered the source of Dao while the foreign beings were merely adopting the modus of strength from the surrounding environment. There was no competition to begin with.

After the tyrannical actions of these extraterrestrial invaders towards the primitive humans, the forefathers believed their gifts of enlightenment bestowed upon them gave them the responsibility to defend the planet that they were born in.

As such, the cultivators banded together and traveled to every corner of the world in high spirits to take on the foreign invaders and cleave them clean.

In the end, the leaders of the extraterrestrials, pleaded for mercy in the faces of the forefathers in fear, begging for the rest of them to be spared.

According to them, they originated from the neighbouring red planet, which had recently been devastated by a cataclysmic asteroid collision, rendering it inhospitable. They had no choice but to mass migrate to the neighbouring planet of Earth.

The truth was that the ones who had made it to Earth were the best of the best from Mars, as only the cream of the crop with the best control of the laws of space could make their way to Earth. Many were caught in the sheer strength of the radiation from space and died before ever reaching.

Bestowed with the fact that these foreign invaders were pitiful people victimized by the destruction of their homeland, the precursors of China came to a consensus that a complete eradication of them would be extremely inhumane. With the bulk of the foreign invaders already wiped from the face of the earth, they agreed that the remaining few be allowed to be kept alive on several conditions.

Then and there, the precursors put up a stern warning for the alien mutants: to never take a human life, and to never step foot upon the lands of the country ever again, or face extinction.

Given their relatively high level of civilization, the mutants were allowed to stay in different regions of the world but with one condition: to assist the local primitives in a push to promote civilization.

The mutants agreed to the terms given to them under immense fear, and decided to seek a mountain peak in Europe and named it after their home, Mt. Olympus. The rest of the 12 mightiest mutants, went on to become the prominent figures in Greek mythology.

As these mutants settled down and started with the goal of supporting local humans with building civilization, human intelligence gradually improved. The humans then started to worship them, eventually conferring the term of 'gods' upon them. Naturally, excluding China and its territories, they became the mythical gods for various civilizations.

Originally the mutants were faithful that the current safe haven that they had adopted was a gift from the heavens. As long as they did not infiltrate the borders of China, the terrifying cultivators would leave them alone.

But as time went by, the mutants realized that their propagation on this planet was distressingly low, which they believed might be due to the different environment between Earth with their home planet.

Even though many years passed, they had only managed to reproduce in low numbers.

The mutants continued to age as they tried to find a way to boost their proliferation, but it didn't work. In fact, most of them were unable to reproduce.

They eventually realised that their extinction was nearing sooner than all of them had hoped! Their home planet Mars was not hospitable anymore, and anything significant hope for life was light years away and out of reach.

Fortunately, they discovered that besides being able to control parallel spaces, they possessed another impressive ability: reincarnation. It could be used on humans!

The discovery left them both with joy and concern. The good news was that the strongest and most capable amongst them, particularly those referred to as gods, could limitlessly utilise their divine consciousness to reincarnate as a regular mortal!

However, the process of reincarnation was finite for those with weak mental power. After reincarnating only two to three times, they would find themselves lacking in divine consciousness, a far cry from the amount needed to reincarnate once more.

What distressed them even more was that by doing so, they were essentially killing ordinary humans and taking over their bodies.

Every time they reincarnated, the chosen human being's consciousness would be replaced by that of the god, and the original human soul would cease to exist. Ultimately, that particular person would die from within, leaving nothing but the husk of its former self.

Eventually, the gods of Mt. Olympus decided to enter the borders of China, to earnestly plead to the cultivators to be allowed to reincarnate, promising to further human development and civilization.

The forefathers considered all the progress mankind experienced thanks to the mutants throughout the past decades and debated the topics amongst themselves. They believed that it had more pros than cons, considering the significant roles they had in the lives of many primitive humans.

Therefore the forefathers came to a conclusion to allow mutants to conduct reincarnation anywhere other than in China. However, they were to restrict their use of space laws. The forefathers beckoned them to abide by the rules of the Treaty of Gods.

After all, upon the reincarnation of these mutants, there was always a possibility that they might use the laws of space on humans to obliterate them every time they got into conflict. This would tip the balance of the world.

Henceforth, from that moment onwards, every conflict between the gods was modulated by the clause that forbade the use of spacetime alteration.

The few that disregarded the Treaty were decimated by the forefathers with zero mercy. Ever since then, nobody dared to challenge the signed Treaty.

As time passed, humankind accumulated much knowledge thanks to its wise leaders and entered the age of prosperity.

Naturally, in homage to their homeland and culture of Mars, the mutants left their mark in various points of history, with examples like the Great Pyramids that resembled their shelters on Mars, and the naming of Mt. Olympus in Greece. Feats which ancient man and their technologies would never have been able to accomplish.

As for these mutants, as generations come and go, their numbers decrease exponentially to the point that only the mightiest among them, the Twelve Olympians with unbound power, survived into the modern age.

The gods eventually faded into myth and obscurity.

As for the forefathers of China that had been repressing the mutants, they too did not withstand the test of time and had vanished together with history. However, one clan with the name Hongmeng had managed to survive through the years, and those who achieved Xiantian Full Cycle and immortality joined the clan and hid themselves from the rest of the world.

But to ensure the continuation of the forefathers' will, every 5 years, one Hongmeng messenger would be elected to observe the world from afar. They would prevent the destruction of China, and contain the Twelve Olympians so long as they were still alive so that they wouldn't forget the existence of the cultivators and step out of their bounds.

... ..

Initially, Yang Chen was completely flabbergasted as the story was told. But he soon got the bigger picture and understood the situation.

It was no wonder the previous Pluto or any of the other gods didn't bring it up to him. They were the mightiest few that arrived on Earth, but were also the most pathetically repressed beings on the planet for the last tens of thousands of years!

That was nothing but humiliation for the gods!

They were left watching as their own kin diminished in numbers, helpless to the situation. It didn't help that they stood absolutely no chance against Hongmeng, with their one and only resort being to steer clear from the borders of China, avoiding them at every turn, and abiding by the Treaty at every cost.

Yang Chen more or less understood why those fellows led such frivolous lives. Christen went on to be an artist and was probably the best of the bunch. Apollo and Artemis were into incest, and Ares continued to pick fights like a madman wherever he went.

Regardless of who it was, to live without dignity for tens of thousands of years as your closest kin died off would make life seem like it wasn't worth living.

All the enjoyment that a single soul could experience had been savoured. At that point, nothing was worth looking forward to anymore. They were no better off living than dead.

For instance, Apollo and Artemis were scumbags that never did good in the eyes of Yang Chen, but what he never took to notice was how pointless their lives were. That alone was why they stirred up trouble wherever they went. It was just for the heck of it!

The previous Pluto built Zero and slaughtered countless, but I guess that wasn't his key motive. He was just hoping to find a successor in the masses, so that he could relinquish himself from this misery, thought Yang Chen.

The successor—Yang Chen—might not be a full-fledged Martian, but at the very least kept all twelve Olympian seats occupied in some way or another. He would have contributed to that, however slight.

However, it was all thanks to the God's Stone that Yang Chen got the chance to experience space manipulation and reincarnation, but why hadn't Yan Sanniang mentioned anything about it at all?

Yang Chen paused for a bit while staring at Yan Sanniang. "Grandma Yan, I understand your story about our history, but I do have a question. As you mentioned, the remainder of the foreign mutants, the 12 main gods, are stuck in a loop of reincarnation. Why, then, would they still be interested in fighting for the God's Stone? I know some of the basic abilities of God's Stone. According to what Aphrodite said to Apollo and the rest, Athena, Ares and many others have all fought for the stone before; could it be that the stone was the key to resurrecting their clansmen?"

Yan Sanniang saw Yang Chen's query from a mile away and replied, "The answer to that question, I'm afraid, is not mine to give. After all, I'm not a member of the Hongmeng clan. The God's Stone is a one of a kind item, and the ones who knew the true functions and meaning were long gone. If it really does possess such importance, Hongmeng would never let it fall into the hands of mutants, unless Hongmeng too has no understanding of its abilities. Or, they believe that it wouldn't pose much of a threat to warrant any action in the first place."

"You aren't someone from Hongmeng?" Yang Chen said with suspicion written all over his face. "Grandma Yan, I remember that you said those who have achieved the Xiantian Full Cycle would have to join Hongmeng. With your cultivation, you would have made it past that level by now right?"

Yan Sanniang gave a bitter smile and said, "Young Master Chen, things happen for a reason, and I'm afraid that the explanation for that will have to come another time. What needs to be said has been said, and my intention was to enlighten you with the knowledge of the gods—that their abilities are unrivaled across all parts of the world, but in the boundaries of China, it cannot be used. If the Hongmeng messenger took note of it, it would be catastrophe for them."

Yang Chen naturally understood the severity of this. He knew for a fact that Yan Sanniang was not lying at all. With his current ability he had no chance against her, so he might as well go along with her plans and reach the Xiantian Full Cycle; even if the main gods decided to use reincarnation, they would still be obliterated by Hongmeng. If he caused trouble in China, that was it for him.

I don't fear death, but I'm still young and have countless women by my side! There's no way I would allow myself to die just like that!

In the 20 years I've lived, when have I ever been backed so far into a corner? Even though I want to kill them, I can't afford to piss them off now! This is just so suffocating! Yang Chen, grumpy and annoyed,

wanted to ask for the boundaries of which he could flex his muscles, to act out his temper without offending the lot, but words just kept getting stuck by his throat!

Why should I avoid them at all cost? What makes them so much more special than I am? All they did was overcome the Xiantian Full Cycle. I can do it too!

Screw that thought, I would be stronger than them if they didn't bully me with numbers! I just won't believe that they are the strongest in this world!

Since young I fought according to the laws of the jungle. The strong feeds on the weak. When was I, Yang Chen, ever afraid of anyone? But why is my subconscious warning me to hide right now?

After he thought about it through and through, his eyes glimmered with realization. He looked at the waning elderly as a sinister intention flashed through his eyes. Smirking, he said, "Grandma Yan, there are some things that I might need to consult you about..."

Chapter 562

Always the Same Catchphrase

Yan Sanniang felt an abrupt chill down her spine. Just a moment ago this child Yang Chen had sincerity in his eyes, but now he looks like a different person. His facial expression shows only deception and sinister intentions now.

"What is it that you want to ask, Young Master Chen? I'd be willing to share anything I know." Yan Sanniang on the other hand was straightforward with her approach. After all she had lived long enough to be able to read one's intentions.

Yang Chen paused for a moment, and asked, "Grandma Yan, with your impressive prowess you must have overcome the bottleneck on the peak of Xiantian Full Cycle to be able to break through the next level. I just want to know about the bottleneck. How do I break through it?"

Yan Sanniang was about to speak, but Yang Chen interrupted by raising his hand to stop her.

"I must admit that I know what you're going to say. You're going to say there's no set method of breaking through to my level of prowess, right?"

Yan Sanniang nodded and gave a satisfied smile. "Not bad. That's exactly it."

Bloody hell! Not this goddamn line again! Back then it was that drunkard Song Tianxing who said the same thing, and had me end up nearly dying before I understood the ninth level of Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture—Rebirth, and this hag Yan Sanniang who has the exact line up her sleeve! Does everyone in that level all practice the same catchphrase?

As he thought that, Yang Chen giggled and said, "I wouldn't expect any solutions from you Grandma Yan, but I was thinking, since it's not everyday that I get to meet a master like you, would you care to share a little on how you managed to accomplish it? I understand that everyone needs different insights, but your insight might just give me that starting point I need!"

Yan Sanniang was left muted. She did not expect Yang Chen to be interested in knowing these things. All she knew deep down were that insights were after all abstract and barely describable. What would be the point of sharing them?

But when she saw Yang Chen's hopeful look, Yan Sanniang fell into deep thought again.

It came naturally to her that Yang Chen knew by now that the path to breaking through was not something that could be forced. But seeing how he was still stubbornly eager to know something, he must be trying to improve his prowess to a point where he could overcome his fear of Hongmeng.

However, she also wished for Yang Chen to be able to defend himself, especially after finding out just moments ago that the kid from the Lu clan had been assassinated. Even if Yang Chen wasn't the one to step into the muddy waters of this case, someone would find trouble with Yang Chen nevertheless. If Yang Chen was to be able to leap past that stage, even someone from Hongmeng wouldn't be able to touch him.

But, how am I supposed to help him?

Yang Chen noticed Yan Sanniang in deep thought and decided to silently wait for her reply.

The two of them just stood there in the empty meadows as light breezes blew through, bringing with it a refreshing chill. Meanwhile a huge rumble could be heard from the airport in a distance.

After some time Yan Sanniang abruptly looked up and paused momentarily before she lifted her finger and drew an arc around where Yang Chen was standing.

Shocked, Yang Chen was mesmerized as he watched Yan Sanniang draw a circle around him with no clue what power she was using.

The circle was made by flattening the surrounding grass, with Yang Chen looking around rigorously from within.

But she was not done. She used the same figure and started a new stroke.

Not too far from Yang Chen, an identical circle was drawn on the grass patches.

Yan Sanniang stopped, as she frowned and said, "Young Master Chen, the most this old lady can do is this."

"Eh?"

Yang Chen's mouth twitched. "Aren't you just trolling me?!"

You think you're like Old Man Deng, don't you? All you did was draw an extra circle, one surrounding me and the other isn't. Now you're telling me you're done?!"

Then again your circle drawing is amazing. But I don't feel any special or Qi disturbances at all!

Yan Sanniang seemed to know that Yang Chen was lost as she shook her head in disappointment. "To be frank with you, these 2 circles are the best way of expressing my insights to you. Honestly, I'm not quite sure outside of these two circles how to explain it to you verbally.

“Young Master Chen, my old self cannot guarantee that these 2 circles would do you any good, but if you really cannot spot the anomaly from it then I guess you can consider me foolish for trying. Sigh...”

Yang Chen was almost going to cry. “Please don’t sigh, you’re only making me feel hopeless...”

Yan Sanniang glanced right at the look on Yang Chen’s depressed face and felt that it was no longer appropriate to stay. “Young Master Chen, if you have the time, do return to Beijing to visit the master. He misses you dearly. Any conflicts or misunderstandings between you both should not stand in the way of your familial relations. This old self here would love to see the day where you can come back to your roots. Farewell.”

After she was done talking, Yan Sanniang vanished into the air without waiting for a reply from Yang Chen.

Yang Chen felt terrible that instant, even if he had the experience of overcoming the Life and Death and Rebirth stages of the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture, he knew that any further advancement he made would be a qualitative boost.

Every new stage comprehended was markedly different from the previous.

Just by witnessing how Yan Sanniang could come and go as she pleased without him sensing it in the slightest, shook Yang Chen up quite a bit.

He decided not to overthink it and glanced down at the ring of more than a metre in diameter encircling him as well as the other seemingly identical circle with furrowed brows.

Two circles? What could this possibly mean?

... ..

Back at the Lin residence in Guo Xuehua’s room on the 2nd floor, the atmosphere was tense and uptight.

Guo Xuehua had just awoken and was sitting by the bench. She stared blankly into the air, her pupils red and face fatigued.

Next to her was the distressed and worried An Xin, standing silently next to her bench, still as a sculpture.

That moment, Wang Ma came through the door with a glass of water, walked towards Guo Xuehua and passed her the glass. “Xuehua, have some warm water. It will help you calm down. I’m sure Young Master is fine.”

Even though there was an age gap between Wang Ma and Guo Xuehua, the times that they had spent together allowed them to gradually develop a sense of sisterly kinship. They were even on a first-name basis.

When An Xin, Wang Jie, and Zhao Teng sent Guo Xuehua back home, Wang Ma was significantly stunned at the turn of events. It was not until An Xin briefed her about them that she found out about the monstrous problems that had occurred. If it wasn’t for the experiences in her youth, she would have been greatly affected.

Guo Xuehua forced herself to receive the glass and smiled bitterly. “Yulan, you know too well how much Yang Chen means to me, and I have no idea how he’s doing now. What if something really happened, the aftermath... I don’t even want to think about it!”

Wang Ma was not too informed about such high-level disputes and felt only pity for Guo Xuehua, hoping to find a way to convince her to stop overthinking. She was confident that there must be a way that things could turn for the better.

Right this instant, Guo Xuehua’s phone rang, much to her surprise. She instantly went over and picked it up, only to discover Yang Jieyu on the other side of the line.

“Hey Jieyu, how’s Yang Chen?” Guo Xuehua urgently asked with no time to spare, with her usual gentle and elegant self nowhere to be seen.

Yang Jieyu curtly said, “Sister-In-Law, everything has changed and it’s not for the better. The good news is that rascal Yang Chen didn’t make it to the airport and didn’t manage to kill Lu Min... but we have bad news—Lu Min still ended up assassinated!”

“What?!” Guo Xuehua blankly stood there, not too sure what to make of this situation.

Yang Jieyu explained, “I also just recently found out from the informants in the Yuan clan that Lu Min died of poisoning at the airport. I heard that the poison might very likely be a specially synthesized poison serum used only by a certain group of international spies. Wei and I were guessing that the perpetrator was targeting Yang Chen. Even though Yang Chen didn’t make it to the airport, many will know that he’s the most likely perpetrator given the method used to kill Lu Min.”

“How did it turn out like that...” Guo Xuehua was distraught. To know that her son was fine was relieving, but she also found out that Yang Chen was framed by others. Her mood took a nosedive once again.

An Xin saw the look on Guo Xuehua’s dispirited face and tried to subdue her fear. She grit her teeth and went up to hold Guo Xuehua’s hand. With her bright eyes looking straight at Guo Xuehua, she said, “Aunt, you must stay strong. Yang Chen’s so amazing and he’ll definitely be fine.”

Though her words were but hollow, Guo Xuehua looked like that was exactly what she needed to hear at that moment.

She lifted her head and finally reached her hand out to gently pat An Xin on the back. With a smile, she said, “Thank you, An Xin.”

Wang Ma watched speechlessly from the side. There was a hint of concern in her eyes.

Yet another outstanding young lady. When will the lady of this house become like these girls and get along with their mother-in-law??thought Wang Ma.

Rumble!

All of a sudden, the thunderous boom shattered the overcast sky.

The clouds had filled the skies since early morning. Finally, the rain started to pour.

At the abandoned meadow near the airport, the symphony of pouring rain and the abrupt thunder gave the scene an eerie ambience.

A ray of indigo-violet light sliced through the sky, splitting the storm clouds into half.

A faint light shone on the person who sat lazily on the ground.

Yang Chen was just casually sitting on the meadow as the rain mercilessly poured down on him, on his hair, his clothes, and his face.

He could have used his abilities to stop the rain from reaching him, but he didn't. More like, he forgot.

Right after Yan Sanniang left, Yang Chen settled down on the meadow. Now that Lu Min was dead, he didn't know what else to do. So he sat down and started to ponder on the two circles and their meanings.

It had been quite some time since he thought about training, but not everything would go out of touch after not using it for a long time. Yang Chen still had the ability to analyze insights.

He immediately went into deep concentration, shutting out all stimulus from the outside world. He willed for the thunder, the rain and his wet body to become non-existent in his mind.

In the mind of Yang Chen was the two circles from before, nothing else.

"Inside the circle... Outside the circle..."

Yang Chen persistently mumbled that again and again, seeming like he was trying to remind himself of something.

Time flew but Yang Chen's expression didn't change the slightest. He didn't even blink once.

Yang Chen was deep inside his own mind, while the people at home were anxious and worried.

It remained so all the way from noon, to evening, till night.

The rain eventually stopped. The rhythmic pitter-patter on the roof was juxtaposed against the silence of the house.

Wang Ma made some simple dishes and moved them into the living room, but all she saw were two people staring at the clock on the wall, paying no heed to the food that was served.

Wang Ma quietly observed the two, frowned and shook her head.

Back when they found out that Yang Chen did not make it to the airport, the couple brought Guo Xuehua all around Zhonghai in search for Yang Chen. They had tried but failed to reach his cell. Assuming nothing happened to him, either his phone had been shut down or was drained of power. His Jeep, which was last reported to be in close proximity to the airport, was nowhere to be seen!

It was as if, Yang Chen's very existence had disappeared into thin air!

Who would have guessed that Yang Chen was just sitting on the abandoned field outside without trying to avoid anyone. Who would have guessed that he was merely lost in his own thoughts?

Later that night, Guo Xuehua snapped out of her daze and saw that An Xin had been waiting alongside her for the return of her son throughout the day. Guo Xuehua felt a sense of pity. Even though the girl's relationship with her son wasn't considered a proper one and the fact that this house belonged to her daughter-in-law made Guo Xuehua feel guilty, but her motherly senses refrained her from sending An Xin home this late at night.

"An Xin, it's past midnight. I know you're really tired too. Go get some sleep," Guo Xuehua said with a bitter smile.

An Xin drowsily shook the head. "I'm worried..."

"It's alright, dear child, you told me to have faith in Yang Chen, didn't you? You wouldn't lie to me, would you?" Guo Xuehua sighed lightly as she held An Xin's soft hands, and said, "Nevermind. Why don't you follow me upstairs? Yang Chen's room is vacant now, so sleep in his room tonight. I'm going to get some sleep too, so let's just rest and hope for the best, alright?"

An Xin found it impossible to reject this time, as Guo Xuehua gave her the permission to sleep in Yang Chen's room knowing full well of her position as a mistress in the relationship. If she refused this it would go against the care she showed her.

Even though she knew it would be hard for her to fall asleep that night, she still obediently nodded.

Throughout the night, Zhonghai was filled with the Jiangnan scouts who were part of the Yuan clan in search of Yang Chen. But due to the heavy downpour, and the added fact that they had been trying to locate a Jeep, nobody thought of searching in an abandoned field, missing Yang Chen right under their noses.

During daybreak, Yang Chen sat in the middle of the abandoned field and finally decided to halt his thoughts. He was like a sculpture that was solidified for too long. He turned his stiff head around to look at his surroundings and felt the chill from his drenched body, only to realize that it had been raining for the better part of last night. His clothes had partially dried through the long night.

Forcing a laugh, Yang Chen shook off the raindrops from his head. He guessed that he probably looked like a homeless vagrant.

He was stuck deep in thought, thinking that he could achieve Xiantian Full Cycle and finally break through. For him to be stuck in that state just because of those two circles meant that there must be some sort of secrets to be unfolded.

But right now Yang Chen finally realised that his understanding could not be further from the actual insight. He didn't manage to understand anything at all.

It felt like a ray of golden light shining through the door creak, but somehow he was not strong enough to force the door open. This just pissed him off greatly.

But no matter how dissatisfied he was, it was useless. He could only accept that the time wasn't right, and for now all he could do was go home, draw himself a warm bath and fetch a new set of clothes.

Right at that moment however, Yang Chen's focus got caught up by a slight bulge on the grass...

That was a pit built by a colony of black ants. It might look like a small protruding pile of sand from above, but underneath it lied an expanding networks of interconnected tunnels, in which the ants moved in and out from day to day, transporting food.

This nest of ants was obviously here all this while. Yang Chen just failed to notice it.

As a consequence to the downpour the night before, a large portion of the ant pit had been severely wrecked, flooding the interior, leaving the ants with nowhere to stay. They circled the bulge of soil they once called home. With their habitat devastated, they were now presumably contemplating to rebuild their homeland or wait for the weather to clear and the ground to dry before deciding what to do next.

What seemed like an ordinary occurrence for the ants, hit Yang Chen's mind like a truck. He was mind blown!

"Inside the circle and outside it... Ants... and their colony..." Yang Chen mumbled once again as his once dull pupils shone like the brightest stars in the night sky!

Chapter 563

Slightly Different

A night of unhindered rain left the lush garden looking exceptionally solemn. Dewdrops trickled down the ground, covering the turf with beads of morning dew.

Meanwhile in the estate, looking through the master bedroom which was slightly ajar, there stood Guo Xuehua in a beige shirt, with her hair unkempt. She was just leaving the room on the way to the metal gate out front to have a look.

It was a long night with barely any sleep. Guo Xuehua looked like a wreck, but it did not matter to her at the moment, for her son Yang Chen was still nowhere to be found. Without any news from anyone in regards to her son, Guo Xuehua could not stave away her anxiety.

Wang Ma came out from the estate, slightly fatigued. "Xuehua, I made some porridge, please have some. Standing out here in the cold will not change a thing. No good will come from waiting here," she advised.

"Yulan, where do you think Yang Chen could have gone? All those people are out there looking everywhere for him. Why haven't they found him yet?" Guo Xuehua was miserable and anxious, and didn't have the slightest appetite for a morning broth.

He was her flesh and blood that she had been separated for more than 20 years! Had she not been be strong willed, she might not have had the strength to leave her bed this morning.

Wang Ma felt bitter. "I don't have kids, but I know how you must be feeling right now. But just because the young master hasn't returned doesn't mean that he's in any harm. If the young master came back right now only to see you in pain, he wouldn't feel good about it either."

"I know there's no reason for me to be waiting like this, but I just feel like this is the best I can do for now," Guo Xuehua said with a depressing look on her face.

Wang Ma gave a miserable smile. "Why must these things only happen to us? But I'm still glad that at least our dear Zhenxiu got to sleep over at school the last few days. If she was around when this happened, I bet she'll be nothing but anxious. There would be even less peace around here than there already is."

Guo Xuehua zoned out for a split second and subsequently frowned. "Oh right, I was lost for a second there. Yesterday night, Zhenxiu didn't come home too. Did she sleepover at school?"

Wang Ma nodded and said heart-achingly, "After you left, she called saying that there was an intensive revision session or something, and all the third years were advised to attend. I don't know what the school is thinking, having all these intensive sessions all the time. Kids these days see to have it rougher than us adults do."

Guo Xuehua forced a smile and said, "Preparing for a college entrance exam is no easy feat. But they'll probably miss these days in school after they graduate and enter society. Sometimes when I look at Zhenxiu, I'd think, that if Yang Chen had not been given to the orphanage and went to school like the other kids, I would be just like every other mom, nagging their kids about school, or to finish their homework, simple things like that.

"Come to think of it, even if it had been a stressful period for most parents, it was still meaningful regardless. To watch their kids grow older every passing day, as they learn new things...

"But both Yang Chen and Yang Lie had left when they were children. One disappeared way too young, and the other left to train in the mountains. Neither of them got to be raised by me. To be frank with you, I think of myself as an irresponsible mother, but I cannot change the past, only the future. Yang Lie was always by my side when he was young, but Yang Chen... I never got to care for him the slightest bit."

"No wonder you treat Zhenxiu like your own daughter. You are trying to make up for what you lost through her, aren't you?" joked Wang Ma.

Guo Xuehua smiled, but her mood didn't improve.

The two of them spent a little more time staring at the gate. Seeing that no one was coming back anytime soon, they gradually turned around and went back into the house. Right when they went about close the door, somebody knocked on the gate.

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma both heard the noise and instantly sprinted to the gate. As expected, someone was standing right there, knocking on the gate like a madman.

Guo Xuehua glanced through the gate, tears of joy flowing through her eyes as she saw her son standing right in front of her.

"Young Master!"

Wang Ma too was excited. She enthusiastically dragged Guo Xuehua aside and opened the metal gate.

As Guo Xuehua walked closer to him, she teared up even more. Yang Chen was in such a pitiful state.

Wearing short sleeves and fully covered in moss and mud, some patches of his clothes were still drenched. His hair and face were smudged with mud and his limbs and torso got splashed with muddy water.

With his current appearance resembling that of a homeless drifter and him looking rather average to begin with, Yang Chen could've passed off for insane. But that did not affect his mood one bit for he still looked as silly as ever giggling at the people inside the gate.

"Mother, Wang Ma, it's my bad. My phone died and I was dealing with some stuff so I lost track of time. Please disregard everything you see here," Yang Chen consoled with a raise of his brow.

Looking straight at her son foolishly laughing at this situation, Guo Xuehua tweaked her lips and abruptly hugged him tight, weeping. As she uncontrollably punched her son a couple of times, she wiped her eyes dry. "You little rascal, how could you forget to come back home? You clearly don't care about how we feel! You got us all crazy worried!"

Yang Chen tolerated Guo Xuehua's flurry of punches because in every punch all he felt was the feeling of being missed and valued by his family. There was a wide, contented smile on his face.

After Guo Xuehua finished weeping and grumbling, she slowly calmed down with each punch, and she instantly dragged her son back into the house. After all, all that mattered to her was that her son was back home safe and sound.

As they entered the house, Guo Xuehua glanced at Yang Chen's pitiful appearance and frowned. "Which forest or mountain did you get lost in? I thought you drove to the airport? Where did you go?"

Yang Chen decided to be frank with her and said, "I was going to the airport, but something happened along the way and I made a detour to the abandoned field by the airport and had been there for the past night."

"An abandoned field?" Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma had the same troubled expression that instant. "Why would anyone go to a place like that?"

Yang Chen gave it some thought and said, "I actually have no idea what I've done the past night. Someone talked to me, and said some things which had me pondering the whole night through. Later on, the car broke down, so I had to trot back home. I considered it a morning stroll."

The both of them had absolutely no idea what Yang Chen was talking about. But his honest expression convinced them of his explanation.

"Young Master, why did you run all the way back? You could've hailed a cab even if you didn't bring any money," said Wang Ma.

"Wang Ma, I did try, but no one accepted my request! They thought I was some random hobo," Yang Chen explained with frustration in his tone.

Yang Chen's current look did explain why no drivers would pick him up. Even if they were not afraid of dirtying their car, they're not exactly ready to pick someone who looks like they escaped prison!

Guo Xuehua, dumbfounded, was more than glad to just see him come back, regardless of what happened the night before. "Let's not talk about it anymore. Go upstairs and take a shower. Change into some clean clothes and come down for breakfast. You must be starving."

Yang Chen's eyes hovered to the table filled with porridge and side dishes. He gulped and coyly said, "I think I want to eat first."

"God no, look at yourself! You might dirty the carpet with mud!" Guo Xuehua stood her ground and wasn't going to let her guilt take over and allow petty things like that. It wasn't like he would faint from hunger anytime soon.

Yang Chen scratched his head and ran upstairs.

Guo Xuehua was reminded of something all of a sudden as she hurriedly proclaimed, "Oh, Yang Chen, Lu Min has been murdered, you know that right?"

Yang Chen shrugged as he went upstairs without even looking back. "I know, but who cares."

Doubt flashed through her mind. *Lu Min was the one Yang Chen went out of his way to kill like a madman. He should've reacted in some way after hearing that someone got him before he did. Why does he seem like he doesn't care in the slightest?*

Watching her son Yang Chen walk upstairs, Guo Xuehua felt silent. She felt something was off. "Yulan, why do I feel that there's something different about Yang Chen?"

Wang Ma replied, "What's different? The young master has always been this way, slightly reckless, but reliable when it really counts. Like I mentioned before, when Young Master and Miss got married, many of the problems that we had faced in the past were settled by him."

Guo Xuehua shook her head with a slight smile, "That's not what I meant... I'm not too sure if it's just me, but I really do feel that the boy is slightly different now, and not in a bad way."

Wang Ma grinned with her hand over her mouth. "Well, only you noticed, so could it be the connection between mother and son?"

Guo Xuehua knew that Wang Ma was joking and rolled her eyes. She was about to say something but a sudden realisation struck her that instant. "Ah, look at my horrible memory! I forgot to tell Yang Chen that An Xin is sleeping in his room!"

Wang Ma froze for a moment. She had gone to bed earlier yesterday night. Concerned, she asked, "Guo Xuehua, you allowed Miss An Xin to stay the night in Yang Chen's room?"

Guo Xuehua felt a little bad. After all, her daughter-in-law Lin Ruoxi was to a certain extent like a daughter to Wang Ma. She nodded and said, "Yes I did, it was very late yesterday and I couldn't send her home that late at night, so I let her stay. But it wasn't appropriate for her to stay at Ruoxi's or Zhenxiu's room, so Yang Chen's room was the best alternative."

Wang Ma laughed uncomfortably, not sure what to say best.

"I guess it's fine since Ruoxi's still in Europe. It's just one night, and when An Xin sees Yang Chen, she'll go back," Guo Xuehua added with guilt. After all, she felt like it wasn't fair to Wang Ma who was like a parent to Ruoxi.

Wang Ma sighed, "This is not about one night or a few nights. Even if the both of us stay quiet about it, Miss An & the young master's relationship is pretty obvious. Xuehua, first it was the neighbour Rose, now it's Miss An. I know Miss better than anyone else in the world, I raised her after all. There are some things that words alone will not be able to solve. If this goes on, I'm not sure how things will turn out for you."

Guo Xuehua's mind was distraught. She was glad that her oldest son came back, but his lifestyle was truly problematic.

Right at that moment, the house phone rang. Wang Ma picked it up and said. "Hello, who's there?"

After a moment, the look on her face changed. With an astonished tone, she said, "Miss, you're back already?"

Chapter 564

Upstairs and Downstairs

Guo Xuehua froze at Wang Ma's mention of 'Miss'.

Ruoxi is home? Why now?!

Guo Xuehua would never have expected things to pan out this way. Why must she come back now? Didn't she say she would only be back in a day or two from now? I have been telling her not to overwork all the time, but why must it be today that she decides to listen?

This time around, her bad decisions were coming to bite back at her. No matter how experienced she was in life, the role of a mother-in-law was still so new to her, and her 'perfect' son was no help in a situation like this one.

"Alright, just rest for a bit. I have prepared some breakfast. Okay, okay... I'll open the gate..." Wang Ma cut the call short and exhaled.

Guo Xuehua immediately asked, "Yulan, Ruoxi came back? Didn't she say she'll only be back the day after tomorrow?"

Wang Ma looked right at Guo Xuehua's worried face, which she found to be funny, though it was highly inappropriate to comment on it now. "Miss said she'll be back in ten minutes. She finished her tasks in Europe early so she rescheduled the return ticket. She also added that she wanted to have breakfast before she leaves for work."

"She just got off the plane and wants to leave for work again?" Guo Xuehua was stunned. To think that Lin Ruoxi was that much of a workaholic. She gave a bitter smile. "Even without the Yang clan, Ruoxi has enough money to ensure that her family lives well several generations after her. I really don't know what goes in her mind. If this goes on I would never know when can I finally expect a grandchild."

"I think it's better if you leave the matter of your grandchildren aside. Our main priority is dealing with what happens when Ruoxi comes back to see Miss An. It's already too late to go upstairs and drag An Xin down now, isn't it?" Wang Ma said with a heavy heart.

Guo Xuehua couldn't even look Wang Ma in the eye. At this point, what could she possibly do? All she could do was to blame herself for her foolishness!

Meanwhile in Yang Chen's room, the couple had no idea what the two elders downstairs were arguing about.

An Xin was awake till late last night until she finally gave in and dozed off, which resulted in her sleeping well into the morning.

When Yang Chen came in, he saw An Xin lying on his bed. It looked like she was having quite the eventful dream, and they didn't appear pleasant, as was apparent from her pale face.

Yang Chen instantly knew the gist of the situation, and he immediately forgotten about the real reason he came up. He casually moved to the side of the bed An Xin was on, kneeled down and silently stared at her soft, lovely face. The long night before might have taken some of her glamour, but also added a hint of innocence to her look.

Yang Chen smiled like a kid, his eyes filled with warmth. Even though he never seemed to get along with his legal wife, his relationships with his other lovers was always improving. He felt very conflicted with this situation.

He attentively pulled the blanket over An Xin, who was still fully dressed when she dozed off waiting for him.

This light gesture however, did not go unnoticed by the sleeping An Xin.

Almost telepathically, the moment Yang Chen covered her with the blanket, An Xin's huge, bubbly eyes opened wide.

Her eyes were moist but still contained some degree of drowsiness. She saw Yang Chen and thought it was her imagination. She then lifted her pale, white hands and rubbed her eyes. Yang Chen was really there!

Yang Chen's filthy attire did not matter to her at that moment as she leaped out of bed into his arms.

"Hubby!"

She coyly babbled as she open her arms wide and latched herself to Yang Chen like a serpent. She could not contain her emotions any longer.

Yang Chen was mesmerised by the captivating odour, the softness and warmth of the body of the woman he loved as she weeped.

It took him awhile to finally get a grip as he gently patted on her back and said, "Silly, I wasn't even gone that long. Why are you acting as if I had abandoned you?"

An Xin continued sobbing, "I... I was afraid something happened to you."

“What could have happened to me?” Yang Chen coyly rolled his eyes.

“I don’t know, I was just worried,” An Xin innocently replied.

Yang Chen sighed, and lifted her up like a koala as she was latching on him, and gently placed her on the bed. “I need to shower and rinse the dirt off me so I don’t stain your clothing.”

An Xin however didn’t loosen her grip, and single-handedly grasped on Yang Chen’s hand. “I don’t care.”

Yang Chen was not sure how to feel. “No matter what, I still have to wash up a little right?”

“I don’t want you to leave me.” An Xin stared at him with watery eyes.

This woman was terrified. Last night had been a nightmare to her. She was a part of all these incidents that led up to yesterday, and she was riddled with guilt, terrified that she would be the cause of something irreversible.

It was not easy for her to finally see her man return safe and sound to her, and have to let him out of her sight again.

Yang Chen coyly pinched An Xin’s nose lightly with his fingers, feeling a little horny. “If my dear An Xin wants to, we can both go to the shower.”

While speaking, he bent down and scooped An Xin up as he marched into the bathroom.

An Xin blushed, but she didn’t refuse the offer. Even though she found couple baths slightly ridiculous, especially since she was in Yang Chen’s family house, with 2 elders downstairs, An Xin as it is could hardly control her urge to make out on the bed with him, so why would she care about the bath?

In the midst of foreplay, the bathroom was filled with Yang Chen’s weird laughs and An Xin’s high pitched giggles, intermixed with the sound of water.

Even though it was a couple bath, it ended surprisingly quickly. Yang Chen, with his raging hormones had to get out of there quick. After just a couple of minutes, Yang Chen carried An Xin out from the bath.

Water was still dripping from their heads and their naked bodies.

An Xin arms encircled Yang Chen’s shoulders, her supple breasts latching on Yang Chen’s chest as they copulated, from the bed to the floor. Yang Chen was supposed to go downstairs for breakfast, but right now all he could think of was the woman in front of him and what he was going to do to her.

It did not take long for the whole house to be filled with the sounds of youthful lovemaking. Meanwhile, on the side of the road next to the estate, a white Mercedes-benz just pulled up.

The driver sprinted off the car and ran to the back, as he gently opened the door of a passenger seat with his head hung low.

Out came a woman in a beige British fall fashion coat, wearing a laced one-piece with a leather bag. Lin Ruoxi had the elegance rivaling that of nobles in British movies. With her poise and grace, it was hard not to mistake her for royalty.

She let her hair down, letting them casually sway in the fall breeze. Her facial expressions were hidden beneath her huge pair of shades, which made them impossible to guess.

Next to the car stood the driver who had respectfully kept his head low. He was actually working under the Yu Lei security department, but was told that he was to pick up the CEO from the airport.

“You may return to the office now,” Lin Ruoxi casually replied as she opened the metal gate and walked towards the house.

“Yes, Boss Lin!” The young chauffeur was visibly nervous as he bowed and hurried up the driver’s seat and drove back to the office.

Lin Ruoxi waited until she was sure that the car behind left before she let out a long breath and removed her shades. Fatigue and paleness were visible on her face.

It was something she would not want the employees of her company to know, hence the shades.

She wanted to come back the day after tomorrow, but after Yang Chen abruptly mentioned that something happened to An Xin and rushed back to Zhonghai yesterday, she had lost the mood to continue working and decided to come back a little earlier.

Lin Ruoxi felt that An Xin had nothing to do with her, so she did not care about what Yang Chen was going to do for her, but her mind said so and her heart dictated otherwise, which led her back to Zhonghai.

Lin Ruoxi went as far to assume it might even be her mental well being that was in the way. *Why should I care about all these insignificant things??* But her curiosity and insecurity insisted that she find out what that man was doing, especially after leaving her alone in Paris.

What is he going to do An Xin? What could have been that important?

She didn’t ask him that directly. She didn’t know the reason herself. Perhaps it was her stubbornness and ego that kept her from asking. She hated it.

Anyhow, Lin Ruoxi got her employees to reschedule the flight ticket. After some simple packing, she left for home a day earlier.

The route back home was a lonely one. Though they came together, she was returning alone. But it didn’t bother her much, after all she had been alone for the better part of her life anyway.

However, along the way she had been thinking about what happened in Zhonghai, and the more she thought the more she felt that there was something not quite right with the situation.

She was well aware of the man he was. No matter how serious the situation was, that ass would not even bat an eye; problems that would cause even the toughest of people to falter, wouldn’t even make him flinch in the slightest.

Nevertheless, would he have hurried back home if it wasn’t something consequential?

However as her worries grew deeper she developed the sense of unknown fear, a fear that gradually grew to become an emotional burden: a colossal sense of guilt.

Even though she and Yang Chen liked each other, why couldn't she bring herself to admit it? Why was she so stubborn to the point that it hurt the both of them?

If she could lower her pride, she could ask Yang Chen about it and she was sure that he would be more than willing to talk. If it wasn't serious, Yang Chen wouldn't say that something was up and he had to help An Xin deal with some issues.

During her flight back home that lasted more than 10 hours, she had been constantly questioning herself whether she should be giving something out.

Even though that man had a lot of shortcomings, at least he would stand up for her. They were also a married couple... If she continued that way, would her troubles really fade away? Was enduring it the solution?

Step by step, she walked towards the estate. Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma were welcoming her by the window.

"Miss, you really came back." Wang Ma donned her usual smile while carrying Ruoxi's bags.

Guo Xuehua, too, greeted her warmly, "You look so tired. Your lips are so pale. It must have been more than a day since u last slept, right? Well, hurry up and come on inside."

Lin Ruoxi felt worse after hearing that from Guo Xuehua. Her mother-in-law had always looked out for her, hoping that she would improve her relationship with Yang Chen, but she had always been rejecting this and that, or evading the chances to make up with Yang Chen.

"Mother... I—"

Lin Ruoxi was about to say something, but suddenly, a woman could be heard moaning from the balcony on the second floor.

"Hah... urgh... Hubby... don't... Aaah.."

What was that? Was it An Xin's voice?!

Lin Ruoxi abruptly looked up, and she turned even paler and froze at the sight of that, unable to move whatsoever.

Among the witnesses were Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma, both horrified as they slowly came to the realization of what they were hearing. They shared a glance with each other. At their age, it was not hard to guess what was happening upstairs even without looking!

Chapter 565

Cold Streak

Meanwhile upstairs, Yang Chen was savouring the full experience of that gorgeous body of An Xin. For the first time in a long time, he had forgotten to scout his surroundings. He never would've dreamt that the elder residents of the estate would be right below the balcony, not to mention the fact that Lin Ruoxi had returned early and was right there looking!

He was just so immersed in the act as he lifted the feeble An Xin of the bed over to the sliding door separating them and the balcony.

As a result, An Xin who was lying on the bed being ploughed at full force was now standing with her nude back facing Yang Chen with her front up against the glass door.

Her raw skin ground against the cold touch of morning glass as she felt the burning sensation of her man entering her. She felt like a lone raft in the centre of the ruthless ocean, tossing and turning at the mercy of the waves.

An Xin could not contain herself as she was engulfed in the moment. She panted and pleaded, but didn't want the excitement to stop.

Yang Chen instead felt taunted by her pleas as he thrust harder into her, over and over again. An Xin's expression contorted into orgasmic bliss. The sliding glass door shook and vibrated heavily, threatening to break anytime soon.

The sound of copulation from the couple, the moaning and panting, was clearly heard around the estate, particularly by the three that were downstairs. It sounded like thunder through the night sky!

Lin Ruoxi froze on the spot. She stared at Yang Chen's room on the second floor, her body gradually shuddered. Her legs went weak as she lost the ability to stand.

She only just recently relaxed her reservations for Yang Chen, only for it all to freeze up just to be smashed into smithereens with a sledgehammer!

Lin Ruoxi was dazed and disoriented; all she felt was her heart shattering into tiny pieces with each audible moan that came from above.

So that was how it was. He hurried back to Beijing with the excuse of 'dealing with An Xin's matters'... I guess I was right to not have asked, thought Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi promptly realised how silly it was for her to remain downstairs at her own home, especially after she had to leave a day earlier to return. How pointless and futile it all became.

She felt like her feelings were completely extinguished. There was nothing to mourn about. She was the only one feeling troubled about it anyway.

After that gut-wrenching pain she felt, she barely stopped herself from passing out. Numbed, she started to enter into an emotionless trance.

After witnessing first hand her actions that had resulted into the exact consequences that she had been worrying about, Guo Xuehua turned away from her daughter-in-law in shame, unable to look her in the eyes. *It was my fault to allow An Xin to stay, even more so to keep her in Yang Chen's room!*

This rascal did it at the worst time possible. How weak is his restraint?!

Wang Ma was gutted as she gazed at her lady, pale as a ghost. She felt like needles were piercing her heart. She only wished she could bear the pain Lin Ruoxi felt!

It was the first time Wang Ma deeply resented Yang Chen with such hatred. That young master who had once appeared to be rather respectable, was now deeply appalling in her eyes.

The noises never seemed to end.

Guo Xuehua felt that this might take a turn for the worse, so she took a deep breath and broke the ice. "Ruoxi, I think..."

"Mom." Lin Ruoxi in the absence of any emotion, cut her short. "I just found out I have some urgent matters to deal with at the company. I won't be having breakfast."

Upon finishing, Lin Ruoxi grabbed her bag from Wang Ma's grasp and sped for the garage straight away.

Guo Xuehua had her words left by her throat, unable to finish saying what she knew was futile.

Lin Ruoxi looked as if none of that had happened as she quietly drove her Bentley out of the garage. She waved goodbye and slowly pulled away from the estate.

Guo Xuehua stared up at the blue skies that had cleared up from a full night of rain, but deep down in her heart, it was still as gloomy as it was yesterday.

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At a hilly area near the old part of Beijing stood an old, spacious courtyard. From the outside it alluded the vibe of antiquity, but due to continuous preservation, the elegance and artistry stood the test of time.

Right in the centre of it all was a study room. Rows of seemingly never-ending books decked the shelves.

An old gentleman with dyed black hair sat at the study table, wearing an old army coat. In his hands was a photograph. He had lost track of the time as he stared and stared at the photo.

The light flickered on the old gentleman, illuminating his creased and wrinkled face along with the yellowing photo.

In the photo was a relatively younger man, holding a preschooler that was clearly enjoying his presence as a cheerful young woman watched from the side.

Knocks were heard on the door.

"Come in," the old man said as he responsively hid the photo into one of the drawers of the desk. His expression turned grim.

A middle-aged man in a white suit stood by the door as it was opened, his face equally grim and solemn. He walked into the study and bowed to the old man in respect. "Father, I have had a talk with my sister and brother-in-law."

"How is your sister?"

The younger man held his fists tight and said, "Losing a son was devastating to her. She passed out immediately after, and when she woke up she was screaming and weeping real bad, and demanded to

see you, Father. I told Brother-In-Law to calm down, everything isn't as it seems. I believe they shouldn't be involved in looking deeper into this or in seeking revenge, or it might lead to greater danger."

The older man nodded, and said "Yunpeng, how do you see this incident?"

"I'm not too sure, Father. On the surface it is clear that Yang Chen from the Yang clan is the one who got him assassinated, but then again it would be foolish to think that the Yangs would allow Yang Chen to do whatever he pleases. But... the evidence is against Yang Chen as there were no signs of third party involvement."

The old gentleman winced as he sighed. "Yang Gongming is a noble and trustworthy man. Throughout the many years that we have worked together I have yet to see him succumb to such low and pitiful ways.

"Regardless of whether his grandson did it, if no one from the Yang clan comes out to claim responsibility, I will take the stand that it was probably not the Yang kid that did it."

A strong sense of gloom engulfed Li Yunpeng's face. "If it wasn't him, then who? Maybe they have a bone to pick with our clan? Or could it be that it was a set up for us to believe that the Yangs were involved to cause a misunderstanding?"

Li Moshen humphed, but his sharp eyes glowed. "Whatever the reason is, the culprit must be very confident in his abilities. Yang Chen's true identity and background was kept secret from most of the world, and in Beijing, almost no one knows who he even is. Among the 4 great clans, we are known for gathering intel and insights down to the very specifics, but excluding us, only the Yang clan with their extraordinary skills and informants can get information anywhere close to that. Even the Nings with their stroke of luck would only have scratched the surface, not to mention the Tang clan!"

"Someone in the shadows are plotting to pit our clans against each other. They must be counting on us to stir up something huge."

Li Yunpeng carefully filtered through the possibilities and made a smart guess. "Could it be the Cai clan? Cai Yuncheng has now become the general of the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade. He knows all there is to know. But that doesn't sound right, because he seems to be quite well connected to Yang Chen. There is no clear motivation for him to act. Moreover as the general of Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, it would be in his best interests to keep a low profile, unless he didn't learn anything from the experiences of his predecessor, Lin Zhiguo, who was brought away by Hongmeng secretly."

Upon hearing the name of Lin Zhiguo, Li Moshen's eyelids twitched. "It doesn't make much sense for Cai Yuncheng to do it, but someone might be utilising the might of Hongmeng to their advantage. With the ability to single-handedly dethrone the general of Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, there's no reason for them not to go after someone else. Apart from the two of us, I can count with my hands the number of people that are capable of knowing this well-kept secret, but who might that be that knows about Hongmeng's existence in China?"

Li Yunpeng frowned in deep anxiety, unable to identify the wirepuller behind the scenes.

Under dim lights, Li Moshen closed his eyes and thought for a moment. "Where was Li Dun when all of this happened?"

Upon hearing the mention of his son, Li Yunpeng hastily answered, "The boy is currently deployed in Vietnam on a mission to take down several escaped prisoners. He should be back in a few days."

"Do tell him about the incident regarding his cousin brother in case he starts getting sensitive about it," Li Moshen continued, "Get the car ready, I'm going to Yangs'."

"The Yang clan estate?" Li Yunpeng was caught off guard, unable to comprehend his father's intentions.

Li Moshen demanded, "Do as you're told. I am going to have a drink with your Uncle Yang, do not delay."

Li Yun Peng promptly did as he was told, but he questioned the intentions of his father in his mind. *His grandson could have been murdered by someone from the Yang clan. How could he still have the tenacity to drink tea with them?*

... ..

Though a huge commotion was going on in Beijing, Yang Chen didn't notice anything in Zhonghai. The identity of the culprit behind the murder of Lu Min was not of importance to him.

After his intense session with An Xin for a little more than half an hour, he suddenly remembered that the two elders were waiting downstairs for him for a meal.

The pair dressed up as they went downstairs side by side. Upon arriving at the dining table, however, they noticed that the two elders were visibly in a horrendous mood.

Yang Chen was troubled. He recalled that they were still pretty jolly a while ago. Why it took such a quick turn baffled him. It was almost as if someone broke into the house. Heck, they did not even notice the two come down.

"Mother, what's going on?" Yang Chen approached his mother and as he asked with curiosity, with An Xin following along.

Guo Xuehua did not even lift a muscle as she mumbled, "Ruoxi came by a while ago."

"Ruoxi? Isn't she still in Europe?" Yang Chen searched his memories. He did remember hearing a car leaving the house, but he was too deep in pleasure to notice.

Something came into An Xin's mind as her face turned pale. A thousand emotions flashed through her pupils like lightning as she held onto her sleeve tightly.

"She mentioned that work in Europe ended early, so she rescheduled to come back earlier. She wanted to have breakfast before she left for work, but left early because something came up," Guo Xuehua emotionlessly replied.

Yang Chen glanced over at both Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma's expressions. It was the first time he had ever seen their patience pushed to the limits, as if it was going to explode any minute.

Which consequently led to this eventual realisation.

Yang Chen instantly got so pissed at himself. He even told Lin Ruoxi in Paris that he had to assist An Xin with some matters, yet she returned home only to realise they were making out in her house first thing in the morning!

That was something even Yang Chen was unforgivable! Regardless of what the reason was that had led to An Xin staying the night in his room, for them to commit such treachery in broad daylight was a brutal encounter to Lin Ruoxi.

What once felt like frustration and bottled anger towards the thought of Lin Ruoxi had become the explosion of guilt he felt in himself right now, which frustrated him even more. *Should I apologise to her? But it might turn out worse...*

Right this moment, An Xin at the back timidly whispered, "I... should go now. Aunt, Wang Ma... I'm so sorry!"

An Xin gutted in her belly after she grasped the situation, and was trying to find a way to excuse herself from the estate, especially from the stone-cold looks of Guo Xuehua made her wish she was hiding in a rabbit hole.

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma understandably had no intention to keep her around any longer. Them keeping their thoughts to themselves was already a great sign of restraint.

"I'll... You should call someone to pick you up. Take care." Yang Chen initially wanted to send her off but abruptly withdrew that thought, given that his two elders were in no condition to bear any more provocation.

An Xin panickedly nodded as she hastily sprinted to the door in no time.

After she left, Yang Chen stood rooted in that spot, reevaluating his life choices, before turning back to the dining table and started churning down breakfast.

Wang Ma eventually lost her patience as she witnessed Yang Chen's carefree expression. "Young Master, do you really not feel anything at all?"

Yang Chen gulped down the food in his mouth, and sighed. "Anxious? There's no point for that now. I'll go over to the company after this to meet Ruoxi and will explain the entire incident from start to finish... There really is nothing else I can do now."

Guo Xuehua shook her head and said, "Now that you've come this far, there's nothing more you can say."

"At least I can be honest about it." He grinned in a self-mocking manner. He might have told Lin Ruoxi a long time ago that he would not give up on his other girls, but since then, their relationship was still intact.

He could not pinpoint the exact moment Lin Ruoxi started accepting the man that he was but he knew the only way he could possibly have a chance of coaxing the storm was to be honest with her.

Even if Lin Ruoxi did not witness this today, some other day in the future she might eventually stumble upon him getting intimate with other women anyway.

It was his ironclad principle that he would never allow his lovers to be sidelined in their relationships. It was unfair for him to treat the women that loved him differently.

Therefore how this ends would all be on the hands of Lin Ruoxi. He had no regrets.

He swiped the table of food clean with nothing left to spare. He ate so much like a hungry demon that didn't look like he was bothered in the slightest bit.

Once he was done eating, he stood up, bade farewell to the two elders and marched out of the estate.

Chapter 566

A Story to Trick a Child

Within the Yang clan's military district courtyard in Beijing, Yang Gongming was clothed in his usual gray robe, with his pair of secateurs, trimming overgrown branches in his garden. His vision is not what it used to be, making this seemingly simple task more difficult each day.

Not too far away at the stone table was Li Moshen, removing his coat in a calm and collected manner, revealing his striped shirt, as he patiently waited for his old friend to finish with his routine bonsai capistry. He silently watched with his tea cup in one hand, waiting to speak. After all, matters like these couldn't be rushed.

Right by the courtyard stood Yan Sanniang, who was silently giggling to herself as she watched the two gentlemen. Nobody could tell what she was so happy about.

After about 15 minutes later, Yang Gongming finally decided that his boxwood tree was good to go; it was trimmed into a satisfyingly smooth circle. He then decided to stroll to the stone garden table, put his secateurs down, and sat right across Li Moshen.

He took a sip of the warm tea and slowly let out a long sigh, as if he had just finished a hard day's work. In contrast, his face was bright and proud, as he casually took multiple looks at his boxwood plant and grinned contentedly. "These plants you see, don't think it's pointless to trim them every once in awhile. It might not seem to have changed much, but once u trim them you notice how big of a difference it is, haha!"

Yang Gongming sounded like he was talking to himself. He was extremely pleased with his gardening skills, but Li Moshen quickly took the conversation over. "Well I don't have as much patience and tenacity to deal with my plants, I get the servants to handle it for me. But I do agree that these plants should be trimmed regularly. It's just that I never had the will to do it myself. If one of them really bugs me I might just uproot it."

"Oh no, don't do that," Yang Gongming reactively shook his hands and said, "For a tree to grow to a stage where they can be trimmed is not easy, if you cut off a branch, there's still the trunk; if you chop off the trunk, there's still the roots. And maybe even the roots are connected to other trees, and they might grow into a plethora of saplings. You never know what blessings could come from just one tree. If it someone is willing to care for it and maintain it, a little hard work might just be worth it."

Li Moshen took a sip of tea, which led to a satisfied smile of his face, as he said, "Yang, your tea really is remarkably rich."

“Haha, Li, my old friend, if you really like it you can bring some of it back. These tea leaves aren’t of any famous or expensive brands, they were just harvested and roasted from some of the tea trees back at my old garden. I have been living quite the frugal lifestyle all these years. If you really want me to savour those good tea that costs a few thousand bucks for a couple grams I might even complain about it tasting too exquisite!” Yang Gongming shook his head and said.

Li Moshen joyously agreed. “Well the frugal life suits us better, at this age, who knows how long more we can savour exquisite food? I’m afraid my old guts might not be able to take it. How about I get Yunpeng to bring over some pickled vegetables in return for your homegrown tea?”

“You old bag, I’ll take it! But don’t let me catch you tricking me by buying fermented vegetables from a store!”

“I would never pull a trick that doesn’t look believable.” Li Moshen gave him an earnest look.

Just like that the two elders started talking about their homes, their gardens; just like any other old friends that hadn’t met one another in a long while. If one delved into their conversation one might even think they were going senile!

As for the incident where Lu Min was murdered and Yang Chen’s pursuit, they weren’t mentioned the slightest bit.

Over at Zhonghai’s Yu Lei headquarters, cars filled the streets as people rushed to their work in the morning.

Ever since Yu Lei International’s successful production of an ultra-modern material, profits quadrupled, and the company’s stock came back from its imminent death twice, lifting the company to new heights.

Back then during an all-out stock market war, Yu Lei International tossed out a value of 50 billion in cash, turning the tides to their favour, proving even the harshest of critics wrong about what they initially deemed a structurally unstable company.

Present day Yu Lei International boasted a remarkably high number of fresh graduate applicants all fighting to secure a spot for their futures there; even high-level execs from their competitors had expressed their interests in jumping ship. This phenomenon boosted the ego of Yu Lei employees, who boasted about their employment there.

And naturally, as their leader, Lin Ruoxi was a target of high praise and adoration, becoming a charismatic spiritual leader of sorts to all her subordinates. Lin Ruoxi’s fanclub, Washing Powder, grew by the second, even possibly rivaling those of China’s idols.

[TL note: Wash (洗) sounds similar to xi(溪) in Ruoxi.]

Yu Lei Entertainment had many exciting and even ridiculous plans to shape Lin Ruoxi into a celebrity, capitalizing on the success and fame that she possessed.

Obviously they were all just ideas and plans with no results. After all, who would have the guts to market the person in charge of the company as a product?

Amidst the success, Yang Chen as the director of Yu Lei Entertainment naturally knew more or less about the situation. But in his mind, it didn’t matter in the slightest. After all, he didn’t think massive profits

had hardly any effect on his wife's happiness. Instead, their relationship, a far more important issue, was at its breaking point.

After driving all the way from home, Yang Chen took the elevator straight to the top floor to the CEO office.

Right off the elevator stood the CEO's aide, Wu Yue, wearing a black one-piece tube skirt. She appeared to have been waiting on someone.

Back when Yang Chen exposed her relationship with Li Minghe, she came to hate him more secretly, because she had always thought it was a well-kept secret. Little did she know Lin Ruoxi had found out for a while now, but stayed silent for the sake of her reputation.

Upon identifying Yang Chen, Wu Yue's gaze turned cold and she stiffly blurted, "Boss Lin has been waiting for you. Go in."

Yang Chen was genuinely surprised to hear that because he assumed she was there to stop him. Moreover, Wu Yue was waiting there just to let him in!

"Ruoxi wants me to enter?" Yang Chen hesitated and repeated for confirmation.

Wu Yue was visibly aggravated. "Do you see a different Yang Chen here? The boss has said that the only person that she was willing to meet this morning was you, which is why I'm standing right here."

Yang Chen got even more confused. *What is she having in mind? Isn't she mad at me? Why would she be waiting for me all this while?*

However, he was used to her tangled and complicated thoughts that didn't match to her stoic facial expressions. It was only expected for him to be confused at her intentions.

Yang Chen tried to gather his thoughts as he strolled to the entrance of the CEO's office and knocked.

"Come in."

Lin Ruoxi's voice sounded crisp and attractive like usual, with no hint of anger or turmoil. Her mood was once again impossible to guess.

The calmness he was experiencing at the moment was nothing like the scenario he predicted, and it unnerved him greatly.

But now that he had made it here, there was no more time to retreat and rework his approach, so with his thick skin he cautiously pushed the door open, and proceeded into the huge office suite.

The office didn't change at all. It was clean and tidy, spacious and elegant; aside from the decorative potted plants, nothing changed.

Lin Ruoxi wore a beige British fall coat as she stood by her desk with both hands on its surface, looking right at some massive blueprints on it.

Yang Chen closed the door behind him and walked towards her, noticing the blueprint that she was concentrating on was for a building instead of clothes as he initially expected.

There was stale awkwardness in the air which prompted Yang Chen to fake a cough. He glanced right at Lin Ruoxi. "My dear wife, Wu Yue said you were waiting for me."

Lin Ruoxi evaded his question and pointed at the blueprint and monotonously asked, "What do you think of the designs?"

"Huh?" Yang Chen frustratedly moved closer to it, and he attentively focused on the blueprints. There were easily more than 3 of them there, which were either estate buildings or some new structures that were several stories high.

These architectural designs fused both eastern dimensions with western aspects, like round pillars and edged roofs, exuding an overtone of craftsmanship and sophistication. It was clearly not just any random architects design.

The buildings were probably large scale resorts. They seemed ultra-modern and innovative, but it would be hard pressed to complete without an early investment of more than a billion.

"Well, it is pretty good... but why are you looking at these?" Yang Chen was deeply anxious. He couldn't care less about these blueprints at the moment, all he ever wanted right now was to organize his thoughts and put them into words. Whether it worked or not, he was only here for her forgiveness!

Lin Ruoxi however, was keen to clear the air. "Good? That's too general, you have to be more specific."

Yang Chen's mouth twitched. *Why am I here talking about work reports? Wasn't I called in to discuss our family matters?*

"Well, who am I to say if it's good or not? All I know is that it would cost a lot, and if you spend enough, it might turn out quite well." Yang Chen hastily batted his way through.

Lin Ruoxi lifted her head, slightly disheartened and said, "What kind of logic is that? If it's as you say, I might as well just cancel the project, to save up for a future, more expensive project, no?"

Yang Chen felt rather troubled. *Is this woman really going to argue with me about building projects? Well screw it, I can't hold it in anymore. If it goes on like this I might actually forget what I came here for!*

He went straight to the point and said, "Ruoxi, I understand you must not be feeling good right now, that's why we should stop beating around the bush and talk. I know you might not believe me anymore, but I just want to say that the things you witnessed this morning was not exactly like what you think it was. I know I'm at the wrong too but I actually just arrived at home, before that—"

Before he could finish Lin Ruoxi cut him off right then. She shook her head slightly and sighed. "You don't need to explain anything, I wouldn't have come all the way back to Zhonghai just for that little act. You wouldn't lie to me about that."

Yang Chen was genuinely surprised—she was not as narrow-minded as he had expected. But if that was the case, why did she furiously leave the house and come to the company?

Lin Ruoxi could not give a damn about what Yang Chen felt as she walked over to the window and stared out into the distance. She saw cramped skyscrapers fighting for their parts in the sky, and tiny roads the size of her fingernails down below. She went silent for a moment, and calmly proceeded, "Originally I

that was all that I had to say so there was no need to continue, but now it seems that even if I don't want to hear it, you're going to say it anyway. So I guess I'll go first then."

Lin Ruoxi appeared light and breezy from behind. Her words hinted at dismay, but it was more of the tranquility that came after the storm.

"Yang Chen, do you still remember that one time when Yang Lie first came over to our place and what you did back then? Yang Lie angered you and you beat him up, which led to that Daoist master coming over alongside Cai Ning to beg for his life on behalf of him? Eventually, Yuan Ye had to stand up for him and admitted that Yang Lie was his cousin only for you to spare his life.

"When I found out Hui Lin was a part of the Lin clan, my mood really took a toll and I didn't think about it much. But after that I had been thinking, Yang Lie and the Daoist master weren't ordinary people, but they couldn't even compare to you and you really showed everyone that day how great you are. I can even say that it was the first time I felt such a shock when I found out about the big gap between me and you.

"And that day when Yuan Ye recognised Yang Lie as his cousin, all of a sudden you let him go. I suppose at that point I could guess your true identity. But seeing how you weren't too eager to accept that, I decided to keep it to myself."

As Lin Ruoxi narrated, Yang Chen was amazed again and again. She always seemed like she cared about almost nothing, but the things she kept to herself were truly remarkable.

"However I plotted against them and decimated both Changlin Media and the Xu clan's businesses in the process and got embroiled in a revenge plot by Zeng Xinlin and Xu Zhihong. You might be thinking: 'why's a soft little girl doing business with such intensity and ruthlessness, and is even willing to place her own life in harm's way?' I declined to recognize Lin Zhiguo as my grandfather, but I knew either way he would never have left me alone if I were to get in trouble. I wasn't too sure what Lin Zhiguo was capable of, but if he was strong enough to protect my grandmother, he definitely could defend me. And that's why I used him as my pawn. But after I wrecked both the Zheng and Xu clans' businesses, he didn't stand up for me, but you did. That's when I thought that you must be tied to Lin Zhiguo's faction somehow. Maybe he sent you to protect me. Either way, it didn't matter to me as long as someone was there to deal with my obstacles."

At that point, Lin Ruoxi turned and faced the genuinely amazed Yang Chen and gave a gentle smile.

"Yang Chen, do you recall what I said to clear your head when you killed Zeng Xinlin and Xu Zhihong?"

"Yes, I do." Yang Chen stoically answered, "You said, we were both poisonous scorpions. Only we can destroy ourselves."

"Yeah." Lin Ruoxi subconsciously moved her shoulders, like she was trying to hold in a giggle. "Yang Chen, you're an idiot, you know that? All I told was a story to trick a child. I didn't think you'd believe it too.

"Yang Chen, you think someone like me who has never seen a dead person her entire life would readily accept a man who literally crushed a human's brain into must, right in front of my eyes?"

Chapter 567

Tell Me You Love Me

Listening to Lin Ruoxi's words, Yang Chen's face darkened with his fists clenched.

Lin Ruoxi did not look at Yang Chen's face. She turned around and said in a cold tone, "I lied to you. I was extremely afraid when I realized you killed. How I wish you would just leave and take this incessant killing with you!"

"Do you know how horrible you are, you are like a murderous demon, with a body full of blood, and I feel like one day it will be me on the other side of your hand!"

Lin Ruoxi's voice shook a little, before she took a deep breath.

"But I can't let you go. If you are not with me, then who will protect me? If there are any other clans that are going to harm me, there is no one around me and they take advantage of it, will I not die in vain then? I still have such a big company to manage, there's way too much unfinished businesses," Lin Ruoxi said, "So, I thought about the story of a 'poisonous scorpion'. We are both poisonous, so you will not be affected by me, and I will not be afraid of you either.

"In this case, you can stay and protect me again. Although I'm scared, at the very least, with you here, I don't have to be. However, you still do foolish things after that. You asked to end our marriage contract early and divorce me right after that.

"I felt lost at the time. If we ended our marriage early, then I would be back to single. Men would come surrounding me like smelly flies once more. Moreover, if you are not with me, I may not be able to refuse if Lin Zhiguo forces me to do anything. To me, you are still very important, how could I let go of you? Especially if you have so many mysterious mysteries that have not been solved?"

"Quiet! Lin Ruoxi, that's enough!" Yang Chen felt that his blood was spilling and pumping all over his body. The woman's words were as sharp as a knife, stabbing into his heart, as if he couldn't take a breathe anymore.

Lin Ruoxi didn't seem like she was going to. She burst into laughter and continued, "Enough? I'm going to say everything today. Why, can't you stand it? Can't you stand how vicious I am?"

"Didn't you already know it back then? Since that time I designed to topple both Changlin Media and Donghua Technology, I sent you and Qianni to Hong Kong in order to make my plan flawless. Weren't you in the car that day, when I put Qianni in danger? In fact, you should be able to realise that I am an unscrupulous woman, don't you?"

"Oh, yes, and one more thing. I went to the base factory for inspection and I really miscalculated. I didn't expect them to be so daring, but because you were with me, I took my chances for dinner with them. Finally, I met the idiots who wanted to harm me, but eventually they failed because of your existence.

"When we returned to Zhonghai by car, you comforted me, and said that I could do this to help more ordinary families. In fact, we were doing great deeds..."

Lin Ruoxi looked down and smiled exasperatedly. She then shook her head and sighed, "I am not afraid to tell you now, in fact, the factory owner was more right than you could imagine. I did make the

government and the banks pressure his family. I did all that to acquire them. I lied to you because you were there, and told you that it had nothing to do with me... Actually, it was all part of my schemes.

“Do you remember? I’ve told you that I’m a businesswoman and as long as it’s not against the law, I won’t get arrested, and there will be profit, I’m willing to do it, no matter how vicious and ruthless. I will still do it that way. Compared to that... lying to you was much simpler for me.”

Yang Chen’s face sank. He suddenly felt that the woman in front of him was ever so foreign.

Lin Ruoxi had yet to finish. “After inspecting the factory, we went to Zhonghai for dinner and you started telling me a lot about your shortcomings, making yourself sound like a mess.

“I already guessed that you were trying to make a point, but I just wasn’t sure what you were trying to say, I was so nervous at the time. What I was most afraid of was that you would leave me all of a sudden. I am used to having you solve my problems. Things will go back to being hard for me if you decided to leave.

“Fortunately, I shed a few tears and that was all it took for you to tell everyone in public that you liked me.

“Haha, don’t you know how stupid you are? if you said you want to break up with me and divorce me, I have no way to stop you. I know that your identity is definitely significant. You aren’t the hawker I thought you were at first, so I can’t do anything about it.

“But, you told me that you like me, someone who used you, and lied to you...”

“Shut up!!!”

Yang Chen interrupted Lin Ruoxi in a low tone of voice. The look on his face was terrible, “Lin Ruoxi, do you know what you are saying?”

Lin Ruoxi turned around and gave a look at Yang Chen’s ferocious face without fear. “I most definitely do. It is nothing but the truth after all. Since we’re at this point already, I don’t have to hide anything from you anymore. Since us parting was a matter of time anyway, letting a stupid man like you know how you’ve been used is much better. You can finally end your adoration for me.”

“Stupid... humph.” Yang Chen walk towards Lin Ruoxi and sneered.

Lin Ruoxi did not look away in the slightest. She was emotionless and didn’t seem to budge.

Whap!

A loud slap on the face!

Yang Chen smacked Lin Ruoxi on her left cheek!

Lin Ruoxi only felt a little dizzy. She then subconsciously reached out and grabbed her left cheek which was pulsing with pain. She quickly realized that Yang Chen really slapped her!

“You... hit me...”

Lin Ruoxi was flabbergasted.

Yang Chen sneered and said, "This is the price for lying to me. Vicious women like you should be hit."

Lin Ruoxi teared up and smiled awkwardly. "Yes... you should hit me. You did right."

Smack!

Another slap on the face on her right cheek this time!

Lin Ruoxi was shoved by the force of the slap to the table, barely being able to support her body. But she managed to not fall down and grab her reddened right cheek. She suddenly looked up and asked, "How many slaps must I endure before my payment is made? Better for you to finish it one shot, or kill me if you have to."

Yang Chen leaned forward and approached her. His hands clasped Lin Ruoxi's body under his. The two were less than an inch from each other. The whole situation would have been considered intimate if not for the reason they were in that position in the first place.

"Say it." Yang Chen coldly stared at the woman who's leaning against the table.

"Say what?" Lin Ruoxi replied with the same tone.

"Say you love me," Yang Chen said.

"Why should I?" Lin Ruoxi's tears were glimmering.

"Because I already said that I like you," said Yang Chen, strong-willed.

Lin Ruoxi froze for a second and shook her head. "I don't like you."

Slap!

Another slap, now on Lin Ruoxi's left cheek again!

"Say it, tell me you love me," Yang Chen demanded mechanically.

Lin Ruoxi was like a female leopard that intended to resist, but couldn't move because of the male lion on top of her. She could only grit her teeth and pretend that she heard nothing.

Smack!

Yet another slap; Lin Ruoxi was dazed now!*What else does he want from me?!*

"Say you adore me, I'll keep slapping you if you don't." Yang Chen, as if he was possessed by a demon, stared into the woman's eyes.

Lin Ruoxi finally couldn't resist tearing up. Two streaks of tears rolled down her face and she couldn't control it. She was like a helpless, bullied child, but no one would help her, because the only person who would help her in her time of need, was mercilessly slapping her.

"You... you bastard, even if you beat me till I die, I will not say it!" exclaimed Lin Ruoxi in a sobbing tone.

Yang Chen's expression shifted before he finally moved away from Lin Ruoxi.

She thought that he was letting her go. But all of a sudden, Yang Chen picked up a platinum-tipped pen from his desk.

Realizing there was something wrong, Lin Ruoxi ignored the pain on her face and asked, "What are you going to do?"

Yang Chen glanced at the woman and laughed. "Since you won't tell me you like me even if I beat you to death, I can't get away with hitting you and not paying for my mistake. I have to sacrifice something too."

As he said that, Yang Chen plunged the ball pen into his heart!

Crunch!

The ball pen was shoved into his chest!

Lin Ruoxi was instantly stunned. Her tears could no longer fall. Only grief was visible in her eyes!

"Are you crazy?!" Lin Ruoxi exclaimed, and approached. She grabbed Yang Chen's arm and saw Yang Chen's chest, the blood flowing down from the pen made her feel like the sky was spinning again!

"You... why did you do something so stupid?" Lin Ruoxi cared not for her reputation. Her face was red and she sobbed nonstop.

Yang Chen looked extremely tired. He had been heavily wounded and felt incredibly weak. "I like you, but I hit you. How can I forgive myself if I don't endure myself the ultimate punishment?"

"Who said that I don't like you!?" Lin Ruoxi suddenly yelled, "Bastard! Stupid! Idiot! Yang Chen, you rogue! I like you! I like you I like you! You... why are you so stupid..."

Yang Chen gasped hard and smiled bitterly. "Are you only comforting me out of sympathy? Is it because I am dying?"

Lin Ruoxi shook her head desperately. Her crying made it difficult for her to speak. "It's... It was all my fault... I just want to anger you... It hurts... My heart hurts... I really like you... Yang Chen don't let anything happen to yourself... Look at all your blood..."

"Why do you like me... Am I not someone who is so stupid I fall for your tricks all the time? And... I'm always not serious..." Yang Chen said with all his remaining strength as his lips paled.

"I like you! I really do! I really don't know why but I really like you!" Lin Ruoxi was going insane. He was already in such a state, yet he was still talking about something like that.

Suddenly, Yang Chen smiled creepily, as if he found a million dollars on the road.

Seeing Yang Chen look fine all of a sudden, Lin Ruoxi finally realized that she seemed to have been tricked!

"Hey, you don't know why you like me, but isn't that precisely what true love is? Oh, my good wife, you really like your husband so much, don't you? Hahahaha, is stabbing myself once was all it took, it was really worth it! Haha..."

“You... you fraud! You lied to me!” Lin Ruoxi was both happy and angry. She suddenly realized that Yang Chen was not an ordinary person. How could he just die so easily? She was scared by him and immediately worried about everything, and lost her cool completely. She didn’t know what to do now. Her cheeks turned into two red puffs upon thinking of the cheesy words she just spilled.

Yang Chen didn’t really care about it and pulled the pen out of his own chest. Although it was covered in blood, only his muscles were harmed. Even though Yang Chen rarely exercised, his strong physical attributes healed the wounds almost instantly.

With a smile, he held her soft body in his arms and smothered her rosy lips with kisses, covering her face with saliva.

Lin Ruoxi nearly fainted. The man was like a roller coaster. At this moment, he played with her like a doll, hugging her tightly with his lips engaging hers.

“Babe Ruoxi, what you said just now almost broke my heart. Now we’re even. I got mad with you, and hurt me thoroughly too. Despite lying to me and using me, we put it all behind us today. Just take it as your lovely husband stupidly wanted to be used by you.

“But as for you, dear little Ruoxi, a glutinous-rice-ball-loving Korean drama and Hello Kitty fanatic, how can I believe how cruel you make yourself out to be?” Yang Chen squinted and said.

Lin Ruoxi pouted and realized that he never trusted her words from the beginning. He was just waiting for her trip herself up.

Yang Chen looked at the angry and dissatisfied woman and found her to be quite cute as he stroked Lin Ruoxi’s lovely cheeks.

Lin Ruoxi subconsciously felt that Yang Chen was about to hit her again and shrunk back.

The cold, iceberg-like CEO that other people saw on weekdays, was now hiding like a timid and terrified kitten.

The woman was ever so gentle after her cold front was torn off.

Yang Chen felt a tinge of pity, and said, “Silly, I was just trying to snap you out of it. Don’t say those silly words. I’ll channel some internal energy to remove the slap marks on your face. Otherwise, how could you show your face to the others?”

“Ah...” Lin Ruoxi said. She lowered her head and let Yang Chen put his hand on her cheeks, feeling the warmth coming from them.

After a while, the redness on the cheeks disappeared and her skin turned fair once more.

Feeling Yang Chen’s mysterious ability up close, Lin Ruoxi felt more perplexed than surprised. Looking at Yang Chen’s face, she appeared rather fascinated.

Yang Chen carefully checked whether there was any part on her face where her blood didn’t circulate well, only to see Lin Ruoxi’s big round eyes staring back at himself. Shocked, he smiled. “Wifey, look at the neediness in your eyes. I see that you want to improve your relationship with your husband, right?”

Chapter 568

Promise Me One Thing

After hearing Yang Chen's disgusting attempt at flirting, Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes and kept her thoughts about how amazed she was at his ability to herself.

Even if he had great abilities, he would still think about 'those things' after all, like other men do.

When Yang Chen realized Lin Ruoxi was ignoring him, he stopped talking. Looking at Lin Ruoxi's beautiful, restored face made him nod with satisfaction. He helped comb her messy hair back to her pinkish ears. He sighed and said, "Although we fight, the important thing is that we make up. Just tell me if you are uncomfortable. Don't always be so stubborn. There's no point for you to suffer badly for the sake of pride."

"It's none of your business." Yang Chen's comments hit the mark and made her feel embarrassed, but she immediately thought of something and asked, "Oh, you haven't told me yet. What's up with you coming back to Zhonghai for that foxy An Xin? I need an honest explanation!"

"Didn't you just say that you didn't care for an explanation?" As Yang Chen wondered, he felt a little funny. An Xin was probably driving Lin Ruoxi crazy to the point she started calling her a fox.

"That was just now! How dare you be so fierce to me? I want to know about it now that there's so much sharing going around!"

Looking at the formerly foolish woman act so forthcomingly, Yang Chen thought he was hallucinating. He couldn't believe how fast the woman changed her expression. She 'flipped' her face faster than one would flip a page of a book!

However, what had to be said should be said. Yang Chen told her about An Xin and Lu Min's coercion. As for Yan Sanniang's incident, he chose to omit it. It wasn't that he did not want to talk about it, he couldn't find the right words to phrase it. Moreover, if Lin Ruoxi knew that he was trying to comprehend some kind of mysterious 'Dao', she might think he's still fooling around.

After listening to Yang Chen's explanation, although Lin Ruoxi didn't see it with her own eyes, she could imagine the intensity of the situation. There was also a look of worry on her face. She said with a bit of resentment, "You did all this for An Xin?"

Yang Chen smiled and said, "Not only An Xin. If anyone dares to bully you, I will definitely do more than that."

"In other words, you will do the same to any other women out there, huh?" Lin Ruoxi stared at him coldly.

Yang Chen looked around, in silent acquiescence.

Lin Ruoxi bit her teeth and glared at Yang Chen. After a moment, she said, "Yang Chen, look at me."

"Ah?" Yang Chen was clueless of what Lin Ruoxi wanted to do.

"I said look at me. Look into my eyes," Lin Ruoxi said seriously.

Although Yang Chen didn't know what was with this woman, he didn't mind looking. After all, who could deny when a pretty woman asks you to stare into her eyes.

The two stared at each other and Lin Ruoxi's eyes shone like a mesmerizing lake, reflecting a moving and beautiful scene.

The next second, Lin Ruoxi smiled.

It was rare to see the cold woman smile. She was like a frozen, scrolled canvas, a sculpture, who only smiled rarely.

The sudden bloom at this moment was like a ray of light that melted the layer of frost over her heart, helping her stand out from the bleak world that she lived in. She looked like a refreshing hibiscus, an enchanting peony, dreamlike and charming to the point that Yang Chen, who had seen a lot of beautiful ladies, gasped in awe at her beauty.

If one didn't see it with their own eyes, one wouldn't believe how she could redefine the word beauty. Words could not be spoken of it as it would only dampen the true image of her beauty!

Seeing that Yang Chen was stunned, Lin Ruoxi was very satisfied, and there was a little smugness in her heart.

"I... am I beautiful?" Lin Ruoxi asked with her soft and elegant voice, like a young girl asking for praise.

Yang Chen gulped and looked dumbfounded, nodding blankly.

"Then compared to An Xin and Rose, who's the prettiest?" Lin Ruoxi smiled and asked.

"Of course it is you..." Yang Chen's heart began to beat wildly. His mind was full of thoughts that made him go mad. *This lady is seducing me on her own now! Have I finally found my dignity as a man in my wife after all this time? Will I finally not be alone at night anymore?!*

Lin Ruoxi bit her lip shyly, like a maiden in her youth, exuding charm.

"Really?" Lin Ruoxi whispered.

"Really, you are the most beautiful person I have ever seen. One and only..." Yang Chen answered very quickly without hesitation.

With both hands grabbing his pants, Yang Chen could not wait to begin. But he still resisted in case his impatience disappointed Lin Ruoxi and left him alone once more!

Lin Ruoxi saw Yang Chen's uneasiness from the corner of her eyes. She looked at his struggling hands and into his eyes, seeing the burning flame of strong desire within...

Enduring a trace of nervousness, Lin Ruoxi put her hands gently between them on Yang Chen's chest.

She looked up at Yang Chen's face and approached him until they could hear each other's heartbeat and feel each other's breath.

Her sparkling eyes was tearing up. Lin Ruoxi whispered with a soft sigh, "Do you... really want to... have me?"

I have seen seductive people, but never with this approach before!

Yang Chen was going crazy!

It's not about how good Lin Ruoxi's skills are. Compared to the other women that I've been with, she's far from skillful!

But her instincts... and her intelligence... She's looking for effective ways to seduce me!

It is precisely this awkwardness and purity that helps release the natural charm of a woman!

How many women could continue to put up such an innocent act? However, Lin Ruoxi who had no experience at all, managed to pull it off on a whole new level!

Do I really want it? Nonsense! Of course, yes! I have been waiting for this word for almost a year!

Yang Chen stopped caring and putting up airs. He suddenly opened his arms, and held tightly onto Lin Ruoxi soft, seemingly boneless body, panting heavily and filled with excitement. "Oh my dear wife! This is finally happening! My patience is at its end! Come, let us kiss each other first and proceed to the next step..."

"Wait!" Lin Ruoxi directly blocked Yang Chen's mouth and did not let Yang Chen plant the kiss.

"Hmm?" Yang Chen looked confused. *What's there to be shy about now that we're at this point?*

There was a glimpse of awkwardness in Lin Ruoxi's eyes. "I just asked if you really want it... but I didn't say you could have me..."

Yang Chen froze and felt like slapping Lin Ruoxi again for the second time. *Is she trying to drive me crazy!?*

"But then..."

"But what!?" Yang Chen asked, the brilliance once more visible in his eyes.

Lin Ruoxi pouted. "If you promise me something... I will... I will give you everything..."

Promise?? Yang Chen felt a burst of ecstasy! *I didn't know she could use this trick!*

"Haha, just one thing? I can promise a hundred things! Say it. I, your husband, am nothing but good at handling problems!"

Yang Chen was happy. He was not bragging, but if there was something he couldn't do, nobody else could either!

He had been dreaming of the beauty before him for the whole year. She was the woman that he desired. Was it finally time for him to have her?

Elated, she said, "I just want one thing. I do believe that it will not be difficult for you. There's no need to fight, kill, or spend any effort. It's very simple."

"Oh, say it! I will listen to you!" Yang Chen was anxious, his junior almost broke through his pants, yet she was still delaying.

Lin Ruoxi took a deep breath and donned a resolute expression.

“I want you to sever your relationships with other women!”

After the words were spoken, Yang Chen’s arms trembled. Then, his arms slowly slipped away from her.

The smile on Yang Chen’s face gradually disappeared. Instead, the face was dull and his eyes were empty.

Lin Ruoxi’s mind was very clear. “I knew and have always known that you were no ordinary person. But I didn’t bother to investigate. This time in Paris, although I am afraid, I managed to know you more, about your past, and your true identity. You are indeed on a different level from me. You are stronger than me, more powerful than me, richer than me. I used to think that you and I couldn’t come together, and even in terms of wealth, you still have me beat.

“However, if you expect that I would be willing to be one of your women because you feel that you are a powerful man, then you’re mistaken. I am not looking for this kind of relationship. Although I know that monopolizing a man like you alone will make me the hated target of many women, I don’t care. Love was created selfish!

“I don’t know how many women you have outside, but as far as I know, Rose, An Xin, Liu Mingyu, and my good sister Mo Qianni are among them. I don’t care how many other lovers you have, but if you want me to give you everything I have, you must first give up everything you have.”

Seeing the expression of Yang Chen’s face, Lin Ruoxi’s heart winced with pain. “I know that this is cruel and unfair to you. After all, when we got married, it was a contract marriage, and I did say that I will turn a blind eye to everything that you do behind my back. It’s my fault, so I don’t blame you for having so many women out there.

“But... After seeing you with other people so many times and seeing you this morning going at it with An Xin... I... I can’t accept it!”

Lin Ruoxi’s face turned cold again, and said abruptly, “I like you, Yang Chen, and for the rest of my life I will only like you. You let me experience things ordinary women couldn’t have in a few lifetimes. I can’t settle for any other men after you.

“However, this does not mean that I can accept sharing you with other people... I can’t stand it, I really can’t, even if I try, this is the bottom line that is deeply rooted in my bones.

“If you do part with them, I will make it up to you. I’ll treat you well, listen to you, no matter what ridiculous things you do and accompany you... But, everything you do must be with me and only me, your wife!”

The office was completely silent that even a falling needle could be heard.

This silence lasted for nearly ten minutes.

Yang Chen had no reaction on his face. He sneered and looked at Lin Ruoxi, who looked forward to his answer. He gently, but resolutely, shook his head...

"I'm sorry, I can't do it." Yang Chen said quietly, "In fact, you should have known it, right? When I said that I liked you, I also said that I cannot give up on those who love me as well. I am not a good person, but I must take responsibility for my actions."

Tears flowed out of Lin Ruoxi's dazzling eyes. Her body trembled. Biting her lower lip, she took a deep breath and nodded.

"You don't have to answer me so quickly. I promise you that within a year, I won't fall out with any of your lovers and I won't do anything to them. Take a year to think about it. Think about what you really want." Lin Ruoxi's voice returned extremely cold, as if the woman who smiled like a blooming flower was no longer there.

"One year?" Yang Chen asked in amazement, "Ruoxi, what if after a year, I still won't leave them? Will you leave me?"

Lin Ruoxi turned and walked back to her desk and said, "As long as you don't want to, I won't divorce you, even if I don't get the perfect marriage or love I really wanted. The family I have now is very much sufficient. As I said, I will not have contact with other men.

"If you choose them after one year, then I will put my mind on my career and family. I will do my best to take care of your family too. Of course, if they are still willing to let me be their daughter-in-law."

Yang Chen finally understood Lin Ruoxi's words, and didn't know how to respond.

Obviously, Lin Ruoxi was exerting pressure on him. She clearly told him that she would never fulfill her 'wife's obligation' as long as he did not sever the relationships with other women.

However, it only referred to their sexual life. She would still continue to perform and accept her family obligations.

In other words, she would be the daughter-in-law of the Yang family, but she would not be the woman of Yang Chen.

This kind of affectionate choice, was making Yang Chen out to be the bad guy.

Yang Chen could easily imagine if Guo Xuehua saw how well-behaved she was at home, but how badly her son was leading outside, it was not hard to imagine what the family would think of him.

"You are scheming against me, dear Ruoxi. You really are making this hard," Yang Chen painfully said.

Lin Ruoxi was looking through the architectural drawings on the table. She said clearly, "I'm not threatening you. It is still really up to you. Besides, I can't fight you anyway. I can't stop you if you want to force it on me... I'm just an ordinary weak woman. No matter my status, I am worth nothing in your eyes.

"If you have to come hard, then I am ready. I will be your heartless doll for you to play with to your heart's desire. You've saved my life many times in the time we knew each other anyway, so if you want to think of it as my repaying my debt, I can accept it."

Yang Chen's heart tingled. She was really harsh when it came to hurting people with words. *?A heartless doll? If I really force myself on her, aren't I worse than even the savage animals?!*

Furthermore, as her legal husband, if he chose to use his own strength to conquer his own wife, he would never be able to forgive himself from that act.

“Do you really have to be that harsh?” Yang Chen sighed and the excitement just now had totally disappeared.

“Do you remember that I was particularly cold to you back in Paris?” Lin Ruoxi looked up and smiled.

Yang Chen certainly remembered how depressed he felt when he went to the Louvre to say goodbye to her.

Lin Ruoxi said, “I wasn’t actually mad with you, although you once again used me as a bait, tricking me and not telling me in advance, it made me feel uncomfortable. But the reason why I treated you like that is because I came to the realization that the gap between us is far larger than I realized... From the time I first met you, I thought that my social status was much higher than yours. Now, it would seem like I can’t even hold a candle to your name...”

“I was hit very hard back then and felt very annoyed. Why did it take me so long to realize what kind of person you were? So I was angry with myself, and I felt upset whenever I saw you.

“But today I figured out one thing. Since the gap between my identity and yours is so big, I should work hard and constantly make myself stronger. So... in that sense, you’re indirectly providing me with the motivation to improve”

Yang Chen was stunned with realization. Lin Ruoxi was cold at that time because of realizing the perceived disparity between the two of them.

“What do you mean by this?” Yang Chen couldn’t connect the dots.

Lin Ruoxi stared at the drawings on the table and said, “I said this to tell you that my mind is very clear. If you can’t give up on the others for my sake, then I will choose to set my life on a different path. The drawings you see are the new travel resorts I plan to build this year, along with the department stores around the resort.

“The announcement of the new materials multiplied our yearly profit several times and the head of finance is being very generous. Star of Yu Lei also brought a measurable sum of profit into our books. I decided to build two new buildings in Zhonghai and expand the weak US and Eastern European branches of our company.

“By the way, I have to acquire small companies and small to medium-sized resorts and playgrounds, and build an integrated industrial chain. I intend to nurture my Yu Lei to help it become a world-class fashion-entertainment empire!”

Hearing Lin Ruoxi’s ambitions and world domination plan, Yang Chen did not doubt her capability one bit. *“Darn this woman! She’s straight-up telling me that if I don’t choose her as my only wife, she will soldier on alone for the rest of her life for her career!”*

Chapter 569

Mistresses Over Wife

After he left the president's office, Yang Chen felt light-headed.

Lin Ruoxi's stunt did really drive him insane!

This woman was sure that he wouldn't treat her harshly and destroy her career, so she gave him a choice he had to make.

Not only that, she even expressed her love for him more than once, more times than she ever had in the past year.

There was a saying that went, whoever confesses first is always on the short end of the relationship!

Obviously, I can't give up just like that! Where am I going to hide my face if I do?

Yang Chen felt like a dog that was chained up with a collar. No matter how hard he tried to take it off, he couldn't shrug off Lin Ruoxi's hold over him because her grip was just too tight!

"I can only imagine the troubles that the future may hold..." Yang Chen was down, but there was no one for him to vent at. He looked at the clock and saw that it was already noon. But he didn't bother to invite Lin Ruoxi for lunch. Not to mention, Lin Ruoxi was busy looking at the drawings for the expansion of her resort. She would definitely laugh at how pathetic he seemed.

After much thought, Yang Chen concluded that changing her mind was going to take some time and effort. He was quite troubled at the thought. Though he had so much talent in cultivation, he was helpless when dealing with relationship troubles. If he could transfer some of his other talents into this, he might have been able to subdue Lin Ruoxi long ago!

Shaking his head and sighing, Yang Chen went to the elevator. He didn't go home, but chose to go down one floor.

At floor below the CEO's office in the Yu Lei building, there were only a few offices. Among these, Mo Qianni and Li Minghe's offices were here. They were the both vice presidents.

Yang Chen decided that it was high time he visited his woman.

When he was in Paris, he received a call from Ma Guifang, his mother-in-law. Yang Chen went back to China and had a lot of things to deal with and had no time to take care of Ma Guifang's matter. He knew that he would have to meet her soon and treat her to a good meal. After all, he had already 'eaten' her precious daughter already, so it would be far too disrespectful of him not to meet with his elder!

He missed Mo Qianni, whom he hadn't met for more than a week. He was definitely more confident facing her than his cold-hearted wife.

He knocked onto Mo Qianni's door, wondering if she had gone for lunch.

Luckily, a familiar voice answered, "Come in."

Yang Chen was surprised. He turned the door handle, sneaked in, and locked the door from the inside.

Mo Qianni was looking through a proposal for a project when she jumped at the sound of the door being locked. She thought it was a robber. However, she glanced at him and saw that it was Yang Chen.

Her pair of dazzling eyes showed traces of doubt, followed by delightful surprise.

“Why are you here?” Mo Qianni stood up and asked joyfully, “Weren’t you only coming back the day after tomorrow?”

Yang Chen remained silent. He then walked up to Mo Qianni with an evil smile. He was amazed by how attractive Mo Qianni was under his good care.

Her skin was fair and smooth like a newborn baby’s. She was a lot more alluring than the alpha woman he’d just met.

She was wearing her casual office coat with a white lace blouse. The blouse was stretched tight around her chest. The knee-length skirt and her open-toe high heels were black in color too. Her fair, curvy legs were showing off their form.

Yang Chen sighed and circled her.

Mo Qianni blushed from his weird look. She pouted and asked, “What are you looking at? What’s wrong with me?”

“Little Qianqian, dress more casually at work,” Yang Chen said.

Mo Qianni looked at her attire with confusion. “Isn’t this casual? I intentionally chose clothes that are easy to match.”

“Not that kind of ‘casual’. Just... you look too seductive. I’ll be jealous if anyone else sees you like this.” Yang Chen shook his head as if he was hurting.

Mo Qianni giggled and bit her lips. “I’m going to keep dressing up like this since you so kindly mentioned it to me. So if you don’t want others to stare, keep an eye on me.”

Yang Chen squinted at her and hugged her tightly. “Mo Qianni, how is it possible for you to grow more beautiful each day?”

Mo Qianni blushed from his praise. However, it was a pretty sweet compliment. “Can’t you come up with something original? There are literally a million ways to compliment a woman and you chose the least romantic one.”

“I ain’t got no time for romantics.” Yang Chen was upset.

“What are you rushing for? Can’t you spare just a few minutes of your day for me?” Mo Qianni was unpleasant and looked at him with disdain.

Yang Chen grinned and stole a kiss on her cherry lips!

“I am anxious to get intimate with you, Little Qianqian. I haven’t done it for more than a week, and you dressed so tastily. Forgive me if I cannot hold it in!”

Yang Chen ignored her resistance and stuffed his hand into her blouse and grabbed onto the soft lumps within. His other hand plunged into the back of her skirt and took hold of her butt, pinching it joyfully.

Mo Qianni felt like a peach being juiced. She stared at Yang Chen with her pair of gleaming eyes and puffed shyly while thumping on his chest.

“Are you trying to die? How dare you do this to me without even talking first?! Get away from me! Let—ouch! Don’t pinch that spot!”

Yang Chen ignored her peevish words and shut her mouth with a passionate kiss.

Yang Chen finally stopped after Mo Qianni nearly lost her breath. He placed her body on the abnormally long office desk ready to move on.

She begged Yang Chen and said, “Please... don’t do it at the office... We’re at the company...”

It’s even more exciting to do it at the office!? Yang Chen smiled evilly. “Little Qianqian, didn’t you watch what happened to Mingyu that time? She obediently had fun with me at the office for almost an hour. If she can, why can’t you?”

Mo Qianni flashed back to the time when she found her man fooling around with another girl. She couldn’t contain her embarrassment knowing they did it at the office, and Yang Chen even revealed their relationship after that. How could she forget about it?

“You, how dare you...” She knew that the man was purposely teasing her. She couldn’t help but accept him in order to not lose out to Liu Mingyu.

How dare that fox do it at the office? They even did it for an hour!? Mo Qianni was going crazy, but slowly losing her grip on her will.

“Then... take it slowly...” She sighed in her heart, *!’ll just satisfy him and let him be as ridiculous as he can.* Liu Mingyu started it, she wanted to finish it. It wasn’t because she wanted to be shameless.

Yang Chen was overjoyed from those four words. He flipped her body over quickly without an ounce of restraint or hesitation. He lifted up her short black skirt and plunged himself into her!

Although he had done it with both Catherine and Lilith in Paris and twice with An Xin after he returned, he had yet to fulfil his desire and was ready to take on more.

Additionally, the women around him came in different flavors. Mo Qianni was intelligently sexy, and An Xin was sassy and flirty. The only way he could fully appreciate them is by using his body.

After the mess, Yang Chen sat on her sofa while Mo Qianni laid on top of him. Her body was shaking from the aftermath of their little office exercise.

Yang Chen touched her soft shoulders and gave her forehead a kiss. “Let’s tidy up and visit Mother. I’ll be buying dinner today. It’s been some time since i’ve last met her, so I want to treat her to a good meal.”

She definitely understood that the ‘mother’ he mentioned was her mother. Although they couldn’t be husband and wife, as long as Yang Chen willing to call her mother as he did, she was content.

“It’s still a little early for dinner. Hubby, you haven’t told me why you came back early. Have you finished settling matters in Europe?”

“Why else? I came back to help An Xin out. I came to you after her issue was dealt with,” said Yang Chen.

Mo Qianni knew it was An Xin. She purposely went to greet Yang Chen and An Xin with Liu Mingyu after knowing she became Yang Chen’s new secretary. Even though Lin Ruoxi and Liu Mingyu were not familiar with An Xin, Mo Qianni knew that she was probably more or less important to him, as Yang Chen had brought her back from Hokkaido.

She gave it some thought and asked, “Is An Xin alright now?” She chose not to question on the problem.

Yang Chen nodded. “Yeah. Even if there will be trouble in the future, I’m here. Don’t worry.”

“True... I know you’re impressive, so I didn’t ask too much. All is well as long as everyone else is doing fine.” She smiled with a slight sense of pride. She then thought about another thing and asked, “How about Ruoxi? Did she come back with you?”

Yang Chen felt an impending headache whenever he heard Lin Ruoxi’s name. He smiled wryly and said, “Nope, she arrived one day later than me. She is already here and came to work just now.”

Noticing Yang Chen’s weird expression, she grinned. “What’s with that look? No offence, but I was just thinking about discussing the recent project proposal with her. Why do you seem annoyed at her name? Did you have a fight?”

Yang Chen rolled his eyes on the nosy woman. It’s one thing if it were just a small fight, but the recent matters were far too serious.

Right after that, Yang Chen retorted, “Little Qianqian, what’s the proposal that you wanted to discuss Ruoxi about?”

She was curious why Yang Chen was interested in the proposal as he used to be a useless chair-warmer. “Before Ruoxi went to Paris, she asked me to look for tourist resorts and entertainment companies around Zhonghai. She ordered me to look for potential companies that are in financial or bad management situations. She plans to takeover and run the business herself

“I have a handful of nearly bankrupt tourist resorts. Since she has a much better businesses sense than I do, we’ll buy the companies based on her picks. Our company does have more cash than we need anyways,” said Mo Qianni.

She said that with a sense of pride as the company wouldn’t be successful without Lin Ruoxi’s guidance.

However, Yang Chen’s face grew bitterly scornful after hearing from Mo Qianni. He never thought that Lin Ruoxi had planned for the conversation just now even before Paris. Everything was under her control, no matter what he did, he would never affect her plan in the first place.

Seeing Yang Chen’s expression turn darker, she was unsure if she said something wrong.

Yang Chen had a long sigh and said weakly, “Little Qianqian, I don’t know what to do anymore. Can you please tell me how I should deal with this?”

Chapter 570

Kill Myself for You

Yang Chen's downcast appearance unnerved Mo Qianni as she had never seen him frustrated to this level. Who could make him feel so helpless?

"Hubby, what's going on? What's bothering you?" Mo Qianni asked with concern.

Yang Chen wryly smiled, and briefly told her that even though the conflict between An Xin and Lin Ruoxi was settled, Lin Ruoxi still gave him the 'one-year ultimatum'.

Mo Qianni was a smart woman; she was even acknowledged by the old CEO of Yu Lei, who trusted her and her skills into managing such a large company. Therefore, she could roughly understand what was going on after Yang Chen's brief explanation.

After hearing from him, Mo Qianni finally understood the reason why Yang Chen was so blue. Although her heart was conflicted with emotions, she found Yang Chen's current state rather humorous and couldn't help but feel the urge to tease him.

"Haha... Only Lin Ruoxi can affect you like this. You should've learned your lesson for being such a playboy!" Mo Qianni tapped her finger on Yang Chen's forehead.

Yang Chen held Mo Qianni's body tightly with one hand and put the other on the bulge of her chest. He then snapped, "How dare you disrespect me? I'll push you on the sofa and show you what I'm made of!"

Mo Qianni shrank and pouted. "All you know to do is bully me. Ruoxi's the one who messed with you, not me."

"If this trick worked on her, I would have used it already. As you know, our exalted CEO is a bad-tempered person. She is as stubborn as an ox, and I don't dare to mess with her. The only one who can change her mind is herself. That's the reason why my head hurts." Yang Chen felt that his brain was about to explode.

Mo Qianni's eyes twitched as she asked, "So what are you going to choose, Hubby? Ruoxi... or us?"

Yang Chen glared at her. "Ridiculous. If I chose to give you up for her, why would I bother with coming down here and looking for you? Why would I be so anxious about our mother?"

"At least you still have a conscience," Mo Qianni drew a circle on Yang Chen's chest, and said, "If you dare to abandon me, I will... kill myself for you to witness my pain!"

Yang Chen drew a cold breath and shook the beautiful woman in his arms as he reprimanded, "What are you saying?! I was just asking you for advice to handle the tricky choice that Ruoxi gave me. Your threat has only made things worse. Who said it was your turn to drive me crazy?"

Mo Qianni pouted. "What should I do then? Are you going to give up on Ruoxi? Are you willing to? If you do, you would've divorced her long ago! And you do know that I knew Ruoxi for years. If it wasn't you, it wouldn't be awkward between us. After you showed up, our friendship has only soured. I don't want to let her down anymore.

"Even though Ruoxi has her own reasons for letting me be with you, no one can deny the fact that I still have an immoral relationship with you, her husband. Even if she didn't break our friendship, I feel sorry

for her. How can I possibly scheme with you against her? Not only that, she's an intelligent woman despite how quiet she usually is. Anything I can think of must have crossed her mind long ago."

Yang Chen sighed. Indeed, it was impossible to ask Mo Qianni to help him. He then patted her on the shoulder, pretending like nothing has happened.

The two then had a flirty conversation before getting up from the sofa.

Mo Qianni tidied her clothes and chased Yang Chen out of her office. Since she knew that Lin Ruoxi had returned to the company, she planned to hand over the proposal earlier and discuss it in detail.

Although her love life was very important to her, her career was also just as important. After all, her 'husband' was someone else's most of the time, but her career was hers and hers alone.

After the two agreed to leave together in the evening, Yang Chen took the elevator to the floor where the public relations department was located.

He was here to meet Zhao Hongyan and other female colleagues whom he had not seen for a long time. More importantly, he wanted to see what Liu Mingyu was up to.

Liu Mingyu became the mistress of the underworld after Liu Qingshan, her father, united the gangs of Zhonghai and rejoined his wife and daughter.

However, Liu Mingyu was not interested in the benefits that came with her status. Instead, she was quite opposed to her status. Perhaps she had matured much quicker than her age, and was mentally tougher than other women, which allowed her to come to terms with Liu Qingshan's background more easily.

Yang Chen met a lot of female colleagues in the office only to realize that he didn't recognise many of them. Yu Lei International was expanding quickly, so older employees were promoted to new places as managers—they had been replaced by new people.

Fortunately, Zhang Cai and several other seniors were still there. When they met Yang Chen, they greeted him happily. Many of the new employees were not familiar with Yang Chen. But when they found out he was the director of the entertainment branch, many of them began to try and curry favour from him. Their moves impressed Yang Chen. *Girls nowadays are pretty daring, aren't they? I like it a lot.*

Yang Chen looked around and noticed that Zhao Hongyan, with whom he had a special relationship with, was not there. He asked Zhang Cai, "Where did Hongyan go? Did she go to another department?"

Zhang Cai said, "You don't know?"

"Know what?"

Zhang Cai was surprised. "I thought that Hongyan would've told you given how close you guys are. Hongyan has resigned a while ago so she's no longer working with us."

"Resigned?" Yang Chen said, "Why did she resign all of a sudden?" He suspected that the family of her ex-husband had interfered again.

Zhang Cai replied regretfully, "It's because Hongyan's father was discharged from the hospital. The family needs someone to take care of him. Her family owns a glutinous rice ball business and their store had just had its opening day not too long ago. She wanted to help her brother with it so she resigned. We miss having her here. After Hongyan left, the other senior members here started to leave too."

Yang Chen recalled that Zhao Hongyan's father mentioned something about managing to find a kidney donor and getting ready for the transplant. It was no surprise that he was discharged after this long.

I wonder how her family is doing now. A divorced woman who returned home to take care of her father and help with the family business. But what of her own future?

She's not getting any younger. I wonder if she can find a good man to settle down with.

Yang Chen sighed, bid Zhang Cai and the others farewell, and entered Liu Mingyu's office.

Yang Chen was quite ashamed of himself after realising how good a work ethic his women had.

Liu Mingyu's shoulder-length hair had been tied up, and the purple dye on her hair faded back to black. She was dressed in a brown spring dress with a red and white bow tie that added to her energetic appearance. She donned a pair of black-framed glasses that fit her delicate appearance.

Just like Mo Qianni, she was busy with her work. When Yang Chen entered the office, she was somewhat stunned. She then looked at him for a while and smiled. "Why did you come without telling me in advance?"

Yang Chen looked a little downtrodden. How can a woman younger than 30 act so calmly after seeing her man whom she had not met in such a long time? Her demeanor can rival that of Tang Wan!

"You don't have to toil away so hard. Your father has enough money to ensure that you will live well for the rest of your life and then some. As your man, I have enough money to sustain you too. Don't regret if your hair turns white from all the work..." Yang Chen approached her from behind and put both his hands on her shoulders gently to give her a slight massage.

Liu Mingyu did not stop Yang Chen's kind gesture. She grinned and shook her head. "I don't like to use my father's money."

"It seems that you care about your father's underworld background. Actually, it's no big deal. For everything in this world, there is an opposite, same goes for money... The money might not have come from a proper source, but your father had still earned it regardless. He hopes that you will have a good life with your brother. Otherwise, he wouldn't have gone back home to you when he was in the middle of his plan to unify the underworld," Yang Chen said with a smile.

"I know. I'm just not used to it." Liu Mingyu turned around with a smile. "What happened to you today? Every time we meet, you tend to be really touchy. Don't tell me you are starting to act righteous. You even asked me about my family."

With a serious look, he said, "Do I look like that kind of guy who only thinks of touching women? My dear Mingyu, you are wrong. I always put your happiness first!"

I will never tell you that I just did it with my Little Qianqian. If I weren't feeling so down, my hands would have been in an entirely different place...

Liu Mingyu couldn't help but glance at Yang Chen with disbelief. "My parents often ask me about how it's working out between us. After I said that we haven't seen each other for a few days, my dad got very angry."

"Look at you," Yang Chen said with a dry laugh, "You were too honest, couldn't you deflect his questions for me? I have been quite busy lately, and haven't found myself with any free time. You should know how busy I am as the person in charge of Start of Yu Lei, don't you? Now that I'm finally free, shall we ask my parents-in-law to meet some day?"

Meanwhile, Yang Chen thought, *"This Liu Qingshan can be really tough sometimes. He even got his daughter to tell me about this. Why not come directly to me if he really wants to meet me?! Why am I playing the role of a good son-in-law all of a sudden after returning to the country?"*

Liu Mingyu however felt rather moved and was about to say something, but she immediately thought of something else after she heard a knock at the office door. Liu Mingyu gave Yang Chen a cold look before she said, "Come in."

Chapter 571

Complaint

Yang Chen was wondering who could have made Liu Mingyu turn cold, while knowing that this woman had a temper problem, and from personal experience she was always like that. The last time she got really mad, Qi Kai was still alive. The two couldn't lay off each other whenever they met. So the fact that this soft-spoken, graceful and appreciative type of person could do that to her couldn't be good news.

The door suddenly opened, and in came a devilishly handsome guy in a suit. *"Hmm, I know this guy from somewhere,"* Yang Chen thought.

Thinking carefully, Yang Chen came to a realisation. *"Oh! Isn't he Wu Yue's partner, Vice President Li Minghe?!"*

Ever since the thirty-year-old Li Minghe came to Yu Lei, he had already become Prince Charming for most of the ladies working there. Tall, handsome, dashing, elegant, with the position and money to boot, this kind of man was one of a kind.

His charm and aesthetics were something of a surprise however. Him being close to the CEO's assistant, the hot-tempered and cold-shouldered Wu Yue, was no secret and was something that was gossiped about among the employees.

Among the endless flowing amount of beauties who worked in Yu Lei, he didn't choose any of the elite single women, nor did he pick the delectable models. Instead, he went for the most uninteresting woman, Wu Yue, something which others found extremely weird and ironic.

However, these days, this vice president had shifted focus, because he had been growing closer to the newly appointed Head of the Public Relations Department, who was also a high-ranking beauty, Liu Mingyu.

But he did not try anything extravagant or flashy. At most he would personally come to the public relations department every other day, just to see her.

As he was the company's vice president, Liu Mingyu couldn't just stop that man from entering. So every time he came, she would have to entertain him for around half an hour before he would leave.

No one knew what was going on between the both of them. They only noticed that he was getting more diligent by the day with his visits. Coming in once or twice would be fine, but seven, eight, ten times even? How can it be that there is nothing going on?

It came as no surprise to the upper management of Yu Lei, however, as they thought Vice President Li and Manager Liu had long been together. They probably chose to stay quiet so as to not offend Assistant Wu.

That rumor was surprisingly convincing. Given how Wu Yue was, she certainly couldn't match Li Minghe!

Being in the know, Liu Mingyu naturally knew about the whispers throughout the company, but had no way to control it. She knew that nothing was going on between them but couldn't explain it to anyone. With rumors like those, the more they were explained, the more they would become exaggerated.

With things like this, it could only be settled by bringing one's boyfriend out. However, that wasn't exactly an option available to her. She was the mistress of a certain someone, and that someone's wife just had to be her superior!

So she decided that since she couldn't think of any solution, she would stay quiet and pretend to have heard nothing.

Luckily, Liu Mingyu knew that the rumour would reach Yang Chen's ears. Now, Yang Chen was not really the kind of person to pay attention to rumors. At least, he wouldn't think himself at fault for them. In some way, he had the most misplaced self-confidence ever.

Li Minghe was about to wave merrily at Liu Mingyu as he entered the room when he noticed Yang Chen, whom he had not seen in a while, standing behind her. This fazed him, but he quickly recovered and said in a cheery tone, "Oh! Director Yang. It's been a while, I heard that you were away with Boss Lin in Paris attending their Fashion Week. Did you just return?"

"Can I help you?" Yang Chen answered lazily. His expression carried a smile, but his tone showed disinterest in keeping the conversation going.

Without feeling the slightest bit awkward, Li Minghe shook his head and smiled. "Nothing official, it's just recently I have been coming down here to chat with Manager Liu during my free time. Though it seems like you have some things to settle with her today, I'll bid my farewell for now."

"Well if you're not on here on official business, please leave" Yang Chen said without hesitation.

Fazed yet again from the remark, Li Minghe quickly regained composure and nodded. "It seems I've come at an unfortunate time. I'll be off. We should grab dinner next time, you know, to get to know each other as colleagues."

Saying that, Li Minghe exited through the door, and closed it behind him gently, showing no anger.

The silent Liu Mingyu waited for Li Minghe to leave before she rolled her eyes at Yang Chen. "You should really watch your mouth. It's a good thing that he is a patient one. Remind yourself that we're in the company. Who'll clean up your mess if you two started a fight?"

Blinking his eyes, Yang Chen replied, "He's been sent by Li Muhua, and he definitely had some ulterior motive. He won't mess with me. Not out in the open anyway"

Liu Mingyu had a general idea of Yang Chen's background, and it's definitely not a simple one. Otherwise Liu Qingshan will not let his only daughter become someone else's mistress. Without hesitation, she replied, "He's definitely patient, but I can never seem to figure out what he has going on in his mind. He comes here almost everyday, and when he's here he'll stay for about half an hour beating around the bush. Even if I don't give him much attention, he can go on and on. Sometimes I wish I could just kick him out, but I let him stay out of sheer politeness."

"Then he probably does have a crush on you, coming here so often just to soften you up," he said jokingly.

Liu Mingyu countered, "Then why aren't you even a little jealous? You were so calm I felt like I wasn't cared for at all. Do you really care about me?"

Amused, he replied, "Well, since he could even get all mushy with the witch Wu Yue, I didn't feel like bothering with his antics."

Speaking of Wu Yue, Liu Mingyu said doubtfully, "About her, I don't even know where to start. She knows about how he kept coming into my office, but it just seems like she doesn't care, unless, she doesn't really love him?"

Yang Chen undoubtedly had no interest in the disaster of a situation that was Li Minghe's affair. He brushed off the comment, smiled and said, "So, about that thing I asked earlier, how about I treat your parents to dinner?"

Liu Mingyu nodded and said, "It's a good idea, but that can wait. I've been busy with moving lately, and my work pile hasn't shrunk either. I'll let you know when I'm free then I'll let my folks know?"

"You're moving?" said Yang Chen, surprised. "What for?"

Sighing, Liu Mingyu replied, "My dad bought a new place after coming back, and I'm not really comfortable with the people there, so I decided to move out myself."

Alone?? Yang Chen thought as his eyes lit up. *This is exactly my chance!* He exclaimed, "I agree! A girl like you couldn't possibly spend the whole day with those thugs."

"Don't think I don't know what you're up to. Before I finish moving, do not disturb me." Liu Mingyu looked sharply at Yang Chen, who returned the glare with a goofy smile.

After chatting with Liu Mingyu, he left her office. She had work, like Mo Qianni. They were all busier than Yang Chen.

Yang Chen didn't mind. The day was still early, so he decided to have lunch, which he had no time to indulge in earlier before minding anyone's business.

He walked into the barely used cafeteria of the company, and bought three servings of lunch, sat in the corner and hogged it down without a care in the world. With a toothpick still in his mouth, he went back to his office.

Not long ago, he was dragged out of the office by the police, causing quite the commotion. This time however, it would seem that there wasn't any ruckus. It wouldn't be too far off if one guessed that the employees felt their unprofessional director did have some sort of complicated history.

When he arrived at the office, he felt a bit uneasy. He pushed his couch towards the window and dragged the curtains open, letting the rays of sunlight bleed into his office through the windows.

Yang Chen then lay lazily on the sofa, and dozed off for his afternoon nap.

Before this there would always be something that kept him busy, and it wasn't easy for him to get sleepy. He then thought back to the time when he sold mutton skewers. Wasn't that all he had planned to do after returning to China? Putting his problems at the back of his mind, he drifted off into slumber.

During the evening, Yang Chen punctually arrived at where he and Mo Qianni had promised to meet. He got in her car, and headed straight to her mother's house.

Mo Qianni noticed his hands were empty. She raised an eyebrow and asked, "Why didn't you bring a gift?"

Yang Chen facepalmed, but it wasn't his fault he thought. He had never needed to bring a gift to visit an elder before. He then smiled and asked, "Little Qianqian, what do you think I should gift Mother with?"

"I can't believe you. You're already calling her 'mother'. You really didn't prepare anything huh?"

Laughing hysterically, Mo Qianni stopped by a florist and picked up some flowers.

Yang Chen, clasping the bouquet in his hands, had doubts. *You can't even eat these, and they will wilt in two days. Scallion biscuits are a much better alternative in my opinion. They smell pretty good too,* he thought. If Mo Qianni knew what this gentleman here was thinking of presenting as a gift, she would probably just stop the car and kick him out.

The car zoomed into a small street in Zhonghai. Before long, Mo Qianni parked her car and got down.

Yang Chen also got down and looked around. He saw many people. There was a small restaurant at the entrance of the building.

As the evening neared, the neon signs around the streets lit up. Red was the colour that stood out the most, giving the normally quiet suburb a merry vibe.

Mo Qianni spontaneously held Yang Chen's arms to show off a little bit of couples affection. However, it wasn't known whether she really liked this, or whether she was doing this to make her mother happy. Nonetheless, she felt it was right, and merrily walked down the street with him.

"Is your mum here?" Yang Chen curiously asked.

Mo Qianni nodded. "Remember Aunt Xiang?"

Yang Chen thought for a while and exclaimed, "You mean the one who had a stall by the river, the one who's the village lady boss? That Aunt Xiang?"

"Yeah, that's her," Mo Qianni continued, "Aunt Xiang's stall didn't really do well, so she rented a shop here and converted the stall into a restaurant. My mum wasn't able to adapt well to the Zhonghai

lifestyle, so she went to look for a job here. So I asked Aunt Xiang to let my mum work at her restaurant. Although mum has some back problems, if she doesn't tire herself out I think it'll be alright."

For folks who lived their whole lives in the country, adapting to city life can be quite challenging. Their hands itched to work because that was all they knew. Yang Chen knew that feeling.

Aunt Xiang's name brought back tons of memories for Yang Chen of when he first met Mo Qianni. It was after he saved her that she brought him to eat at that stall. They also went there during their many subsequent meetings.

Suddenly, Yang Chen giggled and said, "Time sure does fly. Remember the time when you finished your meal, and suddenly asked if you could hug me? You know, at the time I was so scared, so scared of being molested by a thug."

"Ugh! Who would want to molest you?" Mo Qianni said while recalling that time. Back then, she was so lonely that she didn't know what she was doing or saying.

Yang Chen continued to tease her. "Then who was it that took advantage of me when I was sleeping and crawled into my bed at night to steal a kiss? I really thought I was in trouble that time."

"Stop it!" Mo Qianni blushed and pouted. She remembered that time well, but did not know why she would do something like kissing a guy when he was asleep. But he was acting so innocent as well, letting this girl just kiss him without resistance.

If she hadn't accidentally touched his private part, she would really think that he was asleep!

Yang Chen didn't mind Mo Qianni's shyness, and continued, "I recall that our relationship stagnated for a little back then. If I didn't go to Hong Kong for that business trip, I believe that a certain someone here would still be hating my guts."

Thinking back to when they were in Hong Kong, Mo Qianni also realised it was quite complicated. It could be said that their relationship was strengthened thanks to those days.

For a time, the two didn't say anything and walked down the street as if the people around them vanished. The whole world seemed to only revolve around them, bringing them closer together.

Yang Chen thought back to the time when the two of them went to Sichuan, their journey on the train, their trip to Kunshan Village. He also thought about how Mo Qianni waited for him.

During that snowy winter day, the two went to the hill near the beach, and she said she wanted to be like the ocean, to become a someone who occupied the lowest position in Yang Chen's heart.

It was that night that they had made their relationship official. When she woke up the next day before sunrise, she asked him to wait for her to get up from bed to dress herself.

The memories came one by one, some happy, some sad. As the days passed, the memories aged like fine wine, making it harder for him to snap out of the pleasant flashbacks.

Yang Chen let out a small chuckle. *How can possibly I give up on them...* he thought.

"You're such a silly girl, there really is nothing that will stop you, huh? Of everyone you could fall in love with, you chose me," Yang Chen said as he shook his head, laughing.

Still holding on to Yang Chen, Mo Qianni said, "What? Are you complaining?"

"Yeah, I am," Yang Chen said. Without waiting for a response from the obviously pouting Mo Qianni, he smiled and continued, "My complaint is that you did not meet me sooner."

Chapter 572

Mother-In-Law Visits Son-In-Law

The two laughed their way to their destination, a Sichuan restaurant. The restaurant looked rather new as the neon signs were still glowing at their peak, so the shop probably opened not too long ago.

The restaurant was not too packed given that it was still quite early into the night. At most, there were three or four occupied tables. There, they saw the ever so familiar Aunt Xiang, seated at the counter occupied with her work.

The two set foot into the shop at the same time, and Aunt Xiang thought they were customers. She took a closer look and realized who they were. "My dear, it's been a while! And you even brought your boyfriend this time! It's Little Yang right?"

"Yeah, you remember me, Aunt! Seems like business is doing well. You even got yourself a new shop!" Yang Chen said with a smile.

With a chuckle, Aunt Xiang replied, "It's only to get through the day honestly. Enough about me, you're here to see your mother-in-law right? She just went into the kitchen and will be out soon."

And at that moment, a woman donning an apron while holding a plate of stir-fried snails walked out of the kitchen.

Ma Guifang hadn't changed much since the last time he saw her at Kunshan Village. If anything, she was dressed slightly more modernly while keeping a hint of that village folk charm on her face. Though she had some wrinkles here and there, she was far from looking old like many of the others at her age. Looking at her, Yang Chen could really see where Mo Qianni got her features from.

"Mom! Yang Chen is here!" Mo Qianni happily exclaimed.

Ma Guifang was ecstatic when she saw Yang Chen. Ever since she moved to Zhonghai, she was able to see her daughter every day since they lived on the same street. But Yang Chen was not always in the country when she was free. So being able to see him made her really happy. "Yang Chen, my boy, you came back! Hold on, let me just serve these customers first."

Yang Chen nodded. He recalled that previously, she would call him by his surname, and today she actually called him by his given name instead. *She has become friendlier and closer,* he thought.

After serving the customers, she walked towards the two. She looked at Mo Qianni and said, "Honestly, you could have picked a better time to come, your Aunt Xiang and I are quite busy."

“It was Yang Chen’s idea, I couldn’t stop him,” Mo Qianni said, casually pushing the responsibility onto Yang Chen. Then again, that was pretty much one of the few things Yang Chen was good for.

Yang Chen nodded in agreement. “Yes, yes! I talked about it on the phone before. Just think of it as a small gesture to repay the favor.”

Ma Guifang raised an eyebrow and said, “The restaurant is just about to get busier. Do you want me to head out now?”

Aunt Xiang was eavesdropping on the side and decided to butt in and say, “Oh, go ahead, Guifang, we’re practically family. It’s not always that your son-in-law comes by, so stopping you would not be nice on my part. Besides, you’re only helping out around here, don’t worry about us at the restaurant. I just finished cleaning up the front, so I’ll wait on the customers tonight. Don’t worry about us and have a good time with your daughter and son-in-law.”

Hearing Aunt Xiang’s words, Ma Guifang didn’t refuse the offer. She nodded and said, “Then I’ll go get ready.”

Although they could have just eaten at the restaurant itself, it wouldn’t’ve been a good idea. They didn’t want to bother Aunt Xiang, and didn’t want to create an awkward situation where she would have to serve them food on the house. So they decided to just eat out instead.

After saying goodbye to Aunt Xiang, the three set off on their way. This time, Mo Qianni didn’t cling to Yang Chen, but to her mum instead.

Yang Chen asked Ma Guifang how her hip was healing, and many other questions he thought was appropriate to seem considerate. Ma Guifang felt his considerateness, and smiled the whole way.

He felt surprised at himself for not being half bad at ‘meeting the parent’. At least, seeing his mother-in-law’s joy helped him assume that. But then, he thought, *Then again, I would be really screwed if I didn’t have such a skill given how many women I have.*

This time it was Yang Chen’s turn to drive Mo Qianni’s Audi, and off they went to the restaurant picked out by Mo Qianni—a high-end restaurant by the beach. They picked this place because it was quiet. It was the perfect setting for her mom to start bombarding Yang Chen with a ton of questions

They arrived and went up to the second floor, where the glass windows afforded the beautiful ocean view, subtly lit by the lights, with a full moon in view.

Ma Guifang was bewildered the whole time they were in the restaurant. It had proper waiters, elegant decor, a magnificent view, all of which she had never thought she’d see outside of her dreams. She couldn’t help but turn her attention to every single detail of the interior.

It was only natural, given that she had lived in the countryside for most of her life. Everything in the city would seem new and interesting to her.

The same couldn’t be said for youngsters however. This sort of thing was all too common for them since they practically lived in this sort of environment anyway.

Though Yang Chen didn't really mind, he was known for being thick-skinned. As soon as he came back from abroad, he started his mutton skewer stall and got along well with the other hawkers at the market. He did not feel the need to be able to distinguish if things are high-class or not.

Seeing Ma Guifang still in awe of the place to the point where she even took a tour of the place, Mo Qianni ordered for them instead.

Either way, the guy who brought sort of an overly curious country folk to this high-end restaurant raised the eyebrows of the other patrons of the place, but it didn't bother Yang Chen.

Ma Guifang was also happy. She had come to the city to look for her daughter. Having no knowledge about the place, she got her fair share of eye rolls during her journey. Youngsters these days, especially those who grew up in the city, would always look down upon people like her, people who came from the countryside.

However, Ma Guifeng was not daft. She could not see even a slight trace of condescension in Yang Chen's eyes. She could tell that Yang Chen was indifferent to her background. He just wanted to make them, or rather, her, happy.

It also did not occur to Ma Guifeng how her daughter could have found such a unique gentleman. As each moment they spent passed, she grew fonder her son-in-law.

In this situation, Mo Qianni who was in the middle of this felt completely content. She came to the busy and bustling city of Zhonghai and worked her way up the corporate ladder to put others that judged her for her past below her. She was really afraid of her mum being mistreated by people, but seeing the kindness and honesty of Yang Chen, she couldn't help but fall deeper in love with him.

Yang Chen poured wine for Mo Qianni, as the dishes came one by one. There were about eight dishes because Mo Qianni knew how much of a glutton Yang Chen was, so she figured the amount was just about right.

Ma Guifeng insisted on looking at the bill, and realised it totaled to about three thousand yuan. She glared at her daughter and said, "This is way too much for a meal! We could eat for about a month with that kind of money if we just cooked at home."

Mo Qianni cheekily stuck out her tongue then looked at Yang Chen and back at her mother. "Mum, don't worry, three thousand is nothing to Yang Chen."

Although Lin Ruoxi had never mentioned it, but as the 'second in command' of the company, Mo Qianni could easily guess who had helped the company through its difficulty by providing fifty billion in cash.

My man really is something, she thought. He drove her car, lived at her place, worked at her office, but was the most loaded one among them. He really did have thick skin.

Yang Chen, for one, did not think much of it. He giggled and said, "Yep, don't you worry mum, three thousand, thirty thousand, three hundred thousand, you name it! I just want you to be happy."

Three hundred thousand yuan?!? she cringed at the thought. Even though she knew that Yang Chen didn't come from a normal family background, she felt that Yang Chen's boasting was a little too

exaggerated. Waving her hand, she said, "Enough about that, the food's getting cold. Let's eat then talk more."

Yang Chen saw how Ma Guifeng reacted to his remarks and felt a little offended. *?I don't usually spew this kind of stuff, so why does she think I'm lying?*

The three nonetheless had their dinner, with laughs and smiles to boot. Ma Guifeng couldn't help but tell stories of Mo Qianni's childhood, much to her daughter's embarrassment.

She also asked about Yang Chen's background, like where he lived and what he did for a living. Yang Chen picked a few questions he could answer without breaking his cover.

When it came to asking about his family though, Yang Chen had a hard time with that. As hard as he may try, he would never be able to sever ties with the Yang Clan.

That was especially the case with the appearance of Yan Sanniang. Even though she believed that she didn't do much to help Yang Chen, he still felt that he owed her a favor of sorts.

In any case, even if he didn't acknowledge Yang Gongming, Guo Xuehua would still be considered a daughter-in-law in the Yang household. Even his own wife, Lin Ruoxi, who wasn't obedient to him, was completely humble before Yang Gongming, much to Yang Chen's dismay.

Yang Gongming placed had the two women most precious to him in his hands. Yang Chen would find it really hard to dissociate himself with the Yang family.

So, to answer Ma Guifeng's question, Yang Chen explained that his family lived in Beijing, while his mother lived in Zhonghai.

Without thinking, that last sentence startled Mo Qianni, who then glared at Yang Chen while anxiety filled her eyes.

Did I just say something wrong?? thought Yang Chen, confused.

Ma Guifang was so excited to know that his mom was in town. "So your mother is in town! This is great, we can set a date where I can finally meet her and have a little chat with her. Since we're all practically family already and you two have known each other for so long, I can see how close the two of you are. Why don't we just seal the deal and have you both be engaged?"

"Huh?" Yang Chen's mind went blank at that instant. *?This isn't good, this isn't good at all. Why am I so stupid?!* He realised that Mo Qianni was glaring at him like he was an idiot.

Though she thought Yang Chen's circumstances were a bit odd, she chose not to overthink. "To tell the truth, though we've only met twice, I've already taken a liking to you since the time you came to our little village. And now that we've met again, as a mother, I am sure that you must be the one. I've only got one daughter, and I've come here alone, I'm sure this was fate. I'm not taking any chances, and I'd really like to have grandchildren soon, so you better get married quick."

"Mom, I'm still quite busy with work, marriage can wait," said Mo Qianni, noticing that Yang Chen went blank. She had to hold the fort one way or another.

Ma Guifang rolled her eyes and said, "What? You wanna wait till your mom's in a wheelchair before you marry? Dear, your mum might have had her hip fixed temporarily but that does not mean that I have no other illnesses. I want you to marry early for your own sake, you're not young anymore and most girls your age already have children running around."

Mo Qianni was speechless after that, her mum pulled out all of the tricks in the book to persuade her to marry. If she were to insist on refusing, that would just be plain rude.

The cornered Mo Qianni could only look towards Yang Chen. She was out of ideas, and could only depend on Yang Chen to think of a solution.

At this moment, Yang Chen snapped out of his stupor and finally caught on to what happened.

Actually, this situation here couldn't get any worse, and sooner or later, Ma Guifang would find out about the true nature of their relationship. So avoiding the problem and letting it stew was only going to be worse for everyone in the long run.

On the bright side, his other 'girlfriends', Rose, An Xin, Liu Mingyu all didn't have this complication. Cai Yan was also the lady of the Cai clan. Even if Cai Yuncheng regarded his reputation highly, he wouldn't ever butt his nose into Cai Yan's business.

Come to think of it, only Mo Qianni was from a normal family, which was surprisingly rare for him.

"I think that's doable. I'll will discuss with my mother for a time and a place to meet you," said Yang Chen.

Mo Qianni was shocked at the prospect. *Would this seal the deal if I meet her??* Her heart felt uneasy, but she was helpless to stop it.

Actually, Mo Qianni had already met his mother several times. She just lived next door. There was a time where Guo Xuehua would cook, and Mo Qianni and Rose got along really well with his mother.

But Guo Xuehua thought Rose was Yang Chen's girlfriend, and that Mo Qianni was Rose and Lin Ruoxi's good sister, so there wasn't the slightest bit of awkwardness.

She wouldn't know how she would react if Guo Xuehua found out that she was just another one of Yang Chen's long list of lovers. Moreover, her own mother's feelings were something she was trying to protect as well.

And Ma Guifang, upon hearing Yang Chen's suggestion, perked up quite a bit and drank more wine, looking much younger and refreshed than one of her age should be.

After the dinner, Ma Guifang became quite a bit tipsy, so she had to be supported by Mo Qianni back to her car. Yang Chen needed to head back to the company to retrieve his car, and so he paid for the bill and hailed a taxi.

After seeing Mo Qianni leave with her car, he scratched his head and took a deep breath. He thought, *Well, there's no way out of this now. I can only find Mother and talk to her about this. But the problem doesn't lie with her, but with my mother-in-law. The key is whether I can persuade her about this.* He had no choice but to cross the bridge when he came to it.

At that same time, on their way back, Ma Guifang in her state of half drunkenness suddenly asked, "Dear, is there something you and Yang Chen are hiding from me?"

Mo Qianni focused on the road heard her mum mumbling in her seat. She laughed and asked, "Mom, what are you saying? You startled me."

"It better be nothing, if it really was something important, I swear to my last dying breath, you will never hear the end of it. I might not have a college degree but I'm not blind. You're still my daughter, Mo Qianni, you hear that? I know you better than anyone else. If you're thinking of doing something reckless, just forget it."

Ma Guifang's tone was very plain, but her words that reached Mo Qianni's ears made her really anxious and speechless.

Chapter 573

Yang Chen the Ignored

All he could think about now was how to approach Guo Xuehua about it, so the drive back was anything but pleasant. Although he did not know that Ma Guifang was already suspicious of his relationship with Mo Qianni, it didn't stop him from being anxious about the whole ordeal.

Guo Xuehua knew that he had two other women outside of his legal marriage, and right now he was about to tell her the slightly expanded version of the list? There was no way that he could spin that tale for it to come out alright. In addition to that, his mom being a woman herself can't possibly accept his polygamous relationships, certainly not her own son especially.

He arrived home at around ten o'clock at night, parked his car in the garage then slowly made his way into the living room.

The scenario in the living room made his face cringe.

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma were sitting in front of the television. The two had become sisters in all but blood recently lately and were both with teary eyed. They were even too lazy to welcome him home.

A Korean drama was playing on the television, depicting a teenage girl crying out to a middle aged man, "Oppa! Oppa!"

That middle-aged man looked like the sensitive type. On the screen, he said, "In these thirty years I have never met someone that made me feel this way..."

Yang Chen understood that line without even looking at the subtitles, which to him, was the result of having studied so many languages. If he didn't know what they just said, at least he could ignore the subtitles and save himself and his ears from that cheesy garbage.

Since when did Mom start watching Korean drama? With Wang Ma nonetheless, crying too? Isn't this sort of thing only Lin Rouxi and her gang would do?? Yang Chen thought.

At that moment, Lin Rouxi walked out of the... kitchen?

Wait, what?? Yang Chen thought, confused.

Lin Rouxi's outfit was something Yang Chen could have never ever pictured her in, from her apron to that dress she donned. She was like a whole different person. Holding a plate of freshly cut fruits, she placed the plate down in the living room table.

She walked past Yang Chen and gave him just a glance, just like a passing breeze.

After setting her apron aside, she sat next to Guo Xuehua, clasping her shoulder smilingly and said, "Mom, is it really touching? You and Wang Ma can't seem to stop crying."

Guo Xuehua was so emotional she couldn't really react to what Lin Rouxi said, but then nodded slightly and replied, "Gosh yes Ruoxi, this drama is really too good. It's so moving... That girl has worked her whole life, and it finally paid off!"

"Well, it hasn't been easy for the guy as well. The other lady pinning after him is much more beautiful, but he still went for the one he truly loved. This is the kind of guy indeed worth fighting for," said Lin Rouxi.

Agreeing, Guo Xuehua continued, "Yeah, I thought the guy would have given up ages ago. It was ridiculous for his mother to have even tried to marry him off to another girl. Can a relationship even be forced?"

"Oh! Oh! Quick, look, Xuehua, the vixen is here again!" exclaimed Wang Ma excitedly.

Guo Xuehua upon hearing that, moved her attention to the television.

The three women were all attentively watching the drama, and at the same time would discuss the characters and plot. They didn't have time to care for the only man in the house who had just returned, who was standing next to the sofa.

Yang Chen's heart had shattered into a million pieces. *?I might as well be dead??* He wasn't exactly the top dog before, and right now in a house full of women, it was hard for him to even get his own role.

Lin Rouxi noticed Yang Chen's unease and suffering, then gave him a sinister look. It was basically her telepathic way of saying, "See, I am capable of making your own mother ignore you."

Unknown to Yang Chen, this was all according to Lin Rouxi's plan, her plan for getting revenge on him.

On normal days, at this time, it would only be his mom and Wang Ma who would be watching the television, and Zhenxiu would be upstairs busy with her homework or still at school. Lin Rouxi on the other hand would be in her room working or reading, and even if she had free time, or if she wanted to watch the television, she would do so in her own bedroom. The fact that she came down and accompanied the two elders and prepared some fruit for them, was nothing like anyone had ever seen.

Yang Chen dared not say anything, and how could he? All he could do right now was sit on the high stool at the back while waiting for the drama to end.

Finally, it came to an end. Yang Chen then frantically went towards his mom with an innocent face and said, "Mom, I have something to talk to you about."

Guo Xuehua finally paid heed to her own son, rubbing her red eyes while facing him and asked, "Yes?"

Not giving him a chance, Lin Rouxi suddenly took a piece of watermelon with a toothpick and started feeding Guo Xuehua. “Mom, see all the fruit I sliced up. Who is going to finish it if not for the both of you? Come on, open your mouth...”

Distracted, Guo Xuehua no longer had any interest in her own son. Of course not, your own daughter-in-law who was rarely so filial, who came back and did all the chores, who recommended such a good drama, and even cooked them one heck of a meal. She definitely counted this day as one of the lucky ones.

So with that, Guo Xuehua gladly opened her mouth and ate the piece of watermelon.

Jealous, Wang Ma said, “Miss, who was the one who fed you when you were younger? Shouldn’t I get the same treatment now?”

Lin Rouxi flashed her smile, which showed such brilliance that would have brightened up the whole room in fact.

“Of course you’re the best Wang Ma, you’ve been so good to me,” Lin Rouxi said while feeding her with a strawberry and continued, “I know you love strawberries so I specially bought some today for you. These are imported from Florida you know! They’re super sweet.”

Eating the juicy strawberry, Wang Ma said, “There’s no need to get such expensive strawberries, even if you have the money, this is such a waste.”

“It’s nothing really, the money we earn is wasted if not spent to make the people in our lives happy!” Lin Rouxi said.

Guo Xuehua really felt the warmth from those words. Lacing her hair, she said, “Ever since you came back from Europe, you’ve been such a good girl! What has gotten into you?”

Lin Rouxi laughed at the remark and said, “This time I went to Paris, and felt like there was something missing. I had missed you, Mom, and it made me rethink some things. So I thought, I should be a really good girl from now on. Besides, you both mean the world to me...”

Saying this, both women instantly cried. This sort of scene was on seen on a TV show—who would say stuff like that in a household?

Women are so sensitive, regardless their age. They’re all so sensitive!

Lin Rouxi continued as she was interrupted earlier, “Mom, Wang Ma, don’t you both worry. I won’t be so preoccupied with work anymore. I want to be a good daughter and look after you both. I want to learn the best dishes, and make you all happy...”

“Silly girl, we’re not that old yet. You already have such a huge responsibility taking care of that company. Being busy is just the result of that.” Guo Xuehua said with a smile, with Wang Ma nodding in agreement.

Lin Rouxi then showed her face of gratitude before picking up the remote and pressing the play button.

“Mom, there are only 10 episodes left of this drama. Take your time to finish them. After you’ve finished all of it, I’ll recommend a better one for you all to watch,” she said.

The two perked up suddenly, and continued to be fixated on the television before getting immersed in the drama again.

And just like that, the prodigal son vanished from Guo Xuehua's mind. Unable to talk to her.

Yang Chen who witnessed everything that happened, remained speechless. He looked at Lin Ruoxi who gave him a cold smile and sinister snark. If he didn't know better, that television of theirs would have been grinded into fine powder!

Chapter 574

Please Don't Do This, Lin Ruoxi

At that point, Yang Chen might as well have forgotten to talk to his mom about that meeting with Ma Guifang. When it came to Korean drama, Guo Xuehua would pretty much be deaf to the world.

Pouting, Yang Chen took a deep breath and said, "Mom, I'm heading up. You keep watching that drama of yours."

Without caring if she even heard him, he turned around and went upstairs.

Guo Xuehua did in fact hear him but reacted quite slowly. Turning around, she realized that Yang Chen was nowhere to be seen. "Where did that brat run off to? I thought he had to talk?" she asked.

"Oh, he went upstairs. It seemed like he wasn't in a good mood," said Lin Ruoxi with a concerned tone, "How about I go check up on him, Mom? You may stay here to watch the show. I'll take a look at what's troubling him."

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma looked at each other, surprised. Yang Chen was usually the affectionate one, and now it was Lin Ruoxi?

It warmed Guo Xuehua's heart to see her daughter-in-law be so considerate. She pleased her elders and took concern of her husband for the first time in so long. She replied, "Off you go then. But do let me know if it is something serious."

Lin Ruoxi nodded in reply. Before heading up she even gave the two elders a crash course on how to use the new television. This act once again pleased the two.

Yang Chen who was now in his room felt his brain turn to mush. He heard and saw everything that went on downstairs, which had shocked him yet again!

Yang Chen had always thought of her as this cold, unlady-like person who was bad at conversations. He was worried she would piss his mom off at some point.

She did not even bat an eye on him today. Much less ask him about what was troubling him!

Her performance tonight really was something. She was able to change her personality at will. She was able to switch between being friendly, clingy, and innocent all in one day. All of that drama just to get on the good side of the folks!

Sure, no one was able to resist her good looks, male or female. She usually kept to herself, not letting any strangers get close to her. She didn't even really talk to her own family back in the day. But today,

she was acting like a totally different person. She let down her defences and used her cunning abilities to win over the heart of her elders. Guo Xuehua definitely fell for her trap!

So the already difficult situation became even more so. How was Yang Chen going to confess about the truth of him and Mo Qianni to Guo Xuehua now that she was obviously going to take Lin Ruoxi's side?

Not only that, it would be extremely difficult for him to be seen with other women. All it took was one word from Lin Ruoxi to his mother and he'd never hear the end of it!

He was not the self-centered type. He loved his women as much as he loved his family!

But if he chose women over family then he'd be the least of his own problems. He would cause everyone else in his life to suffer.

"God damn it."

As Yang Chen was cracking his head for ideas, he heard a knock at the door.

Thinking it was his mother, Yang Chen got up and went to get the door. To his surprise, it was Lin Ruoxi instead!

Lin Ruoxi, who stood at the door, saw Yang Chen's pale and silly expression. He was oddly quiet too, unlike his usual demeanour. She had only seen a sight like this in her dreams.

"What? Am I not welcomed?" Lin Ruoxi asked sarcastically.

Yang Chen opened his mouth, but no words came out. He was speechless.

Ignoring Yang Chen, Lin Ruoxi went around him and entered the room.

Yang Chen couldn't recall a time where Lin Ruoxi had ever entered his room. But he was sure that he had never let anyone barge into his room like that.

Lin Ruoxi slowly made her way around the room, as if in deep thought. At times she would be pondering over something, and at times she would just nod.

In the end, she walked to the edge of the bed and bent down to pick up all of Yang Chen's dirty laundry that was strewn all around the room and said, "Don't leave your laundry just laying around. It'll stink up the room. I'll bring it down for washing." Yang Chen was shocked at the sight.

Yang Chen couldn't believe his eyes, "Ru—Ruo Xi, what is up with you today?"

"Nothing's up, I'm fine," she said with a smile and continued, "What? Can't a wife take an interest in her husband's life?"

Yang Chen nodded, then shook his head, then nodded again. He was at a loss as to how he felt. There was nothing wrong with being considerate but no one would have anticipated such a drastic change overnight. Taking into account the fact that she had been cold to the people around her for many years.

"You've always said I was the silly one, now who's acting silly?" she asked and giggled, "Do you need anything? I could go out and buy it for you, or would you rather I accompany you out instead?"

"No—nothing that I really need now," Yang Chen said, wiping off his cold sweat.

Lin Ruoxi then asked, "Actually, I was thinking, we shouldn't live in separate rooms being a couple and all? How about I move in tonight?"

"Hold up! Hold up! I think living apart is a good thing! There's no need for that!" yelled Yang Chen in a panic.

Yang Chen was on the verge of crying. Had he been given this option any other day, he would have accepted it in a heartbeat. However, now that it was presented to him so simply, he was scared shitless.

Looking all down and defeated, she said in a low voice, "D—do you hate me? You don't like me, is that it?"

"Please don't do this, Lin Ruoxi! This is not you!" shouted Yang Chen. "Don't torture me like this. Let's just go back to the way things were. I don't care if you don't talk or look at me. Judging by the way you're acting right now, I wouldn't be surprised if the world ended tomorrow!"

Lin Ruoxi maintained her innocent look and asked, "Why are you treating me like this? I just want to make your mom happy, and I am your wife for heaven's sake. Of course I care about you. How could I still let you sleep alone after we've been married for about a year?"

On the verge of a break down, with his hands akimbo, he said, "We're alone here, so drop the act. I would imagine that the only reason you're doing this, is to make me choose you over the others. Look, I've already told you that I love you and I mean it. But I love them too. They have done so much for me. I can't just leave and hurt them for you. If you can't accept this then just let me know. I can move out, no problem. I can file for a divorce, no problem. But right now, could you please not torture me like this?"

"Nope," she said with a sly and cold smile, "Where does it say that I must share the man I love? All my life, I've gotten everything I've ever wanted. I never lose and I certainly am not starting now. You want a divorce? I won't let you. You saw what happened tonight, whatever I say, Mom and Wang Ma would back me up."

"Even if your mom loves you unconditionally as her son, if she realizes the extent of your frivolous activities, whose side do you think she'll take? Especially now that her daughter-in-law is such a wonderful person. You understand the situation here, don't you?" she added.

Sighing, Yang Chen said bitterly, "Ruoxi, why are you like this? This really isn't you."

"You're wrong, this is how I've always been. I will do anything and everything I can to ensure that I will get my way. I can switch between behaving cold or hot whenever I want," she said with a sweet smile.

"When I was single, I needed to erect defences in order not to get bullied by other men. But now I have you. Why should I continue to tire myself out? I'll just have to play my role as a woman. Compared to the means I used to deal with the people in the business world, this is much simpler. Wouldn't you agree, my dear husband, or should I say, Your Majesty Pluto?"

Chapter 575

My Dear Husband

Yang Chen knew before this, that Lin Ruoxi had already known of his identity. It was only now that she decided to reveal her knowing about it.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly after hearing Lin Ruoxi call him 'Pluto' so confidently. It did not surprise him all that much. He was well aware that his cover could've been blown even before leaving to Paris.

The Lin Ruoxi of the past had developed her icy personality to protect herself, mainly because she was placed into the competitive world of business at such a young age. Somehow or rather, she had to create a coping mechanism.

Her family was to blame as well. It was really hard to actually appreciate life when everything was against you.

But now things were different—Lin Ruoxi had escaped death multiple times which resulted on her new outlook to life.

She realized that she did not need to worry about herself or the company anymore, so spending so much energy on work and maintaining her ice-cold personality was no longer needed.

Family and marriage to women in general, were significant and important things in life. Lin Ruoxi knew this, but never had the courage to face it.

So, when Yang Chen came with the ability to provide her with those experiences, she quickly grabbed that opportunity.

Seeing Yang Chen speechless, Lin Ruoxi wasted no time and collected the laundry. She walked toward Yang Chen and whispered in his ear, "Hubby, when you have come to a decision, you may look for me in my room anytime..."

Yang Chen felt like jumping as soon as the words left her mouth. An unnatural feeling coursed through his body when she called him 'hubby'. What more, she wanted him to look for her in her room? That could only mean...

Deciphering what she meant by 'making a decision', could it be that she wanted him to give up on the other women in his life?

"Would the end result be any different if you chose to remain silent instead?" said Yang Chen anxiously.

Lin Ruoxi smiled and said, "The end result would be the same. I just want you to suffer."

"What?" Yang Chen said, doubting what he heard.

Lin Ruoxi explained, "Yes, I want you to suffer. As you suffer, your latent anger would also start to build in suit. Then there will come a time where everyone—even your precious girls—will annoy you to the point where you lose it. If you vent your anger on me, I would have the support of the elders. I just have to act innocent. For the times where Mom cannot protect me, I could always just go to Beijing where Grandpa is."

"Well, the best case scenario would be you acting out on your girls. Your relationships with them would start to deteriorate even without my intervention. Slowly but surely, they would start to leave you."

A chill went down Yang Chen's spine. He sighed and said, "Lin Ruoxi, your cunningness exceeds my expectations, you know that?"

“Yeah, I do.” said Lin Ruoxi and continued, “Well, how close am I to that typical toxic wife in your mind now? Nevermind, I don’t care. The only way you would win this battle, is if you stop loving me.”

Clenching his fists and biting his teeth, he remained silent as there were no more words left for him to say. She was right. Her plans would only work if he continued to love her. And she knew that.

There was no wrong or right in a battle like this. Only the parties ability to persuade the other for their cause.

Lin Ruoxi seemed to have thought of something again, which she said while exiting, “Do you remember our deal my dear hubby? I promised to not do anything to your girls for a year. So when the year is up and I do make my move on them, no hard feelings alright?”

Yang Chen couldn’t believe what he just heard. Lin Ruoxi had just threatened him.

Lin Ruoxi continued as she laughed, “If you break up with them within the given time frame, then there’s no reason for me to do anything to them. Besides, Qianni is such a good sister of mine. I would hate for anything to happen to her.”

“Do you have to come this far?!” exclaimed Yang Chen.

Lin Ruoxi stood firm in her stance and said, “It was their decision to be with a married man. Therefore they should be ready for the consequences that follow”

Again, Yang Chen was speechless. The thought of Lin Ruoxi battling it off with his other women was really starting to turn all his hair grey.

He was a failure of a man. Only he would be played on like a fiddle by his wife. He couldn’t talk himself out of it and was beginning to contemplate the use of force!

Seeing Yang Chen in this state, Lin Ruoxi who was now standing at the door could more or less guess his intentions. “Do you really think using force would solve your problems? If you really think so, maybe we could try being rough in bed? I wouldn’t say no to that, you’re my legal husband after all.

“Of course if you somehow hurt me or frighten me, then I’d have more things to talk about with Mom wouldn’t I? Hmm, her own son inflicting harm on his wife? What would Mom think?”

Yang Chen took two steps back and sat on his bed. His cries of agony came with no tears.

Li Ruoxi knew she was victorious this round. She waved him goodnight and left the room, satisfied.

Yang Chen was not able to get any sleep that night. Rolling around in bed, he felt that his mind throbbing under the pressure of Lin Ruoxi’s words earlier that night.

He suddenly missed the old Lin Ruoxi who was always cold yet shy in his presence. She was not that interesting of a person back then, but it was one of her more endearing qualities. Today, although he knew that she was still the same person, he couldn’t recognize her anymore. Yang Chen was not willing to accept it.

He couldn't hit nor scold her. He would be in deep waters with his mother if she had found out that he did. Yang Chen had never felt so trapped before in his life. Who would have thought that being marked by woman could be so terrifying?

All the tossing and turning in bed was in vain. In the end, he failed to come up with any solutions to his problems. All he could do was go with the flow.

At dawn, Yang Chen wasn't actually tired despite not getting any sleep. Sleep wasn't a requirement for him. It had just become a habit that he developed after living the subdued life..

It was a weekend, so Yang Chen went downstairs pretty late. He looked around and saw only Wang Ma in the kitchen cleaning up the dishes. He then asked, "Wang Ma, has everyone eaten already?"

Wang Ma nodded and said, "Yeah, we have. They decided yesterday night that they wanted to help out the orphanage the next day. Zhenxiu tagged along with them."

"Zhenxiu tagged along?" said Yang Chen, confused. Although Yan Xiu visited the orphanage quite often, she should have postponed all visits due to her upcoming exams. Going right now wouldn't be in her best interests, as visits like these usually took up a whole day!

It was clear that Lin Ruoxi was building up her army. She wanted everyone on her side and leave Yang Chen to fight on his own.

Thinking about this, Yang Chen's appetite shrank. After eating, he took the car out, not to the orphanage, but to Ivy Sanatorium.

He already had plans to visit the sanatorium after coming back from abroad to pay Master Tang a visit. He wanted to know if Tang Wan had any issues that he could help with, while getting his own physical evaluation. During his recent trip to Europe, he had encountered several severe headaches. For a being like him, it was important that he went for a check up immediately.

But ever since coming back, things had spiralled out of control. So since it was a weekend, he decided to settle things once and for all.

Traffic had always been pretty bad on the weekends, so the journey took him around an hour. Arriving at the sanatorium, he waved at the security before he was given access to where Master Tang was.

Upon stepping into the familiar courtyard, Yang Chen was then stunned by what he saw.

Under the great palm tree sat Master Tang and a young girl. They were playing the board game Go.

The girl wore all white with her amber hair tied up with a rubber scrunchie. She had a cold yet elegant face. That girl was none other than Jane.

Opposite her was Master Tang. At first Yang Chen didn't recognise the white-haired man dressed in a green robe. There was even a hint of dominance between his brows. Is he really Master Tang?!

Chapter 576

Giftng the Granddaughter

In that moment Yang Chen realized, that Jane had helped the previously incurable Master Tang recover in a matter of days!

Standing by the both of them was Hannya dressed in her corporate attire. She looked every bit like a businesswoman and less like a female ninja. She was standing out in the corridor when she noticed Yang Chen. Immediately, she bowed and greeted, "Master."

Jane and Tang Zhechen turned around to the sound of Hannya's greeting. Jane raised her eyebrows and said, "So you have finally decided to come. I waited three whole days for you. I was starting to think if I should should've gone and fetched you here myself."

Yang Chen gave an awkward laugh. Nobody should have known that he had just returned from abroad, but she knew due to her connection with Catherine who was in Europe. He said, "I had to get a few pressing errands done before coming over. I didn't think I'd be so surprised by coming here today."

"What's there to be surprised about? I promised you several things before you left and I intended to see them through. Master Tang was treated and healed even before your return," she said with such confidence and continued, "At the very least, I deserve a big thank you for all the work I had done here, don't I?"

Yang Chen replied, "Well, I'll just have to wait for Tang Wan to gift me with something, and I'll give that to you. How does that sound?"

"Hey! How could you be so insincere?" exclaimed Jane. She knew that Yang Chen was just kidding, but still felt dissatisfied.

Yang Chen laughed and swept his gaze across the table to Tang Zhechen, who had been staring at him silently from his arrival.

Tang Zhechen looked a lot better now compared to a few days prior. The old man had a seriousness to him but at the same time held fondness and curiosity toward Yang Chen.

"So you're Yang Chen?" asked Tang Zhechen, somewhat unsure.

Yang Chen smiled and asked, "You don't think I'm him?"

Shaking his head, Tang Zhechen said, "You don't look like him."

"Why don't I look like him?" he asked curiously, but unsurprisingly, since the old man didn't even recognise him at first.

Tang Zhechen then smiled and said, "You look too normal. Just like any other person in this city. But I guess that is exactly why you are extraordinary. To be honest, I find the aura within you quite surprising for someone your age."

Yang Chen decided not to comment on that, but he sighed in his heart regardless. Tang Wan's true motive for wanting the old man to recover quickly was not a very hard thing to guess. Though it was mainly because he was her family, judging solely from his ability to tell Yang Chen's unique quality, it was apparent that the old man hardly missed out any details.

[TL note: In Confucian philosophy, filial piety is a virtue of respect for one's parents, elders, and ancestors.]

That morning, Yang Chen had a great realization which changed the strength within his body. However, it did not show up on his appearance. Unless it was someone deeply familiar with him, it was incredibly difficult for the average person to discover any abnormality on Yang Chen.

According to Tang Wan, Tang Zhechen had retired from politics many years ago. However, he was the only one who could control of the Tang clan. As expected of an outstanding man.

At the side, Jane jokingly asked, "Yang Chen, what have you been filling Master Tang's mind with? What did he mean by being normal is not normal?"

All Yang Chen did was smile. Even if she was the most intelligent person in the world, little bits of intricate and mysterious details would still elude her.

"I'd like to congratulate you on your recovery, Master Tang. Are you going back to Beijing today?" asked Yang Chen curiously.

Smiling, Tang Zhechen replied, "Since I've already recovered, would there even be a difference if I went back or not?"

Yang Chen nodded at the realization of what he meant. He was right, if the tigers of the mountain had recovered their ferocity, why would the hyenas continue to roam about freely?

"Well actually, the air here in Jiangnan is pretty humid. It's not something that I can get used to. If I wasn't waiting for your return, I might've left today," said Tang Zhechen.

Being the man he was, Yang Chen nodded in acknowledgement and said, "I don't have many friends and Tang Wan would be a close one if anything. If there's anything I can do to help, I would."

"Oh?" Tang Zhechen smiled and said, "Speaking of which... you and my granddaughter... Are you really just friends?"

Jane widened her eyes with curiosity once the question was asked. Out of everything she knew and wanted to know in life, Yang Chen's private life piqued her curiosity the most.

It was really hard for Yang Chen to give an answer. They had done things that have gone beyond the boundaries of friends and did in fact, hold feelings for one another. However, as he remembered what Lin Rouxi said yesterday, Yang Chen decided not to drag Tang Wan into the hot mess as well.

It took him a while, but Yang Chen finally came up with an answer. "For now we've not gotten into anything serious, honestly."

That was all Tang Zhechen was waiting for. He now knew whom to set his granddaughter up with.

He did not expect Yang Chen to be so direct. After a sigh of relief, he laughed out loud before saying, "Then I hope something more serious happens in the future, eh?"

Yang Chen was shocked. Was the old man trying to push his granddaughter to him? Was this his way of showing his gratitude, to gift her granddaughter?

After chatting for a bit, an oval-faced girl who wore a pale yellow spring dress came into the courtyard. It was Tang Wan's cousin, Tang Xin.

Tang Xin served some boiling hot tea in quite a peculiar purple tea set.

Seeing Tang Xin carry the tea over, Hannya who was standing at a corner came forward. She stopped Tang Xin and said, "Miss Tang, let me get it there."

Tang Xin got annoyed at the request and said, "Grandpa! Why is this woman so annoying?! Why is she stopping me from serving you? Tell her to go away!"

"Oh, dear Xin'er, she's only looking out for me. I know you don't think that this is a reasonable request but can you do it for me? You need to understand that your elder sister holds other good intentions," Tang Zhechen said.

Pouting, Tang Xin muttered, "Elder Sister should only stop the evil man Tang Huang from coming over. Why isn't she letting even one of our own get close to you? Urgh!"

Saying that, Tang Xin still handed the tea set over to Hannya, and let her serve the tea on the table.

Just noticing Yang Chen, Tang Xin perked up and said, "Oh! Mr Yang, when did you come back? Grandpa is well now all because you sent Miss Jane over!"

Yang Chen smiled and asked, "Where is your sister?"

Looking at Yang Chen, with a teasing tone, she asked, "You really miss Elder Sister, don't you? Be careful, Miss Jane might be jealous! Don't you worry, she's busy at work She'll be back as soon as she's done to see Grandpa."

Yang Chen nodded, feeling a little bit disappointed. It had been quite a while since he last saw Tang Wan. He missed that curvy and elegant silhouette of hers.

From this point forward, he really did not know what else to do. Any woman who gets into a relationship with him now is another potential headache. But a mature and aggressive woman like Tang Wan really made his heart itch.

I shouldn't hold sinful thoughts like this. It has been said that only a clear mind could lead to great results in cultivation. Because my desires are never fulfilled, could it be that I am my own limiter?? thought Yang Chen.

Tang Xin had a chat with Tang Zhechen before leaving to prepare lunch. Only the four were left in the courtyard while silence ensued.

Yang Chen asked curiously, "I must admit that I assumed the past few days to be eventful one's. I was wondering why the courtyard was so quiet. My take is that no one is really allowed in here"

"That goes without saying," Jane explained, "Through my research, the poison that plagued Master Tang was one never before seen in this world. It was specifically designed for the host to not show any symptoms. Since there is no data I can compile on this matter, I cannot know for sure how it was applied. So right now, we are limiting food's and bodily contact to a minimum. Even Miss Tang Wan has deliberately stayed away from him."

Yang Chen frowned at the thought. "Do you mean you haven't figured out exactly what it is?" Yang Chen was shocked to hear the news. Although Jane successfully extracted the poison from his body, she was unable to determine its nature.

This could only mean that the inventor of the toxin was certainly on par with Jane. That was exactly why she had used quite a bit of time before being able to craft the antidote.

"It took me quite a while, but I did it nonetheless," said Jane, "Don't you worry. Though our opponent seems to be quite formidable this time around, I still managed to create a cure. Since that is possible, I'm sure I'll be able to get all the information I need on the toxin."

Upon hearing this, Yang Chen asked, "Do you mean you'll continue staying here in China?"

"What? Am I not welcomed here?" asked Jane with grimace. She continued, "You want me to leave now that I am of no use to you?"

Astonished, Yang Chen waved his hands in denial. "No, no, I was just worried that someone might want to take their revenge on you. We haven't caught the culprit yet, remember? I was thinking that England would be a safer place for you to be in."

"Don't worry, I have Hannya here with me. I'll be fine," assured Jane.

Yang Chen then looked towards Hannya and said, "I guess I'm going to need to trouble you again. If you think you need a time off, don't hesitate to call up a few Jounin's to help out."

Yang Chen knew that only a Jounin was sent as a representative to the secret meeting in Europe because Hannya was still in China. Although Yamata Sect had lost its leader Noriko Okawa who was a Chinnin, it was still largely influential throughout the entire Asia.

Hannya immediately bowed her head and said humbly, "It's my honor to protect Miss Jane. Master, there's no trouble."

Yang Chen didn't know whether to cry or laugh. Having stayed with the old psychopath Noriko Okawa for too long, she displayed servitude to a terrifying level. Kindness and care would make her feel uncomfortable and frightened.

It would definitely be exciting for this sort of woman to play a certain role. If he were to act the way he did back then, he would most likely seek pleasure from Hannya. However, he thought that since he couldn't even take care of his current women, where would he find the time to do so with yet another one?

Without saying much more, Yang Chen was prepared to have Jane examine his brain. So he let Hannya stay by Tang Zhechen's side before heading to the lab with Jane.

Hannya realised that Yang Chen did not have any intention of asking her to go back to Japan, so calmed down and nodded in agreement.

Jane was shocked to hear that Yang Chen wanted her to check up on his old problem. Although she was aware of his recent expansion of powers in Europe, she did not think that it was enough for his illness to resurface. To avoid wasting time, she quickly pulled him over and urged him towards the treatment room of the sanatorium.

Looking at the two leave so swiftly, Tang Zhechen sat back down on his little stool. He looked down on the unfinished board game, and sighed while he shook his head. He might be old, but he knew exactly what Yang Chen's 'old problem' was.

The sanatorium was already fully equipped ever since her several days ago. But the work she had done here demanded a different set of tools. So she had more than enough equipment to examine Yang Chen's brain thoroughly.

As soon as they entered the treatment room, Jane changed her expression. Wearing a white coat, she was as tense and serious as she could be.

The western beauty, whose face was no different from a painting, now was so serious that she looked like a teacher ready to discipline her students. She pointed at the enormous equipment and ordered, "Remove all metal objects, including your belt, then lie on the surface. Do it quick!"

Chapter 577

Ended on That Day

Yang Chen kept his mouth shut knowing that this woman did not joke around when it came to work. He obeyed without complaint and took off all of the metal objects he had on him before lying on the examination table.

Jane pushed a few buttons and performed the necessary procedures. The machine then slowly slid Yang Chen's body into the cylindrical orifice.

As soon as Yang Chen was inside the machine, it lit up with colorful lights. It looked straight out of a sci-fi movie.

Jane, however, was less concerned about the light and more about the three large monitors which was transmitting data and readings from the machine.

The screens displayed different medical jargons, waves, and light spectrometry. It was not information easily perceptible by laymen. Even biologists or medical experts would find it difficult to decipher the relationship between the data as the system was specially designed by Jane.

Jane sat there unwavering. Her eyes never left the screen. All data passing through her eyes were immediately analyzed in her brain. She was better than the best data scanners money could buy.

As the data gradually surfaced, Jane's face started to show a mixture of emotions, ranging from surprise to curiosity and even an irresistible joy!

After Yang Chen was released from the machine, Jane immediately asked, "Yang Chen, you said that you had a headache in France. Was there anything else besides that?"

Yang Chen sat down and thought for a while. "Not really, did the test result show a problem?"

Jane lowered her head for awhile before shaking it happily. She exclaimed, "The issue isn't that fact that you have a problem, It's the exact opposite."

"Huh?"

“If the data shown is correct, your brain has recovered,” Jane said, excited..

Yang Chen was surprised to hear that, but was relieved nonetheless. He said, “Since I have been cured as you said, I can stop worrying about it. Actually, I already had a feeling that it was probably the case. But I still needed concrete proof.”

“Do you mean you’ve discovered the reason?” Jane immediately read between his lines and asked, “Is it the Chinese internal energy that you mentioned earlier?”

Yang Chen scratched the back of his head and said, “To be honest I’m not sure myself. All I know was that after i had finished meditating on something, the previously invincible tumor seemed to have vanished. Even my knowledge on internal energy cannot explain it.”

Jane frowned at the statement. She couldn’t come up with anything useful when faced with non-statistical data, so she stopped asking more.

Yang Chen looked at the time—it was almost ten in the morning. “You’ve been working so hard lately. Are you free for me to take you to a appreciation lunch?”

“You’re not that terrible, are you?” said Jane with a smile. Knowing that Yang Chen’s illness was suddenly gone, though for no apparent reason, she felt delighted.

The two left the sanatorium, and had Hannya take care of Tang Zhechen. Hannya did not have any objections. She was aware that during the secret meeting in Europe, Yang Chen had single-handedly defeated two six-winged angels. She wanted to maintain her relationship with Yang Chen, so that the Yamata Sect would prevail in the long run. In order for this to happen, she couldn’t resist any of his orders.

Jane rarely came to China, and this time she was tied up in taking care of Master Tang in the sanatorium. She wasn’t given the chance to actually head out nor have any free time for that matter. Which was why she felt particularly excited this time round.

Jane changed into a white dress, with white heels and a black belt. All in all it was quite fashionable. Nothing she wore resembled Welsh royalty but instead looked more like a tourist. However, judging by the number of people who stop to stare at her, she was clearly no ordinary tourist.

Yang Chen assumed that a girl who was raised well off would find street food fascinating. Evidently, this was not the case for Jane. Driving through a row of hawker centers, he asked Jane to select a lunch destination.

Jane raised her eyebrows and answered, “Yang Chen, why did you bring me here? Are you really so stingy?”

“Huh?” Yang Chen asked, confused with her question. It would seem that he may have assumed wrongly. Which led him to ask, “I thought that you would be sick by now of high-end places, so I decided to take you here.”

“You’re right, I am sick of high end restaurants. But what I am not sick of is clean food which places like these don’t provide. Furthermore, I don’t feel like being an endangered animal being paraded on the

streets for all to see. The point was to eat out with you, and you're the one who really eats a lot, not me," complained Jane, as if she was dissatisfied with Yang Chen for not knowing her intentions.

Ah so that's what she was concerned about, thought Yang Chen as it became all clear to him. She was right. Every time he rolled the windows down, passersby would stop to stare. It was because the foreigner in the car was simply too gorgeous for them not to take a look.

Realizing his mistake, Yang Chen immediately drove to a high-class district with fancy restaurants instead..

They soon arrived at a restaurant where the server seated them at the second floor by the window. They could see the beautiful lake glistening in the moonlight. Since it was April, the grass out in the field was especially pleasant to look at.

The restaurant did not have many customers to begin with. Coupled with the violin in the background, all in all it was quite the relaxing environment.

After their meal, Jane asked, "So regarding the two angels you defeated in Europe, did you keep their bodies?"

Yang Chen replied, "What? Are you thinking of experimenting on them?"

"It's not illegal is it?" asked Jane with an innocent face. She then lowered her head to sip on the fruit juice. "These bodies are hard to come by. I've been dying to find out what it takes for a body to be able to host an angel. I don't believe that their existence is purely spiritual. There would still be a scientific explanation, albeit a mysterious one."

Yang Chen laughed awkwardly and said, "Although they were killed by me, you have to understand that the Vatican holds these people in high regard. They would rather die than let their people turn into guinea pigs for a science experiment."

Jane laughed and said, "Well if you were the one that asked for me, would they really refuse?"

Yang Chen sighed and said, "You are so similar to your mother. You both like to look for tasks blindly. The apple did not fall too far from the tree in this case I suppose. I wonder why the Welsh citizens picked your family."

"Humph! If you think we're alike, why do you sleep with her, but dare not lay a finger on me?" she asked straightforwardly.

Yang Chen almost choked on the water he was drinking as soon as he heard that. Smiling awkwardly, he replied, "What happened between Catherine and I lies in the past. She and I hold a different relationship now."

"But that woman had the audacity to call me two days ago to announce her battle in bed with you. She even bragged about how it lasted all night and into the morning!" Jane replied feeling sour.

Yang Chen was stunned at the revelation. *When will the two of them ever grow up??* he thought. "The both of you are separate people regardless of your similarities. You're still young, and there are still many people that you have not met that may be right for you. I believe that you are still stuck in the past, which may explain your reluctance to move on. I think... we are better off friends. You of all people

should be aware of the number of women by my side. As it is, my problems have only doubled in size in the past year.”

“Eight years ago if I fancied a man, it must have been because I didn’t know any better. But if I still like the same man eight years later, how then could it be just a passing infatuation. I am Jane. I think rationally even in the most emotionally complicated situations,” said Jane with confidence.

Yang Chen was speechless. He could not think of another way to persuade her. This woman had possessed a stubbornness unique only to her. Everything she had done thus far had Yang Chen in the center of it all. She had so many achievements along the way but it all began with her wish to cure Yang Chen of his brain disease.

If it wasn’t for that, she would’ve just gone back to her mansion and continued to live like a princess. She wouldn’t need to wear that goofy lab coat, nor did she have to bother herself with research and lecturing work.

From Yang Chen’s silence, Jane knew that she wasn’t going to be accepted anytime soon. Letting out a bitter smile, she held her own chin with her fair-skinned hands. “Sometimes... I think that if I knew I had to suffer for you everyday for the rest of my life, I would’ve rather had my life cut short on that day.”

“Don’t put it that way. You’ve always been someone of significant importance to me. It’s just that I’ve been troubled by relationship issues lately. Adding one more into the mix is essentially just going to cause more trouble for everyone already in the mix.” Yang Chen felt his heart ache a little.

Jane’s appearance had far exceeded those of the typical western and eastern beauties. She could have easily picked any number of men to do her bidding. Instead, she had waited all these years while bearing no fruit. This was why Yang Chen felt extremely bad for her.

The atmosphere between the two soon turned gloomy. It only became slightly better when the meal was served. Yang Chen asked for a bottle of red wine. Although the wine served at a place like that would most likely not meet Jane’s standards, Yang Chen promised to treat her to a proper meal.

When the two wanted to start drinking, an eye-catching silhouette appeared near the staircase. Upon noticing the approaching figure, Jane who was usually calm let out a look of astonishment.

Chapter 578

The Man of Alcohol

It was a man with messy, long hair stretching to his shoulders. It wouldn’t come as a surprise to many if he said he had not showered in weeks. His facial hair could’ve also used a bit of work. Wearing a pair of thin-black-framed spectacles meant to correct nearsighted vision, he appeared rather young.

There were very few words to describe a man like him—after all, he wore a lab coat to the western restaurant!

The white coat didn’t seem to be similar to the one’s worn by doctors in hospital. His were stained with what seemed to be paint and dye of various colours. He looked just like a mad scientist in the movies.

In addition, the man wore a pair of extremely high-quality navy leather boots. They were well worn judging by the scratches on the surface accumulated over the years. The shoelaces weren't tied, but the shoes were a surprisingly well fit.

The man's emergence made many of the self-proclaimed gold-collar workers and the upper-class consumers on the second floor furrow their brows. Expected of course, of a man who looked no better than a roadside beggar.

The waiter of the restaurant serving him looked troubled. He knew that bringing this man upstairs was a huge risk. Being merely a server, it wouldn't bode well for him should he displease the customers.

The problem lay in the strange identification card the man owned which made even the decision-making manager of the restaurant back off from stopping him. Thus, the server was forced to entertain him regardless.

Having looked around the area, the man pointed at a table near that of Yang Chen and Jane. Emotionlessly, he said, "I'll sit there."

The server quickly nodded in agreement and left. He dared not look into the guest's eyes. All he wanted to do was quickly set the table and leave the rest to the other servers.

Yang Chen and Jane glanced at each other, knowing that the stranger came for them.

When the man was properly seated on the table, the server left immediately before asking another employee to take the man's orders.

Seeing that the man remained silent, Yang Chen ignored him and toasted Jane with wine before starting to eat.

Jane, however, felt incredibly uncomfortable at the sight of this man. Despite being almost two meters away, she was able to detect the decaying smell on the man. She was confident that the man must have done biochemical research recently. A field she was all too familiar with

Her originally lone, precious time with Yang Chen was destroyed by an uninvited guest just like that.

Since the man left the other diners to their own vices, they decided to leave him alone.

An 'elected' young server then came to the man and asked, "Sir, would you like me to recommend you something, or would you like to proceed with ordering?"

The man answered, "Get me two pieces of eighteen-ounce ribeye."

The server nodded before asking, "How would you like them done?"

"Extra rare," answered the man.

Stunned, the server doubted his hearing. "I'm sorry but did you say extra rare?"

"What is it? If you don't know how to cook them that way, just get me raw beef. It must be fresh though," the man said.

At last, the server who was terrified asked, "Then... Sir, what drink would you like to accompany your meat with?"

The man waved his hand. "I brought some myself. Get me my raw beef now."

"Huh?" The server was stunned once again.

The man suddenly reached his arm into his lab coat and grabbed a glass bottle of half-finished alcohol. It was about the size of a regular can drink and was unbranded.

The server looked no different from a bitter gourd when the man placed the bottle on the table, not to mention it was liquor. Softly, he said, "Sir, we don't allow outside drinks here..."

When the server finished speaking, he lowered his chin so much that he was basically turtling in.

The man, however, remained quiet. All he did was retrieve a deck of hundred-yuan red bank notes. There were at least ten pieces which amounted to a thousand yuan.

"Treat this money as my payment for your wine here," the man said.

The server was speechless. The money was more than enough to purchase the most expensive wine in the restaurant. Still shivering while he received the money, he then quickly sped off to get the man his order.

The weird man's actions were noticed by many of the diners there. But they were curious more than anything so they left him alone.

Jane frowned slightly when she heard that the man had basically ordered raw meat. She was a girl after all. Chewing on bloody beef wasn't exactly a common thought of her's.

The man ignored everyone's gazes. Removing the bottle cap, he downed some of the alcohol into his mouth. He didn't even bother to use the wine glass on the table.

Yang Chen found the whole situation quite comical. While he didn't care much for the practice of etiquette, this man took the word uncultured to a whole other level. Yang Chen felt that even he had a much better behaviour than this guy.

Soon, the smell from the man's alcohol exuded a pungent smell. Instead of calling it an alcoholic drink, it was more accurately defined as chemical!

Jane was slowly chewing her steak trying to mind her own business. When she noticed the smell, she almost spat out the meat in her mouth!

Yang Chen stopped everything he was doing as well. He wasn't unfamiliar to the smell. He just found it unbelievable that someone had the gall to bring it into a western restaurant!

"Jamaican rum?" muttered Yang Chen doubtfully.

The man downed the drink yet another time, savoring the taste in his throat. Turning around, he grinned and asked, "You know of it?"

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "It really is," he thought.

Jane looked at Yang Chen curiously as he seemed to know of the origins of the alcohol. She was really familiar towards high-class grape wines, but she had never heard of strange alcohols like that.

“With an alcohol content of over eighty percent, one mouthful would render a person completely useless. It’s said to be one of the worst alcoholic drinks in the world. He’s basically consuming acid,” explained Yang Chen to Jane.

Shocked, Jane opened her mouth slightly when she heard the alcohol content. She knew that Yang Chen’s body couldn’t be harmed by alcohol due to his physical attributes. But the man must have an unusual body constitution to be able to drink the alcohol so freely.

Furthermore, if the liquid smelled so bad, why would he bring it along?!

The man drank yet another mouthful. Leisurely, he said, “It looks like Princess Jane isn’t as knowledgeable as the rumors would suggest. At the very least, Mr Yang knows more when it comes to alcohol.”

Neither Yang Chen nor Jane was surprised when the man addressed their names, as they knew that he had come for them. However, being scorned by anyone did not sit well with her.

At this moment, the server carried a plate of beef over. It was served ridiculously fast as the man had basically asked for raw meat.

The two pieces of extra-rare steak had a thin, white layer on the outside. They were essentially bloody blocks!

The server quickly backed off upon delivering the food. He did not think that he could stomach the sight of a customer cutting up and eating raw meat.

The man stacked the steaks together and lifted the fork and knife before cutting them at once.

When pressure was applied, the steaks released blood-colored liquid to the plate while the fresh beef exuded the smell of blood.

The man looked just like a beast sniffing at its prey. Opening his mouth, he delivered the fresh beef right into his mouth. He chewed it in exceptionally large movements, with his jaws separating and joining repeatedly.

As the man chewed, blood and saliva started to drip from the corners of his mouth. Mouthful after mouthful, he ignored the liquids flowing from his mouth.

The way he ate made Jane feel utterly disgusted and almost vomit. Losing her appetite, she put down her knife and fork before looking away.

Yang Chen, on the other hand, felt nothing at all. He had seen the human corpse in every state of its decaying process, so looking at someone chew raw meat wasn’t exactly a challenge. Since Jane had lost her appetite, he poked her steak with a fork before happily eating it himself.

When the man was almost done with half his food, he turned to look at Yang Chen who was also devouring his beef. Opening his mouth, he revealed his bloody white teeth and said, “I’m sorry, I was

too hungry that I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Yan Buwen, it's my honor to finally meet the second-generation Pluto."

"What, you're Yan Buwen?" asked Jane, surprised, before Yang Chen even gave an answer.

Yang Chen didn't expect him to be who he claimed he was. Due to the disaster caused by Christen back then, he had fought and beaten Yan Buxue quite seriously. While he knew that his actions would come with repercussions, he did not dwell on that topic for long.

However, Yang Chen had a slight impression of Yan Buwen. After all, Tang Wan, Abbess Yun Miao, and the others had mentioned his name before. Yan Qingtian from the Yan clan even destroyed Yang Pojun's dream of getting elected, and it was all thanks to the genius scientist of China, Yan Buwen.

Compared to his brother who just looked absurd, Yan Buwen's appearance was indeed interesting.

Chapter 579

Yan Buwen

While cutting the steaks, Yan Buwen asked calmly, "Does Princess Jane think I am an imposter?"

Jane was sick of looking at the disgusting fellow eat. Her nose was filled with the pungent smells of the Jamaican rum and bloody beef. Turning her head away with her brows furrowed, she said, "Although I knew that you were quirky to a certain degree, I didn't think that this would be the extent of the abnormalities."

"Thanks for your praise," Yan Buwen said for no apparent reason before shoving yet another mouthful of meat into his mouth. As he chewed, he spoke, "I heard that Princess Jane from the scientific institution Royal Society of London had recently made her way to Zhonghai, so I left everything I was doing and came here. Of course, I have long admired Mr Yang as well. Master Yang is an elder whom this one deeply respects. Since I'm lucky enough to have met the both of you, would you guys do me the honor of having a drink with me?"

Yang Chen was displeased at the request. Expectedly, his relations with the Yang clan wasn't exactly a well kept secret from the major people in Beijing. No matter how hard he tried to leave that part of his past behind him, he would always fail.

However, following the improvement of his relationship with Guo Xuehua, he began to be able to tolerate the Yang clan. At the end of the day, even if Yang Pojun and Yang Lie detested him, Yang Gongming, Guo Xuehua, and Yan Sanniang all held him in their good graces.

Furthermore, it wasn't the Yang clan who had intended to abandon him back then. While they each had their role to play in it, Yang Chen couldn't blame them entirely.

Following his elevation in cultivation, his emotional quotient rose as well. He was now able to be more open minded to new ideas.

Of course, that didn't mean Yang Chen was a completely different man. It was just that he could handle things more rationally.

Jane snorted scornfully. "Don't you think you sound hypocritical at the moment?"

Yang Chen was slightly surprised. It seemed like Jane had a past with Yan Buwen. Yang Chen had whacked Yan Buwen's brother. However they have yet to have gotten on each other's bad terms. On the contrary, Jane was usually calm and peaceful; she wouldn't usually be offended easily.

"Princess Jane seems to have misunderstood something. I am not quite sure when I had displeased Princess." Yan Buwen was well aware of Jane's true identity, so he was rather outspoken.

Yang Chen looked at Jane curiously as well. It was the first time he saw her scorn someone.

Jane pouted in dissatisfaction. It was rare for her to display anger. She explained to Yang Chen, "For the selection of last year's Nobel Prize, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Nobel Committee had both invited me to be one of the finalists judges. Originally, I had not planned to take part as not only would I violate the rule for successively doing so, it was also against the dying wish of Mr Nobel.

"But soon after, they revealed some information about the candidates. That was when I realized the most popular candidate was a Chinese."

At this moment, Jane had her gaze fixed on Yan Buwen who was quietly chewing his steak. Obviously, the 'Chinese' was a direct reference to him.

Yang Chen was surprised. While he knew that Yan Buwen was impressive in his field of research, he didn't expect him to be a big hit among the candidates for the Nobel Prize.

He also knew why Jane was invited. It should be mentioned that the Nobel Prize had never awarded scientists of the Chinese origin due to many political or international issues. Hence, it became much more complex than just an average award ceremony.

As a result, the Nobel Committee sought someone who could take up the responsibility as their final resort.

Jane happened to be the only one with the recognition of scientists worldwide, so the backlash would not be as great.

In the scientific community, Jane had a special status, as she didn't serve under any particular institution.

Jane's students were all elites from around the world, and she chose not to participate in any of their studies. Of course, that included not developing technologically advanced weapons for any countries.

That was the reason that although her talent was recognized all over the world, no countries had tried to recruit her. It was due to her identity as the heiress of the Welsh queen that it wasn't in anyone's best interest for her to be so directly affected by their wars. Secondly, she was one of the few people whom Yang Chen had publicly announced to protect.

As Jane wouldn't aid any countries and cause an imbalance, while she would train every country's scientists equally. No one bothered her to do anything she didn't want to. Not to mention that there were repercussions for people who did.

Yang Chen just couldn't understand why Jane was mad about Yan Buwen being one of the candidates.

Jane continued, "When I found out the intentions of the Nobel Committee, I had already known that this Chinese man would be one of the winners of the Nobel Prize that year. Since I only had to be there to withstand pressure, I accepted their request in the end."

At this moment, Jane stopped speaking. Raising her glass, she sipped on the ice-cold red wine before clenching her teeth. "At that time, I announced Yan Buwen from the Chinese Scientific Academy as the overall winner in every field of chemistry. However, within an hour, China called to inform us that Yan Buwen refused to accept any awards from overseas."

"When I asked for the reason, I was told that Yun Buwen didn't think his work could be judged by anyone!"

After listening to Jane, Yang Chen looked at Yan Buwen strangely, clearly not expecting him to be as arrogant as explained. Then, Yang Chen smiled and asked, "And it was because of this, you have become mad?"

"How can I not be? I initially wanted to help the committee withstand pressure, to declare the result through me. But this man had dared to reply me in this fashion! I basically embarrassed myself in front of the entire world!" Infuriated, she drank yet another mouthful of red wine, causing her cheeks to turn red.

Having consumed more than half of the steak, Yan Buwen suddenly let out a smile. "Princess Jane, so you're still mad about that. Actually, I wouldn't have remembered it if you hadn't regaled that story to me. If I really displeased you, I will apologize to you now." Yan Buwen raised his bottle of alcohol before downing a mouthful of the Jamaican rum.

"Forget about it. I don't deserve an apology from a great scientist like you," said Jane coldly.

Yang Chen shook his head with a smile. He had only just returned to China when all that had happened and so he wasn't aware of it. It would be fine if someone else did it, but the one who looked down on her was the field that she was the most well versed with. She was the teacher of so many core researches from different countries. And she managed to embarrass herself in front of every single one of them. No one would be happy coming from a situation like that. Especially not someone who was a girl and her age.

Just like that, the atmosphere turned dull for a while. Yang Chen had unknowingly finished the steak in his plate and Jane's unfinished portion.

Looking at Jane who was pouting in anger, Yang Chen said smilingly, "I've finished. Why don't we leave now?"

Jane wouldn't object it of course. Although she knew that Yan Buwen wouldn't have come just to chat for a moment, she was indifferent to his actual purpose.

Seeing that Yang Chen didn't plan to talk to him, Yan Buwen asked, "Mr Yang, don't you have anything to tell me?"

"What do you want me to say?"

"You beat up my foolish brother last time," Yan Buwen said and squinted his eyes.

Yang Chen tapped his head and looked like he remembered something. "Oh, so are you here for revenge?"

"Of course not. Since I called him a fool, I do not think it is Mr Yang's fault," said Yan Buwen in disdain.

"Since that's not the case, why are you still speaking? You don't seem very smart, do you? Tsk, tsk. Just get to the point." Yang Chen frowned and looked at the time from his phone screen. "Because of your presence, my lunch with Miss Jane has been interrupted. It's good enough that I didn't seek your trouble for that. Not to mention, you wasted our time with a bunch of nonsense. Don't you know that we're in a rush? We are not here for you to bully. Let me tell you, I'm not afraid at all to fight you!"

Yang Chen acted irritated. Pulling his sleeves up, he posed a fighting stance.

Yan Buwen was confused. Yang Chen was fine just a moment ago, but now he looked like he wanted to pick a fight. Also, wasn't Yang Chen the one wasting time now? He was the one with the most nonsense!

Seeing Yan Buwen's dazed expression, Jane burst into laughter. She knew that Yang Chen only put up the act to deal with Yan Buwen's arrogance.

It was just like an intelligent man who meets a farmer for the first time. No matter how logical the former was, the latter would never get it.

Yan Buwen, previously aggressive, had no clue how to continue the conversation, now that his flow was interrupted by Yang Chen's abrupt change.

"I believe Mr Yang has misunderstood. I didn't come here today to talk about my foolish younger brother."

"Then why did you bring him up then?" Yang Chen snorted.

Yan Buwen was once again speechless. He didn't want to explain anymore. Clenching his teeth, he said, "I came here to tell you that I'm not the one who has poisoned Tang Zhechen."

Chapter 580

Gift of Appreciation

Yan Buwen's speech was abrupt yet serious.

Seeing that Yang Chen wasn't going to add on, he said, "Mr Yang must be skeptical and with good reason too. I myself wondered how Master Tang was poisoned. But all I can say is I know just because I do. I'm also fully aware that I must be the most suspicious person as the poison had to be cured by Princess Jane herself."

"How narcissistic. Are you implying that except you, no one deserves to get me involved?" Jane almost laughed.

"Isn't that the case?" Yan Buwen let out an evil smile. "There are a thousand and one reasons why you guys would suspect me. But coming here and preventing you from investigating the wrong path also saves me the trouble of having to deal with you guys in my life. Although I'm far from a noble good guy, I will at the very least admit my wrongs."

Once he finished speaking, he continued cutting his raw beef completely ignoring Yang Chen and Jane.

Yang Chen stared at the pathetic-looking man for a while in silence before hinting to Jane to walk down alone.

Jane had long had the urge to leave. When she walked past Yan Buwen's table, she even frowned her delicate nose. The Jamaican rum had a smell so pungent that it could kill. She could only imagine why the freak liked it so much.

After paying the bill, Yang Chen drove Jane back using his car.

In the car, after a few minutes, Yang Chen asked, "Are you still hungry? You barely had any food. Do you need to snack on anything?"

"I don't feel like eating." Jane shook her head while staring out the window. After a while, she asked, "Yang Chen, do you believe him?"

"Believe what?"

"He claims of not being the culprit. He actually is our most likely suspect, isn't he? Although I don't know how the Chinese clan structure works, someone who could invent a new poison definitely tops the field of biochemistry. He may very well be the one."

Smiling, Yang Chen replied, "I said nothing about believing him. He indeed holds a large amount of suspicion. He might've even done a few other things we are not aware about."

Jane turned her head to look at him curiously. "Then why didn't you question him earlier? I even thought you were convinced already."

Yang Chen held the steering with one of his hands and scratched his ear with the other. "Would he have told the truth if I did? What was I supposed to ask him? Also, I don't have a shred of evidence. Time will tell whether he's the culprit."

Jane rolled her adorable eyes, apparently helpless toward Yang Chen's carefree demeanor.

More than half an hour had passed when the two arrived back at the sanatorium. Upon getting out of the car, they noticed two familiar figures approaching from the other end of the parking area.

Taking a closer look, Yang Chen saw that one of them was an elegant, curvy lady wearing a grey Studio coat. It was Tang Wan whom he missed that morning.

Beside Tang Wan stood a man with a frivolous smile. He was Tang Wan's younger cousin, Tang Huang, who was competing against her for the position of master within their clan.

Logically speaking, they were enemies. However, they appeared to be getting along rather well as they walked towards the sanatorium.

When Tang Wan saw Jane, she revealed a gentle smile. Probably due to Master Tang's recovery, Tang Wan now looked extraordinarily energized and exuded her regular charm.

"Went out for lunch?" Tang Wan cycled her gaze between Yang Chen and Jane, obviously implying something else.

“Yang Chen wanted to thank me,” answered Jane.

Out of curiosity, Tang Wan asked, “Really? So what did he get for you?”

Jane complained, “He told me he would give me whatever Sister Tang gave to him.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Tang Huang burst into laughter. “Mr Yang is indeed generous. This one is really impressed. Haha.”

Yang Chen glanced at Jane in dissatisfaction. *She seems to have interacted with Tang Wan well during my absence—she even called her sister. But did she have to expose me so quickly??* he thought.

Yang Chen didn’t voice out his resentment. Instead, he asked, “Are you guys here to visit Master Tang?”

Tang Wan smiled and nodded. “The board meeting just ended. Since Tang Huang wanted to pay a visit as well, we decided to come together.”

“Mr Yang, I had underestimated you. You sure look rather capable, having treated Grandpa’s disease. I, Tang Huang, owe you a favor as well.” Surprisingly, Tang Huang offered to shake Yang Chen’s hand.

Yang Chen didn’t mind the sarcasm he received from Tang Huang earlier. Shaking his hand smilingly, he said, “The one you should really be thanking is Jane.”

“But without you, we wouldn’t be able to invite Miss Jane over,” said Tang Huang straightforwardly.

Yang Chen stopped debating about that. His impressions toward Tang Huang had altered slightly slightly. While the fellow had a bad mouth, he actually had a deep connection with Master Tang. Yang Chen had a feeling that Tang Huang was sincerely thankful for his help.

They all chatted as they walked toward Master Tang’s courtyard. When they arrived at the entrance, Hannya came out expressionlessly. Softly, she said, “Master Tang is taking an afternoon nap.”

As a result, they decided to return at a later date.

Tang Huang said, “Since Grandpa is asleep, I’ll return to night. However, Elder Sister, when are you planning to send Grandpa back to Beijing? The clan cannot function without a master, not even for a day. If this continues, all of our operations in Beijing would turn into a mess.”

In a dull manner, Tang Wan replied, “I’ll let Grandpa return to Beijing once Miss Jane figures out how the poison was spread. But since you’re more familiar with Beijing than I am, I won’t let you go if Grandpa gets plotted against.” As she spoke, her words turned colder.

“Look at you, Elder Sister. I told you that I am not as well acquainted with Beijing as you think; do you have to push the responsibilities to me? Alright, alright. Should anything happen to Grandpa again, I’ll back off myself and let you become the clan master!”

“It isn’t about being the clan master or not. It’s Grandpa’s safety,” said Tang Wan in dissatisfaction.

“Whatever you say. I’ll go back to Beijing tomorrow and await Elder Sister’s good news,” sighed Tang Huang. Shaking his head, he brought his men away.

After Tang Huang left, Jane lazily stretched her body. Looking at Yang Chen and Tang Wan, she said, "I'm going back to the lab to continue. It would be best if I could get confirmation on the method used to spread the poison as soon as possible. You guys must have a lot to catch up on, since you haven't met for so long. I shall take my leave now."

Tang Wan blushed because of Jane's speech. Although she had a daughter, she had never truly gotten into a serious relationship before. On the contrary, Yang Chen was unaffected by it. His thick face must've gotten used to it.

When Jane left, Hannya suddenly walked forward to bow slightly at Yang Chen. Softly, she said, "Master, now that Master Tang has gotten better, should I then follow him to Beijing or stay here in Zhonghai?"

Tang Wan was slightly surprised when Hannya called Yang Chen master. *Why is this woman degrading herself by calling him master? Is she Yang Chen's personal toy or something??* she thought.

Tang Wan stared at Yang Chen with her charming eyes in dissatisfaction as she held that thought. *This man is despicable. Why does he have women everywhere?*

Yang Chen, however, was totally clueless about her thoughts. Frowning, he said, "Hasn't Jane given you any instructions?"

Hannya shook her head. "Miss Jane had asked me to obey Master's orders for now."

Jane evidently knew the boundaries. Although she could utilize Yang Chen's power, she wouldn't overuse it. As Hannya and Yamata Sect were both under Yang Chen, it was his commands that were final at the end of the day. It wasn't appropriate for Jane to treat them as her own resource.

Yang Chen pondered for a while before answering, "You shall return to Japan after this mission ends. I'll delegate Master Tang's safety to Sea Eagles. There's a lot happening in Yamata Sect as well. You can't just stay in China forever."

When Hannya heard what he said, she revealed a hint of disappointment in her eyes. To her, only by becoming Yang Chen's woman would her position truly be secured. However, it was clear that he held no such intentions for her.

Actually, if she really did get naked in front of Yang Chen, he wouldn't necessarily be able to restrain his desires. However, now that Yang Chen was already knee deep in relationship issues he wouldn't go out of his way to mess with women.

Tang Wan understood nothing about their conversation, especially the terms 'Yamata Sect' and 'Sea Eagles'. However, the woman who appeared as Jane's assistant mustn't be any ordinary person.

At the same time, she felt rather moved as Yang Chen had the discussion in front of her. She evidently wasn't treated as an outsider, which made her feel sweet inside.

"Are you free for the rest of the afternoon?" asked Tang Wan softly after Hannya left.

Yang Chen originally wanted to visit Cai Yan at the training camp. Seeing Tang Wan's expectant expression, he felt his heart pounce. Just because he had no interest in Hannya didn't mean it was also the case for Tang Wan.

While it was true that his cultivation had become more profound, and his brain illness had healed according to Jane, his sequela—low resistance toward women—had seen no changes relative to everything else.

Perhaps, even Yang Chen was unsure if he was born to bear a restless heart or it was a result of the divine light.

At last, Yang Chen nodded. Letting out an evil smile, he said, “Yeah, I am. Are you going to give me a ‘gift of appreciation’?”