

## Chapter 581 - Pig Head

### Pig Head

The words 'gift of appreciation' were emphasized so obviously that anyone could've guessed its meaning.

Tang Wan looked at Yang Chen's naughty smile, instantly understanding what he was referring to. Master Tang's recovery was indeed thanks to him and she did like that man after all. Since she wasn't the shy little girl she once was, she preferred to be straightforward. Thus, as she blushed slightly, she asked, "Is there something you would like to do right now?"

"If you don't mind," answered Yang Chen. He then held on to Tang Wan's slender waist with his arm and pulled her closer to him.

Tang Wan quickly blocked Yang Chen's demon claw. Rolling her eyes, she asked, "Why are you in such a rush? What if someone passes by and sees us? Do you want me to be the laughing stock of everyone I work with?!"

"It was you who asked whether I wanted it." Yang Chen withdrew his arm innocently.

Tang Wan was speechless. *But he still has to assess the occasion, doesn't he? How in the world did he grow skin that thick??* she thought.

Glancing at Yang Chen, she said, "Let's go to the backyard. Walk with me. We haven't chatted in a while already."

Yang Chen naturally wouldn't say no. Following Tang Wan through a silent walkway, they came to the backyard which was located near a hill.

A woman as fortunate as Tang Wan lacked nothing that could be bought. Which was to say they lacked in other areas like heartfelt conversations.

Men would often favor body intimacy, while women mostly sought a heart-to-heart connection.

Yang Chen couldn't distinguish the lines very well. All he knew was that once they reached a deserted place, then he would be able to do things with Tang Wan. He was indeed straightforward on this aspect.

However, when Yang Chen truly set foot on the backyard, the fire in his heart calmed down drastically.

The sunlight was warm while the breeze was comforting.

They walked on the boulevard surrounded by delicate flower beds made of granite, enjoying the beautiful scene with colorful, fragrant flowers.

Yang Chen suddenly felt peace in his heart. Something which he did not get to feel very often. Although the alluring-as-ever Tang Wan walked beside him, he held no dirty intentions.

Silence filled the place, and in his mind surged with a mixture of feelings. He was reminded of Lin Ruoxi's change, Mo Qianni's nervousness, and Ma Guifang's unknown thoughts. He was even starting to contemplate on possible solutions to all his relationship problems.

He wanted to be responsible to them. However, he was still clueless as to how he was going to make each and everyone of them happy.

Yang Chen didn't know how he should face the troublesome yet sweet burden.

Tang Wan noticed that Yang Chen was, to her surprise, staring at the flowers absentmindedly. She saw a hint of bitterness in his eyes.

To a woman of her age, a man in deep thought attracted her the most. It wasn't an act used by young men on ignorant girls. A man in thought showed the person he was within.

Looking at Yang Chen's gloomy cheek, Tang Wan held her slender hands together. Her face flushed while her heart quickened uncontrollably.

*Is this the kind of man I am attracted to? He's so young, but why does he exude such a mature, touching aura??*she thought.

Having walked for just a short moment, Yang Chen suddenly felt the forming of a headache. Lin Ruoxi had given him a problematic ultimatum. He was used to watching her deal with other people. However, today, he was finally on the receiving end of her meanness.

Smiling bitterly, Yang Chen looked at Tang Wan and said, "I'm sorry, I was troubled by some issues."

"It's nothing. I liked the way you looked," replied Tang Wan with a smile.

Yang Chen raised his brow in curiosity. "Why?"

"Because you looked much more serious than usual," answered Tang Wan.

Yang Chen was a little surprised, but he soon shook his head. "If I told you the reason I was in that state, it would ruin your perception of me. You'd even laugh at me for sure. Alright, there's no reason to hide. I've been thinking about how to explain this situation to my women recently."

Tang Wan was slightly stunned. Sourly, she said, "Women. Do you not realize how painful it is for me to hear that?"

"What's hurtful about that?" laughed Yang Chen. "I feel like my bones are torn by the supreme being at home, otherwise I would've thought about doing something to you."

Curiously, Tang Wan asked, "The one at home? Are you referring to Lin Ruoxi? Is she having another cold war with you?"

*Yang Chen got gloomy immediately.?How does she know I often face cold wars? Sigh, it must be Yuan Ye and Tang Tang, or even Yuan Hwei and his wife Yang Jieyu, all of whom are close to Tang Wan. Ruoxi and I aren't even genuine. It isn't hard for observant people to notice.*

Yang Chen gathered his courage and said, "You're a woman as well. Why don't you give me your opinion? I've been backed so far into a corner by her. I have to at least think of a way to fight back, otherwise I'll soon be no better than a slave in my house. Of course, this will also improve upon our relationship. We get to talk about private matters more."

Tang Wan had rich life experiences after all. Yang Chen felt that getting her involve was a decent idea.

Tang Wan felt a discomfort at heart. "When have you become so tame?? You used to mess with women everywhere and leave your wife at home. Just what has she said to you?"

Yang Chen sighed sorrowfully and got Tang Wan to sit down at a bench. He then briefly explained what Lin Ruoxi had done to him, including the part where he was demanded to cut off his ties with other women.

"Right now, in my mom's eyes, this daughter-in-law of hers is straight-up flawless. If I brought home another woman for her to see, I might as well hang myself right here right now," said Yang Chen in distress.

Tang Wan burst into laughter after listening to him, causing the lumps of flesh in front of her chest to go up and down, looking exceptionally eye-catching.

"What are you laughing at?" Yang Chen asked cowardly.

Tang Wan took a while to resist her laughter. "Let me ask you a few questions. Answer them honestly."

"What questions?" He didn't know what Tang Wan wanted to do next.

"First question. Have you bought your wife flowers before?" asked Tang Wan.

"No." Yang Chen shook his head. "But I have given flowers to one of my mother-in-laws before."

Tang Wan rolled her eyes. "Have you gifted Lin Ruoxi with jewelry before, like a diamond ring or something?"

"A diamond ring? Why would I give a wealthy woman a diamond ring? Giving her a diamond mine makes more sense." Yang Chen waved his hand with a smile, indicating that he had not.

Tang Wan shook her head and sighed. "Do you know what dish she fancies?"

Yang Chen pondered as he frowned. "I know that she loves glutinous rice balls. I bought them for her before, and she ate it secretly after I left. She was so embarrassed at that time. Haha."

"I'm talking about a dish, not snacks." Tang Wan glared at him in dissatisfaction. She then asked, "Do you know of her past?"

"Past? Are you referring to the deaths of her parents or something?" asked Yang Chen.

"No," Tang Wan replied, "Do you know what schools she attended? What was her favourite past time? Which university she went to and what her life there was like? Also, do you know any of her current hobbies? What does she hate or like? For example, colors, fashion styles, sports, art genre, music, etc. Do you know her preference for all of these?"

Yang Chen was stunned. Soon, he shook his head. "Why should I know all this?"

Tang Wan let out yet another long sigh. Rolling her eyes, she said, "Judging by your silly look, I can tell that you understand nothing at all."

"What don't I understand?" Yang Chen felt gloomy and his mind got stuck.

Slowly, Tang Wan asked, "Why do you think a couples date before marriage?"

“It is of course for them to know each other better, and see if they’re suitable together,” replied Yang Chen.

“That’s right. You and Lin Rouxi got married so suddenly without even falling in love. Perhaps you assumed that your daily interactions would be enough to get to know her. However, despite being unfamiliar with Lin Rouxi, I know that she’s known for her coldness. Why would she ever open up and tell you about herself? Also, for an unfaithful man like you, it’s even stranger for her to start any deep conversations with you! Looking at how you’re always with other women. You’re lucky she’s not asking for a divorce!”

Staring at Yang Chen, Tang Wan continued, “You didn’t know her that well to begin with, and there really was no spark between the both of you. Even if something you did later made her fall for you, it doesn’t mean she would tolerate your behaviour.

“For a proud woman like her who holds so many qualities to her name, why would she be willing to share her man with other women for no reason?”

Yang Chen was dumbstruck. *Yeah, why would she do that?*

Yang Chen looked no different from a fool, which made Tang Wan feel rather helpless. “You know nothing. You shouldn’t think about how to make her obey. Letting her know that she’ll lose isn’t the way to go. Instead, you need to let her realize that she can’t lose you, so that she’ll be willing to sacrifice for you! You must be the most important thing in her heart. Prove it to her, understand?!”

Yang Chen couldn’t comprehend clearly. After a short moment, he asked, “How do I prove it to her?”

“Are you brainless?” scolded Tang Wan.

Yang Chen swallowed his saliva audibly. Once the usually gentle and elegant woman got mad, even he would be frightened.

Tang Wan clenched her teeth and said, “Having said so much, all I need you to take away is—while you have shown your worth, you haven’t proven to Lin Rouxi why you deserve a place in her heart! That’s because you don’t know her enough. You never bothered to get to know her for who she is.

“You have been dominant for too long, which is why you think women revolve around you. However, it has caused you to be blind to certain things. You feel that everything will be fine as long as you love each other. Actually, the fault lies in you being superficial. Do you think us women are as casual as you?”

“Even the most ordinary couple out there gift roses, but you haven’t even gotten Lin Rouxi flowers, much less a wedding ring. How do you expect her to feel that you treat her as your only wife?”

“Don’t think that she doesn’t care about that just because she’s wealthy. And don’t think that just because she’s usually cold, she doesn’t care about the most minute matters in life.

“Will any women buy a wedding ring for themselves? Will they gift roses to themselves?”

“Lin Rouxi indeed doesn’t lack either of those. Furthermore, many men would be willing to give it to her. But does it really compare to her love giving it to her? If it is you, her husband, who gave her, will the value of the gifts still be the same?”

"It's because all this seems so distant to her that she hopes to depend on a dependable man, to live an ordinary life.

"Now that I've said so much already, does your pig head understand now?"

Yang Chen gazed upon Tang Wan's reddened face, his mind overwhelmed. As if a dazzling light shone upon him, he was suddenly enlightened!

*Yeah, why am I always thinking about making her obey, but not how to change her mind instead?*

*Why do I always need my women to change for me, while I never put in more effort for them?*

*I don't even know what color my wife likes, and what dishes she fancies. Why did I then expect her to accept me?*

*Yang Chen, oh, Yang Chen. You're indeed an idiot!* he thought.

"You have to treat her well enough. So well that she has no reason to reject you, and not forcefully make her lower her price. Do you understand?" Tang Wan was worried that Yang Chen didn't get it, so she highlighted the important parts once again."

Frowning, Yang Chen raised his head and stared at her. "Tang Wan, what should I do? After listening to what you said, I suddenly feel the urge to do you now."

Tang Wan was confused, trying to figure out what 'do you' meant. When she finally got it, she hit Yang Chen's shoulder in embarrassment. "You sir are a gone case! I was talking about something serious, but your mind has wandered yet again! It's no wonder Lin Ruoxi pulled that stunt with you!"

"Hehe." Yang Chen grabbed Tang Wan's delicate wrist. Smiling, he said, "You have enlightened me today. That has made you look all the more pleasant and adorable now. Mature women are indeed different. Since there's no one here, why don't you surrender yourself now?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Yang Chen pulled Tang Wan's mushy body toward himself, with his other arm holding her soft waist, causing their bodies to collide.

Tang Wan cried in shock. In the next second, the man was right in front of her. As their faces got closer, she shut her eyes and gave in.

However, her final bit of rationale made her block Yang Chen's chest. Panting, she said, "Do—don't do this. Not here."

Yang Chen didn't actually plan to do anything in the backyard. All he wanted was frighten her a little. With a naughty smile, he said, "Why not? Don't worry, if someone really approaches, I'll surely notice it."

"It'll be too late by the time someone comes," begged Tang Wan.

Right at the next moment, by the backyard's entrance resounded a crisp, female voice. "Mom! Mom! Where are you and Uncle?"

Chapter 582 - Old Lady

## Old Lady

Both Tang Wan and Yang Chen were shocked to have heard that familiar voice.

*That voice. That sounded an awful lot like Tang Tang!*

Tang Tang's sudden visit startled Tang Wan. She quickly jumped away from Yang Chen's embrace and tidied up her clothing. However, her face betrayed the arousal that she was trying to keep hidden.

"It's your fault that I'm embarrassed! Why'd you have to grope me here?" Tang Wan had always tried to maintain her composure in front of Tang Tang. But it seemed like that would end today.

Yang Chen gave a curt smile. He didn't mind if Tang Tang saw them together. Sometimes, being a little less uptight would really help in relieving one's worries.

As expected, Tang Tang who was dressed in yellow top and white-laced shorts, came round the corner and into sight.

She saw Yang Chen and Tang Wan standing together. Tang Tang let out a sly smile and hopped to her mother who was blushing like there was no tomorrow. Softly she asked, "Am I disturbing anything?"

Tang Wang coughed once and glared at her daughter while saying, "What are you talking about? Didn't I tell you to stay home today to revise for exams? So why are you here? Also, I distinctly remember telling you that you weren't allowed to drive any of the cars in the garage."

"I didn't drive." Tang Tang puffed her cheeks out and said, "Brother Yuan Ye sent me."

On cue, Yuan Ye who tagged along with Tang Tang showed up. He smiled after seeing Yang Chen. He recently found out from his parents that Yang Chen was his aunt's son who had been separated from the family for over twenty years.

It came as quite a shock to him but he was thrilled nonetheless. He had always considered Yang Chen as a brother to him. Having witnessed Yang Chen's miraculous acts multiple times, he had the urge to get closer to Yang Chen upon finding out that they were related by blood. If it wasn't for his parents who obstructed him from disturbing Yang Chen, he would've tried to become neighbours with Yang Chen.

Before Yuan Ye managed to greet them, Tang Wan excoriated, "Yuan Ye, how many times have I told you not to distract Tang Tang? She needs to stay home and study. Why did you bring her here?"

Yuan Ye panicked slightly when he heard her ask that question. With a nervous smile he said, "Aunt Tang, she told me that she was keen on visiting her grandfather. I heard that Master Tang had completely recovered and will be returning to Beijing soon. But before he goes, it would be respectful if we younger generation kids paid him a visit."

"Yea if it wasn't for Grandpa who shielded us from our enemies back then, we wouldn't be here now. You didn't allow me to visit Grandpa when he was ill. Now that he has recovered, you still refuse to allow me to see him. If he wasn't aware of the whole story, he would think that I have disregarded and disrespected him," Tang Tang said holding Tang Wan's arm.

Tang Wan hummed and said, "You sure come up with the best excuses to sneak out. For now, you will be forgiven for your consideration toward Grandpa. If you try this again, I will make sure that you are home by locking you in your room!"

Tang Tang nodded her head solemnly. Yuan Ye who was standing beside her widened his eyes in shock. *This future mother-in-law of mine is scary indeed. I should tread with caution in the future,* he thought.

On the other hand, Yang Chen was pleased to see the exchange between Tang Tang and Tang Wan. Tang Tang had matured quite a bit from her rebellious days.

*I don't know whether it is because I have been on that kind of relationship with Tang Wan, I used to see Tang Tang only as a little girl. But today, I feel like I became her senior instead,* thought Yang Chen.

Yang Chen yawned and lazily said, "All of you may go visit Master Tang. I will take my leave now as there are other places I need to be at."

Tang Wan was reluctant to let Yang Chen go but this was neither the time nor place to complain so she just nodded her head.

Yuan Ye suddenly strode up next to Yang Chen and said, "Cousin, I have something to tell you."

Yang Chen felt odd hearing Yuan Ye referring him as cousin. His relations to the Yang clan was known to quite a number of people, including this cousin brother of his from the Yuan clan. He wasn't bothered by that so he answered, "Yes?"

"Let's talk outside," said Yuan Ye with a grin on his face.

Yang Chen seemed confused. *What could it be that it had to be kept secret from both Tang Wan and Tang Tang?* he thought. Curious, Yang Chen nodded and walked towards the garden with Yuan Ye.

Tang Tang pouted but she wasn't surprised that Yuan Ye called Yang Chen 'cousin'. Yuan Ye wasn't actively trying to keep it hidden after all. Nevertheless, Tang Tang was an easy going, open-minded person. It didn't matter if Yang Chen was related to Tang Tang. Whatever the case turned out to be, she would still call him 'uncle'. With her voice full of jealousy, she asked, "Why does Yuan Ye have to talk to Uncle without letting us know? We are all practically family here."

Tang Wan wasn't pleased to hear Yuan Ye refer Yang Chen as his cousin. She actually knew that Yang Chen was the eldest grandson in the Yang clan because of Yang Jieyu. Furthermore, this fact was well known among the major clans in Beijing.

The reason why she never asked Yang Chen anything about his family was because Yang Chen hated that part of his identity. Besides, she heard that Yang Pojun and Yang Lie hated Yang Chen, and Guo Xuehua had left Yang Pojun.

She didn't want to trouble Yang Chen anymore than he already was with the Yang clan's issues.

She recalled that she explained the past of the Yang clan to Yang Chen and even said that she regarded them highly. Tang Wan felt like it was all planned by the heavens.

Tang Wan noticed that her daughter was pouting unhappily. She shook her head and said, "They are talking out men-related issues. Don't make things difficult for Yuan Ye. He's not involving you for good reason. Expect situations like this to continue when the two of you are married and living together."

Tang Tang blushed and asked shyly, "Mom... what marriage are you talking about? I haven't even finished my studies yet."

"Humph! When a girl is of a certain age, she must be married off. I will finally stop feeling worried when you as a little devil is left in the care of the Yuan family. Even better if Aunt Yang turns out to be a fierce mother-in-law. That way, she can discipline you," Tang Wan jokingly said to her daughter.

Tang Tang said in a huff, "I knew it, you think of me as an obstacle. You want me to leave so you can finally go on dates with Uncle, don't you?"

Tang Wan was stunned at her words. She quickly interrupted Tang Tang and said, "Nonsense. Yang Chen has a wife."

"I know about Sister Lin. I visited her with Yuan Ye during Chinese New Year. We even went for karaoke together. Even though Sister Lin is pretty, I think Mom is not too bad herself. Playboys like Uncle will definitely fall in love with you!" Tang Tang said with a proud expression and sparkling eyes.

Tang Wan felt her heart churn after hearing Tang Tang refer Yang Chen as 'uncle'. She felt rather pleased knowing that she was referred to as being in the same generation as Yang Chen. However, her joy was short-lived as reality slowly hit her. The truth was, Yang Chen and Yuan Ye are in the same generation. One generation below her.

At the end of the day, as soon as Yang Chen was recognised as the oldest grandson in the Yang clan, if they were to date, wouldn't that mean...

At this moment, Tang Tang suddenly wrapped her arms around Tang Wan's slender waist and squeezed her face into Tang Wan's chest.

Tang Wan stopped her train of thought before letting out a helpless yet gentle smile. "What happened to you? How is it that you still need to be pampered at this age? How embarrassing."

Tang Tang murmured, "Mom, I will never call you 'sister' anymore."

"Huh?" Tang Wan said, clueless as to Tang Tang's intentions.

"I know you gave birth to me at a young age. It must've been difficult for you to raise me alone. I also know, if it wasn't for me, you wouldn't have left Beijing to Zhonghai for over a decade. It was because of me that you have been lonely and dejected.

"I was rebellious and troublesome back then, and often quarreled with you. I used to frequently run away from home and make you worry. When I was in trouble, you had to bail me out. Yet I still called you 'sister' and not 'mom'."

After hearing her daughter's words for her, Tang Wan smiled and caressed her daughter back. With tears in her eyes, she said, "Silly, because I was the one who brought you into this world, I must also be accountable for you. As long as you understand that, there will be no problems."

“Mom, if you like Uncle, then be with him,” Tang Tang spoke in a soft serious tone.

Tang Wan stood there in silence as she did not expect the conversation to have turned out the way it was.

“I know that you like Uncle. He is a good man. If I didn’t have Yuan Ye in my heart, I might have fallen in love with Uncle instead.

“So what if Uncle is married? There are many men who take in multiple wives. Uncle might not be the best guy, but at least he treats his women right. Besides, he has many more women than you or I know of.

“Mom, if you’re holding back because of me, I want you to know that I have grown up now. I will never refer you as ‘sister’ anymore. I will only call you ‘mom’ from now on. Plus, aren’t you the one who said I will be married in two years?

“I cannot bring myself to get married and leave you while you are still alone. Even if it’s for my own well-being.”

Tang Wan’s eyes turned watery after listening to Tang Tang’s profound speech. She took one look at her daughter and finally realized the true blessing of being a mother.

Nothing brings a parent more joy than watching their own child grow up and mature.

“No daughters in the world except you would push their own mother into the hands of a terrible man. In addition to that, why won’t you call me ‘sister’? How old do you think I am?” Tang Wan replied, resisting the tears in her eyes.

Tang Tang sniffled slightly while she said, “I always worry when you sacrifice your happiness for my sake. You’re not getting any younger. Have you no shame, asking your own daughter who is twenty years younger than you to call you ‘sister’?”

“Stupid Brat, do you want to get spanked?” Tang Wan replied, crying and smiling at the same time. She hit Tang Tang’s backside several times with her palm.

Tang Tang resigned herself to her fate as she hugged her mom’s waist tightly. She stuffed her head between two lumps of flesh while mumbling, “Go on and hit me. Old Lady Tang Wan is shameless for asking her daughter to call her ‘sister’. Shameless... shameless!”

They messed around in the garden for a while, laughing and bonding together, causing quite some noise there.

## **Chapter 583**

### **I’m a Serious Man**

Yang Chen, who had walked out of the sanatorium with Yuan Ye, was not aware that the mother-daughter pair were busy laughing in the backyard.

At that moment, Yang Chen felt that Yuan Ye was starting to act more absurd than usual. *Am I not just his elder cousin? Does he have to stare and smile at me like I’m his lover?*

Yang Chen stopped walking and asked, "Alright then, what do you want to say? And for the love of god stop smiling like an idiot."

Yuan Ye foolishly scratched the back of his head, thinking he looked like an absolute retard. "I really didn't expect Brother Yang to be my cousin. It's like a dream come true. How am I supposed to stop smiling?"

"Is that why you decided to drag me out here?" asked Yang Chen gloomily.

"Of course not." Yuan Ye made sure that no one was around before saying, "Brother Chen, are you having 'that' kind of relationship with my mother-in-law?"

"What kind of relationship?" Yang Chen pretended to be unaware.

"The kind between men and women," said Yuan Ye with a smile.

Frowning, Yang Chen replied, "Mind your own business. I'll live my life the way I choose to, and you can live yours the way you want to."

"Eh, Brother, please don't misunderstand," answered Yuan Ye hurriedly, "I don't mind that that at all. In fact, I support you guys one hundred percent!"

"What do you mean by have a thing? Stop spouting out nonsense. I'm a serious man!" Yang Chen widened his eyes in anger. *?Damn! How can I stand here and let my innocence be slandered by him? I haven't even taken a bite yet!?* he thought.

Yuan Ye was obviously helpless toward Yang Chen's thick face. Smiling awkwardly, he said, "Brother, I was just trying to be more understanding. The seniority here is a bit confusing. If you do have something with Mother-In-Law, should I call you 'brother' or 'father-in-law'?"

"In-law your ass! You didn't have to beat around the bush just for this. Call me whatever you want," Yang Chen said with a guilty conscience. The forms of address was indeed going to be confusing should certain situations develop. It looked like Tang Wan wasn't going to be an easy catch after all.

Yuan Ye dared not piss Yang Chen off. Looking troubled, he said, "My mom said that if you really have that level of relationship with Aunt Tang, it would mean that the Tang clan would be brought closer to the Yang clan. This would benefit both parties greatly."

Yang Chen squinted his eyes. "Did your mom really tell you that?"

"Yeah, I actually feel the same. The Tang clan's businesses are one of, if not the largest in the whole of China. Being one of the four major clans, you can be sure that they possess more power than meets the eye!" exclaimed Yuan Ye excitedly.

Yang Chen rubbed his nose. *?This Yang Jieyu is pretty daring, isn't she? I bet both her and Yuan Hewei were aware of recent events. Everything must be connected to each other one way or another—Master Tang being poisoned, his treatment being interrupted midway, Lu Min's death, the Yan clan getting elected, and so on.*

Yang Chen's identity was no secret amongst the upper class people. At the very least, everyone knew that he was part of the Yang clan.

As a result, it was expected that the Yang clan would soon descend into chaos. Many negative incidents had shown that some people were plotting against the Yang clan, in an attempt to make them collapse. At such a dire moment like this one, the Tang clan stepping in to support them could mean the difference between life and death.

Although the Tang clan mainly managed businesses, it certainly had its reliance on unknown powers, which was the reason they managed to retain their position as one of the four major clans. Their powers that lurked beneath the surface were unfathomable to most.

It was obvious that Yang Jieyu wanted her son to hint Yang Chen when they met. At the end of the day, being his senior, it was embarrassing for her to tell her nephew to be in a relationship with someone from an older generation. Furthermore, the woman could very well be her future in-law!

“You should go back and try to get on your mother-in-law’s good side. Stop following me.” Yang Chen waved his hand at Yuan Ye.

Yuan Ye looked sad. “Wait, Brother. Why are you chasing me off? I’ve even resorted to asking you on how to please women. Since you have quite a number of women, I’m sure you have some tricks up your sleeve you could share.”

Yuan Ye’s words were like stab wounds on Yang Chen’s heart. *! myself am looking for tricks. So what is it then that you can learn from me??* he thought. Glancing at him fiercely, Yang Chen said, “I’ll throw you back if you refuse to leave.”

Seeing that Yang Chen was going to whack him, Yuan Ye staggered backwards in fear. Forcing a smile, he said, “Please calm down, Brother. I was just asking. It’s fine if you’re unwilling to teach me. Oh yeah, why don’t we team up for a few rounds of Warcraft tonight? We haven’t played together for sometime.”

“I’m not free!”

Why would Yang Chen be in the mood for computer games now? Too lazy to speak, he left the sanatorium, leaving Yuan Ye standing there pitifully. He was still unsure of how he had displeased Yang Chen.

Yang Chen’s drive home was one filled with mental distress. He was wondering what gift to get for Lin Ruoxi and how he could learn more about her hobbies, interests, and past experiences.

However, to dismiss Lin Ruoxi’s ‘offense’ needed more than a day’s effort. Patience, he figured, was the key to all this. Thus, he went to the seaside training camp to seek Cai Yan just as planned.

As Yang Chen had promised to ‘propose the marriage’ to the Cai clan in Beijing, he had to give an answer as to when that would happen.

However, unexpectedly, upon arriving at the training camp, Yang Chen was told by the person in charge that Cai Yan had left the place!

After the training of Dragon Group Recruit came to its end, Cai Yan was planning on taking the final assessment, which she had sought Yang Chen’s permission for. However, because of the one thing Yang Chen did in the past, Cai Yan was unable to do so. This thing was obviously Chief Lu’s death by Yang Chen’s hands!

Initially, Cai Yuncheng didn't plan to really allow his daughter to join Dragon Group. Furthermore, she had promised Yang Chen that she wouldn't join Yellow Flame Iron Brigade. As a result, letting Cai Yan take over Chief Lu's position was the best possible alternative.

The reinstatement of Cai Yan's position was supposed to take place at least a month later. However, no one expected Chief Lu to have been slain two days ago!

That matter didn't give rise to a large aftermath because of Yellow Flame Iron Brigade. However, the police department still needed a chief and there were no suitable candidates. Hence, being the general, Cai Yuncheng begged his daughter Cai Yan to give up the final assessment and return to the police department.

It was also because of Cai Yan who had become Yang Chen's woman that he was fine. She was pissed off once, and whacked the crap out of the policemen in that department.

Yang Chen felt rather guilty about what had happened to Cai Yan. He had promised her that he would allow her to complete the training. But his actions seemed to have unintentionally taken back his word.

Since Cai Yan didn't give him a call after becoming the chief again, it was safe to say that she was probably pissed at him.

Yang Chen pondered for a while, and thought it would be appropriate to visit the police department to give her an explanation.

Having driven for yet another half hour, Yang Chen came to the police station where he had caused a huge mess two days ago.

Getting out of the car, Yang Chen walked toward the entrance, only to find two policemen who were staring at him in fear and anxiety.

Yang Chen noticed that they even reached for their handguns, which made him smile bitterly. "What are you afraid about? I came here to look for Chief Cai. Is she inside?"

"Chi—Chief Cai went out to arrest criminals," stammered one of the policemen.

Yang Chen frowned. *She is not taking enough breaks. When I first met her, I knew that she was a stubborn but hot policewoman. How is it that she is already working on her first day back?*

"When will she return?" asked Yang Chen.

Before the policeman answered, he looked to his left. Hurriedly, he exclaimed, "Chief is back!"

Yang Chen turned around. Expectedly, three police cars approached the parking area and stopped right outside the station entrance.

Dressed in green police uniform, with short hair and an elegant figure, Cai Yan got out from the passenger seat right after the door was opened.

Cai Yan looked ever so charming in her uniform. The curves on her body were clear, while the part between her brows was now filled with glamor, causing her sharp face contours to appear particularly eye-catching.

For some reason, Yang Chen felt his heart heat up upon seeing Cai Yan dressed the way she was. Ignoring everything else, if Yang Chen was able to convince her to make love with her uniform on, wouldn't it be a dream come true for him?

Cai Yan raised her head and noticed Yang Chen by the entrance. Seeing the strange man who was smiling at her for no reason, she didn't look the least bit pleased. Ignoring Yang Chen, she snorted and ordered, "Bring these perps into the station. I will personally interrogate them!"

"Yes, Chief!"

The policemen were high-spirited, as if Cai Yan was dignified and respected as ever.

The four to five policemen, together, pulled the handcuffed criminals out of the car. They were around six burly men, and a middle-aged, polite-looking middle-aged man wearing golden-framed glasses.

The fair-skinned, beardless man frowned in displeasure when forced out of the car. With his face filled with malice, he spoke in his rather magnetic voice, "Chief Cai, should you do any harm to us, I, Gao Yue, from the Green Dragon Society will not let this slip. Once my lawyers arrives, he'll charge you for using violence in law enforcement."

"Stop your crappy overused act. You're a scum of the society with no evidence—even a hundred lawyers can't save you!" Cai Yan snorted coldly. She waved her hand before the man called Gao Yue was pushed into the police station.

Yang Chen was slightly stunned, standing still by the entrance. *What did he just say? Green Dragon Society? Isn't that the gang controlled by Liu Mingyu's father, the one partnering up with Rose??* he thought.

## **Chapter 584**

### **Shouldn't Have Said**

Before Yang Chen could figure out why, Cai Yan had already ordered her subordinates to get Gao Yue and the others into the police station.

When Cai Yan walked past Yang Chen, she ignored his presence as if he were invisible. She did not even bother to say hi.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. She was obviously mad, but at the same time, she had every reason to be.

Cai Yan had always treated her job as a policewoman with pride. But Yang Chen on the other hand, was someone who consistently disregarded the law. Not forgetting that his latest crime was the murder of a police chief. To Cai Yan, even if it was the man she loved, it was still hard for her to accept it.

Yang Chen was patient because he knew that was the case. He followed Cai Yan into the station, and was recognized by a few policemen who all trembled in fear as he strode past them. They backed away from him as if he was a terrorist.

Cai Yan naturally noticed their reactions, which made her stare at Yang Chen in hatred while clenching her teeth.

Yang Chen helplessly waved his hand. "I don't look that menacing, do I? I believe they are just cowards!

Other than the white-faced middle-aged man called Gao Yue, the other five Green Dragon Society members were placed in the large interrogation room outside. On the other hand, the arrogant Gao Yue was placed in a solitary interrogation room.

When Cai Yan entered the room, Yang Chen trailed behind her. When the other policemen saw, they did not even attempt to stop him!

Cai Yan was once again speechless. Finally, she turned around and blocked Yang Chen. Angrily, she said softly, "Why are you following me? If you haven't noticed, I'm working!"

Smiling, Yang Chen answered, "Continue. It's just that I haven't seen you a while, so I miss you quite a bit."

Cai Yan naturally was pleased by his words as she had never been in a relationship before. Despite knowing that Yang Chen said that to please her, she felt her mood improve.

Rolling her eyes, she started talking more gently. "I'm not so easily swayed. Why then did you not visit me two days ago when you returned? You even came here to assert your dominance. Thank you so much for your help, otherwise I'd have to wait another two months to recover my position."

The words that came from her mouth were sour. Yang Chen knew that she was being sarcastic. However, he chose to play along with her sarcasm. With a smile, he answered, "No need to thank me. I just felt that you were suffering in the training camp, and I wanted you to come back earlier. Look at you. You look so much more beautiful in this police uniform than you ever did in the camp. Look, I've even started to drool."

"You... How are you so shameless?" Cai Yan couldn't stand his thick-skinned behavior in addition to his perverted gaze, as if she was completely naked!

"If I wasn't shameless, do you think I would come all the way here to look for you?" Yang Chen smiled. "Alright, Yanyan, the great Chief Cai, I promise to not simply kill policemen in the future. In the future should I have to kill one, you'll be the first to know. We've come such a long way through thick and thin. Do you want to let the death of an idiot affect our relationship?"

Cai Yan blushed slightly. Fortunately she wasn't seen by the policemen standing beside. She complained, "Why must you worry me? Do you know that your recklessness has caused Elder Sister to suffer in Beijing now..."

"Your elder sister?" Yang Chen was stunned. "How is Cai Ning related?" he thought.

Cai Yan seemed to have realized that she shouldn't have said it to him, as she tried to avoid eye contact with him. "Oh, it's nothing much. Didn't Elder Sister use to keep an eye on you back then? She was tired of dealing with the aftermath of your disasters. Don't overthink it. Go out now, I have an interrogation to conduct."

Yang Chen wasn't easily fooled. Born with strong morals, Cai Yan did not develop the ability to lie well. Thus, Yang Chen asked strictly, "What happened to your elder sister? I knew that something wasn't

right, since she didn't return. Did my actions indirectly affect her? Is it because of Zeng Mao's death that she's facing the consequence on my behalf?"

Cai Yan paled and lowered her head, as if she panicked. At last, softly, she replied, "Elder Sister didn't want you to know at first, but I know that you'll find out sooner or later. I have to work now. Let me tell you after I get off work, can you..."

Yang Chen felt that something must be so wrong that Cai Ning told Cai Yan to keep it hidden from him. Furthermore, when he asked Cai Yuncheng about it earlier, he was interrupted by Zhao Teng's phone call, and forgot about it. Today, it sure looked like Cai Ning had some explaining to do.

The scene on the day before Cai Ning left Zhonghai surfaced in his mind. On the bridge, she stared at the night sky as the cold wind tossed and turned around her. The cold yet elegant figure, now that he thought about it, he actually missed it a lot.

Yang Chen sighed slightly. Pointing at Gao Yue who was running out of patience, he asked, "What did this fellow do?"

Although Cai Yan didn't know why he asked, she explained, "His name is Gao Yue. I heard he was a district manager from a major gang called Green Dragon Society. I believe he's connected to the top gang in Zhonghai. Initially, Red Thorns Society was the only major syndicate in Zhonghai. They weren't a huge threat as they cooperated with the cops well. However, since their partnership with the Green Dragon Society, they started to cross some lines.

"I just came back yesterday, and today I received news that he recently opened a nightclub where he forced more than thirty young university ladies to engage in prostitution. He used drugs in order to ensure their cooperation. A few ladies tried to report him to the police, but were dealt with quickly. He's no better than the common dog!"

Yang Chen frowned. He was sure that Rose wouldn't let this sort of deal take place within Red Thorns Society. It was definitely a problem with Green Dragon Society instead. Furthermore, Gao Yue must've lost his conscience after getting mesmerized by money.

It couldn't have been the first time that something like this has happened. However, the late Chief Lu must've backed off from Green Dragon Society despite receiving reports. Now that Cai Yan returned, justice would definitely be served under her rule. Thus, she went ahead to arrest Gao Yue without hesitation.

"According to the law, how will he be charged?" asked Yang Chen.

"If he does get charged, following the current Chinese laws, his assets will be confiscated, and he'll be imprisoned for one to two years. If we find evidence that he caused the death of several university students, he could even be given a death sentence... However, for an experienced thug leader like him, I believe he has many scapegoats to take his place. Justice isn't so easily served for a man like him," said Cai Yan in dissatisfaction.

Yang Chen nodded as he briefly understood the situation. He then slowly walked toward the arrogant Gao Yue.

Gao Yue had long been displeased. He didn't know who Yang Chen was, but Yang Chen was chatting casually with the female chief instead of interrogating him. He felt as if he wasn't being taken seriously

When he saw Yang Chen walking over, he snorted in disdain. "Stupid Kid, you're rather impressive, aren't you? Even a wild spirit like Chief Cai had been tamed by you. You don't look like a man reliant on women, so are you exceptionally capable in certain aspects?"

Yang Chen remained silent. Without uttering a word, he slapped Gao Yue right on his left cheek!

Slap! A loud thump could be heard. Gao Yue was thrown onto the ground from the chair! His body had even tumbled several rounds!

Gao Yue's glasses fell. All he sensed was the taste of blood on the corner of his lips. Only when he felt the swelling on his left cheek did he realize he was beaten! He didn't even manage to react on time!

Gao Yue whose head was surrounded by stars picked up his spectacles and wore them. Struggling as he stood up, he pointed at Yang Chen, with his face filled with fury. Coldly, he asked, "Did you just hit me? Brat, do you know who I am?!"

Cai Yan didn't expect Yang Chen to land a strike so suddenly. Although she understood why he did so, they were in the police station after all. Therefore, she walked forward and said softly, "Yang Chen, let me handle this. I won't let him get away easily."

Yang Chen shook his head. "This fellow isn't worth your time. Let me take care of this. All you need to do is tell me about your older sister."

When Yang Chen finished speaking, he took out the phone from his shirt pocket. He remembered that he had saved his father-in-law Liu Qingshan's number.

When Gao Yue heard Cai Yan call the name 'Yang Chen', he suddenly got into contemplation. He seemed to have heard of that name before, but he couldn't recall a thing at the moment...

When Cai Yan saw how badly Yang Chen wanted to know about her sister's situation, her eyes showed complexity, sighing yet again. She didn't think much about how Yang Chen was going to solve the problem with Gao Yue.

Chapter 585 - Don't Care About Even My Own Father

### **Don't Care About Even My Own Father**

Through a floor-to-ceiling window, the warm afternoon sunlight shone upon a white-themed living hall of a seaside villa located in the south of Zhonghai.

On the large beige sofa was Liu Qingshan, sat there with his hair neatly combed. Wearing a pair of reading glasses, he was reading the biographies of famous and successful people.

Madam Liu who was far past her prime, made green tea and served it to her husband. After putting down the tray, she complained, "Qingshan, you've been reading for the past few hours already. When will it be enough?"

Liu Qingshan flipped yet another page. "Why is a peaceful reading session bad?"

"It is rare for you to feel at peace, but it is only ever quiet for me here at home," said Madam Liu in dissatisfaction. "When Mingyu was still here, there was at least a woman whom I could talk to. Now that you're back, and Mingyu has left, you barely spend two seconds of your day talking to me."

"What about Minghao?" asked Liu Qingshan.

"When have I ever been able to rely on that kid? He's always nowhere to be found," Madam Liu said, displeased.

Liu Qingshan frowned. Since he did indeed accumulate quite the amount of guilt for his wife over the years, there was nothing left for him to say. At last, he closed his book with a smile. "Alright, alright. I'll stop reading and talk to you for a bit."

Madam Liu instantly revealed joy on her face. It could be seen that she was easily content.

When Madam Liu wanted to speak, Liu Qingshan's phone on the coffee table rang.

Madam Liu picked the phone up and looked at the display. Joy immediately surfaced in his eyes. "Eh, it's Yang Chen. This son-in-law of ours hasn't called us before, has he?"

Liu Qingshan raised his brow and said, "He wouldn't call us for nothing. Hoping that he would call for pleasantries is more difficult than getting into heaven. I just hope whatever this is, it doesn't cause me too much trouble."

"Why are you always this negative? While Yu'er and Yang Chen don't have an ordinary relationship, he is still our son-in-law. Could we still see him as a stranger?" Madam Liu spoke as she passed the phone to her husband.

Liu Qingshan sighed and picked up the call. "What do you need?"

In the interrogation room, Yang Chen hesitated for a while. "Uncle, although I shouldn't start with demands since I rarely call, you will have to excuse me this time. Is one of your men called Gao Yue? He has fair skin and looks around forty years old. He doesn't have beard, and his spectacles make it obvious that he's a bad guy."

"Gao Yue?" Liu Qingshan was wondering why Yang Chen suddenly asked so. "He's one of my assistants I personally brought up in the past few years. He has shadowed me for quite sometime now. A lot of tasks in Zhonghai are handled by him."

"Ah, that's him then." After getting confirmation, Yang Chen briefly explained Gao Yue's crime. "He's now in the police station's interrogation room. I'm calling you to inform you of his imprisonment. Uncle, don't get involved, since you won't end up bailing him out anyway. I just didn't want our relationship to be worsened by this fellow."

Ever since Liu Qingshan started running the underground syndicates in Beijing, no one dared to challenge him like Yang Chen did. Instantly filled with anger, he said, "So you're trying to imprison my man and ask me to sit quietly and watch while that happens?"

Yang Chen replied, "There were certain topics that I believe were best left unspoken. I don't believe you're in the dark about Gao Yue's doings. If something like this were to slip under your eyes, then you don't qualify to be their leader. So, you must then be his partner in crime. However, I know that it's

inevitable for the underworld to hold a thing or two which can't be shown in public. I'll still call you 'uncle' for Mingyu.

"I don't know how you guys do it in Beijing, but in Zhonghai, I'd advise you to stay away from contaminating our environment. I originally thought that nothing major would take place for Green Dragon Society to come into Zhonghai, but that apparently isn't the case.

"I'm not a good man, but I'd rather kill than force female students into prostitution. Rose wouldn't like to hear that something of this sort had happened in her territory. I'll tell Rose that Red Thorns Society will stop the partnership with Green Dragon Society. You guys should move on elsewhere to continue your work, but you're not allowed to move under my watch. I also don't wish for Mingyu to be this upset when you or I break the news to her."

Liu Qingshan smacked the sofa violently when he listened to Yang Chen's tone. Furiously, he yelled, "You dare bring Mingyu into this? Since you know that I'm Mingyu's father, why are you helping others to go against me?! No one in the underworld can be completely clean of drugs and sex. This is nothing significant, but you're demanding the assistant whom I had spent so much time on to be sent to prison?!"

Yang Chen's voice instantly turned cold. "It's exactly because you're Mingyu's father that I didn't get you killed as well. Let me make it clear. Liu Mingyu is my woman, isn't because her father is called Liu Qingshan, but her man is Yang Chen!

"I give you recognition and call you 'uncle'. If I don't, you're nothing more than fart. I don't even fucking care about my own father. What makes you think I will help my father-in-law? Don't force me to handle this personally!"

Yang Chen hung up the call immediately after he finished talking before shutting off his phone and putting it back into the pocket.

Gao Yue was dumbstruck. Pointing at Yang Chen, as his voice shivered, he stammered, "Yo—you're... you're Boss's son-in-law, Young Master Yang Chen?"

Cai Yan who stood behind Yang Chen, however, pouted in displeasure. She could tell from his conversation that the lady of Green Dragon Society was one of his women as well. Why does this fellow have women everywhere??she thought.

Yang Chen wasn't in the mood to talk to Gao Yue. In a dull manner, he said, "I believe you are aware of the situation. Go to prison quietly. Even your boss can't save you now. If you intend to pull any tricks, I will personally break your neck"

Despite having been involved in murder before, Gao Yue clearly felt that Yang Chen's eyes contained a depthless, suffocating pressure, with a killing intent much thicker than others! In addition to his conversation with Liu Qingshan earlier, it was obvious that Yang Chen didn't fear him at all, not to mention he only let Liu Qingshan live because of Liu Mingyu. Hence, Gao Yue didn't seem to be able to rely on Liu Qingshan anymore!

However, Gao Yue was still determined not to accept his fate of being imprisoned and having his assets confiscated. Thus, he forced a smile and said, “Yo—Young Master, this is the first time in my life that I’m this silly. I was deceived by my men. Everyone makes mistakes... Cou—could you forgive me this time?”

“Stop talking nonsense. No man is this talkative.” Yang Chen frowned and turned around to Cai Yna. “Let him sign a confession statement, and write everything needed. Do whatever you have to. You may tell me about your elder sister afterwards.”

After Yang Chen finished speaking, he left the interrogation room himself.

Gao Yue wanted to continue pleading, but he had no clue how to proceed. Clenching his teeth, ignoring where he was, he took his phone out and called Liu Qingshan.

Even if Liu Qingshan didn’t seem to be able to help, he had to try and hope for the best.

When the call was connected, Gao Yue instantly yelled, “Boss! You have to save me! I—I will be send into prison soon. Who would be of your assistance then...”

Liu Qingshan’s eyes were burning while his face paled. “You’re nothing but a failure. Piss off to the prison!”

After the shout, Liu Qingshan ended the call.

Madam Liu slightly panicked to see her husband this mad, not to mention it was caused by Yang Chen. “Qingshan, please don’t do this. Yang Chen is actually kind-hearted. He’s one of our own after all, don’t keep it in your heart...”

“Humph. It’s good that he’s kind-hearted... he’s indeed one of our own...” Liu Qingshan clenched his teeth, well aware that he could not touch Yang Chen.

Actually, he found out long ago that he couldn’t comprehend Yang Chen’s capabilities. However, he originally thought that he could rely on Yang Chen for help because of his daughter’s presence.

Unexpectedly, when it came to the matter of principle, Yang Chen wouldn’t care whom he was faced with. Moreover, should he refuse to step back, Yang Chen wouldn’t hold back as well!

Don’t care about your own father...? Liu Qingshan was so pissed that he started laughing. At last, he laughed so hard like a maniac that the sofa moved. Even Madam Liu found him strange, for she didn’t know if her husband was enraged or delighted.

## **Chapter 586**

### **Don’t You**

Cai Yan felt a little uneasy as she watched Yang Chen deal with the problem so easily. She was moved by how swift and direct her man was, but she found it hard to accept him doing her job for her. She felt incapable if someone else solved her problems for her.

However, Cai Yan knew that she couldn’t argue with Yang Chen because of that. It was rare enough for him to willingly come over to apologize. A little extra help with a difficult case wouldn’t hurt.

As a result, Cai Yan vented all her negative emotions on Gao Yue who was dispirited. Calling two policemen over, she charged Gao Yue and the others for the laws he had broken one by one in addition to printing two copies of confession statements.

Although Gao Yue's lawyer came, he refrained from doing anything after hearing that Liu Qingshan had not intended to bail Gao Yue out. Thus, he turned around and left swiftly.

At the end of the day, Gao Yue worked under the syndicate leader, Liu Qingshan. It was Liu Qingshan who ultimately decided on his destiny.

Without someone to depend on, Gao Yue had to sign on the papers. His eyes were filled with hatred and resentment which terrified the other policemen in the station.

The criminal looked as if he was cursing the policemen's eighteen generations of ancestors. Cai Yan had seen gazes like this in her life before. She wouldn't have joined the police force if she was timid. After dealing with the procedures, she ordered the policemen to bring Gao Yue for detention as he awaited the lawsuit.

When Cai Yan finally returned, she saw Yang Chen waiting for her at the parking area. He had a cigarette in his mouth. He looked to be in deep thought. Leaning against the car, he stared at the road outside the police station absentmindedly.

Cai Yan was clueless as to why Yang Chen had revealed such a look. Ever since she met him, he had always been straightforward and shameless. This was a new look that Cai Yan was not used to.

"Are you having a headache as you wonder what explanation you should give to the lady from Green Dragon Society?" Cai Yan asked before leaning against the car as well.

"Huh?" Yang Chen almost didn't get it. He soon knew that Cai Yan was referring to Liu Mingyu. Shaking his head with a smile, he asked, "What's there to feel troubled about? If Mingyu finds out, I'll tell the truth. If she doesn't, there's no need for me to bring it up."

"Oh, she's called Liu Mingyu? How did you get to know her? I remember that Green Dragon Society is a syndicate with origins from Beijing, isn't it?" asked Cai Yan curiously. She was really curious about how this man had women everywhere.

Yang Chen pouted and threw his cigarette into the ashtray. "I knew her from Yu Lei. She used to be my colleague. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, we developed this kind of relationship. I'm not a hungry wolf who constantly seek out prey. It really happened unknowingly."

"Unknowingly," said Cai Yan with sourness. "What's Ruoxi doing? How did you 'unknowingly' get close to a woman under her watch?"

"Why do I smell so much vinegar?" Yang Chen smiled. "I didn't know my Cai Yan was a vinegar jar."

[TL note: It is commonly said in Chinese that a person is eating vinegar when jealous.]

Cai Yan rolled her eyes. "Do you expect me to not get jealous when yet another woman of yours was revealed out of the blue? Had I tried to feign ignorance, I would be hypocritical."

“You’re indeed the highly regarded Chief Cai. You wouldn’t allow any sand in your eyes.” Yang Chen found her straightforwardness funny. No matter how much time had passed, and what has happened to the both of them, Cai Yan would always be the same. She spoke with no filter.

Gloomily, Cai Yan asked, “Why are you laughing? What’s so funny about it? My heart has gotten half-frozen already. I sometimes wonder how many women you actually have, but I’m afraid I would go crazy after hearing the answer. How infuriating!”

“Don’t ask then. You’ll find out sooner or later anyway.” Yang Chen himself was trying his best to avoid that topic. He asked, “What did you say about your elder sister? I’m still waiting for you to tell me.”

Cai Yan knew that beating around the bush was futile. Sighing, she said, “My elder sister... is getting married.”

“What?!” Yang Chen widened his mouth, doubting his own hearing. *“Cai Ning’s getting married?”* he thought.

“I was just informed about that as well, and I reacted the same way you did. I got it from my mom, so it is one hundred percent reliable,” Cai Yan said sorrowfully.

Yang Chen frowned. “Who’s Flower Rain getting married to?”

“A big mouth coward. I believe you’ve seen him before. His codename in Dragon Group is Yong Ye.” Cai Yan sounded really displeased.

Yang Chen remembered that fellow for sure. In the past few times they had met, he noticed that Yong Ye was obviously trying hard in getting Cai Ning. However, since he was overly incompetent and cowardly, he had always behaved like a tortoise in its shell. Yang Chen couldn’t understand why Cai Ning would marry him.

As Yang Chen furrowed his brows, Cai Yan held a complex gaze. Softly, she asked, “You don’t like the fact that Elder Sister’s getting married, do you?”

Yang Chen felt his heart shiver. He dared not look at Cai Ning in her eyes, as he suddenly felt that he indeed wasn’t too happy about it.

It was a mixture of feelings—emptiness, sorrow, resentment, and helplessness.

Yang Chen quickly thought of what Cai Yan said a few hours ago. Cai Ning’s marriage seemed to have involved him somehow. He suddenly realized something and asked, “Is she doing that to take responsibility for Zeng Mao’s murder on my behalf?”

Cai Yan lowered her head while she drew circles on the ground with her foot. “Since she’s a core member of Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, she has to lead by example. Committing a crime while being fully aware of the law made her result in a more severe punishment.”

“Did she get punished?” Yang Chen asked in worry.

Cai Yan shook her head. “She was going to the military court when she returned to Beijing. Zeng Mao isn’t just an ordinary person. Many people who are related to the Zeng clan are influential individuals in

the government. Although our Cai clan was able to assist slightly, she had come out to take responsibility, so we had no way of covering it up.

“Afterwards my mom was worried that Elder Sister would be given a death sentence, so she thought of Yong Ye’s family.”

Following Cai Yan’s narration, Yang Chen slowly understood the situation.

Back then, to prevent Yang Chen from facing more problems than he already had, Cai Ning bore the responsibility of assassinating Zeng Mao.

As the Zeng clan was immensely authoritative in Beijing, it was impossible for the Cai clan to grant Cai Ning protection. Although Cai Yuncheng had become the general of Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, ignoring the fact that his identity had to be kept hidden, it wouldn’t have made much of a difference regardless.

Being one of the core members of Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, Cai Ning belonged to the country’s security bureau. Thus, she basically broke the law knowingly.

Since Cai Ning could be given a death sentence by the military court, her father Cai Yuncheng got incredibly worried, while her mother Jiang Shan sought for help from all their connections.

However, not only was Cai Ning’s criminal charge unforgivable, the people she had offended weren’t easily dealt with. Without absolute power, no one would dare to help Cai Ning overwrite her responsibility.

At last, being left with no choice, Jiang Shan thought of Yong Ye who had gone after her daughter Cai Ning for years. Although he himself wasn’t a prominent figure, his parents Li Xin and Guo Yali were both high ranking officials in the governmental hierarchy. More importantly, Yong Ye’s family was associated through marriage to the Li clan, one of the four major clans!

[TL note: Yong Ye (永夜) means Eternal Night. His real surname is ‘Li’.]

Being the true leader of the country’s security bureau, if the Li clan was willing to ask for a favor, to dismiss Cai Ning’s charge based on her years of contribution for the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, the military court would reconsider their sentence. Furthermore, no matter how arrogant the Zeng clan was, they would have to draw the line when it came to the Li clan!

When Jiang Shan paid a visit to Yong Ye’s family, his parents considered their request heavily. They were willing to step in, with the condition that Cai Ning had to marry their son.

According to how they put it, should Cai Ning become the Li clan’s daughter-in-law, everything would naturally fall into place.

Having found her last strand of hope, Jiang Shan accepted their conditions without hesitation. However, since a wedding couldn’t just be arranged anytime, she agreed to let Cai Ning and Yong Ye register their marriage first. The ceremony could come later.

Cai Yuncheng had no objections when he was informed of that decision. He too knew that he had no ability to protect his daughter, while the only people who could help were major clans like the Li’s. Having his daughter married into a major clan, would be far better than sending her to prison or death.

Having been a cold and quiet lady, Cai Ning didn't stop her mother from seeking help. Just like that, silently, her marriage with Yong Ye was set, after which Yong Ye's family did provide assistance. They informed the Li clan that they were now associated with the Cai clan through marriage, so the Li clan naturally didn't mind pulling some back-door tricks.

The Cai clan wasn't an insignificant one by any means. With the Li clan controlling the military court, they didn't mind if the Zeng clan had lost Zeng Mao, as the clan to them was overly insignificant. Moreover, Cai Yuncheng was a lot more important in their eyes, secretly being the general of Yellow Flame Iron Brigade in addition to holding a decently high military rank.

Hence, the Li clan only had to pull a couple strings to completely block Cai Ning's case off. No one dared to bring it up after that.

Of course, they would only truly prevent Cai Ning from getting sued after her wedding with Yong Ye, just in case.

Currently, Yang Chen had no emotions on his face. He finally understood why Cai Yan said Cai Ning was suffering in Beijing.

Cai Ning had obviously been annoyed by Yong Ye, but she was left with no alternatives but marry him.

Even if Cai Ning wasn't in prison because of that, it wouldn't have made much of a difference to her.

Yang Chen recalled the afternoon when Cai Ning stood right in front of him, firing a Soul-mourning Needle to end Zeng Mao's life. When the woman revealed that bright smile of hers, she must've been aware of the consequences she would face.

Yang Chen's heart was filled with a burning rage. He knew that Cai Ning only did so back then wasn't because she was worried that he wouldn't be able to hold off the Zeng clan. She was worried about the consequences that he would face instead. That would turn into an even larger problem, giving rise to various chain reactions, affecting many others, causing irreversible damage everywhere.

However, Yang Chen wasn't at all bothered. It was a responsibility he should have borne since the beginning. Even if he had to slay Zeng Mao and his clan, in addition to the other clans from Beijing, there was no reason for Cai Ning, a member for the country's security bureau, to receive the consequences in his place. Not to mention she was also innocent!

Yang Chen didn't like to be protected, but he knew that Cai Ning seemed to have stopped a storm for him.

"If your elder sister doesn't like Yong Ye, she shouldn't have to marry him. If anyone dares to touch her, they would have to go through me," Yang Chen said with a low voice as he suppressed his fury.

Cai Yan seemed to have expected such a reaction from him. Smiling, she said, "If that's the case, Elder Sister will not agree. Instead, she will immediately hold the wedding with Yong Ye."

"Why?" Yang Chen raised his head in confusion.

Sorrow filled Cai Yan's eyes. "Although I didn't see for myself how it all happened, I believe Elder Sister wishes for you not to be involved in the matter."

Yang Chen remained silent. He knew that it was totally possible for Cai Ning to marry Yong Ye while ignoring everything else, based on her personality.

Cai Yan noticed the disappointment in Yang Chen's eyes, and felt a heartache. Turning around her slender figure, she let out a pathetic smile, asking, "You like my elder sister, don't you?"

## **Chapter 587**

### **Do You Find It Acceptable**

The abrupt question made Yang Chen panic a little.

Strictly speaking, he and Cai Ning were not that close. And every time they met, it would usually be because of problems that had disastrous consequences. She was basically there to clean up after Yang Chen. It was because of Yang Chen's carefree attitude that she was often put in distress.

She was the public servant sent by Yellow Flame Iron Brigade to monitor his movements. She was also, the young lady of a wealthy clan. On the contrary, Yang Chen was lazy and nonchalant. He couldn't stay loyal to one woman. In short, he couldn't be considered a good person.

Do I like Cai Ning?? Yang Chen himself found it absurd, let alone Cai Ning who had done so much. She might have just been doing her job all this time, not having the slightest interest in him.

I've brought her so much trouble in the past. It's a wonder she doesn't hate my guts.?he thought.

Yang Chen had enough problems caused by the women around him. It wouldn't make sense for him to add one more into the equation would it? Wouldn't he be challenging Lin Ruoxi that way?

Absentmindedly staring at Cai Yan's doubtful look, Yang Chen felt his mind go blank. He stood there stunned for quite awhile, before the corners of his lips twitched. Forcing a smile, he answered, "Do you even have to ask, Silly? I just don't think a guy like that is worthy of her. It's like inserting a beautiful flower into cow dung. I've appreciated beauty since born. Haven't you realized yet?"

Cai Yan bit her lips, the doubt in her eyes stayed. Smiling faintly, she said, "Don't think too highly of yourself. Had I not lost my mind, I wouldn't have liked you, a pile of cow dung, as well."

Yang Chen touched his own average-looking face. Pouting, he said, "You make it sound like you're a beautiful flower."

"It's the truth. I'm even the flower amongst the police force," said Cai Yan delightfully.

Yang Chen's facial expression stiffened. He forgot that Cai Yan was different. She was very vocal about her opinions. When he gave her a compliment, most women would likely feel shy, but Cai Yan accepted it directly!

"You're not shy to say it, are you?" Yang Chen smiled awkwardly as he slowly withdrew his stance.

"It's because that's the truth. Why would you have accepted me otherwise?" Cai Yan gazed upon Yang Chen mischievously. "Do you think I can't feel your intense gaze on my police uniform? I feel embarrassed for you."

Yang Chen quickly slapped his chest righteously. "What are you talking about? I want you to stay with me only because I like you sincerely. Also, I'm looking at my own woman, not anyone else's. If anyone dares to joke about me, I'll sew their mouth shut!"

Cai Yan burst into laughter, not just because Yang Chen was funny, she was pleased when he said 'my own woman' which dispelled the dark clouds in her heart. She then said, "You promised me to talk to my parents in Beijing about us, do you remember?"

"I came here today mainly to ask you when. We may discuss and set a date," Yang Chen replied.

Satisfied, Cai Yan nodded her head. She pondered for a while and said, "I just came back to the police station, so I have quite a bit of unsolved work. I'm quite busy in moving human resources as well. We'll go to Beijing after this. We could even make it for Elder Sister's wedding."

Yang Chen looked a little uneasy, but still nodded his head. "Whatever suits your fancy." He originally wanted to ask Cai Yan to talk Cai Ning out of it, but he suddenly felt that it wasn't his duty to do so. Moreover, just like what Cai Yan said, Cai Ning might rush her wedding with Yong Ye should Yang Chen decide to step in forcefully.

At the end of the day, Cai Ning could at least be a legitimate madam if she married Yong Ye. If Yang Chen himself couldn't control his own family, why would he stir up more trouble for himself?

Cai Yan noticed the change in Yang Chen's expression, but kept it to herself. Gently, she said, "I still have to work. You may go home."

"I'll wait for you to get off work. We'll have dinner together." Yang Chen didn't usually have time to properly go out for a date with Cai Yan. He felt the need to make up for what he has done in the past.

Cai Yan smiled sweetly, the charm on her partially covered face appearing particularly glamorous. "You don't need to try so hard to please me. You may prove yourself nicely when we go to Beijing. I'll blame you if my parents don't approve of us!"

Yang Chen shrugged his shoulders. Cai Yan probably didn't know that her father Cai Yuncheng had asked Yang Chen to take care of her long ago. So he didn't feel that pressured about it after all. All he had to do was convince his new mother-in-law.

After bidding farewell to Cai Yan, Yang Chen drove home as he had nothing else to do.

His mind was filled with Cai Ning's marriage to Yong Ye. Even though he felt troubled about the whole thing, he knew better than to intervene.

When he arrived at home, he saw a black Cadillac limousine parked outside. A few men dressed in suits and leather shoes were carrying bags of different sizes into the house.

After Yang Chen parked his car, the men were done with moving the stuff. They even bowed to Yang Chen respectfully before leaving.

Yang Chen felt confused. If he remembered correctly, those guys should be the bodyguards from the security department of Yu Lei International. Why are they working as porters now? he thought.

As he wondered, he walked into the house, only to get surprised again.

The bright lights were all switched on in the living room. On the floor laid countless branded items! Gucci, Ferragamo, Burberry, Versace, Hermes, and many other designer brands could be found in the large pile. Brands like Zara were only considered as padding. Furthermore, luxury cosmetic brands like La Mer, Helena Rubinstein, and La Prairie were all over the ground as well.

Yang Chen felt his head ache the most when the table by the entrance was filled with bags from Cartier, Harry Winston, and Tiffany & Co. Although he had no clue what were inside them, he could at least have estimated the cost to have ended up in the millions.

At this moment, Lin Ruoxi, Guo Xuehua, Zhenxiu, and Wang Ma were all surrounding the sofa, unpacking the clothing, perfume, and cosmetics, each of which easily cost tens of thousands.

Looking at the joy on Guo Xuehua's face and the fascinated look on Zhenxiu, Yang Chen quickly understood something.

"Oh, Young Master is back." Wang Ma was the first to discover Yang Chen standing by the entrance. Smiling joyfully, she said, "Young Master, quickly have a look. These clothes are so beautiful."

Lin Ruoxi turned to look at him as well. Dressed in a black-laced, crew-neck dress, she appeared to be rather tired. Her hair was let loose. Being shone upon by the light above, she looked no different from a blooming lotus.

Lin Ruoxi was currently smiling at Yang Chen teasingly.

Yang Chen let out an unnatural smile. Walking forward, he realized that neither Guo Xuehua nor Zhenxiu were wearing clothes that he had seen on them before.

Guo Xuehua carried a newly released handbag from Saint Laurent and a leather jacket, with a silver watch of the Première series from Chanel, looking elegant and fashionable.

Zhenxiu, on the other hand, wore a pleated, yellow shoulder dress. On her feet were a pair of heels made of sheepskin from Chanel, giving her a fresh and refined look. She even exuded the aura of a young woman, causing her to turn from a high schooler to a lively, charming university student.

Both of them were glowing with satisfaction from their appearances. When Yang Chen walked closer, they looked at him expectantly.

Sensibly, Yang Chen smiled and said, "Mom, you and Zhenxiu look like sisters now."

Zhenxiu blushed and stuck her tongue out happily. "Brother Yang is shameless as ever. You didn't even blink before saying something so cheesy."

Guo Xuehua was naturally pleased to be praised by her son. "This is all thanks to your wife. Ruoxi accompanied us to the orphanage today. The children had so much fun that they almost went crazy. She then took us shopping in the afternoon, and recommended us to have a look at these items. When we tried them out, she bought all of them unexpectedly."

Yang Chen's heart dropped. It is indeed Ruoxi's doing, he thought. Looking at Lin Ruoxi helplessly, he asked, "Why did you buy so many things? It's starting to overflow out of the house."

“It’s fine. I don’t often have time to bring Mom to shop, and Zhenxiu has been working hard these days. I will do anything as long as they are happy. If this house can’t contain them, we’ll just switch to a larger one. It’s not like we lack houses,” said Lin Ruoxi gently, as if she failed to realize Yang Chen’s expression.

Wang Ma said, “These things look great before they’re even worn. But Miss, they must be really expensive, aren’t they?”

Zhenxiu interrupted and said, “Wang Ma, the prices of these clothes frightened me. I initially thought that this fur-collared coat cost at most a thousand, but the server said otherwise. As there are only twenty of them in the world, each costs 130 thousand, and they refused to sell it to just anybody!”

Wang Ma opened her mouth in shock. Having stayed in that house for decades, she often saw clothes that cost tens of thousands, but 130 thousand was simply too much.

Smiling, Lin Ruoxi said, “It’s fine. Didn’t I say that the entire building was owned by Yu Lei? These things are just like our own. We basically took them home instead of buying.”

“Nonsense,” complained Guo Xuehua. “I know that Yu Lei owns the shopping mall, but these stocks are sent there to be sold. We still have to buy from the manufacturers.”

Lin Ruoxi obediently sat beside Guo Xuehua and held her hand. “Mom, don’t talk about money anymore. Your daughter-in-law earns much faster than she spends. As long as Mom is happy, any amount of money spent is worth it.”

When did she develop that silver tongue of hers?! And how is she acting so flawless?! Yang Chen thought. He almost went crazy when he looked at the polite and lovable woman. Is she the same person as the iceberg-like Lin Ruoxi?! Is she really my wife?!

Guo Xuehua was so pleased that she couldn’t stop smiling. Holding Lin Ruoxi’s hand, she said, “Mom is happy of course. I don’t know what good I’ve done in my previous lifetimes to not only reunite with my son after more than twenty years, but to also receive such a good daughter-in-law. If you ask me, I’m more than willing to trade a few years of my life for a day like this.”

“Mom, how could you speak like that? Mom will live past a hundred years old for sure. I’ll take good care of you,” said Lin Ruoxi seriously.

Guo Xuehua’s blessed expression was indescribable. Tapping on Lin Ruoxi’s hand, she said to Yang Chen, “Son, look at how great she is. I heard from the president of the orphanage that Ruoxi had often sent the children gifts when she was young. Now that she has grown up, she’s even willing to play with them and tell them stories.

“She has selflessly done so for so many years without asking for anything in return. In this day and age, how many people are there who are like her? Many only do so to boost their reputation. I’ve held so many charities and set up quite a number of orphanages over the years, but I’ve only seen very few people as kind as Ruoxi.

“You should really learn from your wife. Ruoxi is so busy at work yet she’s willing to take care of the pitiful children. How about you? You barely do anything at all except causing Ruoxi displeasure. Do you find it acceptable?!”

## Chapter 588

### All the More Difficult

Having devoted a considerable amount of her time for charity, Guo Xuehua was pleased to find out that Lin Ruoxi shared that same passion.

Yang Chen felt downhearted as he realized he was done for. Guo Xuehua's words made him want to dig a hole and bury himself in it. He lowered his head, unable to speak.

Zhenxiu, being a fearless girl, was overjoyed to observe Yang Chen's suffering. Smiling, she said, "Aunt Guo, Brother Yang is actually quite busy as well. Except Sister Ruoxi, he has many other women. It must be exhausting for him to travel all day."

*How nice, Zhenxiu! Do you hate me? Why are you making the bad situation worse?!? Yang Chen almost cried. It's unreasonable that I'm bullied this way!*

As if the situation wasn't bad enough, Lin Ruoxi who was sitting beside Guo Xuehua revealed a look of pity after listening to what Zhenxiu said. She looked like she was wronged, but dared not speak out.

Guo Xuehua noticed it and her expression turned dull as well. Feeling a heartache, she subconsciously caressed Lin Ruoxi's hair in consolation.

If it wasn't for the guilt she held for Yang Chen, and the fact that he was not brought up by her, Guo Xuehua would've given him two cold hard slaps on his face!

*He managed to get such a great wife already. Why isn't he practicing restraint?? she thought.*

Evidently, having been moved by Lin Ruoxi's kind heart, and pleased by her obedience, Guo Xuehua had forgotten that she used to find Rose and Mo Qianni more suitable as Yang Chen's wife. In regards to Lin Ruoxi's behaviour in the past, Guo Xuehua reasoned that it was due to a lack of communication and a distant relationship. Since they weren't familiar, it was only natural that Lin Ruoxi behaved shyly.

Currently, Guo Xuehua felt that no other girls was more likeable than Lin Ruoxi!

Yang Chen once again realized that things were going sideways. Lin Ruoxi was indeed a highly intelligent businesswoman. Once again, he felt the pain Xu Zhihong and Zeng Xinlin must've been through when they were defeated by Lin Ruoxi. That woman was certainly merciless. She made him struggle to even stand up.

"Erm... Mom, of course I know Ruoxi is great. When I was driving home, I realized I haven't gifted Lin Ruoxi anything since we have gotten married. So I guess I'll bring Ruoxi out to get a diamond ring," said Yang Chen with a smile.

Lin Ruoxi raised her head and looked at Yang Chen doubtfully. She apparently didn't believe that Yang Chen would suddenly get her a diamond ring.

Guo Xuehua's eyes shone, thinking that Yang Chen was finally improving as he somehow knew that every woman liked shiny diamond rings. She then thought of something and frowned. "When Ruoxi brought me and Zhenxiu to the shopping mall, I realized that pretty much everything is there, including jewelries from Tiffany and Co. Do you think Ruoxi will care about a small diamond ring?"

Yang Chen got speechless. *What luck do I have! Why did I dig a hole only to fall inside myself?!* he thought.

Lin Ruoxi had just bought luxury items worth tens of millions, but he offered to get her a diamond ring. In comparison, his suggestion was worthless!

However, Lin Ruoxi's words made Yang Chen fall into an abyss once again. "Mom, please don't blame Yang Chen." She held Guo Xuehua's shoulder and said softly, "If it is a diamond ring Yang Chen bought for me, it is not the cost that matters but the thought behind it that counts."

If Yang Chen heard something like that from her back then, he would certainly be drowned in joy. However, she was no different from pouring oil on flame at this moment. She stabbed yet another knife into his already damaged heart!

Expectedly, Guo Xuehua was touched again, feeling that Lin Ruoxi was indeed understanding. Wang Ma and Zhenxiu felt moved as well. They didn't expect Lin Ruoxi to treasure Yang Chen so much.

Yang Chen's disloyalty currently seemed much more absurd that it already was!

Frowning, Guo Xuehua said to Yang Chen, "You heard her, didn't you? Ruoxi is speaking for you. Don't you feel sorry for her? Yang Chen, it is not my intention to keep nagging you. But you should really should reflect on your behavior.

"If you're really getting a gift for Ruoxi, forget about anything ordinary. Even if Ruoxi doesn't mind, we'll feel that she's mistreated. You should avoid making her angry, and treat her with loyalty."

Yang Chen wanted to cry but he ran out of tears. From Guo Xuehua's words, it was obvious that she had given Lin Ruoxi all her support. Asking her to meet Ma Guifang should be all the more difficult!

Mischief filled Lin Ruoxi's eyes when she saw how dispirited Yang Chen was, as she didn't get an opportunity like that often. Soon, she stood up and walked towards Yang Chen. Gently, she said, "It's fine, Hubby. I know it might seem a little hard for you. I'm sorry for not treating you good enough back then. I really understand how you feel."

"Ruoxi! You mustn't tolerate him too much!" yelled Guo Xuehua. "It's exactly because you've been overly tolerant that he has messed with so many women."

"Yeah, Sister Ruoxi. You must fight for yourself!" Zhenxiu was just like a little devil with horns when she cheered from the sidelines.

Yang Chen's bones almost melted while he almost lost his soul. Lin Ruoxi appeared pitiful and wronged, as if bullied. However, to him, she was like an undefeated queen looking down at him from above!

Lin Ruoxi seemed to have tortured Yang Chen enough. From the pile of bags, she picked one from Armani.

It was an Italian ancient brand specialized in high-end, tailor-made clothing for men. Lin Ruoxi took a casual suit out from within. It could be seen from its craftsmanship that it was delicately made and luxurious.

“Hubby, don’t just stand there looking sad. Look at this new clothing I got you. Do you like it? I’ll put it on for you.” Lin Ruoxi looked at Yang Chen expectantly.

Wang Ma smiled as well. “Yeah, Young Master. Miss has an excellent taste. Please try it on.”

What else could Yang Chen say except ‘thank you’? He removed his coat and let Lin Ruoxi put the new clothing on for him.

Guo Xuehua was delighted to see the intimate interaction between her son and Lin Ruoxi. Previously, she had sewn a scarf herself and requested Lin Ruoxi to put it on for Yang Chen, but today she had taken the initiative to do so.

“Yang Chen, Ruoxi and I picked the shirt for you. It’s a little more than a hundred thousand. There are not many wives in this world who are willing to gift their husbands like this,” Guo Xuehua said. Basically, she meant the same thing as before—Brat, you should be appreciative!

When Yang Chen wore the casual suit, he looked much more pleasant than before. Back then when he was abroad, he used to wear designer clothing similar to the one he was wearing now. Now that he was wearing it again, he seemed to have gone back time, allowing his aura to flare up a little differently.

Lin Ruoxi tidied Yang Chen’s collar for him and looked satisfied. “You look great.”

“No matter how good I look, I’ll never be able to match you, my dear wife.” Yang Chen forced a smile.

Lin Ruoxi pretended to not understand what he meant. Smiling sweetly, she proceeded to fetch him a newly bought Vacheron Constantin watch.

Yang Chen was repeatedly stunned to see Lin Ruoxi’s elegant smile. He used to wish that he could see the smile more often. Now that it was before him, he felt miserable.

After that, Lin Ruoxi took out a bunch of clothing, perfume, scarf, and leather shoe for everyone. She made the items worth tens of millions in total seem really insignificant.

Yang Chen tried his best to cooperate, pleasing Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma. He wasn’t too interested in highly priced items, but he couldn’t help but admit defeat to Lin Ruoxi’s yet another perfect plot. *Am I really able to convince her using roses and diamonds like what Tang Wan said?* he thought.

Until midnight, the family arranged and kept the large piles of stock. They just had some dim sum and went upstairs to sleep.

Guo Xuehua and Zhenxiu went up to rest first, while Wang Ma followed after she was done washing the bowls and chopsticks. Only Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen were left to carry the miscellaneous items and clothing to the store room upstairs.

When they were almost done, on the second floor, Lin Ruoxi’s forehead was covered in sweat. She elegantly wiped it with her hand and said to Yang Chen, “Alright, I’m going to bed now. Good night, Hubby.”

“Wait,” called Yang Chen before Lin Ruoxi turned around.

“Hmm?” Lin Ruoxi looked at him with her slightly reddened face. “Is there anything you need?”

Yang Chen hesitated for a while before smiling vaguely. "Is there no room for negotiation?"

Lin Ruoxi was slightly stunned. Keeping the smile on her face, she looked like she had returned to day one, looking like unmelted ice. With a cold gaze, she said, "I've given you the answer through action, haven't I?"

Yang Chen took a deep breath. Nodding, he said, "Yeah. I shouldn't have asked."

"If you don't need anything else, I'll go to rest now. I'm very tired today," Lin Ruoxi said indifferently, staring at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "Alright, I'll stop disturbing you then."

Lin Ruoxi said nothing, and instead walked towards her room.

Right before Lin Ruoxi opened the door, Yang Chen suddenly thought of something. He said, "Ruoxi, I'll still get a gift for you. Something that you truly deserve!"

Lin Ruoxi's body shivered for an instant, but she didn't turn back. Silently, she opened the door and walked into her room.

Standing on the dimly lit staircase, Yang Chen gazed upon the deserted walkway, letting out a long sigh.

## **Chapter 589**

### **Fully Content**

At midnight, the five-star hotels in the city centre were lined up like a staircase to the heavens. Illuminated in colorful lights, the city looked as bright as day.

At that moment, a black Mercedes-Benz G55 AMG slowly pulled up outside Hilton Hotel. It came as quite a shock to the people working there as there weren't many people who would arrive at this time.

The security guard on duty at the parking area was dozing off, but quickly got up when he heard the car pull up. Taking a closer look, he immediately became wide awake.

Ever since he was employed by the Hilton Hotel, he had seen his fair share of luxury cars but none as expensive as that one. Even though Zhonghai was filled with wealthy people, a car like that was quite a rare sight. Thus, the experienced security guard assumed that it was either a businessman from another city or a certain celebrity.

As he contemplated the possibilities, he maintained a humble smile and helped the car owner look for a parking spot before silently waiting to welcome the driver.

When the driver got out of the car, the guard took a subconscious glance at the car plate. When he realized what the unique car plate meant, he staggered backwards with his mouth wide open.

It was a military car plate. Specifically, the car plate started with a bright red 'V'!

The guard dared not raise his head. He also didn't have to do so anymore!

That car plate basically meant the car was from the Central Military Commission of China. Regardless of what number it had, the person in the car was someone with immense power from the Chinese military!

Since the car came from Beijing's Central Military Commission, the guard was excited yet frightened.

Every guard working at Hilton Hotel had undergone special training. Recognizing car plates from the government, police, and military was naturally included so that they could identify important guests.

The guard had learnt the car plates from the Central Military Commission as well, but never did imagine that he would be able to see one in this lifetime.

At this moment, a dignified, expressionless man got out from the driver's seat. His background could be judged solely by his upright posture.

After the man shut the door, he opened the back door with his head lowered, welcoming his superior.

The guard shivered slightly. Although he had yet to see the person inside, he guessed that it must be a dignified man dressed in a military uniform as well.

However, the guard was sorely mistaken. That was because the person inside utterly mismatched the car's origin!

A long-haired, good-looking man with an evil aura, wearing a black Armani suit with a white shirt within, got out of the car.

The man had sharp facial features and eyes similar to an eagle's. His gaze was as empty as they came. His relatively long hair was tied behind his head. While being slightly unruly, it made him more masculine at the same time.

No matter how one looked at him, he was certainly a man who could mesmerize the young ladies from the upper class!

"You may stay here. I'll go up alone," the man informed the driver.

The driver nodded in acknowledgement, without the slightest hint of hesitation.

The man advanced towards the hotel like a British gentleman from an ancient clan, passing by the guard, exuding the pleasant smell of men's perfume to his surroundings.

When the man entered the lobby, the guard suddenly remembered that he had forgotten to greet the guest!

What he did not know was that the man had not noticed him at all. The man's eyes vaguely contained burning desires.

When the man came to the counter, the female server couldn't help but feel her heartbeat quicken at the sight of him. She instantly became wide awake. Smiling, she asked, "Sir, may I be of any assistance?"

"I would like to check into my room. I believe I have it reserved." The man's voice was cold yet attractive.

"Sure. May I ask for your name please?" asked the lady gently.

"Yan Buwen."

The server quickly looked up the name before respectfully raising her head with a smile. "Mr Yan, our presidential suite Numbered 001 is yours. Please take the elevator to the sixty-eighth floor. Here's your access card."

As the lady spoke, she passed a platinum-colored card to Yan Buwen.

Without another word, Yan Buwen took the card and proceeded to the elevator.

Before long, the elevator stopped at the sixty-eighth floor. Yan Buwen followed the signboards and came to the Number 001 presidential suite.

Flashing his access card, Yan Buwen unlocked the door and entered. He took a deep breath, as if he was trying to calm his excitement.

After that, he ran his hand through his hair worried that it might have gotten messy. He then arranged his shirt collar and carefully checked if he looked appropriate.

If Yang Chen who had met Yan Buwen this morning saw this, he would likely laugh his ass off. The fellow usually looked so sloppy. What made him care about his appearance so much, like a woman on her wedding? Could he be on a blind date?

Yan Buwen used almost five minutes to make sure he looked his best before he finally opened the door and walked inside.

Yan Buwen inserted the access card to the slot beside the door, causing the room to light up. The majestic chandelier and different kinds of lamp emitted warm lights, shining upon the generous and elegant design of the room.

"You're half an hour late." A female voice as tender as the mountain stream echoed in the previously dark room.

Yan Buwen accidentally revealed a sense of excitement in his eyes. Swallowing his saliva audibly, with a stiff smile, he walked towards the living room.

On the real-leather sofa lay a lady dressed in a slip, black-lace dress. She was lightly swirling a glass of red wine, enjoying the smell as she silently stared at the night sky.

A rush of fire surged in Yan Buwen's eyes after merely looking at her from her side, as if he was dying to envelope the lady in her arms. As his desires started to rise, he thought that every second spent blinking was time wasted.

His throat was a little dry. Forcing a smile, he answered, "I... got into an emergency on the way here. I didn't mean to be late."

Actually, Yan Buwen was only late because he felt that his previous suit wasn't fitting enough. However, he was never going to reveal that.

The lady didn't mind his tardiness too much, and didn't bother dwelling in it. Under the black silk dress, her jade-like slender legs were crossed. Adjusting to a more comfortable position, she said leisurely, "How's the experiment on the specimen going?"

Yan Buwen answered eagerly, "I have successfully replicated the specimen using the information you gave me. I'm confident that the specimen will recover to its original look within a year at most. It might even surpass the original!"

"I don't issues. I don't hope that you'd end up wasting something I have risked so much to obtain," replied the lady softly.

"I absolutely won't. I'll complete everything you wish for me to with no errors!" Yan Buwen's eyes shone. Confidently, he said, "I've also discovered a possibility for the gene mutation through my experiment results. If my past research proves to be right, I believe the future you wish to witness will come true. We'll soon be unstoppable!"

The lady furrowed her brows slightly. "Not us, but me... I want to make it clear right now that you are nothing but a tool to me."

Yan Buwen's enthusiasm instantly vanished, but he looked like he soon found hope again. Smiling, he said, "I'm willing to be used... as long as I can remain useful to you."

"Yan Buwen..." The lady's voice turned incredibly cold. "You better not stare at me this way with your stupid eyes. I am fully aware of the pointless intentions you hold. In my eyes, you're just a dog with a smarter brain than most. I have no interest in dogs."

Yun Buwen's expression turned stiff. He forced a smile and answered, "I—I understand. I'll be more careful next time..."

Disappointed, Yan Buwen forced himself to shift his gaze away from the lady. She didn't even want to turn around to look at him, although he had spent much effort just for this meeting tonight.

The lady ignored his feelings and moved on. She continued, "Two days ago, you're the one who framed Hades for Lu Min's death, aren't you?"

"It—it's me..." Yan Buwen lowered his head, his forehead covered in sweat.

"I don't remember ordering you to do so," the lady said coldly.

Yan Buwen swallowed his saliva in fear. "I just felt that Lu Min's death wasn't considered a very significant issue. Should his grandfather Li Moshen go against the Yang clan because of that, regardless if Yang Chen takes action or not, there'll be chaos in the Central Military Commission. This way, Hongmeng would most likely take action against Yang Chen..."

The lady laughed in contempt. "Have you lost your mind while researching so hard? Or do you fancy yourself the more intelligent one? What makes you think Li Moshen and Yang Gongming would get tricked that easily? Make no mistake. I am well aware of your intentions"

Terrified, Yan Buwen was at a loss of words.

"I'm warning you, stay focused . I don't want nonsense like this to happen again. Do what you are told and only that. Perhaps in the future, when I get rid of Hongmeng, you will be benefited slightly. At that time, whatever you do to the Yang and Li clans, or even Yang Chen, will be none of my business. They'll be nothing but insects crawling on the ground," said the lady.

Yan Buwen finally felt relieved, knowing that he was forgiven this time for making a decision himself.

The lady stood up and put her wine glass down. With her back facing Yan Buwen, she elegantly walked towards the floor-to-ceiling window.

Thanks to the lights shining on her back, the lady's skin under her black dress looked like snow and white porcelain. Her black hair which stretched to her waist formed the perfect view of her back.

Yan Buwen's heartbeat quickened violently as his hands trembled. He had felt the urge to embrace her, but was too afraid to do so. He almost lost his mind holding himself back.

"Sword of Thanatos is placed inside the safe in this room. Take it back to Beijing. I believe you are aware of what you have to do next. Don't stay in Zhonghai for any longer."

As soon as the lady finished speaking, her silhouette faded and vanished in the blink of an eye!

Yan Buwen rushed forward, in an attempt to make her stay but ultimately failed to do so. All he was left with was dejection and indescribable agony.

Nothing but silence was left. The only trace left by the lady was the glass of half-finished wine.

## **Chapter 590**

### **The Same Person**

The next morning, Yang Chen woke up slightly earlier than usual. He wasn't sure if it was the stress or other things that was keeping him awake. Sleeping had never been a necessity for him. He would rather spend the time solving his problems than wasting it by sleeping.

Wang Ma was busy in the kitchen when he went down for breakfast. Lin Ruoxi was still asleep. Boss Lin exhausted herself working all day yesterday.

Zhenxiu and Guo Xuehua were seated at the dining table. Guo Xuehua treated Zhenxiu like her own daughter. She kept feeding Zhenxiu and it did not look like she was going to stop anytime soon.

Guo Xuehua saw Yang Chen and cheerfully said, "You're up early today. I could really use your help now."

Surprised, Yang Chen replied, "Help with what?"

"Recently, Zhenxiu had started to attend class on Sundays. Please send her to school after breakfast since you're free. It will reduce the hassle of her taking the bus," said Guo Xuehua.

Zhenxiu shook her head immediately and said, "Aunt Guo, it's okay. I can take the bus. I won't be late anyway."

"It's not about being late or not. You've lost so much weight recently due to your constant revising. Brother Yang usually has nothing to do, so sending you to school would be no problem." Guo Xuehua smiled at Yang Chen and asked, "Am I right, my great son?"

Yang Chen couldn't reject this request. He was willing to send Zhenxiu to school. Moreover, he wanted to get on Guo Xuehua's good graces before her meet up with Ma Guifang. So he had to agree.

Zhenxiu didn't say anything after seeing that Yang Chen was quick to agree so she gave Guo Xuehua a sweet smile.

Yang Chen quickly finished his breakfast along with Zhenxiu. He drank a bowl of porridge and ate several steamed buns.

Guo Xuehua walked the two of them to the courtyard while thoughtfully reminding Zhenxiu to come home early for dinner.

Yang Chen felt gloomy to see how much Guo Xuehua cared about Zhenxiu. His mother cared about him constantly when they were still developing their relationship. Now, that their relationship was steady, Guo Xuehua cared less about him but more about Zhenxiu.

Yang Chen started the car engine and smiled. "I see that you've truly become my sister. Everyone would think I am adopted whereas you're my mom's true child, judging from the way she treats you."

Zhenxiu puffed her cheeks and glanced at Yang Chen, dissatisfied. She said, "Unlike you, I am obedient. You're always causing trouble for Aunt Guo."

Yang Chen smiled shyly and scratched his face. He knew what her words implied but had nothing to rebut with so he stayed silent. He pulled out of the house and made his way to Zhenxiu's school.

Guo Xuehua sent them off with her eyes from the courtyard. She felt pleased and blessed every time she saw Yang Chen drive off from home.

Guo Xuehua turned around and made her way back to the house. As she was walking back, she saw a middle-aged woman walk out from Rose's house.

The unfamiliar woman dressed plain and simple. However, Guo Xuehua as a woman herself could tell that she must have been a beautiful woman in her youth.

This unfamiliar woman was Ma Guifang who was temporarily living with her daughter Mo Qianni in Rose's house.

Ma Guifang had come to Zhonghai for quite some time. They never met before because Guo Xuehua didn't visit the Rose's house recently.

At this moment, Ma Guifang was walking into the courtyard and coincidentally saw Guo Xuehua.

Their stared at each other for awhile. One was graceful and elegant whereas the other was simple and pure.

Being neighbors, it was common etiquette for them to greet each other.

Guo Xuehua walked up towards the fence with a smile and said, "Hi, my name is Guo Xuehua. Elder Sister, I have never met you before. Have you just moved here recently? Are you the child Rose's relative?"

Ma Guifang felt her heart melt when she heard Guo Xuehua refer her as 'elder sister'. She was unfamiliar with Zhonghai, but unexpectedly felt connected when she met a neighbour of her age. Besides, having met countless people, she could tell that Guo Xuehua was a nice person.

“Oh, my name is Ma Guifang. I’m not Rose’s relative, but Mo Qianni’s mother,” Ma Guifang replied with a smile. “I recently moved here for health reasons. Living alone became rather difficult.”

Guo Xuehua knew that Ma Guifang came from Sichuan after hearing her accent. Thus, she lowered her guard. Ma Guifang indeed looked similar to Mo Qianni after taking a close look.

Smiling, Guo Xuehua said, “Oh, so you’re Qianni’s mother. I heard from Qianni that her mother lived back at her hometown. Sister Ma, you came at the right time. The young ones from both our homes are always out working. Sister Wang and I are usually the only ones at home. Sister Ma, please do come on over for tea.”

Ma Guifang laughed and replied, “Since you’re calling me sister, I will call you Sister Xuehua then. So you know my daughter. My silly daughter didn’t even mention our neighbours.”

“It’s only because Qianni is busy. That girl is pretty and thoughtful. Sister Ma, you have a really good daughter. I bet Qianni only looks so fine thanks to your gorgeous appearance,” Guo Xuehua praised.

Ma Guifang’s biggest pride was her outstanding daughter, so Guo Xuehua’s compliment was one that she truly appreciated. She grinned and replied, “Sister Xuehua, you’re such a sweet talker. I am just a peasant from the mountains. Her success is all credited to her. Oh, by the way, do you have any children?”

Originally, Ma Guifang wanted to head to work at Madam Xiang’s restaurant. At this moment, she was engrossed in chatting with Guo Xuehua and forgot about working.

Women at that age loved to chat. Especially if they meet someone with similar interests.

Guo Xuehua was more than willing to share about her children. Due to the fact that the Yang clan’s background was unusual, it wasn’t a topic that people brought up too often. She only mentioned that she had a son and she was currently living with him and her daughter-in-law.

When Guo Xuehua said that her daughter-in-law Lin Ruoxi was a close friend of Mo Qianni and the CEO of Yu Lei International, Ma Guifang was shocked yet again. She secretly blamed Mo Qianni for not informing her that Lin Ruoxi lived next door.

After all, the Old CEO from Yu Lei graced Mo Qianni. Naturally, Ma Guifang was aware of the current CEO.

It wasn’t that Mo Qianni dared not tell her that Lin Ruoxi lived next door—she was worried that Ma Guifang would find out that Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen were married!

During the conversation, Guo Xuehua intentionally avoided several topics of conversation whereas Ma Guifang had nothing to hide.

When Guo Xuehua asked about when Mo Qianni would find a partner, Ma Guifang grinned and said, “That girl has found a good man. He is quite decent in my eyes. He doesn’t look down on our background. Just two days ago, they mentioned that both parents should meet up. Maybe the parents of my future son-in-law are busy so they haven’t set a date just yet.”

“That’s great! I have always thought that Qianni is a good girl. If my son wasn’t already married, I might have matched him up with Qianni. She didn’t tell me that she had someone in mind. I recently just asked her about it but she refused to tell me,” replied Guo Xuehua.

A few days ago, Guo Xuehua felt rather regretful, as she found Mo Qianni more suitable as her daughter-in-law than Lin Ruoxi. However, Lin Ruoxi had changed her mind these past few days.

Ma Guifang couldn’t stop adulating her future son-in-law, even though she didn’t mention any names. She described him so perfectly that he sounded like the perfect, loyal, and one-and-only man!

From Ma Guifang’s description, Guo Xuehua too felt that he was a good man. Mo Qianni would naturally pick him over any other man. “He must be infinitely better than my playboy son!” she thought.

Guo Xuehua who was full of admiration would never know that the ‘perfect man’ in Ma Guifang’s words was her much treasured son—Yang Chen!

All along, they were talking about the same person!

## **Chapter 591**

### **The Detestable Zhenxiu**

Yang Chen who was on his way to Zhenxiu’s school had no idea that his mom and mother-in-law had met coincidentally. He also did not know that their first topic of conversation was regarding him!

If Yang Chen had known what was going back home, he would’ve either laughed himself to death or buried himself a hole to hide in forever.

Since it was a weekend, the traffic wasn’t too heavy. Yang Chen was then able to drive carefreely as he chatted with Zhenxiu.

Due to recent events, Yang Chen didn’t have the time to catch up with the girl. He used to only ask about Zhenxiu’s school life and revision. But lately, he felt the need to address Zhenxiu’s family background from Korea.

It was basically confirmed that Zhenxiu was a direct descendent of the people from Starmoon Group. Park Jonghyun wasn’t an ordinary man; getting information wrong was non-existent in his books.

Zhenxiu had insisted on staying in Zhonghai instead of returning to Korea. Everyone understood how she felt, and took concern and compassion for her. Out of respect, they never brought it up in front of Zhenxiu.

Yang Chen had a feeling that Zhenxiu needed to go back to Korea sooner or later. She belonged there after all. Even though her parents were strongly opposed by her relatives back then, and fled to China as a result, it was not enough to cut off all ties to their blood relatives.

Furthermore, Zhenxiu was chosen as the heiress of the business empire Starmoon Group by its current president, her grandfather. Had they chosen another candidate other than Zhenxiu, Park Jonghyun wouldn’t have wasted his time coming all the way to Zhonghai.

Yang Chen thought of the possible conflicts, caused by authority and money, within large clans like hers. He didn't hope for Zhenxiu to be on the receiving end of any of it.

All he could do was ensure the sister-like child lived a blissful life regardless of what her choice would be.

While driving, Yang Chen casually asked about how Zhenxiu had been doing in school, and how her revision progressed. He joked about letting her seek help from Sister Ruoxi in times of need, so that Lin Ruoxi could be distracted from him.

It was rare for Zhenxiu to talk to Yang Chen alone. She just sided Lin Ruoxi yesterday night and intentionally worsened the situation. However, not only was she currently obedient, she had also laughed and conversed happily with Yang Chen.

"Zhenxiu, is Liu Minghao still harassing you?" Yang Chen suddenly thought of that brother-in-law of his.

Zhenxiu instantly frowned in displeasure upon hearing that name. Angrily, she said, "Brother Yang, please don't mention him anymore. I get frustrated every time I think of him."

"Is he still going after you in school?" Yang Chen asked with a smile.

"No, he isn't. He quit school sometime back." Zhenxiu rolled her eyes adorably.

"He quit?" Yang Chen was doubtful. "I think the word you are looking for is expelled. Did that fellow form a gang of some sort and get punished?"

"The cowardly teachers wouldn't dare to mess with Liu Minghao; even the headmaster makes way for him." Zhenxiu pouted her mouth. "He left because he found studying to be an unsuitable task for him. I believe he managed to gain his father's approval to quit school. He's now helping his father in the gang."

Yang Chen didn't expect that to happen. Liu Qingshan may have figured out that his son wasn't born for school, so he chose to put him into practical work instead of wasting time.

He then asked, "Since Liu Minghao quit school already, it should be good that no one's giving you trouble anymore. Why do you still look so mad?"

Zhenxiu avoided looking at Yang Chen. Turning her head toward the window, she said softly, "Even though he has quit school, he has left some negative influence... In short, I hate him a lot."

Yang Chen noticed that she wasn't willing to talk about it much. Everyone had a secret or two after all, so he stopped asking further.

Yang Chen didn't intend to linger after sending Zhenxiu to school. A young man driving a BMW to send a female high schooler could be easily misinterpreted.

Yang Chen had returned to the country for quite some time already, so he naturally took many things into consideration, especially when it involved a normal girl like Zhenxiu.

However, although he left right after dropping Zhenxiu off, he had garnered the attention of some of the school students.

When the car departed, Zhenxiu bit her lip and revealed a smile. She was delighted that Yang Chen sent her to school.

When she turned around and was about to enter, the scorn of a few girls could be heard...

"I was just wondering who the rich person fetched by a BMW was. So it's our beautiful schoolmate Zhenxiu. I'm quite jealous."

A relatively tall, beautifully dressed girl with blonde hair popped out nowhere with two other girls of her height, all of whom had ear piercings.

Zhenxiu turned dull upon listening to the voice. She pretended to have heard nothing and continued walking toward the entrance.

Unexpectedly, before she reached there, the two ladies had gone in front and blocked her, looking at Zhenxiu maliciously.

"Jiao Yanyan, what do you want now?" Zhenxiu suppressed her anger, staring at the blonde-haired girl.

Jiao Yanyan caressed her hair and slanted her head. Coldly, she said, "You used to act so pure when Liu Minghao was still here. I knew it was all an act. You are finally revealing your true colours. Only an idiot like Liu Minghao would be so obsessed with you, who's nothing but a bitch."

The two girls laughed when Jiao Yanyan insulted Zhenxiu. Most of the other students around knew them, and were aware that Jiao Yanyan had always been against Zhenxiu. Some of them were enjoying the show, while the others sympathized for Zhenxiu.

Zhenxiu tried her best to ignore Jiao Yanyan's contemptful gaze. "Whoever Liu Minghao is going for is none of my business. I've never wanted his attention. I told you time and time again that you could express your dissatisfaction to him. How is it my fault that he doesn't like you? I come here to study. I don't care about anything else."

"Xu Zhenxiu, do you know why you're so detestable?" Jiao Yanyan was infuriated to hear the hard truth. As malice filled her face, she said, "I hate the fact that you don't take anything seriously! Do you really fancy yourself as the prettiest in school just because the fools find you attractive? I, Jiao Yanyan, am most disgusted by girls like you. Many have seen that you were fetched by a man driving a BMW this morning. I don't mind teaching you a lesson should you refuse to admit that you're a slut..."

Zhenxiu clenched her teeth, knowing that anything she said would end up in vain. Jiao Yanyan liked Liu Minghao, but was deeply displeased as he wouldn't stop following Zhenxiu.

In the past when Liu Minghao was still there, his presence would rid her of Jiao Yanyan's pestering. However, since he left the school, Jiao Yanyan started going overboard.

Zhenxiu heard from her classmate that Jiao Yanyan had a dark family background as well. Although it was a gang from another district, ordinary people couldn't keep them contained. Zhenxiu hoped that it wouldn't affect her or her family.

The college entrance exam was just two months away. Zhenxiu definitely did not want anything to jeopardize that.

When Jiao Yanyan ordered her girls to take action on Zhenxiu, two guards of the school came and yelled, "What are you guys doing?! Stop the nonsense and head to your classes now!"

Although Jiao Yanyan was cocky, her family wasn't based in Zhonghai. She dared not try her luck when the security guards came. Snorting disdainfully, she let her two girls back off.

"Humph. You're lucky today, but we will come back for you!" With her arms crossed, Jiao Yanyan left with her girls and entered the school arrogantly.

Zhenxiu was initially in an excellent mood, but she got dismal, clueless about how she would face Jiao Yanyan in the future. The hatred she held for Liu Minghao intensified. *Him quitting school caused bigger problems for me than when he was here!* she thought.

## Chapter 592

### In One Aspect

Yang Chen was clueless as to what troubles Zhenxiu faced at school. He was currently preoccupied thinking about his problems with the Liu family. .

When he was in Liu Mingyu's office, he proposed to treat her parents to a meal for a chance to bond with them. But unfortunately, unexpected events occurred which caused him to mercilessly give Liu Qingshan a slap in the face. He could only imagine just how pissed Liu Qingshan was.

He didn't know if Liu Qingshan would inform Liu Mingyu about it or not. Yang Chen felt a slight headache, worried that his position as her man would start to be shaky after fighting with her father, as Liu Mingyu could get upset about it.

Yang Chen's phone vibrated inside his pant pocket. He took it out and had a look—it was a call from Liu Mingyu!

Yang Chen sighed and picked up the call. Smiling, he said, "Babe Mingyu, why are you calling me so early? It sure looks like you're missing your hubby already."

Liu Mingyu kept quiet for a short while before saying softly, "I called home this morning and told Mom that you're thinking of treating them for a meal. However, she told me what had happened yesterday between you and Dad. Apparently he's still really mad now. May I know what happened?"

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. He was fortunate that it happened to Liu Mingyu. Even in difficult situations, she was still calm and reasonable. Had it happened to Cai Yan instead, she would have acted out a lot differently due to her bad temper.

Yang Chen didn't plan to hide anything from her. He briefly explained what Liu Qingshan's man Gao Yue had done, together with why Liu Qingshan was so mad.

After listening to his explanation, Liu Mingyu answered gently, "Alright, I understand now. Since that's the case, why don't we find a date where we can go over what happened and what we can do about it. He's still my father at the end of the day regardless of the things he has done and will do."

Yan Chen asked, "You're not mad at me for angering him, are you?"

“Nope. Why would I be? I’ve met Gao Yue before. I could tell then that he wasn’t as normal and composed as regular people. All you did was talk straightforwardly, and I’m not an unreasonable woman. I’m willing to listen as long as you are willing to explain it,” replied Liu Mingyu mildly. “All that we could do now is move on and repair broken bridges. You can’t just avoid seeing my family from now on, can you?”

Yang Chen felt a little moved although her tone was plain. Liu Mingyu was essentially saying that Liu Qingshan was her family despite his dark background, and she hoped that Yang Chen could ease up knowing that.

Yang Chen let out a sigh of relief. As his woman spent so much effort in communicating with him, he promised to lower his stance and talk to Liu Qingshan.

Liu Mingyu was pleased that Yang Chen understood where she was coming from. It had also proven her importance in the man’s heart to a certain degree.

Lastly, Liu Mingyu said, “I’m almost done decorating my new home. You may come and have a look one day. I’ll even let you try my cooking.”

“I get full for staring at you. Why would I still need food?” teased Yang Chen.

“You’re getting ahead of yourself again. I’m ending the call,” complained Liu Mingyu before she ended the call directly.

Yang Chen was stunned. He couldn’t help but wonder whether to laugh or cry. He wasn’t even told where the address of the new home was; how was he supposed to look for her then?

However, after a while, a message was sent to Yang Chen’s phone which made him smile—Liu Mingyu had texted him the address. Women were often known to act in mysterious ways. Of course, to them, they were romantic most of the time.

Yang Chen wasn’t in a hurry to indulge in the village of softness. As he was free this weekend, he wanted to quickly go home and talk to Guo Xuehua about meeting Ma Guifang. He wanted to delay this meeting as little as possible in an effort not to displease the latter.

When he reached home and walked into the living room, he saw that Guo Xuehua was lying on the sofa and watching the television alone. She was deeply immersed in the Korean drama suggested by Lin Ruoxi.

Yang Chen sighed helplessly. Walking forward smilingly, he said, “Mom, where’s Wang Ma and Ruoxi?”

Guo Xuehua finally regained awareness. She felt satisfied when Yang Chen asked about Lin Ruoxi. “She went out with Wang Ma to buy groceries. I heard she wants to learn how to cook which surprised me quite a bit. She used to work through the weekends back then. It sure looks like she has become more thoughtful.”

Yang Chen felt relieved. Since Lin Ruoxi wasn’t home, the conversation could be held more easily.

“Mom, I have something to discuss with you.” Yang Chen smiled brightly, trying to please her.

“Hmm? You’ve always acted on your own in the past. Why do you need to discuss with me this time? You didn’t get yourself into trouble, did you?” asked Guo Xuehua worriedly.

Yang Chen quickly waved his hand. “I didn’t. It’s actually considered a thing. I hope I could get your support, Mom.”

“Stop beating around the bush. There’s nothing that you need to hide from your mother.” Guo Xuehua said with a smile.

Yang Chen scratched the back of his head. Clenching his teeth, he said, “Can I ask you to meet a mother-in-law of mine and my other woman?”

Guo Xuehua’s smile slowly solidified before it finally dissipated. She gazed upon Yang Chen for quite a while with complexity, restraining herself from getting emotional. “Whose mother is it? Is it Rose or An Xin?”

Yang Chen looked deeply embarrassed. “It’s... it’s another one.”

“What?!” Guo Xuehua exclaimed, getting up from the sofa violently. She pointed her finger at Yang Chen as her entire body shivered in fury!

Had it not been the guilt she held for Yang Chen, having reunited with her son after more than twenty years, Guo Xuehua would’ve definitely given him a beating. Being a parent and a woman, she found his behavior highly unacceptable!

*Shit,* he thought, not expecting Guo Xuehua to get so emotional. He quickly said, “Mom, please calm down. Let’s talk it through calmly...”

“What’s there to talk about?!” Guo Xuehua shouted at the top of her lungs, almost losing control of her emotions. “Yang Chen, Mom is begging you this time. Please don’t mess around anymore! I could and had to accept Rose as your lover since she saved my life. I can tell An Xin’s love for you is sincere as well, so I kept a tight lip about it.

“To be honest, solely by accepting these two ladies, I’m already embarrassed enough in front of Ruoxi. But now another lover of yours popped out?! Are you even trying to live peacefully here in this family?!”

*There’s actually more than one. Little Yu, the police chief Little Yan, and the mature beauty Tang Wan are all waiting on us... If she’s reacting this way when I merely mention Little Qianqian’s mother, I can only imagine the road I have ahead of me,* he thought.

Yang Chen continued, “Mom, I’ve promised her mother already. It has not only been a few days since I met her daughter. And what we’re doing is not just fooling around as well. The same goes to Rose and An Xin; I like them with all my heart. I can’t just get rid of them, can I?”

Downhearted, Guo Xuehua sighed deeply before sitting down, as if she had depleted her energy. She rubbed her forehead and said, “Yang Chen, you’re actually a good man. Mom didn’t get to raise, but I’m pleased that you’re a responsible man, not to mention you’re actually outstanding...”

“Compared to your cowardly father who’s afraid to recognize his own son, you’re really impressive.”

Yang Chen stayed quiet, knowing that Guo Xuehua wasn’t done yet.

“However, today, Mom has no choice but to tell you something.” Guo Xuehua stared at Yang Chen in agony. “Your disappointing father Yang Pojun is inferior to you in every way, but he’s definitely better in one aspect...

“Yang Pojun is born in a wealthy and powerful clan, and he has achieved a ton at a young age. He even managed to become the general in the military district of Jiangan. This is a rank very few people in China hold.

“But his heart has set itself on your mother decades ago. He has never cheated on me, nor did he do anything inappropriate to our marriage. He even tolerated and protected me.

“Except the after period after we found you, Yang Pojun never even yelled at me before...”

## **Chapter 593**

### **Stolen**

Yang Chen was stunned. He never would have thought that the man who had no care for his own kin, was that loyal to his love.

Guo Xuehua gave a nonchalant smile and said, “Well before we reunited, I did have quite a strong relationship with him. I have always known that for someone with his capabilities, came a great deal of temptation. I was not always by his side over the years. For him to still be so earnest and loyal to me, is truly a wonder.

“You might not have known, but the reason that I started getting involved with charities in the first place, was to compensate my guilt for losing you. I always thought that if I did my part for the orphans, maybe the heavens would treat you, who have vanished, better. My wish was that wherever you were in this world, you would be safe and happy.

“At first your grandfather hated the idea that I spent so much of my time helping the community instead of fulfilling my duties as the sole daughter-in-law of the Yang clan. He had always believed that it was my job to stay home to take care of the elders while maintaining my family’s reputation.

“But that man never stopped defending me and the things I did despite your grandfather’s opposing view. It is him whom I should thank for helping me convince your grandfather. It has been more than 20 years since we got married; never once has he done anything that would hurt me. Other than your case, I have nothing but appreciation for that man.”

“Do you regret that?” Yang Chen lightly mentioned.

“Regret? Why should I?”

“Regret leaving your loving husband for your playboy headache of a son?” Yang Chen said jokingly.

Guo Xuehua was left speechless as she rolled her eyes on Yang Chen. She then replied, “Why would I regret that? Yang Pojun was an excellent husband, but that was as far as it went. As a father however, he had disappointed me to great lengths. I’m not just his wife, but a mother to two sons.

“Decades ago, abandoning you for the sake of the clan was a terrible decision made on my end. I gave the Yang clan two sons, and with that I no longer owed the ancestors anything. Now that I’m halfway to a hundred years old, how can I witness you slip away from me again?”

Yang Chen felt a little at ease after hearing those words. He resolved to take better care of his mother. She sacrificed her loving husband for him. How then, could he leave her alone?

But, that ‘better care’ clearly excluded his ways of dealing with relationships.

Yang Chen mumbled, “Mom, while we’re on this topic, I promise to always take good care of you. But you have to help your own son achieve lifelong happiness, don’t you? Each and every one of my women has a special place in me. We have all gone through certain events in the past which led us to finally end up together. How could I just leave them all of a sudden? Either way I’m not letting any of them go. So can you please meet with my mother-in-law?”

Guo Xuehua had loosened up a little just moments ago, but was made tense again with his request. “Yang Chen, to have so many girls love you is definitely a blessing. But we’re not in medieval times anymore. You can’t just proudly boast your hoard of women like it’s nothing! You aren’t even like some other guys that pay for their mistresses in secret. You literally go to these women and make out with them like it’s totally fine. If the news spreads, how do you think they’ll take it?”

“Moreover, it would be fine if Ruoxi didn’t know about your arrangement, and I will still try my best to hide it from her. But you don’t even try to hide it yourself! She’s not blind nor is she a robot. How much more do you expect her to take?”

Yang Chen gave a bitter smile. “Mom to be honest with you, back then when we got married, we weren’t in it for the long haul. So she never cared if I had other women. Who knew that things would have happened the way they did?”

“What do you mean?” Guo Xuehua was frustrated. “What does ‘not in it for the long haul’ even mean? How exactly did you guys meet in the first place, and seeing how bright a mind Ruoxi is, why would she just marry any random guy?”

Yang Chen lightly scratched his nose in response to the awkward atmosphere. But he soon decided that Guo Xuehua should know the whole story. She was bound to find out sooner or later. He knew that his mom would keep it a secret anyway.

Hence, Yang Chen told her everything, from the part where he returned to China and started to sell mutton skewers. To the time he coincidentally bumped into Lin Ruoxi who was depressed because of her father Lin Kun. He witnessed her getting drugged and decided to rescue her, but mistook her as an escort.

Once she heard about Yang Chen mistaking Lin Ruoxi for a prostitute, and popped her cherry, Guo Xuehua was so shocked her mouth sprang wide open to the point where it could fit an entire egg!

At the very end, Guo Xuehua had no clue how to react. She swung her hands around and started smacking Yang Chen in the torso. Agitated, she replied, “What is wrong with you? What is up with your assumptions? What terrible judgement! Have you seen a prostitute that needed her drink to be

drugged? If she worked the field, why would she need to be drugged? Not to mention you actually thought a girl like Ruoxi was a prostitute in the first place!”

Yang Chen reached to the back of his head as he recalled that moment. Back then, it was really because he was horny that he accepted Lin Ruoxi’s identity.

Through the flashbacks it led to his eventual discovery that, compared to Zhang Hu and his gang back then, he wasn’t too different from them after all!

“Now that it has been made clear to me, turns out your wife was ‘stolen’ by you little jerk!” Guo Xuehua pointed her finger right at Yang Chen’s head. “That story would explain why a nice girl like Ruoxi would even consider marrying a good-for-nothing brat like you!”

Yang Chen somehow still managed a chuckle. “I did take responsibility didn’t I? Are we not married now? Besides, I’ve gotten back on track haven’t I?”

“This is what you meant by getting back on track? Your rooms are separated! When will my wish for a grandchild ever come true?” Guo Xuehua was furious.

Yang Chen replied, “Mom, matters like these cannot be rushed. I’m always ready, but Ruoxi said she wouldn’t move to my room unless I break up with the other girls. Isn’t she basically asking for my death?”

“And what exactly is wrong about that? She’s helping you correct your wrongdoings,” Guo Xuehua taunted.

Yang Chen clenched his teeth. “Mom, why do you keep defending Lin Ruoxi? If I had a few more women wouldn’t that increase the chances of you having a grandchild? Besides, the Ruoxi that you see these past few days is not the real her. How often do you see a workaholic become a family woman this quick? She’s obviously trying to get Wang Ma and you on her side against me!”

Yang Chen upon making his point felt extremely uneasy to stab Lin Ruoxi on the back like that. But he found himself in a situation where he had no other choice.

However, Guo Xuehua instead replied with sounds of laughter. “Hah! Oh my son, you really think the both of us didn’t know all this while?”

“What?” Yang Chen was caught by the unprecedented response.

Guo Xuehua sighed as she shook her head. “I have been Ruoxi’s mother-in-law for a while now, but first and foremost, I am a woman too. Of course I know her better than you do. These few days when she suddenly became so obedient and so lovable, did you really think I failed to notice? I was even discussing it with Yulan.”

[TL note: Yulan is Wang Ma’s real name.]

Only then was Yang Chen clear, that Guo Xuehua knew the act by Lin Ruoxi all along. Puzzled, he asked, “Then why did you still...”

“Because, even if Ruoxi was putting up an act, her intentions were genuine. She actually does care for us while she works hard to fight for the things she wants.” Smiling, Guo Xuehua continued, “Since everyone was happier that way, there really wasn’t a reason for us to expose her was there?”

Yang Chen went silent for a long while, looking downcast. “Wow. While you guys were all enjoying, I’ve had my back pushed up against a cliff.”

Guo Xuehua, with a broad smile on her face, said, “I can’t help you with that. All I wanted was for the people in this house to be happy and healthy. If you really want to maintain things the way they were, convince Ruoxi to accept your choices. Just don’t turn this household into a mess.”

Guo Xuehua had already loosened her restrictions towards Yang Chen in an effort not to stand between him and his relationships. After all Yang Chen was not his husband, she need not fear that his son had multiple women. Moreover, she was not brought up in a common household—polygamy was not uncommon to her.

Yang Chen contemplated for a while and then replied, “I cannot predict what the future may hold. But as of right now, I have to fulfil a promise that I made to myself—to keep the people around me happy. As of right now, that mother-in-law of mine is waiting to meet you. Can you please meet up with her as a favor? I need you to do this to keep her happy. With your social skills, I’m sure you are more than capable.”

This time, he even tried to get on Guo Xuehua’s good side.

Guo Xuehua chuckled as she shook her head, frustrated with the pointless arguments that she had with her son. “Alright fine, since things are progressing the way they are, why don’t you pick a date and venue. Oh right, what’s her mother’s last name?”

Yang Chen, filled with glee, happily replied, “I knew that you would have my back. My mother-in-law’s surname is Ma and she’s a rather frugal person. You two should hit it off quite well.”

“This isn’t about whether we can keep a conversation. It’s about her immediate resentment against you once she finds out about your situation,” Guo Xuehua said while silently contemplating her decision.

Yang Chen knew that these matters had to be dealt with sooner or later. All he could do was face it head on. So once again, he decided not to overthink. He had faith that there was always a solution for everything.

Yang Chen was in a great mood now that he settled the problem of getting both in-laws to meet each other and was on his way to make Guo Xuehua some tea to express his gratitude. But right when he was about to go into the kitchen to prepare the tea, Wang Ma who went out to shop for groceries came back with Lin Ruoxi.

## **Chapter 594**

### **Nourishments**

Wearing a pink and white coat over her shoulders and a black side tie mini skirt, Lin Ruoxi was carrying bags of cooking ingredients into the house in a lively manner. She looked excited at what was to come

after. Instead of her usual office wear, what she wore reflected her age more right now. She had somehow boosted her charm against all odds.

It was worth noting that Wang Ma only carried a small plastic bag. Lin Ruoxi had obviously carried all the heavy bags. Judging from Wang Ma's kind smile, it was clear just how pleased she was.

Wang Ma had served in this house since the Old CEO was here. She watched Lin Kun marry Xue Zijing and for Xue Zijing to give birth to Lin Ruoxi. As Lin Ruoxi grew up, Wang Ma had been working behind the scenes taking care of the people in the house. Actually, she had long started treating Lin Ruoxi whom she called 'miss' as her own daughter.

Right now, not only did Lin Ruoxi accompany her to the supermarket, she even offered to carry the heavier bags. Wang Ma could not be more pleased with the way she had grown up.

Lin Ruoxi smiled naturally when she saw Yang Chen at home. "Hubby, can you guess what I bought today?"

Yang Chen wasn't used to Lin Ruoxi's tone and behavior, especially when she started calling him 'hubby'. On the contrary, he refrained from calling her the cheesy names he used to. It was as if the tables had turned and things had been switched around.

"What is it?" Yang Chen stared at the bags, unable to figure out the objects within.

Lin Ruoxi walked towards Yang Chen and opened the bags. "Look! I bought lamb kidneys, pork kidneys, and fresh beef kidneys. I had to visit quite a few stores though. I even got cashew nuts, lycium chinense, and some other stuff to go with them."

"Erm... Ruoxi, why did you get so many kidneys..." Yang Chen's forehead was covered in cold sweat. *What is she implying?!* he thought.

"They're nourishments for your body of course!" Lin Ruoxi looked like she had a headache. "You're always so busy outside. I was always worried that you would exhaust yourself too far one day, so I had to do something about it. So I thought of buying these kidneys for nourishments."

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma naturally understood what she wanted to nourish. It was none other than the two organs most important to men.

However, as the ingredients were also used to nourish the kidney, Lin Ruoxi was obviously implying that Yang Chen was 'incapable'. That was because everyone in the house knew that they slept in separate rooms.

Lin Ruoxi was clearly being sarcastic. As Yang Chen often messed with women outside, he was bound to fail one day in that aspect. To prevent him from losing his 'combat ability', she felt the need to nourish his body.

Yang Chen was left utterly speechless, not expecting Lin Ruoxi to pull off such an act. She was very clearly trying to take revenge by embarrassing him, not to mention in such a 'gentle and caring' manner.

"Hubby, why the long face? Are you not feeling well?" asked Lin Ruoxi, her eyes filled with mischief.

Yang Chen took a deep breath. No one could bear the consequence of his own doing except himself. Furthermore, he indeed was the one in the wrong.

*But my kidneys are fine!* he thought.

Yang Chen forced a smile. "I'm fine. I'm just moved by your consideration. But Ruoxi... you're not going to cook all of the kidneys today, are you?"

"I have to make them all of course! You have such a huge appetite. I'll make simmered lamb kidney, fried pork kidney, and let Wang Ma make braised beef kidney. This way, you'll be able to get the best the kidneys have to offer," said Lin Ruoxi in delight. She didn't forget to add, "Everything I bought was specifically for you. So us ladies will have to eat something else. You're not going to waste my effort, are you?"

Yang Chen wanted to speak, but Lin Ruoxi ran off to Guo Xuehua to show off the fresh vegetables and seafood she got. Guo Xuehua was pleased yet again when Lin Ruoxi said she wanted to cook for her mother-in-law.

Yang Chen let out a long sigh in his heart. *Just how depressing must this meal get!* he thought.

After Lin Ruoxi and Wang Ma proceeded to the kitchen, Yang Chen said to Guo Xuehua, "Mom, why aren't you stopping her? Ruoxi is trying to get your son killed."

Guo Xuehua rolled her eyes. "I know that she's doing it on purpose. But think about it, what's so bad with her approach? You're always messing around with women, but I haven't gotten any grandchild yet. Mom is getting anxious. So by all means, please have some nourishment.

"Also, look at Ruoxi be the perfect family woman now. Not only is she helping Wang Ma with chores, she's learning to cook as well. On the other hand, you have done nothing all day. Why are you still complaining when someone's cooking for you without asking for anything in return?"

Yang Chen wanted to cry but failed to produce any tears. He really shouldn't complain, but he couldn't just tell his mom that his kidneys were strong, could he? Suffering in silence was the only thing he could do now.

Almost two hours later, Lin Ruoxi and Wang Ma served a 'kidney feast' after working hard in the kitchen. Of course, it was meant to 'nourish' Yang Chen, so all of the dishes were placed right in front of him.

Yang Chen had a huge appetite no doubt, but his face muscles couldn't help but twitch when he looked at the dishes of cooked kidneys.

To make the matter worse, Lin Ruoxi revealed an innocent and wronged expression when she saw that Yang Chen wasn't eating. "Hubby, is it because my cooking is bad..."

Actually, Lin Ruoxi had improved a ton in cooking after learning from both Li Jingjing and Wang Ma. However, who on Earth would treat kidneys as their main course?!

Yang Chen was too embarrassed to reject her. At last, he forced himself to finish all of the three large plates of kidney.

Had it not been for Yang Chen's exceptional body constitution, he might've died due to excessive nosebleed. After lunch, he dared not stay at home for long. As it was a weekend, Lin Ruoxi would definitely accompany the two elder to watch television. He felt safer outside the house.

Moreover, as he had gained Guo Xuehua's agreement, Yang Chen wanted to talk to Ma Guifang about it quickly in addition to setting a time and venue.

On the way to Madam Xiang's restaurant, Yang Chen made a phone call to Mo Qianni.

Mo Qianni who was busy working, was so excited that she almost jumped from her office table when she heard that Guo Xuehua had agreed. "Hubby, have you... told Aunt that she was meeting my mom?"

"I didn't say it explicitly, but she'll find out when they meet. I believe my mom has quite the good impression for yours. So she could thank me for the surprise later," said Yang Chen.

Mo Qianni hesitated for a while before humming in acknowledge. "I originally wanted to go with you, but I have a few management-level meetings later. Fortunately you know the way to Aunt Xiang's restaurant. You may discuss it with my mom. I'll definitely approve the dates she set."

"Little Qianqian, don't worry. I won't leave you no matter what. Worst comes to worst, we'll need to spend more saliva on explaining," consoled Yang Chen with a smile.

Mo Qianni hummed in acknowledgement. "Oh ya, Hubby, have you visited Rose yet?"

Yang Chen was so guilty that his face reddened. "Erm... I haven't gotten around to it. It's also because I've been caught up recently. I'll visit her when I go home later. I'm actually feeling rather embarrassed."

Mo Qianni hesitated a little and replied, "I'd advise you to see Rose as soon as possible. I can tell that she hasn't been feeling well these days. Furthermore, I told her that you came back a while ago, and she said calmly that she knew. I think she's avoiding you on purpose."

Yang Chen suddenly felt worried. Could she be hiding something from him? She had never made him worry about her before, so Yang Chen did not pay too much of his attention on her. Although he felt guilty about it, old habits die hard.

Yang Chen felt that something was wrong, judging by what Mo Qianni said. He had come back from overseas for quite a few days already, but he didn't even receive a call from Rose nor see her walk out from home.

However, he was currently driving on the highway already. Going back wasn't an option so he tried not to worry and proceeded to Madam Xiang's restaurant.

After half an hour, Yang Chen came to the restaurant again. There weren't many customers inside as the lunch hour had passed. Thus, Madam Xiang was calculating her earnings at the counter.

Yang Chen looked around and failed to find Ma Guifang. Smiling, he walked forward and asked, "Aunt Xiang, where's my mother-in-law?"

## **Chapter 595**

### **How Did You Do That**

Madam Xiang looked up and saw Yang Chen, which surprised her a little. "I was wondering who it was that came to meet their in-laws. It turned out to be you. Guifang went over to the Hunan restaurant next door to borrow some food. She should be back anytime by now."

"Borrow food?" Yang Chen was confused. *How does one borrow food?*

Madam Xiang replied with a bright smile. "We as restaurant patrons sometimes share our dishes with the other restaurant businesses in the area. Sometimes when one of us runs out and someone else has extra, we would loan some to satisfy our customers. We can't leave the customers empty handed could we? Besides, that teeny bit of cost wouldn't kill anyone, but would in turn help you be others good graces."

Yang Chen eventually got the gist on the situation. He decided to grab a chair and smoke a joint while waiting. It then crossed his mind that it might look bad in the eyes of Ma Guifang, so he awkwardly kept it back in his pockets.

Luckily for him, it did not take Ma Guifang long until her return. She walked into the shop with a black plastic bag in hand; presumably the food she loaned.

However, Ma Guifang looked slightly pale, and was unaware of her surroundings. She even nearly missed Yang Chen sitting right in front of her own workplace.

It was when she was deferring the food to Madam Xiang that she noticed Yang Chen by the corner. With a bitter smile, she said, "Yang Chen, why are you here? Did something happen?"

Yang Chen worriedly replied, "Mother, is there anything wrong with your health? Let me have a look."

Ma Guifang instinctively shook her hands. "No, I'm totally fine."

Yang Chen was not convinced, as he held his mother-in-law's arm closer to himself and checked her pulse. He was in no way a legitimate medical practitioner, but his self cultivation allowed him to diagnose simple medical problems .

Nonetheless Yang Chen really did not find anything abnormal about Ma Guifang's health. Her health was in tip-top condition, which led him to embarrassingly let go of her hand.

Ma Guifang however was quite impressed by Yang Chen's actions. With joy in her eyes, she added, "Just say it, what happened?"

Yang Chen nodded, and told her about Guo Xuehua's acceptance of the meeting, and also for her to pick a date.

Ma Guifang was filled with delight. "Well let her know that I am fine with anything. I don't really know much about Zhonghai anyway. Just pick a date that we're all available on for a casual meeting."

Until this very moment it didn't cross his mind that Ma Guifang had only newly arrived at Zhonghai. Letting her pick the venue was being inconsiderate. So instead he told her to choose a date, as for the venue he would decide later.

After he bade farewell to Ma Guifang, Yang Chen immediately thought about Rose. So he quickly returned home. And this time, he left his car somewhere outside and ran to her house.

He made a call to Rose's house, but it took a while before she answered.

"Hubby, why did you call? Did something happen?" Rose's voice was as melodious as always.

Yang Chen somehow managed to notice double meaning in her words, like she was distressed about something. "Am I not allowed to visit you? I've actually been back in the country for a few days now, but never really got the time to come over. Now that I'm already here, open the door for me, will you?"

Rose kept her silence momentarily before she started mumbling, "I was taking an afternoon nap, so I am still a little groggy right now. Hubby, why don't you come over tomorrow instead?"

Yang Chen frowned as he replied, "Rose, are you hiding something from me? That doesn't sound like something you'd say."

This time Rose was silent for longer, before she silently sighed and replied, "Alright, give me a little time, I'll go down."

The little time he was expecting became close to five minutes before she finally opened the gate.

Rose was wearing a loose piece of indoor pyjamas, with a pair of fluffy slippers. In Yang Chen's eyes, she looked exactly like a typical cosmopolitan beauty cosied at home.

Amidst her silky black hair, the few strands of dyed purple could no longer be found, added more to her innocence and less to her glamor.

What caught Yang Chen's attention however was the slightly powdered cheeks of hers, with hints of lipstick on the edges of her lips. It might just be light makeup, but he couldn't help but notice.

For a girl like Rose that hardly put on any make up even to go out, there was no reason for her to be in it while taking a nap at home. It made even less sense for her to put on makeup just to open the door.

Rose noticed the stern look on Yang Chen's face and made an effort to evade his gaze. She then shifted her body for him to enter. In a feeble tone she said, "Don't stare at me like that. I just woke up. I'm a bit blur at the moment."

Yang Chen casually walked into the house and shut the door behind. The sternness on his face had yet to subside. He replied, "You're injured, aren't you? And it's internal isn't it?"

Without checking her pulse or looking deeper, Yang Chen with his current prowess in cultivation alongside years of combat experience instantly noticed the injury that Rose was intentionally hiding from him.

It was obvious that Rose had tried to conceal her pale and sickly look from him.

"I guess I still can't hide anything from you..." Rose gave a bitter smile. "I'm sorry Hubby, I shouldn't have kept it from you."

Yang Chen without delay moved Rose up to the couch, and carefully took her pulse to determine the cause. He frowned after the inspection and said, "Have you recently fought against an opponent who practises internal energy? Your pulse showed clear signs of battle damage."

She nodded. "It was from a person who uses hard cultivation. I'm not sure if that's considered as internal energy. It was me who had carelessly underestimated my opponent..."

Her sentence was cut short as she coughed uncontrollably. With one hand on her chest and the other gripping the couch, she was clearly in a lot of pain.

"Careless? Even your lungs are damaged. Had you been a little more careless, you would've been dead! Are you crazy? Why would you challenge those masters? Are you still stuck in the past where we had to kill to survive? How many times must I tell you that I'll deal with tacky situations should you encounter one!" Yang Chen could not help but raise his voice.

If it wasn't because she was injured at the moment, Yang Chen would've held her on his lap and punished her by smacking her backside. Rose had almost lost her life. How could he just sit there and not be mad?

Rose forced a smile and pouted her mouth. "It's my bad. Hubby, please calm down. I won't... let it happen again."

Yang Chen gave a long sigh and replied, "Alright let's not talk about it first. I have to treat your wounds. Close your eyes and turn around. Keep your mind clear."

Even though Rose had no clue what Yang Chen was going to do for her, she obediently did as she was told. The reason why she did not tell Yang Chen anything was because she was worried that he would get mad. Especially after he explicitly told her not to put herself in harm's way. What was beyond her expectations was how eventually she just could not hide it from him.

Yang Chen kept his silence as he gently placed one hand on her back, and subsequently a warm gush of energy continuously flowed into her body...

All Rose felt right now was a continuous flow of warm, soothing energy at the site of her injury; a little crisp, a little itchy, but pleasant nonetheless.

The warm stream gradually spread throughout her body as she fell asleep peacefully.

But the rejuvenating session was abruptly cut short by Yang Chen, as it lasted less than a minute. "Alright, your injury is gone now."

Rose was astonished. She turned around and checked every part of her body—the injury was nowhere to be seen. Moreover, she felt more energized and invigorated than before!

Yang Chen did previously mend her by transfusing his blood, and that left her dumbfounded. Now once again she experienced Yang Chen's treatment of her injury in less than a minute! His skills could rival even the best doctors money could buy.

"Hubby, how did you... do that?" Rose could not hold it in, and with her bubbly eyes stared at Yang Chen with much curiosity in mind.

For Yang Chen to be so mesmerized by his own woman was a little awkward for him. After all, to him, these were just small tips and tricks that he picked up along the way.

"I recently had a deeper understanding in the cultivation method I practise. The True Qi inside me seemed to have transformed into something else as a result. But with that being said, I still am in the process of figuring it out myself. In short, it appears to be pretty effective, hehe. Should I just take up a new profession as a doctor? It'll definitely heal faster than the pills and injections," Yang Chen said with glee.

The True Qi of Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture inside Yang Chen's body had undergone changes that morning when he unraveled some unknown wisdom. Until now it was still a mystery to him. All he knew was he had understood something, but he couldn't put it into words.

It struck him that the next time he met Yan Sanniang, he would probably be able to find answers.

## **Chapter 596**

### **Rarely Free**

Rose seemed disappointed. She could see that Yang Chen was still in contemplation on whether or not he should talk about it. So she did not pry.

On the other hand, Yang Chen suddenly remembered a question that he was meaning to ask. He lifted and placed her on his lap and asked, "Babe, answer me honestly. Were you disobedient during my absence? How did you injure yourself?"

Rose pouted and said with grievance, "No, I didn't... I had your permission."

"My permission?"

"Yes." Rose nodded and replied, "Didn't you allow me to collaborate with Green Dragon Society to expand our forces in other provinces? I've been busy taking over forces from the underworld in the north at Jiangsu Province."

Listening to Rose's explanation, Yang Chen could finally piece together the whole story.

After Rose finalized matters with Liu Qingshan, they tried to accelerate their expansion by dividing forces. Liu Qingshan started from his base in Beijing and headed down south while Rose's Red Thorns Society expanded to the north of Zhonghai.

Their plan seemed foolproof—striking from two ends would weaken their opponents control around the centre. Within a year or two, the power of the underground syndicates from the eastern-central coastal province certainly wouldn't be able to hold off the largest gangs from Beijing and Zhonghai. When that has happened, the territories would be split equally amongst them. They would then go their separate ways by expanding in the southwest and northwest.

Unfortunately, the forces from Jiangsu Province adjacent to Zhonghai were stronger than anticipated. After the largest syndicate there White Wolf Society was attacked by the Red Thorns Society, they fought back with unimaginable ferocity to regain lost ground. Their conflict had lasted the better part of a week.

The elites in Red Thorns Society were trained by Sea Eagles. Although they were nowhere near the actual Sea Eagles, their skill could at least rival the lower rank troops in the special forces.

Unexpectedly, not only were the people from White Wolf Society evenly matched with the elites from Red Thorns Society, they had managed to cause severe casualties to them.

Chen Rong was originally entitled with the entire task. Rose was initially willing to sit this one out in favour of allowing her successor to train. However, Rose was not able to control her desires. In another words, her feistiness and competitiveness in her underworld descent were reignited. Excited, she went to the temporary base set up in Jiangsu Province in an attempt to lead her men into battle.

During an intense battle, Rose fought with a burly man from White Wolf Society. She was surprised that the middle-aged man was so exceptionally skilled. Moreover, he was even a practitioner of cultivation.

Rose thought that with Yang Chen's guidance and Sea Eagles' training, she would be unrivalled in the underworld. To her surprise, White Wolf Society possessed fighter far superior to her.

Due to negligence, when her opponent suddenly exerted his internal strength, Rose took the hit head on. As a result, she lost all feeling in her limbs. With this injury in play, her speed was impaired causing her to be struck from behind!

Had Rose's body not been strengthened by Yang Chen's blood, she would've suffered injuries far worse than the ones she had sustained. Even if she didn't lose as much blood as she thought, it would take her at least two months before she could start walking again.

Yang Chen was unfamiliar with the Chinese underworld so he had no thoughts when he heard White Wolf Society. Currently after hearing Rose's narration, he asked, "So what's the situation in Jiangsu Province now?"

Rose said reluctantly, "I didn't expect an expert of internal energy to be a recruit in White Wolf Society. Their fighters were much stronger than I anticipated, so we lost the high ground. The police and military forces were not going to tolerate anymore fights as it was. Hence, I told Rongrong to withdraw our troops back to the border of Zhonghai. How frustrating! White Wolf Society had concealed themselves so well in the recent years. We lost so many men but didn't gain anything in return."

Yang Chen saw how Rose was panting with rage, he caressed her florid cheeks and gently said, "Babe, how desperately do you wish to expand your forces?"

"Huh?" Rose noticed the complication in his words. She blinked innocently and asked, "Hubby, are you okay?"

Yang Chen laughed and tenderly answered "To be honest, I was furious when I saw you injured upon coming here."

Rose guiltily lowered her head and replied, "I'm sorry. I'll be more cautious next time."

"Sorry? I'm mad at myself." Yang Chen grabbed her hand and patted her hand. "I'm angry at my failure to protect you. This isn't the first time that you're injured. Even though I could heal you instantly, I'm worried that one day I won't be there to heal you on time."

Rose panicked when she sensed Yang Chen's self-blame. She quickly shook her head and said, "No, it won't happen again. I'll never put myself at risk anymore. I'll work behind the scenes instead. I promise!"

“But I can’t treat you like this,” Yang Chen said and forced a smile. “It’s been tough enough for you to be with me. I need to care for you wholeheartedly and give you my help in everything I can. However, I can’t devote all my time to you. I can protect you but I be by your side forever. I can’t treat you like a canary and keep you from doing what you like. It’s no different from me locking you in a cage!

“I know that you are passionate about your career in the underworld. Plus, you were raised in that kind of environment. Changing the way you think is not an option right now. I can’t bear to keep you in this empty house. The reason why I promised to let you work with Green Dragon Society was because I was afraid that you were unhappy with this lifestyle. However, now that you were injured... I have come to realize that I cannot provide you with the happiness you deserve.”

Rose suddenly reached out and covered Yang Chen’s mouth with her hands. She shook her head slightly. “Don’t say anything else. Since you’re rarely free to keep me company, let’s hang out, shall we? I’ve been feeling slightly under the weather staying at home all day.”

Yang Chen sighed helplessly. He nodded and replied, “Alright, go get changed then. I’ll be waiting for you here.”

Rose grinned and kissed Yang Chen on his cheek. She then swiftly ran upstairs. It would seem as though she had fully recovered from her injuries.

Ladies had always taken a long time to get ready and even for someone like Rose who wasn’t particular with appearance, she was no exception. Yang Chen waited downstairs for approximately twenty minutes before she showed up neat and tidy.

She was dressed in a loose grey silky top, matched with a bluish-green skirt and black leather wide sandals. She looked especially refreshing with her hair tied up.

Yang Chen was pleased to see her looking so brilliant, and allowed Rose to hold onto him as they left the house.

After getting into the car, Yang Chen started the engine and didn’t know where to go. He asked, “Babe, where would you like to go?”

Rose put on her seatbelt and pondered for a while. “Hubby, what do youngsters nowadays do when they go on a date?”

Yang Chen replied with a smile, “What do you mean by youngsters nowadays? Are we really that old? What we do is what youngsters do!”

Rose chuckled and said, “Oh, I just remember that someone here is younger than me. No wonder he is so sensitive about age.”

“Hiss...” Yang Chen angrily stared at Rose and said, “Don’t talk about age. I was just born one or two years later. It’s not that big a gap.”

Yang Chen was annoyed at Rose for pointing out so bluntly that he was younger than she was. Moreover, he was embarrassed that he used to call her ‘Sister Rose’ before he started dating her.

On the other hand, Rose knew that Yang Chen wasn’t actually angry. Smiling, she said, “Little Hubby, what say we go out now and do the things youngsters do.”

<i>Little Hubby?!</i> he thought.

Yang Chen snapped and stared at Rose's bosom with his evil eyes. He said, "Babe, if you keep calling me that, I'll have to take action right here right now."

Rose subconsciously leaned towards the car door after hearing what he said. She shut her mouth and tried to suppress her laughter. She really didn't feel like doing embarrassing stuff with Yang Chen in the car. Besides, the car was parked by the road and was not tinted in the slightest. Should she fail to resist, it would be humiliating if this shameless man pounced on her.

Furthermore, there were men from Red Thorns Society stationed around her house. As the boss, she couldn't be seen bullied by her own man.

## **Chapter 597**

### **The Most Familiar Stranger**

Yang Chen felt that he had gotten even with Rose upon seeing her display of timidity. But after a round of flirting, Yang Chen's worries about Rose's injuries had vanished into thin air. He then shifted his train of thought to possible activities that they could do.

But after giving it some good thought, Yang Chen realized that he wasn't able to come up with any ideas. He had always spent his days lazing away, not doing anything in particular. His past was just a string of grim and depressing events. How would he have any of the youngsters' romantic ideas?

Rose seemed to notice Yang Chen's struggle, she laughed, "If nothing comes to mind, then let's just hang out. Almost anything would interest a person who stays all day at home like me."

Yang Chen suddenly remembered that apart from attending some underworld occasions, Rose rarely left her house. She could be considered a homebody. Thus, he felt slightly better at his predicament and drove towards the city center.

They drove around the city center aimlessly, during which Rose only alighted from the car once. She went into a music video store located at the ground floor of a big building to buy a piece of the British singer Adele's CD album.

Playing the CD in the car, the distinctive, slightly smoky yet powerful voice of this lady singer started to fill the car.

Yang Chen was surprised at Rose for buying a music CD to listen to in the car. As he drove the car out of the city, he said, "I didn't know that my babe likes music, and European American pop music at that."

Rose smiled faintly and glanced at Yang Chen. "I stay at home almost every day. Other than occasionally checking in on the operations of the companies that I invest in, I spend the rest of my time either working out or watching TV. For the times where those two activities do not suffice, I listen to music instead."

Yang Chen nodded. He remembered when Rose still used to stay behind the pub, there was always a computer in her bedroom.

“Actually,” Rose suddenly spoke, “Although more than a year has passed since our first meeting, we haven’t spent much time together. You have no idea what I like and the same for me as well.”

Her remarks sounded casual, but in Yang Chen’s ears, he did not feel comfortable about it. He knew that this was also Rose’s lament about the fact that he couldn’t spend more time with her.

Even if she rarely complained about it, it didn’t mean that she was completely ignorant to it.

Previously, Tang Wan had reprimanded him for not making an effort to understand Lin Ruoxi. Now it would seem that it was not just Lin Ruoxi, but every single woman by his side as well.

Speaking of which, it was rather odd. When other people fall in love, it was not guaranteed that they would remain in love in the next few years. Whereas for him, even when he had no idea about his lover’s hobbies and preferences, they were already almost as close as two people could get.

If others were to hear of this, many might be very envious of him. But Yang Chen was well aware himself, that if things continued the way they were, sooner or later there would be trouble for him. Since he was very determined to not give up on any of his women, understanding each one of their lives and who they were was very important. There was no way that he could spend every single second they were together in bed, nor could he perform an act of heroism to move the ladies every time for the rest of his life.

Yang Chen sighed mournfully in his heart—it was time to show more concern for his lovers’ lives. Thus, with the music still playing, he said, “I don’t really listen to music. Although I can sing a few songs, I don’t have any preferences in music. How about you tell me why you like this singer? Since you often listen to music, surely you have your reasons for it, right?”

Rose pouted and thought for a while. “Actually, I blindly listen to music. If I like the melody of a song then I would listen to it on replay. I don’t really pay attention to the singer or their nationalities, not to mention any musical knowledge. This singer has a song that makes my heart ache, but it attracts me, so I’ve been listening to it a lot lately.”

“Which song is that?” Yang Chen asked.

Rose did not receive much education, and she didn’t understand English. So she couldn’t really name the title of the song impromptu. She had to shuffle through all the songs to find the one she was referring to.

When she heard the starting melody of one of the songs, Rose happily said, “This is it! I’ve listened to it repeatedly in the past few days, but I still like it. But I can’t understand English, and I don’t have the habit of looking up the lyrics, so I can only listen to the melody.”

Yang Chen glanced at the title of the song on the display screen, ‘Someone Like You’.

The melodious singing started. Adele’s voice sounded like the beat of one’s soul, capturing that tiny inch of softness in people’s heart. Gradually, Yang Chen was mesmerized by the sad melody as well.

When she heard a segment of the lyrics being repeated for a few times in the song, Rose asked cluelessly, “Hubby, what’s the meaning of this English sentence? Every time I listen to this, I feel my heart aching a little.”

“Sometimes it lasts in love, but sometimes it hurts instead.”

Yang Chen could of course understand the meaning of the lyrics. And because of that, the song impacted him in ways Rose could never understand. Before this, he was already feeling very heavy about his relationships.

Rose repeated after him in her heart for a few times. A forlorn look appeared in her water-filled eyes. Finally she pursed her lips and smiled. “Although I don’t understand English, this sentence still sounds so beautiful after translation. But I believe Adele was trying to tell us that even if love does not last, and even if love has hurt her, she is still unwilling to let go of it, right?”

Yang Chen turned his head and looked at Rose, who had lowered her head and wore a mask of sadness on her face. He frowned, and he reached out his hand to gently caress her hair, “Stop letting your thoughts run wild. This song was probably made for all the heartless men out there. Your man is not like that. We can definitely make our love last.”

Rose let out a soft laugh and rolled her eyes at Yang Chen. “You’re indeed not a heartless man, but you’re a playboy.”

Yang Chen shrugged awkwardly. He stepped on the accelerator, and brought the car onto a highway, driving towards the suburban commercial area of Zhonghai.

The two of them just listened to the songs while chatting. When they were spending time together in the past, it was either in bed or discussing about some underworld related matters. They rarely spoke romantically to each other. They had only done it once when Yang Chen brought Rose out on a date.

Now that they had so much time to spend chit-chatting with each other, talking and laughing, they both realized that their partners had sides to them that they had not seen before.

When they talked about how Rose helped the girls in her secondary school give the boys a beating and was criticized by the teachers which led to her quitting school, Yang Chen had mixed feelings. He never expected that this woman who looked so lovely and graceful had such a heroic side to her.

Yang Chen had nothing to share about his school days. He had never attended kindergarten, let alone secondary school. So all he could talk about was his experiences of killing people in South America, Amazon and ambushing others in Siberia. These stories were soul stirring to Rose, and her eyes fluttered brightly.

Time passed like the flowing river. Without noticing, they had already been driving for more than two hours. Yang Chen realized that when the oil level indicator had come on. He pulled up at a petrol kiosk for a refill.

By the time he had finished pumping the petrol and started driving again, both of them became silent.

Somehow, after speaking to each other about so many things that they had never said before in the past, both of them were left in deep thought. Yet things were still awkward for them. They both did not know how to continue from there.

Rose suddenly sneaked a glimpse at Yang Chen, her face blushing. She said softly, “Why do you feel like a stranger to me...”

Stranger? Yang Chen could finally make sense of the weird feeling that he was having. Indeed, he felt that the Rose sitting next to him was different from the one he thought he knew. There was too much about her that he had never known about.

“Gosh, what am I supposed to do?” Yang Chen said with a serious face, “I can’t believe I actually slept with a stranger. I’ve lost the purity in my body which was as white as snow.”

Annoyed, Rose reached out her hand and pinched Yang Chen’s arm, just like how ordinary girlfriends would pinch their own boyfriends. This was more female instinct than anything. “Darned Hubby, do you even know the meaning of shame? Here I am talking to you seriously and you treat it as a joke.”

Yang Chen laughed heartily. “To be honest, chatting like this occasionally would prove to be quite useful for us.”

“What do you mean?” Rose did not understand.

“Think about it Babe, the two of us are becoming strangers to each other. Then the next time when we’re in bed, it’ll be passionate love between two strangers. I’ll be plucking a wild flower, while you’ll be stealing other’s man, how—”

Not waiting for Yang Chen to finish his words, Rose already started hitting Yang Chen with brute force out of embarrassment. “Yang Chen go die now! You’re the one stealing other’s man, you’re the one stealing other’s man!”

As he saw how Rose had forgone her demeanor and was crazily hitting him, Yang Chen broke into a frenzied laughter at how lovely she looked. He felt a warm fuzzy feeling in his heart.

In the past, as the head of Red Thorns Society, Rose had to increase her authority and put on a heightened demeanor. This meant that she could not act immaturely in the slightest. Basically, she always had to put on a false appearance.

Whereas right now, since she had unloaded her heavy burden, and opened up her heart through their conversations, the Rose that was laughing playfully and scolding him angrily was no different from any other young lady of her age. She flirted and argued just as any other girl would.

They fooled around for a while, and Yang Chen almost drove the car straight into a crash barrier.

By the time they drove into a commercial street area, Rose was panting heavily with her cheeks flushed red from all the laughter and fooling around.

Yang Chen winked at his woman, “My dear president, after fooling around for so long, are you thirsty yet?”

Rose, too, realized that she was a little out of control. But since the person next to her was her man, not one of her subordinates, it didn’t matter. Rose enjoyed being in her own skin again. Now that she had talked so much, she was indeed thirsty, and so she nodded her head.

“What would you like to drink?” Yang Chen saw that the sky was getting darker. He planned to grab a drink then find a place for dinner with Rose.

Rose looked left and right at the two rows of shops beside the road. Suddenly, her eyes lit up. She pointed at an exquisitely decorated eatery in front of them, one that anyone could recognize at a glance. "Let's go there!"

Yang Chen swung his head in that direction. The huge logo that made people feel dizzy, one that all humans on earth could recognize, belonged to Starbucks.

"Babe, why did you suddenly think of drinking coffee?" Yang Chen felt that a woman like Rose wouldn't choose a fast-food style eatery.

In fact, it was also because Yang Chen had spent so much time abroad he had no idea that in China, Starbucks was regarded as middle class. Those fast-food beverages overseas could not compare to it.

Rose pouted. "I often see it advertised on TV. I had always wanted to give it a try but had no idea how to go about it so I left things as they were. I was always curious to know what it was like."

Yang Chen was at a loss for words. And it wasn't because he was surprised that Rose had never tried Starbucks, a beverage that could be found anywhere in the world, but because he himself had never tried it before as well!

"If that's the case, then let's go in and experience it together." Yang Chen scratched his head and started parking the car by the side.

Rose understood the meaning between his words and asked, puzzled, "Hubby, you've never tried it before either? Weren't you staying in countries where this was a popular beverage?"

## **Chapter 598**

### **S-TRAW-BE-RRY**

Yang Chen curled his lips. He couldn't possibly tell her that things like these were far too low for his standards in the past, so he casually replied, "I'm not a habitual coffee drinker."

He stopped the car for them to get off but kept the conversation flowing. Rose took the initiative to hold onto Yang Chen's arm. Her bright eyes glittered with excitement, looking just like a little girl in a Barbie doll shop. They walked together into the fairly small Starbucks.

Since the two of them had gotten off a snow white BMW, they naturally attracted the attention of many of the passersby. Many could not help themselves and looked back over their shoulders when they noticed Rose's gorgeous, happy face.

Yang Chen was no saint. He felt extremely smug in his heart. Every time he appeared on the streets with his woman, it made many envy. He hoped that one day, he would be able to walk down the street with a few of his women gently leaning against him. Who knows, it might make the other males burn with murderous intent.

Regrettably, such a scenario was just a dream for now.

This Starbucks was much smaller than the one he had been to with Lin Ruoxi, but it had a European-study-room style and layout. The thick aroma of coffee wafted through the air, and classic-looking leather chairs and small wooden tables were arranged nicely.

A few people, male and female, who looked like white-collared workers sat there. Some were surfing the Internet on their laptops while some were reading magazines. When they saw Yang Chen and Rose entering the cafe, their expressions twisted to ones of confusion.

It wasn't because the duo had flowers growing on their faces. It was just that, although Yang Chen had become a gold-collar worker in the company, he looked no different from his appearance when he used to sell mutton skewers. His lazy look was hardly any different from those jobless vagrants on the streets.

As for Rose, although she was a woman who grew up in the underworld environment, she carried herself with an air of elegance found only amongst the young ladies in noble clans. No matter how anyone looked at it, she seemed to be from a much higher rank than Yang Chen. Moreover, Yang Chen had a very normal, average face. Compared to Rose's beauty, he was basically a toad lusting after a swan's meat.

Immediately, most people let out a sigh in their hearts, no wonder people say that nice guys finish last. Who knows how many lifetimes of bad luck had this guy had gone through to make such a beautiful flower so willingly stay put with him in this lifetime.

Yang Chen couldn't be bothered with their stares. He brought Rose straight up to the counter and smiled. "Just order anything you want to drink."

Rose looked at the variety of beverages stated on the few boards. She became slightly dazed at the expansive menu. All she had drunk in her younger days was pearl milk tea. She knew little about these coffee and cold beverages.

There was no way she was going to order one of each to try. Rose turned her head around to see what the other customers in the cafe were drinking. She didn't plan to ask, the moment she saw something that she liked she would ask for the same drink.

After two rounds of scanning, Rose's eyes lit up. She spun Yang Chen around and pointed at a big cup of drink that a woman in white suit sitting not too far away was drinking. And she said, "Hubby, I want that one!"

Yang Chen looked carefully and saw that the female white-collared worker was drinking a pink-color iced drink. It looked very attractive. It was no wonder Rose took a liking to it immediately.

Yang Chen had no idea what that drink was called either, so he asked the female cashier at the counter, "Miss, may I know what that lady over there is drinking?"

The cashier maintained her smile, but she did not even try to hide the look of contempt in her eyes towards Yang Chen. After all, she was still young, and was not skilled in the art of pleasing people with politeness.

"Sir, that lady is drinking STRAWBERRY. It's a specially custom-made cold beverage that's not on the menu," The cashier explained.

Yang Chen nodded in realization. Some coffee or cold beverages were preferred by certain customers, but they were not sold all year round in the cafe. Hence they were not listed in the menu. It didn't mean that they wouldn't make it for you if you ordered that item. After all, businesses had to be flexible to stay relevant.

Perhaps the cashier had mentioned the name in English on purpose, Rose did not understand what on earth this drink was. So she tugged at Yang Chen's arm, and openly asked, "Hubby, this 'S-TRAW-BE-RRY' thing, what is it?"

Yang Chen smiled, "It's strawberry. Probably a strawberry-flavored cold drink. Do you like it?"

"So strawberry is called S-TRAW-BE-RRY. I'll have one of that then. But I don't need such a big cup." Rose had no experience, so she didn't feel the need for an overly large cup.

She had just finished her sentence when a mocking laughter came from behind them, as though not on purpose. "A country pumpkin pretending to be high class. How ridiculous."

Yang Chen and Rose did not lower their voices while speaking. On top of that, the cafe was quiet and small, and many people were eavesdropping on their conversation. Thus, they were overheard by quite a number of people.

There was a lady nearby who wore a pair of narrow, black-framed glasses. She was quite attractive on the surface. Donning a set of light silver grey suit, she gave off quite the knowledgeable vibe. Before this she had been paying close attention to Rose's speech and behavior out of the mentality of comparison. It was only natural for her to compare herself to someone better looking than herself.

Now that she discovered how clueless Rose was regarding Starbucks, and that she did not even know the simplest word in English—strawberry, her eyes immediately glowed with contempt. She felt her self-confidence boost once again.

Having developed an arrogant temper from life in a big city, that female white-collared worker uttered that mocking sentence.

And once she muttered it out, a few other highly educated working class people who had the same thoughts followed suit and let out a seemingly profound laughter. Many looked mockingly at Yang Chen and Rose.

Rose did not expect a few words to cause so much contempt to flow from them to her. She rarely showed up at normal public occasions, so she had little opportunities to get in contact with these normal white-collared workers in the city. Now that she was being mocked at, she did not feel angry for being looked down at. Instead, she was awful for embarrassing Yang Chen in a public place.

Although with just a snap of her fingers, her men from Red Thorns Society could easily make these worthless white-collared workers suffer miserably. These people were just ordinary civilians after all. If she were to use her underworld power to deal with them, it would only make her seem even more pitiful.

Yang Chen initially did not want to bother about these people. These people had nothing better to do than to seek a sense of superiority from 'the weak'. Expanding any time or effort on them would be wasted.

However, when Yang Chen noticed the slightly dim, upset and wronged look in Rose's eyes, he decided not to simply rest the matter.

Yang Chen wrapped his arm around Rose's waist and walked straight up to the face of that white-collared female who was speaking. With an expressionless face, he said, "Apologize to my woman, you made her unhappy."

That white-collared female was typing away at some document on her Apple laptop. Hearing Yang Chen's words, she did not even raise her head, and just continued typing while uttering a foreign sentence, "Sois pas la perruche."

Nowadays, there were lots of people who returned from overseas studies or work. Quite a number of customers in the cafe had returned from overseas too. They could quickly tell that this woman was speaking French.

Obviously, this was another attempt by the woman to make a fool out of Yang Chen and Rose. The woman's intentions were simple: *?You want to reason? Sure, but can you understand what I'm saying??"*

Unfortunately, Yang Chen replied without even stopping to think, "N'apprends pas a vieux singe a fair des grimaces"

His native Parisian accent when speaking French finally made the woman who had her head down raise it with her eyes wide with shock. She stared at Yang Chen unbelievably. And all the surrounding onlookers were also stunned. They even doubted if they had heard mistakenly. This youngster that looked like he had difficulty even graduating from junior high school, how could he possibly speak such authentic French?

Rose, on the other hand, was filled with joy. Although she couldn't understand the conversation, she could tell that Yang Chen was getting even with the lady for her.

She was no weak lady. Precisely because of that, it was especially rare for her to be protected by a man.

"Shocked? You think that you are the only one in this whole world who can speak French? Is it a disgrace not being able to speak English? Do you know that your parents, your grandparents, they all did not speak English as well? There are plenty of people who don't speak English. If the English speaking community are all just a bunch of arrogant, self-conceited fellows, that is truly the most miserable thing in this world," Yang Chen said flatly.

The white-collared female's face turned red. And those nearby couldn't say a word. They were all rational people. The truth—no matter how blunt and how painful—was still the truth. However, people tend to turn a blind eye to it due to their arrogance.

"My woman may not be able to speak English, but that is nothing that she has to be ashamed about. She expressed it openly. The two of us rarely drink coffee, and we rarely patronize places like this. But that doesn't mean we are unable to spend in places like this one. It also doesn't mean that we are in any way inferior to you," Yang Chen continued in a cold tone, "If you still refuse to apologize, I don't mind suing you with the charges of personal attack. You can try that."

Yang Chen wasn't just trying to frighten her, nor was he crazy. When dealing with normal citizens, the best method was to follow the normal society's rules, and that is the law.

He couldn't just snap that woman's head off simply because she upset Rose.

Every world had rules of its own, just like the gods wouldn't couldn't remove their seals on mortal humans, and Hongmeng wouldn't meddle with worldly affairs.

Now that Yang Chen had achieved a breakthrough in both his cultivation and his mental state of mind, he had a deeper understanding of these unspoken rules.

"S—Sorry. Please forgive me." The white-collared female finally lowered her head. Although she was reluctant to, she knew that there was no way out of this if she didn't apologize, not to mention it would make her seem like a sore loser.

Yang Chen was finally satisfied. Wrapping his arms around Rose's waist, they returned to the counter and ordered two medium size strawberry lemon juice from the cashier who was still recovering from the events.

By the time their pink colored drinks were served, Rose's unhappy mood before this had all disappeared. She carefully took a sip, and then furrowed her brows, as though it tasted weird.

"Why, does it taste bad?" Yang Chen asked.

Rose shook her head. "It's a little sour, but a little sweet with a strawberry flavoring. It's also very smooth. Maybe it feels weird because of the many flavours in the drink."

Yang Chen was in no hurry to drink it. He grabbed her hand and walked out of the cafe. He planned to drink it while looking for a suitable restaurant for dinner after they got into the car.

"Hubby, what did you say to that woman just now?" Rose bit on her straw, and asked with a soft voice, revealing an adorable, feminine look. It was a relaxed side of her that she could only show when she had relieved her burden and was with Yang Chen.

Yang Chen casually said, "That woman told me to scram and don't waste her time. So I told her not to regard herself too highly. That's all."

"I thought you were going to use force on her just now and I was a bit worried. After all, it's not worth getting ourselves into trouble over simple matters like that one. And it's true that I'm not highly educated. It's okay if people make a few comments on that," Rose said softly.

"What nonsense are you saying? You don't even owe her money, why should you let others comment on you like that. Even if you're fine with it, I'm not," Yang Chen said, frowning.

Rose pursed her lips and asked, "Hubby, be honest with me. Do you feel uncomfortable because I disgraced you?"

Yang Chen stopped walking and answered seriously, "The only thing I feel for you is how grateful I am to you. For you to still be standing by my side after all this time. To me, even if you couldn't count properly with your fingers, I would still find you adorable. Do you understand what I mean? I'm really going to get mad if you keep saying things like that."

Rose nodded her head with a thoughtful look on her face, and laughed, "Although I'm not highly educated, I know that 'ignorance is a woman's virtue'. Yup, it would seem like that is true. Only dumb women like me are able to find nice men like you."

Yang Chen reached out his hand and gave her nose a pinch, making her pout adorably in embarrassment.

“I think I should just call you ‘dummy’. What kind of logic is that?” Yang Chen sighed. He was about to ask Rose what she would like for dinner when he realized that Rose had suddenly stood still, her eyes fixated on two silhouettes that appeared to their right.

## **Chapter 599**

### **Hepatitis**

It was an old couple. Both of them had their backs hunched slightly. They each sported the same grey hair and ragged clothes. The old lady was clutching onto a walking stick made from bamboo, whereas the old man carried a large haversack on his back. At a glance, one could tell that the seemingly travel-worn and weary old couple were beggars in Zhonghai.

This kind of low-income earners was not uncommon in such a big city like this one. Most people became numb to the sight of them—many would just ignore or themor pity them from afar.

Right now, the old lady was standing at the entrance of Starbucks. She was staring at an advertisement signboard placed beside the window. A colorful piece of advertisement poster was pasted on top of the signboard.

The advertisement featured a cup of aromatic white mocha and a cup of green tea Frappuccino with tempting white cream on top.

The old lady’s eyes betrayed a hungry desire for the beverage. The pair of murky eyes on that dry, wrinkled face was lost in a daze.

The old man beside her knew what she wanted. He heaved a heavy sigh and reached out to softly pull his partner’s hand, then said with resignation, “Once we’ve earned enough money, I’ll be sure to buy one for you to let you have a taste.”

Upon hearing this, the old lady hurriedly shook her head and said, “I’m just looking. I don’t really want to drink it. It’s not worth it.”

“I know you’ve got a sweet tooth.” The old man grinned.

The old lady pretended to be angry and reprimanded him, “Don’t waste your money. Let’s go.”

The old man had nothing else to say. Although he felt guilty towards his partner, the couple truly didn’t have money to spare. It was already rare for them to be able to eat three consistent meals in the city. How would they ever have enough for a drink that costs more than what their meals were worth? Besides, going into the shop would also pose a problem.

Right at that moment, Rose, who had been watching from the side all along, appeared in the path of the old couple. She smiled and said, “Granny, this is for you.”

As she spoke, Rose presented the strawberry lemon juice which she had only taken one sip from before the old lady’s eyes. She wanted to give it to her.

The old lady was taken aback. She didn't understand why a beautiful young lady would appear out of nowhere and suddenly wanted to give her a drink. Then, she realized. She shook her hands quickly and said, "Young Lady, there's no need. This is too expensive, I can't accept it."

To the old couple, a drink that cost less than ten dollars a cup was a luxury that they could not afford.

The old man beside her was also touched. "Young Lady, we appreciate your kindness, but we really can't accept it."

"Just take it as my act of filial piety towards you, my elders. Please allow a nasty woman like me to do some good in her life. Do me a favor and don't reject this." Rose ignored the old lady's rejection, and forcefully stuffed the drink into the old lady's arms.

[TL note: In, **filial piety** (Chinese: 孝, *xìào*) is a virtue of respect for one's parents, elders, and ancestors.]

The old couple was deeply moved, especially the old lady. Tears welled up in her eyes, and her wrinkled face was filled with joy. Her strong reaction wasn't for the drink that she had been yearning for, but rather, it was for her soul which had been deeply touched.

Both of them were around 60 years old. They were wanderers who moved from place to place begging for enough money to have a meal. They had been despised by many, and had suffered many hardships. If not out of desperation, they would never have chosen to spend their lives in such a pitiful state.

It was as if just when the entire world had forgotten about old people like them, suddenly a lady appeared and gave them a sweet drink with a smile on her face. The kind of consideration that was showed for them was too much for the old lady to handle.

"Lady, thank you. But don't go saying things like that. Why would such a kind lady like you need to accumulate any good deeds? That is something done only by vicious people," the old man said sincerely as he held onto his partner.

Rose smiled weakly, her heart filled with bitterness. If she chose not to bring it up, who would've guessed that she was a leader in the underworld? Who could tell that she was a woman with bloodstained hands? Her actions would've sentenced her to multiple death sentences in this year alone.

Just as Rose was about to say goodbye to the old couple, Yang Chen who had been watching by the side walked over and said, "You can't give them this drink."

The old couple and Rose were bewildered. Rose couldn't understand why Yang Chen would oppose to it.

Yang Chen winked at Rose and stepped forward, handing the drink in his own hands to the old man, "I haven't touched my cup yet. Take mine. The one in the old lady's hands was already drunk from. Please return it to my woman. She likes it."

The moment he finished his sentence, not even waiting for the old couple to react, Yang Chen had already stuffed his cup into the old man's arms, and took back the one that was in the old lady's hands.

Rose finally understood what he was doing and smiled. Her eyes glimmered as she stared at Yang Chen—they were filled with a thick passionate love.

The old couple were speechless at his act. Gratefully, they thanked Yang Chen and Rose repeatedly. They were trembling so much that one couldn't tell whether they were happy or sad.

Yang Chen passed the drink to Rose and said, "Let's go and find somewhere to eat for dinner."

With a wide smile, Rose nodded her head. She followed Yang Chen back to the car, whereas the old couple stood behind them waving their bony arms to bid them farewell.

After they got into the car, Rose was still staring out from the window. The old couple was pushing the drink towards each other by the streets.

The old lady wanted to let her husband try the first sip, but the old man insisted that she drank first. They acted as though it was a rare treasure and were afraid to deplete it of its worth.

In the end, the old lady gave in and finally took two sips, then passed it to the old man for him to try.

The old man took a small sip. A smile emerged on his dry, wrinkled face. He nodded, probably to say that it was indeed tasty, then insisted that his partner finish the rest.

Rose saw everything with her eyes. With deep thoughts, she said, "Just look at them. Although they have led difficult lives, at least they have each other forever. And they're still so in love with each other even at old age. No matter how tough life gets, being able to look into each other's eyes with their kind of love trumps it all."

"Envious?" Yang Chen had mixed feelings as well. Instead of starting the car, he just looked out of the window with Rose.

"Yes, a little." Rose softly said, "For richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish each other for an entire lifetime. Many have spoken these words on their wedding day. But how many of them actually see their vows through to the end?"

"I was just thinking, if I can live with you forever, but in return I would have to work a lowly job and earn enough just to live, I would still feel that life is still worth living."

"You're letting your thoughts run wild again. Aren't we together now? I never even thought of ever abandoning you." Yang Chen's heart ached for her. He reached out his hand and held on tightly to one of Rose's slender hands.

Rose turned her head around and looked at Yang Chen apologetically, "Sorry, maybe I oversimplify things. Or maybe I'm not easily content. If we really had to worry about our livelihood, perhaps I wouldn't even be thinking about all this."

Yang Chen took a deep breath and suddenly snatched over the cup of drink from Rose's hands. Then he sent the tip of the straw back to Rose's red lips, saying, "Come, have a sip."

Rose just assumed that he was trying to cheer her up. So she smiled and took a sip.

Right after she had taken a sip, Yang Chen took the drink back. He, too, bit on the straw and took a sip.

Rose blinked her watery eyes and asked curiously, "Hubby, do you want to drink it too? Why don't you just buy another cup?"

Yang Chen placed the drink back into the drink holder in the car and smiled, saying, “Why? You don’t like me using the same straw as you?”

“No, that’s not what I mean.” Rose pouted. “I just—.”

“Then what? Worried that I have a disease? Or do you have a flu and don’t want to pass it to me?” Yang Chen asked all at once.

Rose helplessly said, “You know that’s not what I mean. I was just thinking that if you like it, we can always buy another cup.”

Yang Chen extended his finger and gently scratched Rose’s tender face. He said, “Babe, I’m trying to tell you that, even if I can’t be like that old man and accompany the women I love all the time, I’m still willing to share everything I have with you. What’s mine is yours, and vice versa.

“Even if you contracted hepatitis, I wouldn’t hesitate to share a drink with you. I’ll contract hepatitis with you. If we have anything, we’ll share it together. If we don’t have anything, then we’ll do without it together as well. That simple.”

This man’s casually spoken words made Rose’s lips feel a little dry. Her heart that originally felt slightly desolate was suddenly warm and fuzzy. It made it difficult for her to breathe, yet she was willingly suffocating in it.

“How can you say something like that? I don’t want to contract hepatitis with you.” After a while, Rose finally calmed herself down. She rolled her eyes at Yang Chen shyly.

Yang Chen scratched the back of his head awkwardly. “Hey, I was trying my best to be romantic. You didn’t even bother to play along, Dummy.”

Rose let out a laugh. She swiftly hit Yang Chen for a few times. “Stop teasing me. Let’s hurry up and find something to eat. I’m hungry. Also, don’t call me ‘dummy’!”

“Alrighty, let’s go, Dummy!”

## **Chapter 600**

### **Dummy**

Rose’s objections towards her new nickname were left unattended to. Yang Chen on the other hand seemed to be addicted to it. He had repeatedly teased her with it until they reached the restaurant.

Rose eventually exploded, with her cheeks all red. “For the last time, that’s a puppy name. If you call me that one more time I’m really going to get mad at you!”

Yang Chen then realized that ‘dummy’ really didn’t sound like a person’s name, and gave an awkward smile. He then promised that he would never call her that again.

Rose was quite indifferent about what they were going to eat, so the decision fell on Yang Chen. He casually chose a spot that was visually clean and tidy before ordering four dishes and a soup. They sat at a table by the window where they happily chatted and dined.

Yang Chen finally talked to Rose about the incident involving Green Dragon Society, hoping that she didn't collaborate with his father-in-law Liu Qingshan, even more so to limit the freedom given to the Zhonghai division of Green Dragon Society.

Rose, however, upon hearing that Gao Yue exploited female university students into prostitution, was stunned. And with that shocking reveal, she then started to contemplate some things.

Yang Chen then commented, "I knew this would make you uncomfortable, and that's why I kept it from you during the day. Now that you know, I'll support whatever your next decision is."

That comment prompted Rose to crack a smile. She then replied, "I'll do whatever my dear hubby wants me to do. You just said that what's mine is yours; Red Thorns Society is mine, which means that it's also yours. If you don't like me collaborating with Green Dragon society then I completely understand your decision. Besides, I'm a woman too. It pains me to the core to see men manipulate women into betraying their self-worth. Gao Yue deserves to be imprisoned."

Just like that the conversation came to a close, and Yang Chen had no reason to continue talking about that subject. It wasn't the time or place to be talking about matters like those anyway.

He then asked if Rose found it uncomfortable that his mother-in-law Ma Guifang was staying at her place. She was an unfamiliar elder to Rose after all.

Rose reactively shook her head. "Not really, since it's Qianni's mom and not just any random person. Besides, after she arrived she has been really caring towards me. She even made me tons of good food, and taught me how to cook! She's a really nice lady."

"Well I guess that's true. Two people staying in such a large house is not ideal," Yang Chen said before he revealed a look of gloominess. "Pity, the next time I want to come over to your place for a sleepover I'd need to sneak in like a crook."

Rose chuckled and said, "Oh, so you have yet to confessed your relationship with Qianni to Aunt Ma? I actually thought she had already approved of it!"

Yang Chen gave a bitter smile. "I was planning to. I managed to get my mom to agree to meet up with Mother-In-Law, and we'll talk things through when the time comes. But I'm actually quite worried. Although my mother-in-law appears calm and collected, she is definitely the no-nonsense type. I believe it won't be easy, but it's definitely not impossible."

Rose pouted her mouth and said, "Humph! Told you not to flirt with girls everywhere you go. Back then when you had just returned, you acted all cold and confusing no matter how hard I tried to approach you. One hug was all it took for me to regret my decisions. If I knew being your woman would be such a burden, I'd rather stay single and enjoy peace."

"Hehe. Babe, let's agree to disagree," Yang Chen continued with a smile. "Let's look at Qianni for a moment. She keeps pushing through amidst the stress, but you're free like a bird, with full control over your life. You need not worry about elders' involvements. You definitely have it much better than she does."

Rose's face went gloom as she prompted an immediate response. "Yeah, I don't have any elders. Nobody cares who I am..."

Yang Chen was stunned. He then called himself an idiot in his mind. Rose had sent her own father abroad and stayed back in China alone. He had effectively reminded her that she was all alone. He himself was the real 'dummy'!

"Lin Ruoxi might have lost her mother and grandmother, but at least there's Wang Ma who still cares for her. Similarly, Qianni has her mother Aunt Ma around, while Hubby, you were once an orphan but you've reunited with your mother... I guess I'm really the only one alone," Rose muttered, dejected.

Yang Chen stretched his hand out and waved it ever so slightly in front of Rose's eyes, just enough to catch her attention. Softly, he said, "I was wrong. It was wrong of me to say that. Babe, there might not be an elder looking after you, but there's a man that loves you."

Rose replied, "I'm not that weak and feeble, so don't treat me like a child. Let's eat."

Yang Chen felt better after that. He stared at the dishes which had gotten cold before gobbling away.

After dinner, they paid the bill and left. They soon walked outside on the street filled with neon lights. Hardly any stars could be seen. Just the crescent moon hung in the sky.

"Since it's still early, let's take a walk, shall we?" Yang Chen suggested, since he rarely had free time like this. He wanted to spend more time with Rose.

Rose immediately accepted his request. For her to be able to spend time with Yang Chen alone was rare. Even if it was just a casual stroll.

Hand in hand the two of them were just like every other couple, strolling on the wide street, occasionally walking into tiny groceries, sometimes even into boutiques of the latest fashion brands.

While they were walking towards a junction with a street filled with food, Yang Chen abruptly halted his steps, and stared right at a chargrilled meat stand by the corner of the street...

Rose who was excited noticed something odd about Yang Chen, and stared to the direction he was focusing at. She saw him staring at a middle-aged man working at a store selling chargrilled meat.

"Hubby, who's that? Do you know him? Are you guys friends?" Rose asked.

Yang Chen nodded. "I guess you could say that. You remember back then when I was selling mutton skewers, there was this Old Li that I mentioned all the time when I stopped by at your bar? That man is Old Li."

"Ah, so it's him." Rose got the gist of it. "He's the father of Li Jingjing right? How did he end up here? It's pretty far from where he lives, isn't it?"

Yang Chen lightly shook his head, for he was also wondering. Moreover, Old Li was busy grilling all kinds of skewer, with his body covered in sweat. He had clearly seen better days than this one judging by the exhaustion on his face.

As far as Yang Chen knew, Li Jingjing went to America, and it was funded by the government. Old Li and his wife shouldn't be so tired, unlike when they used to pay for their daughter's education.

Yang Chen signalled Rose before approaching Old Li's stall. With a complexity-filled gaze, he stared upon his old friend who was busy.

Old Li had just finished grilling a few octopus skewers. He topped them off with some spices and habitually lifted his head. "Good day Sir, what would you like to order?"

Soon, Old Li quickly realized that the man standing in front was none other than Yang Chen whom he had not seen in a long while. He was shocked into speechlessness.

Yang Chen used to be his best friend back then, but since the incident concerning his daughter Li Jingjing took place, Old Li knew for a fact that he would never be close to Yang Chen again.

"Oh, it's Yang Chen. Long time no see. What brought you over?" Old Li gave Yang Chen an awkward smile, and a simple nod to Rose who stood next to him.

Yang Chen felt a little overwhelmed—they were once brothers that had babbled and gaggled together in the market. Now that they were finally face to face again, they both felt distant and awkward. And it was all because of a love without fruition, how ironic.

"Old Li, why did you come all the way here, it's a little far from your place isn't it?" Yang Chen asked out of concern.

Old Li on one hand continued grilling his skewers, and on the other replied Yang Chen with a bitter smile, "The market for my food there have really saturated over the years. I heard of a larger market down here so I moved my stall just recently. Just a few blocks away, it's not really that tiresome."

Yang Chen had long left the days as a mutton skewer chef, and had little knowledge of the business nowadays, so he nodded, but soon hesitantly continued with a question for him. "So... does Jingjing still keep in touch with everyone back home? I haven't heard from her ever since she left to America. Is she enjoying her life there?"

Deep down in his heart Yang Chen missed the girl he had always treated as a sister, even if she had done some foolish acts years ago. How could he forget her? She had confessed to him so earnestly right after returning from abroad.

On the mention of his daughter, Old Li proudly boasted, "That girl? She does call back saying that she's starting to get used to the life over there; nowadays she speaks pretty good English too. I heard her lecturers had been praising her for that, and were planning to take her in as an associate professor! With the way things are shaping up to be, she might be there a few more years."

Yang Chen gave a smile and commented, "That's great. If she really gets to be an associate professor there I bet the lives of you and your significant other would move up a notch."

"I know right, glad that she still knows what she's doing," Old Li replied with contentment, but instantly had something else in mind. "Oh yeah Yang Chen, about the hundred thousand that I loaned back then for my wife's medical expenses, I'm sorry that I've been constantly delaying the repayment. We don't have any money to spare at the moment. But I promise I will surely pay you back in full one day."

The memories of that finally came back to Yang Chen. Old Li once borrowed some money from him years ago. And because he had willingly given all the money in his savings, he had to start selling mutton skewers for a living.

But a hundred thousand yuan was nothing in his eyes. He casually replied, "Don't worry about it. Take your time with it. I believe however that it's Mrs Li that you should care a little more about. Take care of both of your health, you would want to be ready when Jingjing comes back right?"

Old Li burst into laughter as he replied, "Don't worry about it. My bones are just as tough as they were years ago! Since it's been so long since we last met, why don't I get you and the lovely lady here some octopus skewers. It's my treat!"

Through the conversations the both of them seemed to have rediscovered the bond they had, and Yang Chen made himself at home as he lifted his hands to grab the octopus tentacle skewer.

Right at that moment however, Old Li who was previously excited and jovial turned solemn and pale. With panic in his eyes, he stared at the direction behind Yang Chen, while the octopus skewers in his hands fell straight to the ground.